

# A Leading National Daily ABC Rectified le Spokesman

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#### National Assembly to meet on November 5

President Asif Ali Zardari on Monday summoned the session of the National Assembly on Wednesday, November 5 at 5:00 p.m. in the Parliament House, Islamabad. The President has convened the session in exercise of the powers conferred upon him under Clause (1) of Article 54 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

Three terrorists linked to Indian-backed Khawarij killed in KP operations

Security forces killed at least three terrorists belonging to e Indian-backed Fitna al Khawarij network in two separate

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**Eight Muslim** 

# Bilateral Meeting

ISTANBUL: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, held a bilateral meeting with the Foreign Minister of Türkiye, H.E. Hakan Fidan, on the sidelines of Ministerial Meeting on Gaza, on Monday,



Photo: PID

# Gaza Deployment Contingent on Govt, Parliament approval: **DG ISPR**

Naveed Ahmad Khan

RAWALPINDI: Any decision to send army troops to Gaza for peacekeeping duties would be made by the government and parliament, Director General of the Inter-Services Public Relations Lieutenant General Ahmed Sharif has said.

Addressing a media briefing on Monday, the ISPR director general said that the army does not wish to be drawn into politics.

Lieutenant General Ahmed Sharif said the Pakistan Army should be kept separate from political matters, reaffirming that the military's focus remains on national security and the protection of the country's borders and

"Pakistan is fully prepared to



defend its frontiers and its citi- stan is a sovereign state and pendently. zens," he said, adding that Paki- formulates its policies inde-

1,667 terrorists have been killed According to the DG ISPR, in operations against the Fitna Al

smuggling and organised crime.

He stressed that Pakistan's priority is the complete elimination of terrorism, noting that the country will not hold talks with terrorist groups.

"The conditions set by Afghanistan are irrelevant - what matters is eradicating terrorism," General Sharif said, adding that Pakistan's response to the Afghan Taliban was "swift and effective" and "produced the results we

He further stated that narcotics smugglers in Afghanistan have gained influence in Afghan politics, with large quantities of drugs being smuggled into Pakistan from across the

#### Khawarij terrorist group, though criminal and militant networks linked to political groups continue to hinder efforts to curb

minister said that Pakistan's national interests abroad.

"Foreign policy remains our top priority. We are focused on improving Pakistan's relations with the world," Asif said.

He noted that Pakistan is emerging as a reliable partner on the international stage, adding that relations with Saudi Arabia have entered a new era marked by increased investment across multiple

Asif said Pakistan's partnerships with Qatar and the UAE have also been described as exemplary, built on mutual trust and understanding.

### nations call for sustainable peace in Gaza Palestinian territories.

Spokesman Report

ISTANBUL: Foreign ministers from eight Muslim countries on Monday called for an immediate and lasting ceasefire in Gaza and the unhindered delivery of humanitarian aid to Palestinians, during the Arab-Islamic Foreign Ministers Meeting on Gaza in

Pakistan's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar represented the country at the meeting, hosted by Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan

The conference brought together representatives from Pakistan, Türkiye, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Egypt, the United Arab Emirates, Indonesia, and Jordan to discuss the deteriorating situation in

Participants condemned Israel's continued aggression and ceasefire violations, demanding that Israeli forces withdraw from the occupied

They also stressed the urgent need for reconstruction efforts in Gaza and the restoration of basic services.

Reaffirming Pakistan's longstanding stance, Dar reiterated Islamabad's support for an independent Palestinian state based on the pre-1967 borders, with Al Quds Al Sharif as its capital.

Earlier, Foreign Office Spokesperson Tahir Andrabi said Pakistan, along with other Arab and Islamic nations, is actively engaged in promoting peace and rebuilding efforts in Gaza. He added that Pakistan continues to advocate for justice and the free flow of humanitarian aid to the besieged enclave.

Meanwhile, Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan said the conference also discussed forming a "Gaza Task Force" and a "Stabilisation Force" to oversee ceasefire implementation and reconstruction.

Continued on Page 7

#### Pakistan's foreign policy enters new phase, says Khawaja Asif

🚝 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Defence Minister Khawaja Asif has said that Pakistan's foreign policy has entered a new and progressive phase, with the country's relations improving with key global partners, including the United States, China, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates.

Speaking at a seminar in Islamabad on Monday, the ties with the United States have strengthened and commended the efforts of the country's diplomats in advancing



remains Pakistan's "all-weather friend" and that both countries are committed to accelerating work on the third phase of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)

The defence minister added that Pakistan's connectivity with Central Asian states particularly Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan — has significantly improved, while ties with Türkiye and Iran continue to strengthen.

Asif further stated that Pakistan has emerged as an effective voice against Islamophobia on the global stage and is focusing on comprehensive reforms.

"Pakistan's diplomacy today reflects confidence, stability, and a renewed commitment to constructive global engagement," he stated.

### Court rejects plea for further physical remand in case linked to alleged attack on Islamabad police at Zaman Park

👺 Bureau Report

LAHORE: An anti-terrorism court in Lahore on Monday sent Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) social media activist Falak Javed to jail on judicial remand after rejecting the prosecution's request for an extension in her physical custody.

The case pertains to the alleged attack on Islamabad police and incidents of arson during an operation at Zaman Park earlier this year.

ATC Administrative Judge Manzar Ali Gill conducted the hearing, during which the accused was produced before the court upon completion of her 21-day physical remand.

The prosecution sought an extension in her custody for further investigation, but the court denied the request, sending Falak Javed to jail

Her counsel argued that the remand period had already been completed and no further custody was warranted. The case was originally registered at the Race Course police station.

# 27th Amendment: Fazlur Rehman emerges as key player in Senate power game

Monitoring Desk

ISLAMABAD: The political landscape surrounding the 27th constitutional amendment is rapidly taking shape, with Maulana Fazlur Rehman once again becoming a pivotal figure in the unfolding parliamentary

While the ruling alliance has already secured more than a two-thirds majority in the National Assembly, the Senate numbers game presents a new challenge.

The government will need the support of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-



ment's passage through the upper out of which the ruling coalition commands the backing of 237 According to official documents lawmakers, comfortably exceeding the obtained by Aaj News, the National 224 votes required for a two-thirds

The ruling alliance comprises 125 members from the PML-N, 74 from the PPP, 22 from MQM-P, five from the PML-Q, four from the Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party, and one each from the PML-Zia, National Party, and BAP, along with the support of four independent members.

On the opposition benches, 75independents, one member each from the Sunni Ittehad Council, BNP, MWM, and PKMAP, and 10 members from JUI-F make up the 89-member bloc.

In the Senate, however, the equation is tighter. The upper house has 96 members, with the government alliance controlling 60 seats and the opposition holding 33.

#### **27th Amendment:** PML-N seeks PPP's support as Bilawal shares key proposals

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairperson Bilawal Bhutto Zardari shared the insights from his meeting with the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PMLN) delegation headed by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, seeking the "support in

According to his tweet on X (former Twitter), the PMLN's delegation asked for the PPP's support for the major proposals, which includes court, executive magistrates, party policy upon returning.

protection of provincial share in NFC, amending article 243, return of education and population planning to the federation and breaking dead lock on appointment of Election Commission of Pakistan. Former Foreign Minister

transfer of judges, removal of

Bilawal said that the PPP's passing the 27th amendment. Central Executive Committee to meet on November 6 to discuss the proposed amend-

President Asif Ali Zardari. who's currently on an official setting up a constitutional visit to Doha, will decide the

Tuesday, November 4, 2025

# Women University Multan inaugurates Int'l Seerat-un-Nabi (PBUH) Conference

👺 Kiran Δsim

MULTAN: The Women University Multan inaugurated the 5th Two-Day International Seerat-un-Nabi (PBUH) Conference organized by the Departence revolves around the theme "Intel-A Comprehensive Guideline in the Light of Seerat-un-Nabi (PBUH)".

Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Kalsoom Prophet (PBUH) is a Living Code for Humanity". Vice Chancellor Prof. moral decline in contemporary socie-Dr. Kalsoom Pracha, in her inaugural address, remarked that the Secrat-un-Nabi (PBUH) Conference is not just an academic gathering but a spiritual and intellectual movement to reconnect the youth with the eternal source emphasized interfaith harmony and of light and guidance that has illuminated humanity for centuries.

Delivering the keynote address, Dr. Abdul Qadir Haroon, Assistant found in the Secrat-un-Nabi (PBUH).

Scholarly Insights from International & national speakers Dr. Saeed the intellectual, moral, and spiritual

ur Rehman addressed the confer- development of youth, stating that, ence, emphasizing that modern societies face an identity crisis due to cultural confusion and Western influence, Dr. Ahmed Muhammad described the Seerat-un-Nabi (PBUH) ment of Islamic Studies and Arabic at as a universal model of intellectual Katchery Campus, WUM. The conferenlightenment rooted in compassion and justice, while Dr. Zahida Malik lectual and Social Challenges to Youth: shed light on the Prophet's (PBUH) vision of women's empowerment and moral education, saying that the Secrat restores women's dignity, Pracha said "The Secrat of the confidence, and purpose in society. Dr. Zia-ul-Rehman spoke about the ties, stating,"When youth embrace the Prophet's (PBUH) model of humility, sincerity, and service, they become agents of positive change rather than victims of chaos."Dr. Faizan Ahmed peaceful coexistence, adding, "The Prophet (PBUH) built bridges of understanding among diverse communities his example remains the foun-Professor from Jordan, elaborated on dation for global peace and human the intellectual and spiritual balance solidarity". Dr. Azra Parveen delivered a comprehensive address high-

"The Secrat-un-Nabi (PBUH) is not just a historical account but a living, practical framework that enlightens the human mind and heart. Universities must integrate Seerah-based education to build confident, ethical, and visionary youth."

Prof. Dr. Altaf Hussain, Ahmed Saeed Mumtaz, Dr. Sajila Kousar, Dr. Fareeda Yousaf, Dr. Munazzah Hayat, Dr. Abdul Quddus, Dr. Khanum, and Dr. Yasir. Prof. Dr. Altaf Hussain, Ahmed Saeed Mumtaz, Dr. Sajila Kousar, Dr. Fareeda Yousaf, Dr. Munazzah Hayat, Dr. Khanum, and Dr. Yasir. Dr. Abdul Quddus also spoke on the Prophet's (PBUH) elevation of women's status in society

The ceremony was attended by Registrar Dr. Samina Akhtar, former Registrar Dr. Maimoona Khan, Chairpersons of various departments, faculty members, and a large number of students, reflecting an environment of academic devotion and spiritual

The ceremony was gracefully hosted by Dr. Ruqia and Dr. Makkiah, whose lighting the Prophet's (PBUH) role in eloquence added to the dignity of the



#### Gift of Winter

KARACHI: A vendor sells dry fruits at his shop as the demand for dry fruits has increased with the onset of winter.



# Kamalia AC Iqra Nasir and revenue officers hold open court for revenue matters at Kamalia

跨 Zafar Chishti

TOBA TEK SINGH: The Revenue Awami Khidmat Kachehri continued for the second consecutive day at the Municipal Committee Hall Kamalia, where Assistant Commissioner Iqra Nasir, along with the Tehsildar Hafiz Shakeel Gujjar and revenue staff, remained present to facilitate

Assistant Commissioner Iqra Nasir personally listened to the complaints and issues of the public related to the Revenue Department and issued on earliest. She stated that the primary Awami Khidmat Kachehri is to spot directives to resolve them at the objective of holding the Revenue ensure timely and efficient resolu-



tion of people's problems. She further added that a major portion of the grievances presented by applicants has already been resolved, demonstrating the administration's commitment to delivering fast and effective

"The journey of public service is being carried forward with dedication and continuous efforts," said Assistant Commissioner Iqra Nasir. Citizens present at the court expressed gratitude to the Tehsil administration for resolving revenue-related issues promptly and ensuring easy access to government services.

## KDF to Showcase Kashmiri Community Solutions at Doha Social Development Summit

**Spokesman Report** 

Foundation (KDF) has been granted special accreditation by the United Nations General Assembly to participate in the Second World Summit for Social Development, taking place 4-6 November 2025 in Doha, Qatar. The accreditation recognised KDF's sustained work on social inclusion, health literacy, community resilience and delivering humanitarian aid across all the regions of Jammu and Kashmir — and brings the voices of Kashmiri Diaspora and Azad Jammu & Kashmir (AJK) civil society into a global conversation on poverty eradication, decent work and social integration.

A KDF delegation led by Executive Director Sardar Aftab Khan will attend the Summit alongside democratically elected civil-society representatives from AJK: Mr Sardar Mumtaz Khan, Member District Council Poonch; Mr

Council Makhiyala, District Bagh; youth LONDON: Kashmir Development representative Sardar Muhammad Wasif; and Mr Khalid Javed, Director -Programmes & Partnership Development (Pakistan), Kashmir Development Foundation and senior Kashmiri sports, youth and culture officials.

"KDF's mission is to amplify marginalised voices and translate community-led solutions into policy impact," said Sardar Aftab Khan, Executive Director, KDF. "Being accredited by the UN General Assembly gives our communities a platform to share tested approaches to health literacy, youth employment and social integration — and to learn from global partners so we can scale solutions that leave no one behind."

KDF draws on 25+ years of cross-sector experience in diaspora engagement, emergency relief, climate action, peacebuilding, public policy advocacy and community empowerment. Its strategic prior-

Asrar Ahmed Khan, Chairman, Union ities include strengthening community just beneficiaries — we are solution creahealth literacy, climate action, advancing social justice and equality, supporting youth employment and leadership, and building multi-stakeholder partnerships that convert grassroots innovation into measurable public policy outcomes.

Mr Sardar Mumtaz Khan, Member District Council Poonch: "Poverty eradication must start at the district level. I look forward to sharing our community-led livelihood initiatives and learning practical models that can be adapted to Poonch and other rural districts.

Mr Asrar Ahmed Khan, Chairman, Union Council Makhiyala: "Local governance is where social integration is built. Our priority is to showcase how transparent, accountable local services create jobs, protect the vulnerable, and strengthen trust between citizens and

Sardar Muhammad Wasif, Youth Representative: "Young people are not

tors. I will press for concrete commitments on skills, apprenticeships and digital inclusion so young Kashmiris can access decent, future-ready employment."

Mr Khalid Javed, Director Programmes & Partnership Development (Pakistan), KDF:

"Partnerships turn good ideas into lasting impact. At Doha, I will be advancing practical, fundable programme models and multi-stakeholder partnership frameworks that connect grassroots delivery with national policy and international financing — so local solutions can scale quickly and sustainably.

Senior Kashmiri Sports, Youth and Culture officials said: "Sport, culture and youth empowerment are central to social cohesion. At Doha, we will highlight how local cultural programmes and structured youth opportunities reduce marginalisation and open pathways into decent work and civic participation."

#### Sardar Khalid Ibrahim was a courageous voice of Kashmiris: Sardar Attique

👺 Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: President of All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference and former Prime Minister Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan has said that late Sardar Khalid Ibrahim was a strength, courage and truth of the Kashmiri people. He said that Sardar Khalid Ibrahim late promoted principled and ideological politics in the politics of Azad Kashmir, and the principle



of non-respect even in the most difficult circumstances Sardar Attique Khan expressed these views while talking to the media on the occasion of the seventh birth anniversary of great political leader Sardar Khalid Ibrahim, He said that Sardar Khalid Ibrahim deserves this unique honour. and advocate principles in state politics. There was no contradiction in his words and deeds, which is why he has immense respect in the hearts of the people of the state. The torch is the way, because he was among the few leaders who never compromised his ideology for power.

#### Sindh Health Department released updated report of dengue cases

KARACHI: The Sindh Health Department has released an updated report on confirmed dengue cases across the province. According to the report, a total of 5,978 dengue tests were conducted during the last 24 hours in Sindh, of which 1,589 results came back positive.

In the Karachi Division, 4,444 tests were carried out with 876 positive cases confirmed. In the Hyderabad Division, 1,534 tests were conducted and 713 cases were reported positive.

Secretary Health Sindh, Rehan Baloch, informed that 88 new patients were admitted to government hospitals while 92 new admissions were recorded in private hospitals during the last 24 hours. Meanwhile, 126 patients from government hospitals and 97 patients from private hospitals recovered and were discharged.

The report further confirms two dengue-related deaths across Sindh in the past 24 hours.

Secretary Rehan Baloch added that currently 210 dengue patients are admitted in government hospitals and 183 patients are undergoing treatment in private hospitals.

He further stated that 256 beds have been allocated for dengue patients in Karachi's government hospitals, 155 beds in Hyderabad, and 565 beds across the rest of Sindh, making a total of 976 dedicated beds in government facilities.

Similarly, 156 beds have been allocated in Karachi's private hospitals, 184 beds in Hyderabad, and 66 beds in other districts — a total of 406 beds in private facilities across the province.

The Health Secretary informed that a total of 36 laboratories are currently conducting dengue testing in Karachi, including 11 government and 25 private labs, while 17 laboratories in Hyderabad are providing testing services, out of which 6 are government and 11 are

#### Accountability Process in the Police is Strict and Transparent. RPO Multan

S Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Regional Police Officer Multan, Captain (R) Muhammad Sohail Chaudhry held a Justice room in his office today, in which appeals of police officers and employees were heard. The RPO reviewed the inquiry reports and allegations against the officers and officials who appeared during the hearing in detail. The appeals of several dismissed employees were rejected after the allegations were proven during the hearing. The



dismissed officers and officials include: Sub-Inspector Kashif Nawaz, Sub-Inspector Hassan Raza, Assistant Sub-Inspector Kamran Manzoor, Assistant Sub-Inspector Shahbaz Hussain, Senior Traffic Warden Haider Jamal, Constables Muhammad Khan, Shoaib Ahmed, Wasif-ul-Hassan, Sohail Mushtaq, Abdul Ghaffar, Muhammad Ashfaq, Ikram Nasir, Driver Constable Pervez Akhtar and Driver Constable Sufyan Shaukat. Dismissed Sub-Inspector Muhammad Asif's appeal was not proven, but he was reinstated.





# **Namaz Timings** Maghrib

#### **EMERGENCY**

LIMITION	1 <b>6</b> I
Rescue (Police)	1!
Bomb Disposal	1!
Fire Services Rawalpino	li/
Islamabad	1122 & 10
<b>Emergency Ambulance</b>	1122 8
& Rescue Services	445112
Motorway Police	926604
Motorway Police9	9270601-20

#### **Women Police Stations**

Islamabad	922259
Rawalpindi	. 9270601-2

ENQUI	KY
Edhi Ambulance	115
PIA Flight Info	114
PIA Cargo	9280979
Railway Inquiry	117
Railway Exchange	9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi	5555489
$C\Lambda\Lambda$	0281002

#### HOSPITALS

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

#### **DEDADTMENTS**

CDA	9221334-43
CDA	9208301-04
Met Office	9250360-6
RDA	5555864
T144	F770006

#### **Senator** Saeed calls for empowering LG to ensure peace in Balochistan

QUETTA: Founder of Balochistan Awami Party (BAP), Senator Saeed Ahmed Hashmi, has emphasized that the establishment of empowered and organized local governments (LG) is essential for ensuring sustainable peace and addressing public issues in the province.

In a statement issued on Monday, Senator Hashmi said that having 37 local governments working together would signif cantly improve governance, service delivery, and law and order across the prov-

He urged the implementation of a strong local government system in accordance with Articles 32 and 140A of the Constitution of Pakistan.

Hashmi appreciated the efforts of the federal and provincial representatives who have recognized that democracy offers the most effective means of resolving people's long-standing issues.

However, he stressed that a complete democratic structure is only possible when functional and empowered local governments are established at the grassroots level.

Citing international examples, the senator said that in the past 200 years, the success of both parliamentary and presidential systems around the world has depended on the strength of local governance institutions.

# **British Council convenes** leading voices to shape the future of education in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: The British Council in Pakistan hosted the Education Symposium 2025, a full-day gathering of educators, policymakers, and innovators exploring new pathways for inclusive and transformative learning across Pakistan.

Bringing together participants from across the country, the Symposium provided a platform for collaboration, dialogue, and the exchange of ideas on how partnerships, innovation, and practical action can strengthen Pakistan's education system.

James Hampson, Country Director, British Council Pakistan said: "Today's event brings lots of innovation and tons of inspiration together in one Symposium. From young girls who are changing their lives through education to organisations powering better outcomes thanks to AI. We are proud to play our part connecting people who want to make a difference."

Michael Connolly, Director English and School Education, British Council a language, it's a bridge to opportu-

nity, global connection, and innovation. Through initiatives like this symposium, we're exploring how English, technology, and creative pedagogy can empower teachers and learners to thrive in a rapidly changing world. Our goal is to make learning accessible, relevant, and transformative for every student in Pakistan."

Workshops led by partners such as Suno Kahani Meri Zubani, BrainSPACE, Taleemabad, ILMpact, and Science Fuse demonstrated creative, evidence-based teaching approaches from arts and storytelling to AI and EdTech integration in classrooms.

The event also welcomed representatives from provincial education departments, development partners, and private sector organizations, reaffirming the British Council's role as a convener of dialogue and collaboration in education.

The Education Symposium 2025 builds on the British Council's continued efforts to strengthen teacher development, promote educational innovation, said: "English today is more than just and create inclusive learning opportunities across Pakistan.



#### Performance

ISLAMABAD: Artists are performing on stage during Fashion Show and Award ceremony at Pakistan National Council of Arts in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

# **Faisalabad Leaders hail station** upgrades, demand connectivity boost to Karachi, Rawalpindi

#### 👺 Abdul Maiid

FAISALABAD: Prem Union Chief Organizer Khalid Mahmood Chaudhry, Patron Prem Union Faisalabad Mian Tahir Ayub and Former President Chamber of Commerce Faisalabad Rana Sikandar Azam thanked Federal Minister for Railways Muhammad Hanif Abbasi and CEO of Sitara Group Haji Muhammad Idrees for providing passenger waiting hall, booking and reservation upgrade and free Wi-Fi facility at Faisalabad station and said that providing convenience to passengers through upgradation of railway station will increase the tendency of passen-



gers towards railways.

They have appealed to Haji city. No train runs from Fais- Lahore and Faisalabad should

alabad to Karachi and Rawalpindi. They demanded that Muhammad Idrees to get the a train be run from Faisal-Federal Minister for Railways abad to Karachi and Rawalto end the stepmotherly treat- pindi and said that similarly, ment of Pakistan's third largest a non-stop train between

be re-launched. The Mari Indus Express running from Lahore to Mianwali should be restored to its previous route. It should be run via Faisalabad. He also demanded that the more than 100-year-old building of Faisalabad Railway Station be reconstructed in a modern form. He suggested that this building be used for railway as well as commercial purposes. He welcomed Railway Minister Muhammad Hanif Abbasi and Sitara Group CEO Haji Muhammad Idrees on the occasion of the inauguration ceremony of this renovation and upgradation of the station on November 5 and termed it a big gift for the people of Faisalabad.

# Allama Riaz Shah Urges Muslim Unity and Self-Reliance Through Science and Quranic Guidance

The head of Idara Taleemat-e-Islamia Pakistan, Allama Syed Riaz Hussain Shah, said that in view of the changing global situation, unity and mutual cooperation among Muslim countries is the need of the hour. Instead of relying on others, we  $should\,depend\,on\,our\,own\,resources\,and$ focus on science, technology, and knowledge by drawing inspiration from the Quran and Sunnah. The main reason behind all our problems is our distance from the Quran and Sunnah. Knowledge and wisdom are the heritage of the Muslim Ummah; only by reclaiming them can we achieve the heights of greatness.



By linking the new generation with the Quran, Hadith, and religious education alongside modern sciences, we can secure and brighten our future. Religious scholars must fulfill their responsibilities in the light of the Uswah-e-Hasanah (the noble example of the Prophet \*) by guiding parents on the education and training of the younger generation.

He expressed these views in his important statement. Allama Syed Riaz Hussain Shah said that today, the Muslim Ummah is facing division and disunity on a global level. In the fields of modern sciences from technology to health — Muslims are lagging behind, and this is the main cause of our decline. In every sphere of knowledge, we are dependent on others, and those very others are attacking Muslim

#### Attock ADC Hails 'Dhee Rani' as Punjab's Revolutionary Marriage Welfare Program

#### 👺 Raza Nagvi

ATTOCK: Additional Deputy Commissioner (Finance & Planning) Attock, Nosheen Israr, has said that "Dhee Rani" is a revolutionary and welfare-oriented program in the history of Punjab, aimed at facilitating the dignified marriages of deserving girls.

She expressed these views while presiding over a meeting held in her office regarding the Dhee Rani Program. During the meeting, Deputy Director Social Welfare, Haseeb Khalid, gave a detailed briefing about

It was informed in the briefing that, under the special directives of Chief Minister Punjab, Ms. Maryam Nawaz Sharif, collective marriage ceremonies will soon be organized in District Attock under the Dhee Rani Program. All relevant departments will perform their duties with full responsibility during this important event.

The meeting was further informed that Provincial Minister for Social Welfare Punjab, Suhail Shaukat Butt, will be the chief guest

Additional Deputy Commissioner Nosheen Israr directed all concerned departments to complete the necessary arrangements as soon as possible to ensure the successful implementation of this welfare initiative in line with the Chief Minister's vision, making it a model event in District Attock.

### Muslim scholars back 18 as minimum marriage age, citing Islamic tenets of protection

#### 👺 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The presentations and deep insights shared by scholars from ten Muslim countries helped build a consensus that ending early and child marriages should be linked to mental maturity, shared wisdom, and a collective conscience aligned with Islamic principles. These principles emphasize the protection of the weak and vulnerable, as Islam is deeply rooted in upholding the rights of all people.

The scholars delivered their daylong International Conference on Age of Marriage Legislations in Muslim Countries: Way Forward, organized by the Potohar Organization for Devel-

Parliamentary Caucus and the associations, academicians, and Ministry of Human Rights, with support from the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Islamabad.

The three-year project "Reduce Early Marriages to Enhance Gender Equality," implemented by PODA-Pakistan across 41 districts of Punjab province, is scheduled to conclude by the end of November 2025. Through this initiative, PODA has reached more than 41,000 individuals. engaging a broad range of stakeholders including nikah khawans talks and presentations at the and registrars, parents, mothers, girls, teachers, lady health workers, and representatives from key government depart-Review of Best Practices & the ments such as Health and Population, Education, Police, Judiciary, Social Welfare, Bait-ul-Maal, Law, opment Advocacy (PODA) in and Legislatures. The project also

collaboration with the Women involved lawyers, members of bar doctors, fostering dialogue and collaboration across multiple The scholars were of the view

that the principles of Islam are deeply rooted in the protection of the fundamental rights of vulnerable communities, emphasizing justice and equality in accordance with the essence of Islamic teachings. They stated that Islam does not prescribe a fixed age for marriage; rather, it encourages the establishment of guidelines that reflect the social and cultural realities of each society. Accordingly, they added, the state has the authority to determine an appropriate legal age for marriage to ensure the protection and wellbeing of girls. Barrister Aqeel Malik, Minister

historical development of laws aimed at reducing early marriages in the country, tracing progress from 1929 to 2025, while noting that efforts are ongoing to harmonize child marriage legislation nationwide.

of State for Law and Justice and

Human Rights, outlined the

Punjab Commission on the Status of Women (PCSW), Qaiser Mehmood, Deputy Head of Mission of the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Islamabad, Thomas Dahl, Mr. Abdul Kalique Sheikh, Secretary of the Ministry of Human Rights, Islamabad, Ms. Sameena Nazir, Executive Director of the Potohar Organization for Development Advocacy (PODA), Dr. Muhammad Arif Laghari, Director at the Ministry of Human Rights, H. E Harerimana Fatou, High Commis-



sioner of Rwanda to Pakistan, Dr. Lead at the International NGO Shahida Rehmani, Chairperson speak on the occasion.

International scholars and experts also contributed their insights, including Saimum Reza Talukder from BRAC University, Bangladesh; Andi Nur Faizah, Research and Public Education Member of the Syrian Women Islamic University, Islamabad.

Forum on Indonesian Development (INFID), Indonesia; Prof. Dr. Balarabe A. Haruna from Nigeria; Prof. Dr. Aziz Mechouat researcher and author from Oman; Dr. Nadia Abaza, Board

Network; Ms. Shaimaa Salahuddin Harbawi, Researcher in Islamic Thought and Civilization from Tunisia; Dr. Amal Basha from Yemen; and Prof. Dr. from Morocco; Badr Al-Abri, Muhammad Zia Ul Haq, Director General of the Islamic Research Institute at the International

# Editorial/Opinion

Tuesday, November 4, 2025

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# E-challan system now active in Rawalpindi to curb traffic violations

he Punjab Safe Cities Authority (PSCA) has fast-tracked the installation of Safe City surveillance cameras across Rawalpindi, marking a major step toward enhancing road safety, crime prevention and traffic management in

Under the province-wide Safe City initiative, high-resolution cameras have already been deployed in multiple cities of Punjab to monitor vehicular and motorcycle movement, detect violations, and issue automated e-challans. The project will ensure smoother traffic flow, promote law compliance, and strengthen public safety through real-time surveillance.

In Rawalpindi, the installation work has entered its final phase, with cameras now operational at key locations including COD Chowk, Fauji Foundation, Liaquat Bagh, Raja Bazaar, Chandni Chowk, Commercial Market, Ali Chowhan Chowk, Ayub Park, Jinnah Park, Chaklala Railway Station, Gulzar-e-Quaid, Faizabad Metro Station, Pirwadhai Mandi Stop, Saddar Bank Road, Qasim Market, 22 Number Bakra Mandi Chowk, Kachehri Chowk, Rawal Road, Committee Chowk, Tench Bhatta, and Chakri Road.

The e-challan system has officially become operational in Rawalpindi, following its success in Lahore and other major cities. The PSCA's Rawalpindi headquarters has been established opposite Jinnah Park, where all digital monitoring and challan processing are being managed.

Authorities have issued the following mandatory guidelines for bikers; both front and rear indicators must be functional, wearing a helmet is mandatory while riding, non-standard or tampered number plates will invite strict action, both number plates must match the official excise-issued pattern and be clearly visible, riding in fast-track lanes will result in a challan, any tampering with number plates to evade e-challan detection will lead to legal action and riding without a valid license or national ID card will result in an FIR.

Authorities have issued the following penalties for violations for bikers: riding without a helmet, Rs 1,500; non-standard number plate, Rs 2,000; tampering with the number plate, Rs 2,000 plus FIR and riding without a license or CNIC, FIR to be regis-

Car owners have also been cautioned to adhere to traffic laws as cameras are actively monitoring; over-speeding and rash driving will result in an e-challan, not wearing a seatbelt will be subject to an e-challan, wrong parking and entering from the wrong ber plates must be official excise-issued computerized plates and vehicles with tinted windows or non-standard number plates will face challans and possible legal action.

Officials said the Safe City system will not only help enforce traffic discipline but also strengthen law enforcement's ability to respond swiftly to crimes, emergencies, and accidents through integrated digital monitoring.

The PSCA has urged citizens to comply with traffic rules and road safety laws, emphasizing that the system's success depends on public cooperation in making Rawalpindi a safer, smarter city.

# How Trump Turned the Land of Immigrants Against Its Own

as a nation of immigrants—a every corner of the world sought refuge, dignity, and opportunity. Apart from the Native Americans, everyone who calls America home today descended from immigrants who crossed oceans and deserts to rebuild their lives on its soil. From the earliest settlers of England, Ireland, and Germany to the waves of Italians, Poles, and Jews who followed, immigration was never just a demographic process—it was America's identity, its heartbeat, and its greatest

For more than two centuries, immigration fueled the growth of the American economy, populated its vast frontiers, and shaped its unmatched diversity. Yet, the same nation that once prided itself on being a beacon for the oppressed has gradually turned hostile toward the very idea of immigration itself—especially when the immigrants come with darker skin, foreign tongues, or unfamiliar faiths.

Simultaneously, federal and transport departments are enforcing regulations that restrict immigrant participation in key industries such as trucking, logistics, and services. Commercial driving licenses for immigrants are being rescinded, and companies employing non-citizen drivers face heavy penalties. The crackdown extends beyond the workplace: ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) has intensified raids and detentions across states, with reports of overcrowded detention centers and deportations even of longtime green-card holders.

of the workforce, including 28 percent of

employees. The restaurant and hotel sectorsworth over \$1.1 trillion annually—would collapse without them. America's anti-im-

migration wave is not rooted in economics

but politics. The irony is that while immigrants are blamed for "stealing jobs," unemployment in 2025 remains near 3.9 percent, and companies are desperate for workers. According to the U. S. Chamber of Commerce, there are 9 million unfilled jobs, many in sectors

shunned by native-born Americans due to low wages or high physical demands. Historically, immigrants have powered America's economic rise. More than 40 percent of Fortune 500 companies were founded by immigrants or their children—names like Google, Tesla, Pfizer, and Apple. Collectively, these companies contribute over \$8 trillion to the U.S. economy each year. Yet, today, the same immigrants who sustain the economy are

social order. Social-media platforms echo with xenophobic calls to "deport them all," forgetting that the nation's wealth was built not These policies have drawn resistance only on the labor of immigrants but also

vilified as threats to national security and

he United States was founded human-rights groups, who argue that United States and its NATO allies waged seeking safety. the U. S. economy relies heavily on immidecades of wars in resource-rich regions place where people from grant labor. In healthcare alone, foreign-extracting oil, minerals, and trade routes born workers constitute nearly 17 percent and then turned away the refugees of those same wars. Libya's collapse, Syria's civil physicians and surgeons. In hospitality, war, and Afghanistan's disintegration are agriculture, and construction, immigrants all painful reminders that Western interrepresent between 30 and 50 percent of vention created chaos whose human cost now knocks at their own

America's short political memory compounds the tragedy. Each administration rewrites the moral code of migration. Obama expanded DACA and refugee resettlement; Trump dismantled both. Biden restored limited

protections, but the political pendulum swung back again with renewed hostility. The result is a system that treats immigrants as expendable assets—welcomed when needed, discarded when convenient.

Even worse, detention centers have multiplied, with National Guard units deployed in several states to assist ICE. Civil-rights lawyers document cases of long-time residents deported without trial, separating families and traumatizing children. The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) reports over 200,000 deportations in 2025 alone-many involving individuals who have lived in the U.S. for more than a decade.

The roots of this crisis are moral and structural. America cannot destabilize other nations through wars, sanctions, and regime change, then demonize those who flee the wreckage. Immigration is the mirror of foreign policy. Every missile from governors, business owners, and on the exploitation of other nations. The dropped abroad creates another migrant

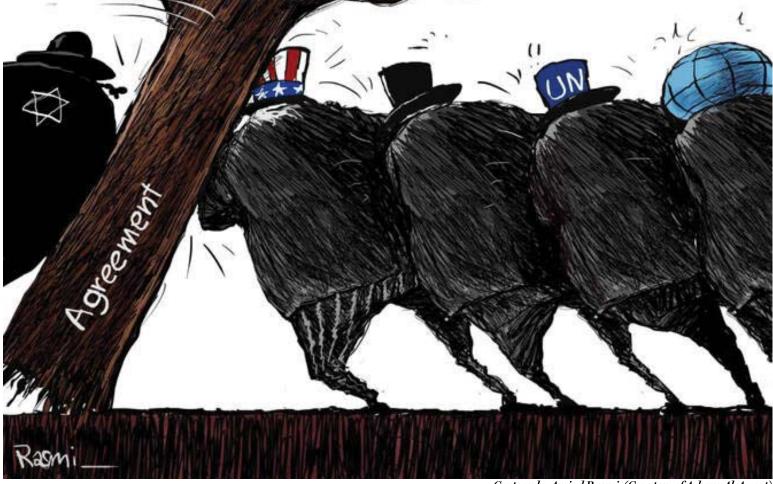
If the United States wishes to curb immigration sustainably, it must let other nations live with dignity-free from exploitation of their oil, minerals, and industries. Let their people build prosperity at home instead of being forced to cross borders for survival. China's model offers an instructive contrast: by investing in its own citizens through education, infrastructure, and industry, it has sharply reduced outward migration.

America, too, must return to its founding promise—one that values people not by color or country, but by character and contribution. Instead of walls and bans, it needs reforms that regularize honest workers, integrate them through civic education, and penalize employers who exploit them.

The world once admired the United States for its open arms, not its closed borders. The Statue of Liberty still stands in New York Harbor, holding a torch once meant to light the path for the "huddled masses yearning to breathe free." But today, that light flickers. A nation that rose from the dreams of immigrants risks collapsing under the weight of its own fear and hypocrisy.

To preserve its greatness, America must remember its origin story. It was not whiteness, wealth, or weapons that built this country—it was human hope. And hope knows no color, no visa, and

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

# State-Sponsored Genocide in Jammu: How Muslims Became a Minority

November 1947 stands as one of the darkest, yet most overlooked, chapters in the history of South Asia. In a span of just two months, more than 250,000 Muslims to the suffering of Kashmiris; it was only the were systematically slaughtered in the Jammu region of the erstwhile princely state of the forced accession of Jammu and Kashmir

under the direct watch of the Hindu Dogra ruler Maharaja Hari Singh and aided by extremist Hindu and Sikh groups, drastically altered the demographic composition of Jammu, reducing its Muslim majority to a minority—a reality that continues to shape the region's political and social landscape even today.

At the time of Partition in 1947, Jammu and Kashmir was a princely state ruled by Maharaja Hari Singh, a Dogra Hindu monarch ruling over a majority Muslim population. Muslims constituted nearly 77 percent of the total population and 61 percent in the Jammu province alone. As communal tensions gripped the subcontinent following the division of India, Hari Singh's administration took measures that were both discriminatory and premeditated. Reports indicate that Muslim soldiers were expelled from the Dogra army, Muslim police officers were dismissed, and civilians were ordered to surrender their arms — leaving the Muslim population defenseless.

The tragedy also dwarfs many modern-day atrocities in scale. For instance, even the current Israeli onslaught in Gaza, where approximately 67,000 Palestinians have been

Yet, the international community remains largely silent—both then and now—on crimes committed against the Kashmiri people.

The Jammu massacre did not mark an end beginning of a long saga of oppression. After Jammu and Kashmir. This massacre, executed to India in October 1947, the Indian state

continued policies that sought to suppress Kashmiri identity and alter its demography. The Article 85(4)(a) of the

1977 Additional Protocol I to the Geneva Conventions declares that "the transfer by the occupying power of parts of its own civilian population into the territory it occupies" is a grave breach of interna-

tional law. India's actions in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) clearly violate this provision. Today, the region remains the most militarized zone in the world, with nearly one million Indian troops stationed there-accused of widespread human rights abuses, arbitrary detentions, and extrajudicial killings.

**Ahsan Ansari** 

The ideology that fueled the 1947 genocide continues under India's current regime. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government, ideologically aligned with the RSS, has intensified efforts to engineer demographic change in Kashmir. The abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A in August 2019 stripped Jammu and Kashmir of its special status, allowing non-Kashmiris to purchase land and settle in the region.

Since then, large tracts of land have been transferred to non-local settlers, while thousands of homes belonging to native Kashmiris

he Jammu massacre of October- lation that occurred in Jammu in 1947. development schemes such as the "Srinagar 2035 Plan." The influx of an estimated 3.4 million outsiders is seen by many as part of a colonial settlement project, akin to Israeli practices in occupied Palestine.

> Seventy-eight years after the Jammu massacre, Kashmiris continue to suffer under occupation. Arbitrary detentions, enforced disappearances, and internet blackouts have become tools of control. Despite this, the spirit of resistance among Kashmiris endures. Every year, on 6 November, Kashmiris across the world observe Jammu Martyrs' Day to commemorate the victims of 1947—innocent men, women, and children who were butchered for their faith and ethnicity.

> Krishan Dev Sethi, a prominent political activist from Jammu, stated in 2011 that "the Maharaja and his administration played an important role in flaring up communal riots after Hari Singh returned from Srinagar to make an excuse for butchering Muslims." His words underscore how deliberate state actions created a legacy of violence that continues to haunt the region.

> The Jammu genocide of 1947 was not merely a historical event; it was the foundation stone of Kashmir's tragedy. It set in motion a policy of demographic manipulation, political disenfranchisement, and military repression that has continued for over seven decades. The world's indifference toward this crime has emboldened successive Indian regimes to repeat history—whether through bullets, laws, or bulldozers.

Recognizing the Jammu massacre is not just about revisiting history; it is about acknowledging an ongoing injustice. For true peace in South Asia, the world must confront the uncomfortable truth that the persecution of Kashmiris did not begin or end in 1947-it killed, pales before the systematic annihi- have been demolished under various urban continues, and silence is complicity.

### The political, economic and diplomatic role of President Zardari

silent characters. They are big characters in and the scent of national consensus is being felt history but they are silent. If we look at the politin the government's decisions. As a result, Presical history of the 1990s closely, the visible and ident Asif Ali Zardari's current role is impor-

leading character of the Pakistan Peoples Party was Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto. But if we look at the past in these circumstances, it seems that Asif Ali Zardari's role in this political competition cannot be denied. Asif Ali Zardari is currently the only politician in Pakistan with a very large, extensive and deep experience.

He is playing on many pitches. Wherever Mr. of reconciliation. At present, the country has a Zardari is the President of Pakistan, he is also the leader of the Pakistan Peoples Party, wherever he is a senior politician, he is also the leader of all the political parties of the country. A character with a flexible relationship with parties and leaders. From the Nawaz League to the Q-League leadership, from the JUI-F leadership to Mahmood Khan Achakzai, from Azad Kashmir to Gilgit-Baltistan, from the MQM to the nationalists of Sindh and Balochistan, from the capitals of the country to the chieftains of Balochistan and Sindh, Asif Ali Zardari himself has a wide range of relationships. Due to direct or indirect channel diplomacy, he is a very flexible political character of the country.

Institutional Balance and National Consensus.

Despite the political turmoil and economic instability within the country, President Zardari together for a central goal, namely the stability it or not, this is the harsh truth of history.

he truths of history cannot remain of Pakistan. He says that powerful institutions hidden from anyone. Some chargrow stronger when there is trust, not compeacters appear to be very big, but tition, between them. This is why the process they do not have any special role. of consultation has increased in the Presiden-Some, on the contrary, are very tial Secretariat and the Prime Minister's House,



broad background in major economic, political and diplomatic affairs.

The system of political stability in the country and the parliamentary government that is needed has been going on since 2008, behind which is Asif Ali Zardari's political reconciliation policy. In the way Pakistan is playing on national, provincial, regional and international agreements and fronts, the role of the stakeholders of the state as a whole cannot be denied, but in particular, Asif Ali Zardari as the President of Pakistan and the leader of the People's Party cannot be denied. On the platform of the Pakistan People's Party, the country's politics and the nation have got major political and governmental roles. Among them, characters like Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto and Asif Ali Zardari is trying to ensure that national institutions work are major political figures. Whether one accepts

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# Government Operations Room warns of flooding risk that threatens thousands of displaced families in the Gaza Strip

**₩** WAFA

ations Room for Emergency Interven- and extermination waged by the Israeli tions in the Gaza Strip issued an urgent appeal to the United Nations, its agen-statement highlighted severe damage to cies, and international and humani- drainage networks and roads, as well as tarian organizations to take immedi- the lack of basic protection and heating ate action- as winter approaches-to means for thousands of displaced famisave thousands of displaced families at lies. risk of flooding in low-lying areas of the centers are needed before the situation worsens, it stressed.

and sea surges, particularly given the extensive destruction inflicted on infra-RAMALLAH: The Government Oper- structure by the continued aggression occupation over the past two years. The

The areas most at risk of flooding and Gaza Strip. Alternative and safe shelter collapse include "Al-Jazira" area along Salah al-Din Street from the Maghazi junction to the Bureij junction, Sahn In a statement issued on Monday, al-Barka and the Wadi al-Salqa basin the Operations Room warned that the in the central governorate, displaced humanitarian situation poses an immipersons gathering along the coastal nent danger in areas most vulnerable Al-Rashid Street spanning 26 kilomto flooding, rainwater accumulation. eters from the northern to the southern



parts of the Strip, and the camps east entry of humanitarian aid and fail to of Deir al-Balah and Al-Nafaq Street in Gaza City.

Samah Hammad, Head of the Government Operations Room, confirmed that the humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip is extremely dire, and that displaced families residing in coastal and low-lying areas face the risk of flooding at any moment. She stressed the urgent need to relocate them to safe shelters and provide them with essen-

Hammad explained that international organizations possess readyto-use shelter supplies but are still awaiting permission to bring them ensure the protection of hundreds of into the Strip, while the occupying thousands of displaced persons living authorities continue to obstruct the in dire conditions.

comply with the ceasefire agreement stipulating the entry of 600 aid trucks daily. Hammad noted that between 1 and 25 October 2025, only 5,078 trucks entered Gaza, averaging 203 trucks per dav-far below the minimum humanitarian needs, particularly for shelter materials and tents.

Hammad concluded by calling on the international community to exert pressure for the immediate and unrestricted entry of sufficient and unrestricted humanitarian aid, including  $relief \, materials, tents, shelter \, supplies, \,$ and prefabricated housing units; to

# Enhanced Air Connectivity between Uzbekistan and Pakistan

**Spokesman Report** 

ISLAMABAD: Uzbekistan Airways, the national carrier of the Republic tickets are available from USD 400, of Uzbekistan, is expanding its flight making this route one of the most operations to Pakistan. Starting from affordable and time-saving options for October 28, 2025, the airline operates business, education, and leisure trava total of four weekly flights between elers alike. Uzbekistan and Pakistan, doubling the service and continuing its regular Tashkent-Lahore flights.

the decision to expand its services was driven by strong passenger demand, with previous Islamabad flights often operating at full capacity and tickets selling out days in advance.

"Tashkent-Islamabad-Tashkent" flights operates twice weekly, every Tuesday and Saturday.

also operates twice weekly, every Wednesday and Friday.

Airways strengthens its role as a key transit hub connecting travelers to over bridge between Central and South 50 international destinations across Asia, offering Pakistani travelers greater choice, convenience, and connectivity to destinations across the world.

take around two hours, offering a fast major global cities including Istanbul, Islamabad, and others.

and efficient link between the two capitals. One-way fares start from approximately USD 200, while round-trip

"Tashkent-Lahore" route is equally frequency of its Tashkent-Islamabad attractive, with one-way fares from approximately USD 200 and roundtrip fares from approximately USD According to Uzbekistan Airways, 400. All flights are operated on modern, comfortable aircraft, ensuring passengers enjoy world-class onboard service, professional crews, and the highest safety standards.

Tashkent International Airport, the airline's primary hub, is strategically positioned at the crossroads of Europe and Asia, offering passengers "Tashkent-Lahore-Tashkent" flights efficient connections and a comfortable travel experience. Beyond direct travel between Pakistan and Uzbekistan, the With this expansion, Uzbekistan Airport serves as a strategically located Europe, North America, the Middle East, East Asia, and South-East Asia.

Passengers flying via Tashkent can Flights from Tashkent to Islamabad enjoy smooth transit connections to

Frankfurt, Paris, London, New York, Moscow, Dubai, Tokyo, Seoul, Kuala Lumpur, Baku, Astana, Batumi, and many more.

This extensive network makes Uzbekistan Airways an increasingly popular choice for Pakistani travelers seeking both regional and long-haul connections, combining competitive pricing with superior comfort and efficiency.

Uzbekistan and Pakistan share centuries-old historical, cultural, and spiritual ties rooted in the heritage of the Silk Road and the Islamic civilization. The enhanced air links will further strengthen tourism, trade, and peopleto-people exchanges between the two brotherly nations.

For Pakistani tourists, Uzbekistan offers a gateway to the legendary Silk Road cities of Samarkand, Bukhara, Khiva, and Kokand, all renowned for their magnificent Islamic architecture. vibrant bazaars, and shared cultural

At the same time, Uzbek visitors are increasingly drawn to Pakistan's diverse landscapes, historic landmarks, and renowned hospitality: from the scenic valleys of the north to the bustling cultural centers of Lahore, Karachi,



The increased frequency also aligns with Uzbekistan's and Pakistan's shared vision for greater regional connectivity. trade facilitation, and economic cooperation across Central and South Asia. Enhanced air links will make it easier for companies, students, and families to connect, while boosting mutual investment and tourism growth.

network marks a new chapter in Uzbek- class service, Uzbekistan Airways istan-Pakistan relations, transforming continues to bring the people of Uzbekishared aspirations into tangible connections. These routes are more than just flights: they are bridges of friendship, linking families, cultures, and economies across borders.

With four weekly flights, modern offices, and authorized travel agents.

The expanded Pakistan flight aircraft, affordable fares, and worldstan and Pakistan, and the wider world, closer than ever before.

Ticket booking: available via the official website www.uzairways.com, the Uzbekistan Airways mobile app, sales

**E** City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS), in collaboration with the German Red Cross, organized the "Pakistan Pre-COP30 National Dialogue 2025" under Chief Guest. In her keynote the theme "From Policy to Prac- address, she congratulated

tice - Pakistan's Voice for COP30 PRCS for convening a timely and (Brazil)" at its National Head-

Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Climate Change, Senator Sherry Rehman, attended the event as

important dialogue on one of the most pressing global challenges.

She said Pakistan continues to be among the most climate-affected countries despite contributing minimally to global emissions. "Climate change and global warming have turned into

### PRCS Holds Pre-COP30 National Dialogue to Amplify Pakistan's Climate Voice

a monster threatening our very existence. The poor are the most affected; their futures are being stolen, and their livelihoods are at risk," she remarked.

Senator Rehman emphasized that the real challenge lies between the Global North and Global South and called for equitable climate action and financial support for developing nations. "We will present Pakistan's case at COP30 in the best possible way. This National Dialogue organized by PRCS is a significant and timely initiative. We need sustainable measures to address the worsening impacts of climate change," she stated.

PRCS Chairperson Mrs.

Chief Guest and all participants for contributing to the dialogue, stressing the importance of joint actions, sustained partnerships, and national advocacy ahead of COP30. "Climate change is not a challenge of one country but a shared global responsibility. We look forward to strengthened technical cooperation, financial assistance, and capacity-building support from COP30 to help countries like Pakistan adapt and build resilience," she said.

Earlier, PRCS Secretary General Mr. Muhammad Abaidullah Khan welcomed the participants and shared PRCS's initi-

Farzhana Naek thanked the atives on climate adaptation, the presentation of commemrisk reduction, and community resilience. He reaffirmed PRCS's commitment to working with advance climate resilience in German Red Cross Pakistan, Mr. Asif Aman, Head of Delegation, IFRC Pakistan, Mr. Farid Abdulgadir and Mr. Sajjad Kandhir from Climate Change Adaptation department. A panel discussion followed, with contribu-Bilal, Raza Narejo, Qurat-ul-Ain Cheema, Zia-ur-Rehman, and

> Anam Zaib. The event concluded with

orative shields by PRCS Chairperson Mrs. Farzhana Naek to Senator Sherry Rehman and partners and stakeholders to panel members. A symbolic tree plantation ceremony was Pakistan. The dialogue featured also held, with Senator Rehman remarks from Head of Office, and Mrs Naek planting a sapling in the PRCS lawns to reaffirm their commitment to a greener Pakistan.

The dialogue was attended by the Head of Delegation of the Turkish Red Crescent, Ms Beyza Taner, representatives from the tions from Dr. Altaf Abro, Majid International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Norwegian Red Cross, climate experts, PRCS staff, volunteers, and

# Ethiopia Re-Emergent: A New Era of Reform and Opportunity

**Spokesman Report** 

Ethiopia, the cradle of human being, civilization and a nation of ancient history, is undertaking one of the most ambitious economic and political transformations in its modern history. With a strategic pivot from a state-led development model to a dynamic, private-sector-driven economy, the nation is positioning itself as a premier destination for investment and tourism. Fueled by the comprehensive Homegrown Economic Reform (HGER) agenda, Ethiopia is systematically unlocking its immense potential, signaling to the world that it is open for business and ready for discovery. A New Political and Economic

Landscape

The cornerstone of Ethiopia's new chapter is its deepseated reform agenda. This is not a superficial adjustment but a foundational shift aimed at creating a stable, predictable, and liberalized economic envi-

In a landmark move, Ethisector. This includes a 2024 proclamation to allow foreign

move designed to boost capital, nation's capacity for rapid, largecompetition, and expertise. This is complemented by the 2024 shift to a market-determined foreign exchange rate, correcting long-standing imbalances and improving the invest-

The upcoming launch of the Ethiopian Securities Exchange (ESX) in 2025 marks a historic milestone. The ESX will provide a new avenue for a wide range of companies to raise capital, offering unprecedented opportunities for both domestic and international investors to participate in Ethiopia's growth.

The successful liberalization of the telecom sector, which saw the entry of a global player (Safaricom), has served as a powerful model. This commitment to privatization and breaking state monopolies is being extended to other key sectors, fostering efficiency and innovation.

The reform's real-world impact is best seen in agriculture. Through modernization and targeted policies, Ethiopia opia has liberalized its financial has achieved wheat self-sufficiency and is now the largest wheat producer in Africa, even banks to establish branches and beginning exports—a dramatic

scale progress. Powering the Horn: The

Energy Investment Frontier Often called the "water tower

of Africa," Ethiopia's energy potential is staggering and represents one of the most compelling investment opportunities on the continent. The country is actively seeking Independent Power Producers (IPPs) and Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) to harness its vast, untapped renewable resources. With a potential of over

45,000 MW, hydro remains the backbone. The flagship Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD), set to be the largest hydroelectric plant in Africa with over 6,000 MW of capacity, will solidify Ethiopia's status as a regional power exporter.

The Rift Valley holds over 10,000 MW of geothermal potential. Projects like Corbetti and Tulu Move are already attracting significant international investment, but this sector remains largely untapped.

Ethiopia is blessed with abundant sun and wind corri-

dors, with a combined theoret-

ical potential in the hundreds

subsidiaries for the first time, a turnaround that underscores the of gigawatts. Several large-scale wind and solar farms are operational, but the opportunity for expansion, particularly in off-grid solutions, is immense.

In a bold move in 2024, Ethiopia banned the import of non-electric vehicles. This forward-looking policy has instantly created a massive, new market for EV assembly, battery technology, and, crucially, a nationwide charging infrastructure, all of which require significant private investment.

A Diversified Investment Horizon

Beyond energy, Ethiopia's reforms are opening doors across a spectrum of key sectors. The Ethiopian Investment Commission (EIC) acts as a one-stopshop, offering a range of incentives, including tax holidays and duty-free imports for priority

As the economy's backbone, the focus is shifting from subsistence to commercial farming and value addition. Opportunities are ripe in coffee (Ethiopia's birthplace), horticulture, sesame, and developing the nation's vast, fertile lands exploration and extraction. with modern irrigation and processing technologies.



A network of world-class. specialized industrial parks (e.g., Hawassa for textiles, Bole Lemi) offers plug-and-play solutions for manufacturers in apparel, pharmaceuticals, and agro-processing, leveraging Ethiopia's competitive labor force.

The "Digital Ethiopia 2025" strategy, combined with telecom liberalization, is fueling a tech boom. Opportunities in fintech, data centers, e-commerce, and business process outsourcing are

expanding rapidly. The nation is rich in untapped mineral resources, including gold, potash, lithium, and tantalum, with the government actively reforming the sector to attract responsible, large-scale

Tourism: A New Dawn for an Ancient Land

Ethiopia's tourism "product" is unparalleled. It is home to 17 UNESCO World Heritage Sites. from the obelisks of Axum to the Simien Mountains National Park, and Al Negashi Mosque. Yet, this potential has historically

been under-realized. A new national strategy is changing that narrative, focusing on quality, accessibility, and diversification. The national tourism policy is being revised for the first time in 16 years to align with international best practices. A simplified e-Visa system has already made the country more accessible than ever.

Prime Minister Dr. Abiy Ahmed's "Dine for the Nation" initiative has funded and delivered stunning new destinations like the Wenchi Eco-Lodge and

Gorgora Riverside Park. These projects create new, high-value tourism circuits focused on nature, ecotourism, and commu-

With its status as the diplomatic capital of Africa, Addis Ababa is bolstering its capacity for Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, and Exhibitions (MICE) tourism with the construction of a new, state-of-the-art convention center.

The Time is now

Ethiopia is at a historic crossroads. By bravely implementing deep-rooted structural reforms, it is dismantling old barriers and building a modern, competitive economy. For the global investor, this translates into ground-floor opportunities in energy, finance, technology, and industry. For the global traveler, it means a newly accessible and rapidly improving destination that offers experiences found nowhere else on

The message from Addis Ababa is clear Ethiopia is not just emerging; it is re-emerging as a regional powerhouse defined by opportunity, resilience, and a bold vision for the future.

By Ethiopian Embassy, Islam-

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

Index Fluctuation				
Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index				
Current	Prev. Close			
162,803.15	161,631.73			
Day's High Day's Low				
163,935.02	161,892.59			
Index Value Change				
32,548,639,881	+1171.42			
Percentage	Time			
+0.72%	3 Nov, 2025 4:30 pm			
Europe: FTSE 100 Index				
Index Value	Change			
9,701.37	-15.88			
Percentage	Time			
-0.16%	3 Nov, 4:35 pm GMT+1			
USA: Dow Jones	Industrial Average			
Index Value	Change			
47,381.47	-181.40			
Percentage	Time			
+0.38%	3 Nov, 12:35 pm GMT-5			

Change

+1,085.73

Time 3 Nov, 3:45 pm

GMT+9

**Index Value** 

52,411.34

Percentage

+2.12%

Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	185.45	190.45
Bahrain Dinar	746.9	754.4
Canadian Dollar	205.7	212.7
China Yuan	39.4	39.8
Danish Krone	43.9	44.3
Euro	332.05	335.55
Hong Kong Dollar	36.5	36.95
Indian Rupee	3.14	3.23
Japanese Yen	1.8762	1.9762
Kuwaiti Dinar	913.8	922.8
Malaysian Ringgit	66.5	67.10
NewZealand \$	160.7	162.7
Norwegians Krone	27.9	28.2
Omani Riyal	731.45	738.95
Qatari Riyal	76.95	77.65
Saudi Riyal	75.75	76.35
Singapore Dollar	217	221.8
Swedish Korona	29.7	30
Swiss Franc	352.65	355.4
Thai Bhat	8.45	8.60
U.A.E Dirham	76.85	77.85
UK Pound Sterling	381.2	384.2
US Dollar	282.6	282.9

#### inDrive Waives Commission in Karachi as Part of Its People-First Business Model

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

KARACHI: inDrive, the global mobility and urban services platform, has waived commissions in Karachi from November 1 to December 31, 2025, as a part of its people-first strategy, enabling drivers to retain 100% of their earnings.

This initiative reinforces in Drive's commitment to fairness, empowerment, and community well-being. Through its unique peer-to-peer pricing model, the company continues to champion both drivers and passengers, placing human choice and economic empowerment at the heart of urban mobility.

"Karachi's drivers are the backbone of our platform, and their resilience inspires us every day," said Awais Saeed, Country Manager of inDrive Pakistan. "Our goal has always been simple: to make sure those who keep Karachi moving feel valued and supported. This step is our way of giving back to the community that drives us every day."

#### Inflation in Pakistan clocks in at 6.2% in October 2025

Pakistan's headline inflation clocked in at 6.2% on a year-on-year (YoY) basis in October 2025, showed Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) data on Monday, a reading higher than the Ministry of Finance estimate of 5-6%

The consumer price index (CPI) was recorded at 5.6% in September 2025. The CPI stood at 6.9% in October 2024.

On a month-on-month basis, it increased by 1.8% in October 2025 as compared to an increase of 2.0% in the previous month and an increase of 1.2% in October 2024.

"This is the highest since November 2024," Optimus Capital Management.

# Pakistan Hosts Investment Facilitation Needs Assessment Workshop

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

ISLAMABAD: The Board of Investment (BOI), in collaboration with the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the International Trade Centre (ITC), organized a two-day Investment Facilitation for Development (IFD) Needs Assessment Workshop at the Marriott Hotel, Islamabad. The workshop aims to enhance Pakistan's understanding and implementation of the WTO's Investment Facilitation for Development Agreement to attract and retain sustainable foreign investment.

The opening session was attended by distinguished representatives from the WTO, ITC, government ministries, regulatory agencies, and development partners. The event began with opening remarks by Mr. Ali Sarfraz Hussain, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the WTO; Mr. Jamil Ahmad Qureshi, Secretary, Board of Investment; Ms. Claudia Locatelli, Counsellor, Trade in Services and Investment Division, WTO; and Mr. Quan Zhao, Senior Programme Manager, Trade Policy, ITC.

Ambassador Ali Sarfraz Hussain stated that the purpose of the workshop is to ensure that the investment process in Pakistan becomes smooth, transparent, and predictable.

In his welcome address, Secretary BOI, Mr. Jamil Ahmad Qureshi, expressed his appre- in the IFD Agreement reflects the country's nent Mission of Pakistan to the WTO. He remarked that Pakistan's active participation environment.



ciation to the WTO, ITC and the Perma-strong commitment to fostering a transparent, predictable, and business-friendly investment

Mr. Quan Zhao, Senior Programme Manager, Trade Policy, ITC, led a focused session on Leveraging Digital Tools for Invest-

The workshop also featured a critical session on Institutional Coordination for IFD Implementation led by Mr. Rashid S., a key expert from the WTO/Government of Pakistan.

#### Meeting

ISTANBUL: Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan meeting with Türkiye's Minister of Trade, Prof. Dr. Ömer Bolat, on the sidelines of the 41st Session of COMCEC. Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to enhancing bilateral trade and economic cooperation between Pakistan and Türkiye on Monday.



# **CCP** issues Competition Assessment Study of the Steel Sector in Pakistan

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

ISLAMABAD: The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) has released a report titled "Competition Assessment Study of the Steel Sector in Pakistan," highlighting key competition-related challenges faced by the industry. The study underscores the absence of a national steel policy and recommends the establishment of a dedicated Steel Ministry, citing successful models from China and India.

Pakistan's manufacturing sector has remained a cornerstone of economic expansion, contributed 71 percent of total exports and employed about 15 percent of the workforce. Within this sector, the steel industry plays a vital role. The report  $\,$ explores it from a competition perspective. Large Scale Manufacturing (LSM) dominates the sector, accounting for more than 69 percent of manufacturing and 8.2 percent of GDP. In FY24, local steel production was 8.4 million MT, including 4.9 million MT of long steel (billets and ingots) and 3.5 million MT of flat steel (coil

and plates). Steel scrap imports stood at infrastructure, and adopt sustainable, ener-2.7 million MT, underscoring the industry's reliance on imported raw material. Despite this, per capita steel consumption remains low at 47 kgs, reflecting limited industrial activity and slower infrastructure development.

Demand is driven by infrastructure development, urbanization, industrial growth, and major projects like CPEC. with construction and real estate as key consumers. On the supply side, the industry faces heavy import dependence, energy constraints, and limited local raw material availability.

Pakistan Steel Mills (PSM), once a strategic asset with 1.1 million tons annual capacity, has been non-operational since 2015 due to financial losses and outdated technology, leaving liabilities of PKR 400 billion. By contrast, international peers like China, India, and Russia advanced through government support, innovation, and strategic investment. Lessons from global players highlight the need for Pakistan to develop local coal and iron ore, modernize and compromises safety.

gy-efficient technologies.

Regulatory and institutional inefficiencies exacerbate challenges. The Ease of Doing Business Committee lacks industry-specific expertise, while frequent changes in SROs create uncertainty for businesses. Substandard steel accounts for 50-60% of domestic production due to weak enforcement by the concerned authorities, disadvantaging compliant producers. Tax exemptions in ex-FATA/ PATA distort competition, with 1.5 million tons of untaxed steel entering settled areas annually, causing PKR 40 billion in

The sector also suffers from market concentration, policy biases, and limited diversification into high-value-added products. High entry barriers, the dominance of undocumented units, and minimal R&D investment constrain competitiveness. Import dependency on scrap further exposes the industry to global shocks, while weak compliance erodes consumer trust

#### Pak Int'l Business Forum Welcomes Jamaat-e-Islami's National Dialogue on 'Resolution of the **Economy'**

#### Commerce Desk

LAHORE: The Pak International Business Forum (PIBF) has warmly welcomed the initiative of Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan to organize a National Dialogue on the Economy, titled "Resolution of the through Business Empowerment and Interest-Free Loans."

PIBF appreciates Jamaat-e-Islami's efforts business leaders, technoeconomic revival. The of 1940.

Forum termed the initiative a timely and much-needed step toward addressing the severe economic challenges the nation faces today.

PIBF leadership Muhammad Ejaz Tanveer, Abdul Wadood Alvi, Hafiz Mahmood and Almas Qazi said the business commu-Economy — Ending Poverty nity stands firmly behind all efforts that promote economic stability, self-reliance, and an interest-free financial system.

The Forum assured its full to unite economic experts, support and participation in this collective endeavour crats, and policymakers to prepare a broad-based on one platform to craft "Economic Resolution a unified and practical 2025," inspired by the spirit roadman for Pakistan's of the Pakistan Resolution

#### Pak-Qatar Asset Management **Company Limited** announces dividend

#### **E** Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Pak-Qatar Asset Management Company Limited (PQAMC) is a leading dedicated Islamic Asset Management Company in Pakistan, and part of Pak-Qatar Group, which is Pakistan's Pioneer and Premier Islamic financial services group. PQAMC has recently announced the monthly dividend of Pak-Qatar Monthly Income Plan (PQMIP) under PQAMC's Shariah-Compliant Income Fund. The plan is also amongst the highest return paying plan in the category.

PQMIP announced a dividend of PKR 0.6900 per unit for the month of October 2025, earned as on has recently achieved an stakeholders.

upgrade to AM2 with a 'Positive Outlook' from PACRA.

The Chief Executive Officer of Pak-Qatar Asset Management Company Limited - Mr. Farhan Shaukat has approved the distribution of dividends for the month of October 2025, under the authority delegated to him by the Board of Directors

Mr. Farhan Shaukat stated that: "We are delighted to announce this distribution to the unit-holders of PQMIP. This reflects the strength of our investment strategy, consistent performance, and commitment to creating long-term value for our Participants. We are also pleased with the recent rating upgrades, which reaffirm the trust and confidence October 28, 2025. PQAMC placed in PQAMC by our

# Z SAIS Cloud and Botnostic Solutions Partner to Bring AI-Powered HRM Solutions

#### Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Zong, Pakistan's leading information services and technology innovation company, has entered into a strategic partnership with Botnostic Solutions, a recognized provider of AI-driven recruitment and career advisory platforms. The partnership, marks a pivotal step ecosystem with next-generation tech-

resource and talent management capabilities.

Speaking at the ceremony, Mr. Farooq Raza, Head of Business Solutions at Zong, said "This partnership represents another step forward in our journey to evolve Z SIAS Cloud's in enhancing Z SAIS Cloud's Soft- nologies. By integrating Botnostic's

ware-as-a-Service (SaaS) portfolio AI-driven SaaS solutions, we are with advanced, AI-powered human empowering organizations to adopt smarter, data-driven approaches to talent management and career development.

Ms. Ramsha Khuram, CEO of Botnostic Solutions, shared her thoughts on the collaboration, stating, "We are delighted to partner with Z SAIS Cloud to scale the reach of our AI-powered platforms. This recruitment, advisory, and analytics enterprise and education sectors."



integration will make intelligent tools more accessible across Pakistan's

#### 

# International cricket returns to Faisalabad after 17 years



FAISALABAD: International cricket Pakistan and South Africa face off in a three-match ODI series, commencing from Tuesday, 4 November, at the in 1996. Iqbal Stadium. The remaining matchat the same venue.

The toss will take place at 2.30pm local time, while the first ball of the match will be bowled at 3pm.

The last international match at the stan and South Africa have met 87

Iqbal Stadium was played on 11 April 2008, when Pakistan defeated Bangladesh in an ODI by seven wickets. returns to Faisalabad after 17 years as 
The historic venue has hosted 16 ODIs to date, including four World Cup matches – one in 1987 and three

Pakistan have featured in 12 ODIs es will be played on 6 and 8 November at this ground, winning nine and losing three. South Africa, on the other hand have played five ODIs here, winning two and losing three. Across all ODIs between the two sides, Paki-



times, with Pakistan winning 34 and South Africa emerging victorious in 52 encounters. In Pakistan, both teams have won eight matches each out of 16.

In Faisalabad, Pakistan and South Africa have contested in three ODIs. Pakistan have won on two occasions (in 1994 and 2007), while South Africa secured victory in one (2003).

This ODI series follows a competitive Test and T20I series, where the two-match Test series ended in a 1-1 draw, while Pakistan claimed the T20I

Afridi will lead Pakistan for the first time in ODIs.

In the current Pakistan squad, among batters, Babar Azam has scored 744 runs in 15 matches, while in the bowling unit, Shaheen has 25 scalps to his name from 13 outings.

Talking to the media after the team's training session at the Iqbal Stadium, Shaheen said"It is exciting to see international cricket return to Faisalabad after 17 years. We are looking forward to performing well against South



Africa. The team played good cricket et-keeper), Mohammad Wasim Jnr, in the T20I series and we aim to carry that momentum into the ODIs."

Pakistan ODI squad:

Shahen Shah Afridi (captain), Abrar Ahmed, Babar Azam, Faheem Ashraf, Faisal Akram, Fakhar Zaman, Haris Rauf, Haseebullah, Hasan Nawaz, Hussain Talat, Mohammad Nawaz, Mohammad Rizwan (wick-

Naseem Shah, Saim Ayub, Salman Ali Agha

Schedule:

4 November - First ODI at Iqbal Stadium, Faisalabad

6 November - Second ODI at Iqbal Stadium, Faisalabad

8 November - Third ODI at Iqbal Stadium, Faisalabad

# AFC President to visit Pakistan for football development

**Sports Desk** 

ISLAMABAD: President of the Asian Football Confederation (AFC), Senior Vice President of FIFA, and a distinguished member of the Royal Family of Bahrain, His Excellency Sheikh Salman bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa will undertake an official visit to Pakistan from November 4 to 7.

As per the directions of the Prime Minister of Pakistan, Sheikh Salman bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa has been declared a 'State Guest' during his visit. He will be accompanied by senior AFC officials and other representatives from the football community, said a press

During the visit, Sheikh Salman bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa is scheduled to hold important meetings with Senator Rana Sanaullah Khan, Advisor to the Prime



Minister on Political and Public Affairs, structure development in the field of projects in Pakistan. as well as with other senior civil and football, enhancing youth participa-

These meetings will focus on infra- of cooperation on sports development finalized the arrangements to ensure

On this occasion, Senator Rana of this high-profile visit.

Sanaullah Khan, who also holds the portfolio of the Ministry of Inter Provincial Coordination (IPC), said, "We extend our heartfelt welcome to His Excellency Sheikh Salman bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa, President of the Asian Football Confederation, Senior Vice President of FIFA, and a respected member of the Royal Family of Bahrain, along with his distinguished delegation. We are confident that this historic visit will lay the foundation for a new era of football development in Pakistan. It will not only promote sports but also strengthen sports diplomacy, youth empowerment, and regional cooperation between Pakistan, Bahrain, and other Asian nations."

The Government of Pakistan, the Ministry of Inter-Provincial Coordination, and all relevant departments have the successful and impactful conduct

#### Hadi Dero Shine in PCB Talent Hunt Program for School Cricket (Karachi Region)

Sports Desk

KARACHI:In the PCB Talent Hunt Program for School Cricket (Karachi Region), NJV School defeated The City School by 3 wickets at Jinnah College Ground. Batting first, The City School scored 166 all out in 38.3 Overs. Hadi Dero batted brilliantly and scored 81 with the help of 15 boundaries, Hassan Shah scored 21 and Shayan Jaffri scored 19 runs. Asghar Ali, Nazakat Ali, Intizar Abbasi and Ajay Sawai took two wickets each. In reply, NJV School achieved the required score of 166 runs in 30.2 overs for the loss of 7 wickets. Ameen Raza scored 32, Ayaz Ali scored 22 runs. Hadi Dero and Akmal Shirazi took 2 wickets

### Punjab's training camps for National Games start from 24th November

跨 Tahir Amin Malik



LAHORE: The training camps of Punjab teams for the preparation of 35th National Games will start from November 24 while the Punjab contingent will leave for Karachi on December 4 to participate in the sports extravaganza. DG Sports and Youth Affairs

Punjab Khizar Afzaal Chaudhry shared this information while presiding over a meeting at the National Hockey Stadium on Monday.

The key meeting was convened to review the preparations of National Games scheduled to be organised at Karachi from December 6 to 13, 2025.

Director Sports Rana Nadeem Anjum, Director Admin Abid Shaukat, Deputy Director Chand Perveen, Deputy Director Yasmeen Akhtar, Assistant Director Bilal Akram and Nabil Akram participated in the meeting.

Addressing the meeting, DG Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab aid that the Punjab athletes will participate in the National Games with full preparation. "Expert coaches will impart top level training to Punjab male and female athletes at the training camp where Sports Board Punjab will provide the best facilities to all the participating players".

He further said that country's best outfits are expected to participate in the 35th edition of National Games but we are quite confident that the members of Punjab contingent will exhibit excellent performance in the mega event.

#### Pak cueist bags victory in World Snooker C'ship

**Sports Desk** 

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's Shahid Aftab secured a convincing 4-0 victory in the last 64 Round of the 2025 World Snooker Championship at Doha, Qatar.



According to details, the tournament's Stage 1 (1st Event) commenced on Monday, with

55 players competing for a spot in the next round. In the day's action, Shahid Aftab secured a convincing 4-0 victory over South Korea's Hwang Chulho, with impressive breaks, including a century.

Meanwhile, another Pakistani player Muhammad Sajjad received a direct qualification to the Round of 32.

The Round of 32 matches are set to begin on Tuesday, promising thrilling encounters and intense competition among the remaining players.

# 26th FPS Sports Festival 2025 A Celebration of Sportsmanship and Excellence

Faisalabad: Happy Birthday to the captain of the South Africa ODI team, Matthew Breetzke from Serena

#### **Sports Desk**

and school spirit. This year's ing Table Tennis, Badmin- and academics. ton, Basketball, Throwball, Futsal, and the newly intro-

hotel. Photo Abdul Majid

duced Padel game.

The event was graced by KARACHI: Foundation the presence of Raza Kamal Public School successful- Minhas, Managing Director ly organized its 26th FPS of Foundation Public Sports Festival 2025, a School, who honored the grand annual celebration ceremony as the Chief Guest of athleticism, teamwork, and presented prizes to the winning, runners-up, and festival witnessed an enthuthird position teams across siastic participation of over all categories. His inspiring 1500 students representing words motivated the young 26 schools across various athletes to continue striving sports disciplines includ- for excellence both in sports

The event also had the

FPS Principals and Vice Principals, who appreciated the remarkable performances and sportsmanship displayed by the students.

Adding further prestige to the occasion, several special guests were invited to witness and encourage the young talent, including: Naseem Rajpoot, Senior Sports Journalist

Qasim, Former Cricketer, Scotland National Team &

Commentator Mr. Quddos, Representdistinguished presence of ative of Gobis Paints

Ovais, Representative of **Akhuwat Foundation** Mr. Abdul Wahab Sultan,

Representative of Seccotel Their presence and appreciation further uplifted the morale of the participating students and highlighted the importance of nurturing sports at the school level.

The FPS Sports Festival continues to serve as a strong platform to identify and promote young talent, encouraging physical fitness, discipline, and teamwork among students.

#### Following are the results of the 26th FPS Sports Festival 2025: Sports Events Name of Schools Award Category Throwball (Girls) Foundation Public School 1st Position Happy Palace Grammar 2nd Position 3rd Position Bay View High School Table Tennis Boys 1st Position Head Start School System Jaffar Public School 2nd Position Foundation Public School 3rd Position Dawood Public School A Table Tennis Girls 1st Position Dawood Public School B 2nd Position Jaffar Public School 3rd Position Padel Boys Bay View High 1st Position Foundation Public School 2nd Position Head Start Clifton Campus 3rd Position Basketball (Boys) Nixor School 1st Position The Indus Academy 2nd Position Reflection School 3rd Position Basketball (Girls) City PAF Chapter 1st Position 2nd Position Nixor School 3rd Position Generations Futsal (Boys) 1st Position Bay View High School **BVS Parsi** 2nd Position City PAF Chapter 3rd Position Futsal (Girls) 1st Position Haque Academy 2nd Position Generations Bay View High 3rd Position

# Eight Muslim nations call for...

Continued from Page 1

Despite the US-brokered truce, Israeli attacks have persisted, killing at least 236 Palestinians and injuring more than 600 since the ceasefire began.

Separately, Pakistan and Turkiye agreed to continue working together on the issue of Palestine, especially establishing sustainable peace in Gaza.

The understanding was reached during a bilateral meeting between Ishaq Dar and Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan.

During the meeting, the ministers expressed satisfaction over the positive trajectory of Pakistan-Turkiye bilateral relations and reaffirmed their shared commitment to further deepen cooperation across political, economic, and defence spheres.

Both sides reaffirmed the strong bonds of brotherhood and mutual support that continue to underpin Pak-Türkiye relations and agreed to maintain close coordination on regional and international issues.

# The Spokesman

# Inaugural Session of PIMEC 2025 KARACHI: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Dr. Ahsan Iqbal alongwith Chief of the Naval Staff and Saudi Minister for Transport and Logistics Services in a group photo at inaugural session of Pakistan Intemational Maritime Expo and Conference 2025 at Karachi Expo Centre on Monday. Pakistan International Maritime Expo & Conference 2025

# Pakistan on path to sustainable economic stability, says Aurangzeb

#### Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb on Monday said Pakistan has achieved significant progress in macroeconomic stability, adding that the country's economic direction is now on the right track.

ence alongside Power Minister are essential for long-term Owais Laghari, IT Minister Shiza Fatima Khawaia, and other members of the economic team in Islamabad, Aurangzeb highlighted that international rating agencies have recognised Pakistan's economic stability.

"The government is implementing a comprehensive agenda of structural reforms," he said.

"Refor

energy sector, and other key areas. Our goal is to ensure sustainable economic stability."

Aurangzeb also noted that the IMF staff-level agreement serves as validation of Pakistan's economic trajectory.

He added that reforms, including pension reforms Speaking at a press confer- and rightsizing initiatives,

"Countries like China, the United States, and the Gulf Cooperation Council have supported our efforts," he said.

Speaking on the occasion, Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) Chairman Rashid Langrial said the government budget, leading to a marked grown to 5.9 million." increase in tax collections



but for the first time, the tax-to-GDP ratio has increased

by 1.5 per cent," Langrial said. "This year, income tax was actively implementing filings rose by 18 per cent, and measures approved in the the number of taxpayers has

He emphasised tha

"Tax reforms take time, FBR did not require new taxes, noting that the federal government collected 15 per cent of revenue while provinces contributed 3 per cent.

> "Most of the pressure for the federal government," he

Power Minister Owais Laghari highlighted the government's efforts to reduce circular debt, citing a Rs1,200 billion debt agreement and a Rs700 billion reduction in the past year.

"A task force on IPPs has made significant progress. The government will no longer purchase electricity unnecessarily, and electricity prices have dropped by 10.5 per cent over the last 18 months," he

Laghari added that energy sector reforms included the introduction of prepaid metering for consumers and technical improvements that have saved billions of rupees.

"Wherever possible, we have revenue generation lies with provided relief to the public while modernising the energy sector," he said.

### **PIMEC-25 Kicks Off: Pakistan Showcases Blue Economy Potential**

#### 跨 Khurram Jaffrani

KARACHI: The opening ceremony of second edition of Pakistan International Maritime Expo and Conference 2025 (PIMEC-25) was held at Expo Centre, Karachi. Saudi Minister of Transport and Logistic Services, H. E. Mr. Saleh Al Jasser was Guest of Honour and Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal, was the Chief Guest on the occasion. Upon arrival, the Guest of Honour and the Chief Guest were received by Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Naveed Ashraf.

While addressing the gathering, the Chief Guest highlighted immense potential of Pakistan's maritime community, while highlighting the sector in rejuvenating the national economy. He appreciated efforts of Pakistan Navy in promoting awareness among masses about the significance of Blue Economy and espe- tary leadership, international delecially for organizing the Maritime gations, and representatives from Expo to showcase country's maritime industry and business sectors.

announced opening of PIMEC 25 and unveiled the commemorative postal stamp, followed by a tour of the expo.

The four-day event is being organized by Pakistan Navy under the patronage of the Ministry of Maritime Affairs and will continue till 6 Nov 25. The active participation of delegations from 44 countries and 178 international and domestic exhibitors reflects the growing global interest in Pakistan's maritime domain.

This mega event represents a landmark initiative aimed at enhancing maritime awareness among national stakeholders and the international vast untapped potential of Pakistan's Blue Economy.

The event was attended by an impressive gathering of civil and mili-

# Tarar says Pakistan received overwhelming global support after stand-off with India



**E** City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar has said Pakistan received overwhelming support from across the globe due to extensive diplomatic efforts during stand-off with India in May this year.

Addressing a seminar titled" Paki-

stan's Diplomatic Achievements", in Islamabad on Monday, he lauded the services of all the former and serving diplomats and ambassadors who rendered great services for Pakistan.

He said despite meager resources, our diplomats kept the national flag high and they contributed immensely for the country. He said the nation will remember the services of all those who bagged successes for Pakistan at the diplomatic front. He said diplomacy is an art that cannot be learnt overnight.

The Information Minister said in the recent stand-off with India, our friendly countries supported Pakistan. He said the valiant armed forces always gave a firm and effective response whenever war was imposed

# Pakistan to launch first Chinese-built Hangor-class submarine next year

#### 跨 Bureau Report

KARACHI: Pakistan plans to launch its first Chinese-built Hangor-class submarine next year, a key step in a major naval modernisation programme aimed at strengthening maritime surveillance and defence capabilities.

Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf told China's Global Times that under a \$5 billion defence agreement, Pakistan will receive eight Hangor-class diesel-electric attack submarines by 2028.

He said the advanced submarines will significantly enhance Pakistan's surveillance and operational reach across the northern Arabian Sea and the Indian Ocean.

According to Admiral while components for the at local facilities.



Ashraf, the first four subma-remaining vessels will be transrines are being built in China, ported to Pakistan for assembly

Pakistan has already launched three submarines from a shipyard in Hubei province, central China, where they were transferred to the Yangtze River for testing and further development.

Admiral Ashraf described the initiative as a major milestone for the Pakistan Navy's submarine fleet, adding that it would not only boost operational strength but also advance technological transfer and local expertise at the Karachi Shipyard and Engineering Works, reinforcing the country's self-reliance in defence production.

Apart from the submarine programme, Admiral Ashraf noted that the Type O54A/P frigates, a class of multi-role warships built in China, have already joined the Pakistan Navy, marking another significant success in China-Pakistan naval collaboration.

# CM Maryam Gives Go-Ahead to Establish **Google Chromebook Factory**



Bureua Report

LAHORE: Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif met a high-level delegation from Google for Education and Tech Valley, led by Kevin Kalis, Global Director of Google for Education and Umar Farooq CEO of Tech Valley, and assured full support to establish a Google Chromebook manufacturing factory in Punjab to boost technology-driven education and local IT infrastructure in the province.

briefed her on Google's educational for technology-enabled learning as technology projects and announced inspiring and forward-looking.

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister

Mohsin Naqvi on Monday lauded

the security forces for their success-

ful operations against militants in

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, commending

their professionalism, courage and

dedication to maintaining peace in

eliminating three militants, saying

had thwarted the nefarious designs

the country

**Mohsin Naqvi praises** 

security forces for successful operations against militants in KP

plans to introduce three major software solutions in the upcoming Google Chromebooks. These software solutions include an "Artificial Intelligence Toolkit," "AI Gemini" to enhance digital learning and creative exploration among students, the "Read Along" software to support English language learning, the "Canva" application to promote design thinking and creativity.

The delegates briefed her that over 2,000 teachers in public schools have already been trained by Google for Education, with more training sessions underway to up skill additional educators across the province.

The Google for Education delegation lauded Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif's visionary leadership, particularly her focus on modern education and IT empowerment During the meeting, the delegation for girls. They described her vision

# 6.2 billion transactions through banking apps show digital payments surge in Pakistan

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

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's digital banking landscape is witnessing remarkable growth as the number and value of electronic transactions continue to surge across the country.

According to the latest banking data, a record 6.2 billion transactions were processed through banking apps, branch banking applications, and e-money wallets in the past year — highlighting the nation's rapid shift toward cashless payments.

Officials reported that the Rast instant payment system has seen a twofold increase in both transaction volume and value. The introduction of the Rast Person-to-Merchant (P2M) service has been hailed as a revoludigital and cash-based services.



tionary step, making digital payments easier for businesses and customers

With the expansion of the pointof-sale (POS) network, one million payments are now being made daily, indicating growing consumer confidence in digital financial services.

The physical banking infrastructure has also seen steady improvement. The number of ATM machines across Pakistan has increased by 7 percent, reaching 20,341 units

of extremist elements. On average, each ATM processes around 140 transactions per day, reflecting consistent demand for both

through swift and decisive action," Naqvi said, adding, "I salute their Pakistan.



The minister praised the forces for bravery and stand proud of the professionalism displayed by our officers and soldiers.

their timely and effective actions Naqvi reaffirmed the government's commitment to lasting peace "Security forces have crushed and stability, noting that the secuthe evil intentions of the Khawarij rity forces remain determined and resolute in their mission to safeguard

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