



Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول
حارث بن وہب خراسانی رضی اللہ عنہ نے بیان کیا کہ نبی کریم صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم نے فرمایا کہ کیا میں تمہیں جنت والوں کی خبر دوں۔ ہرگز ورو تو شیخ کرنے والا کرو۔ (اللہ کا نام لے کر) جسم کھالے تو اللہ اس کی قسم پوری کر دے۔ کیا میں تمہیں دوزخ والوں کی خبر دوں ہر تیر خور، کاکر چٹے والا اور سنگتر۔ (جنگلدار، حدیث نمبر 6071)

Barkat Rice Mills (Pvt) Limited



Raza Rabbani warns constitutional move may undo 18th Amendment gains

His remarks followed reports that the ruling PML-N had sought the PPP's support for a 27th Constitutional Amendment – a move widely criticised by legal experts and opposition figures as an attempt to curtail provincial rights.



Brightest supermoon of 2025 set to light up November skies

As per details the lunar spectacle will reach its peak on Wednesday, November 5, at 8:19 a.m. EST, and will remain visible through Thursday, November 6. While the official moment of full illumination happens in daylight for much of the U. S., the best time to view the moon will be during the evenings as it rises in the eastern sky at twilight.

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2nd World Summit

DOHA: President Asif Ali Zardari addressing the 2nd World Summit for Social Development.



Photo: PID

President Zardari warns against weaponisation of water

Spokesman Report

DOHA: President Asif Ali Zardari on Tuesday warned against the weaponisation of water, saying India's violation of the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) posed a serious threat to 240 million Pakistanis.

Addressing the Second World Summit for Social Development in Doha, President Zardari said

the use of water as a political tool was unacceptable and that such tactics "cannot and will not succeed."

"On one hand, Pakistan faces the devastating impacts of climate change, and on the other, a new threat in the form of water weaponisation," he said.

"Water, which is the basic right of every human being, must never be turned into an instrument of

coercion."

The president's remarks came months after India held the Indus Waters Treaty in abeyance following an attack in occupied Kashmir's Pahalgam, which it blamed on Islamabad without evidence.

Pakistan had termed the move an "act of war" and said it was considering legal action under the Vienna Convention on the

Law of Treaties.

According to a report by Radio Pakistan, Zardari reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to social and economic goals, and called for global efforts to eradicate poverty, promote decent work, and ensure equality and human rights.

Highlighting Pakistan's social protection initiatives, he said the Benazir Income Support

Programme had empowered over nine million families, while the government's youth and education schemes aimed to build a sustainable future.

He also urged the international community to resolve the Kashmir and Palestine disputes in line with UN Security Council resolutions, stressing that peace and justice were essential for global development.

Security forces kill four Indian-sponsored terrorists in Kalat operation: ISPR

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Security forces killed four Indian-sponsored terrorists during an intelligence-based operation (IBO) in Kalat district of Balochistan on the night of November 1, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said in a statement on Tuesday. According to the ISPR, the operation was carried out on the "reported presence of terrorists belonging to Indian proxy, Fitna al Hindustan."

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

It added that weapons and ammunition were recovered from the slain terrorists, who



"remained actively involved in numerous terrorist activities."

The ISPR further stated that sanitisation operations were in progress "to eliminate any other Indian-sponsored terrorist found in the area," adding that the "relentless counter-terrorism campaign under vision 'Azam-e-Istehkam,' as approved by the Federal Apex Committee on National Action Plan, will continue at full pace to wipe out the menace of foreign-sponsored and supported terrorism from the country."

President, PM praise armed forces for successful operation in Kalat

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday paid tribute to the security forces for carrying out a successful intelligence-based operation in Kalat district of Balochistan.

The president and prime minister, in their separately issued statements, praised the forces for killing four India-backed terrorists, calling it a great achievement for national security.

He said that the entire nation stood with the security forces and remained committed to the complete eradication of the scourge of terrorism.

Appreciating the resolve and steadfastness of the security forces and law enforcement



agencies, the president, who is currently on an official visit to Qatar, said that the continuation of Operation 'Azam-e-Istehkam' against anti-state elements was indispensable for national security.

Similarly, Prime Minister Shehbaz said that Pakistan would continue the war against terrorism until its complete eradication from the country, reiterating that entire nation stood in support of the armed forces with an unwavering resolve to protect the homeland.

Blast in Supreme Court canteen injures 12 in Islamabad

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: At least 12 people were injured due to a blast during the air conditioner repair in the basement of the Supreme Court of Pakistan's building on Tuesday, sources said.

Speaking to the media outside the Supreme Court, the Inspector-General (IG) of the Islamabad Police stated that three of the injured were transferred to PIMS Hospital, while nine were taken to the Polyclinic.

Two of the victims are

reported to be in critical condition.

According to the IG, gas leakage had been occurring in the canteen for several days, and the explosion took place during maintenance work on the air conditioner.

He added that most of the injured were AC technicians, one of whom suffered burns on nearly 80 per cent of his body.

Immediately after the blast, court authorities ordered the evacuation of all individuals inside the building.

Police and security agencies are currently assessing the impact of the explosion.

Immediately after the blast, the area surrounding the Supreme Court was sealed, and both court staff and visitors were shifted to safe locations.

PM Shehbaz does not believe in extensions, says Tariq Fazal

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister Tariq Fazal Chaudhry on Tuesday asserted that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif does not believe in granting service extensions, claiming that only two officers

were given extension in the last four years and both of them have now retired.

The remarks came during a charged Senate session marked by sharp exchanges, questions over governance and protests from the opposition benches.

Presiding over the session, Senator Manzoor Ahmed opened proceedings with prayers for the martyrs of terrorism. During the question hour, Senator Saifullah Abro questioned the rationale behind extensions granted to two civil

officers. Responding to the questions, Tariq Fazal Chaudhry said, "Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif does not believe in extensions. Only two officers were given extensions in four years, and both have since retired."

The minister also emphasized



that the provincial quota in the civil service was being implemented "one hundred percent." Addressing political dynamics, he added, "We have very good relations with the Pakistan People's Party and are working as a team."

Ahsan urges joint regional action for sustainable development, climate resilience

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Tuesday called for deeper regional cooperation to achieve sustainable development and build resilience against climate change, describing South Asia as

"the frontline of converging crises that threaten both lives and livelihoods."

"The road to enduring peace and prosperity is paved with sustainable development. Nowhere does this clarion call echo louder than in our region—South Asia, home to nearly two billion souls, a quarter of humanity's heartbeat," he said

while addressing the 28th Sustainable Development Conference (SDC -2025) here at the Allama Iqbal Open University.

He said South Asia remained a region of immense potential yet profound challenges. "This is a tapestry of boundless human ingenuity and untapped economic dynamism. Yet, despite remark-

able strides, over 380 million South Asians remain trapped in multi-dimensional poverty, and one in three children battles stunting," he added.

Highlighting the urgency of climate adaptation, he cautioned that "without bold and collective measures, climate shocks could thrust another 40 million people

into poverty by 2030."

Pakistan, he noted, emitted less than one percent of global carbon emissions but continued to suffer some of the world's most devastating climate impacts. "We bear the heaviest scars—from vanishing Himalayan glaciers and catastrophic floods to unrelenting heat-waves and cyclones," he said.

Tarar says PTI founder's allegations against PM Shehbaz false and fabricated

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar on Tuesday said that the founder of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) had leveled false and fabricated allegations against Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

Talking to the media after recording his statement as a witness in the Rs 10 billion defamation suit filed by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif against the PTI founder, Tarar said that all evidence has been presented before the court and significant progress has been made in the case. "We are hopeful that justice will be served," he stated.

Tarar said the defamation suit was filed in July 2017, but the PTI founder's legal team has sought adjournments 120 times. "Even today, their lawyer



was not present in court. They have neither any evidence nor any argument left to offer," he remarked.

Highlighting Shehbaz Sharif's political career, the minister said the Prime Minister's decades-long public service and commitment to national development are recognized by all. "He has been a member of both the National and Provincial Assemblies since 1988, served three terms as Chief Minister of Punjab, and twice as Prime Minister. His entire life has been dedicated to serving the nation," he said.

Police reportedly charged a students protest rally at AJK University Challah Camps

 **Bureau Report**

MUZAFFARABAD: Police reportedly have charged a students protest rally at Azad Jammu and Kashmir University Challah Camps in Muzaffarabad. The university administration allegedly launched a crackdown on the students, which resulted in the injury of two students. According to sources, information has also been received of firing in the campus, which has spread fear among the students. The civil society immediately asked the university administration to Immediate notice of the situation is required. Two students injured in firing on peaceful students in Chhela campus, while the shooters fled the scene* Suspicious elements suddenly started firing during the ongoing peaceful student protest at Jamia Kashmir Chala campus. According to unconfirmed information, two students were injured, while the unknown persons who were involved in firing escaped from the scene. Addressing a joint press conference, the student organizations said they would completely boycott the



teaching process indefinitely on all campuses of the university from tomorrow if their demands are not granted immediately. Chaudhry Aqib, Ibrahim Habib, Malik Arsalan Awan, Raja Faisal, Saharsh Kashmiri, Shahzeb Ishtiaq and representatives of other student organizations spoke at a press conference in Muzaffarabad. Officials of various student organizations including Islamic Jamiat Talaba,

Kashmir People's Students Federation, Kashmir National Students Federation, GPSO, MSF, IMSF were present on the occasion. University increased the fees of various departments especially the law department by up to 60%, which is sheer unfairness. He said modest hikes in fees every year are permissible as per Higher Education Commission (HEC) rules, but the Jamia Kashmir administration

has not increased fees without any legal or moral justification. While in other universities like Jamia Kotli, Jamia Bagh and Must, the fee of Law Department is about Rs 26,000 to Rs 28,000, in Jamia Nammir, it is from Rs 64,0 Along with those fees, transportation fees are also going to be charged compulsorily to all students, whether they use transportation or not.

First rain of winter

ISLAMABAD: Motorists are on their way at Highway during the First rain of winters in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

A high-level meeting held under the chairmanship of PM AJK

 **Bureau Report**

MUZAFFARABAD: A high-level meeting was held here today under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq. During the meeting, the Prime Minister said that the size of the administrative structure should correspond to actual requirements, as unnecessary posts and unjustified promotions have disrupted the balance of the system. He further said that the present



government has activated the administrative system, removed its shortcomings, and prioritized collective development. The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary General Zaheeruddin Qureshi, Principal Secretary Zafar Mahmood Khan, and Secretary Environment Aamir Mahmood Mirza. The Prime Minister received a detailed briefing on service rules, appointments (both contractual and permanent), promotion quotas, and rationalization across various departments.

Bakery item rates should be reviewed: Farooq Chaudhry

 **City Desk**

RAWALPINDI: A delegation from the Rawalpindi Restaurants, Caterers, Sweets & Bakers Association, led by President Muhammad Farooq Chaudhry, met with Ms. Salma Butt, Chairperson and Special Assistant to the Chief Minister of Punjab for Price Control and Coordination. The meeting focused on the recent increase in wheat and flour prices, supply disruptions, and their impact on bakery items. The delegation requested a review of bakery item rates due to rising production costs. Ms. Salma Butt assured that flour mills across Punjab would supply wheat at government rates, and Deputy Commissioners would ensure strict



enforcement. She added that disruptions in flour supply would be resolved, and bread would be provided at Rs. 14 for the public. It was agreed to hold a follow-up

meeting in two weeks to review progress. Formal consultations will also be held regarding rates for bread, juice, and other bakery products, with a mechanism to standardize prices for

general bakers. The delegation thanked Ms. Salma Butt for her support and welcomed the government's commitment to addressing traders' concerns.

Shaukat Javed Mir hails Army Chief's role in Kashmir Diplomacy

 **Bureau Report**

MUZAFFARABAD: Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Azad Kashmir Central Deputy Secretary Information Candidate Assembly Constituency 7 Lipa Valley Shaukat Javed Mir has said that Field Marshal Hafiz Syed Asim Munir to interpret Pakistan's diplomacy at the global level and promote the idea of diplomacy on Kashmir. Chairman Bilawal Bhutto has said that his grandfather Quaid Awam Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto will live in accordance with the policies of Ms. Benazir Bhutto Shaheed. President of Pakistan Asif Ali Zardari Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Chairman of Political Affairs Ms. Faryal Talpur is a symbol of united federation These views expressed while speaking informally with the media here yesterday about whether they would pass a deadline for possible in-house change through a no-confidence motion. History has given the people once again the outdated system of First PM Chaudhry Anwar-ul-Haq ever visiting the capital. He said fifteen days before the resignation of the ministers still enjoying privileges, let alone the Prime Minister still awaited notification of approval of resignations. Why didn't the Prime Minister remove Them from the Cabinet because he didn't trust Azad Kashmir? PM Chaudhry Anwar-ul-Haq's claims have proved to be a wall of sand and he is also a revolutionary of ideology. India is busy conducting naval exercises in preparation for Operation Trishul-2. Shaukat Javed Mir said that it is a cold and snowy season, so he is fighting for food in thirteen constituencies including the Line of Control (LoC). Timely emergency measures are necessary to open roads leading to Pandu and valleys and reduce travel difficulties.

Alarming Rise of Toxic Street Snacks Threatens Takht Bhai Children's Health

 **Tariq Khan Yousafzai**

TAKHT BHAI: The production and sale of substandard and low-quality chips, popcorn, chaat, and other harmful food items have reached alarming levels in the surroundings of Takhte Bhai. According to sources, these items are being prepared in small home-based factories and are openly sold in streets and alleys. Medical experts have stated that these items contain harmful chemicals and artificial colors, which pose serious health risks to children. Most of the substandard chips and snacks available in the market use unhealthy oils, chemicals, and synthetic dyes, making them extremely dangerous for children's health. These products not only cause stomach and liver diseases but also negatively impact children's physical development. Medical professionals warn that excessive consumption of such chips leads to issues like loss of appetite, gastrointestinal problems, dental decay, and weakened immunity among children.

Teaching activities suspended at UAJK until further orders

 **Bureau Report**

MUZAFFARABAD: The University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (UAJK) has categorically rejected the reports alleging a 60 percent increase in tuition fees in any of its departments, terming them completely false, fabricated, and misleading. In an official statement issued by the University's Public Relations Department, the spokesperson clarified that as per university regulations, only a 10 percent annual increase in tuition fees applies uniformly to all ongoing academic programs. The spokesperson further explained that a Rs. 1,000 adjustment in the semester transport fee, which was subject to formal approval by the Academic Council and the Syndicate for implementation from the forthcoming semester, has also been withdrawn with immediate effect. The spokesperson strongly condemned the acts of violence that occurred during the recent student protest, emphasizing that the University administration is fully committed to ensuring a peaceful and secure academic environment for its students, faculty, and staff. "The University has formally requested the district administration and law enforcement agencies to take strict legal action against those found involved in violent incidents or disruptions on campus," the spokesperson added. As a precautionary measure, and to maintain order and safety across all campuses, the University has decided to suspend all teaching activities until further orders. The University reiterated its resolve to continue providing a safe, inclusive, and academically enriching environment once normalcy is restored.

Driver injured as ambulance catches fire

HYDERABAD: An ambulance caught fire near the SSP office here Tuesday evening with the vehicle's driver sustaining burns injuries in the incident. A spokesman of Rescue 1122 informed that one of their teams extinguished the fire and shifted the driver to Liaquat University Hospital. According to him, the ambulance belonged to the Khidmat-e-Khalq Foundation (KKF). He said the cause of the fire could not be immediately identified.



Measles vaccination campaign to target 263,000 children in Larkana

LARKANA: A measles vaccination campaign is set to be launched in Larkana from November 17 to 29, 2025, aiming to immunize 263,000 children against the highly contagious disease. The campaign, targeting children in the district, will be conducted door-to-door and through seminars. Deputy Commissioner Dr Sharjeel Noor Channa, while chairing a meeting on the Measles and Rubella Catch-Up campaign, emphasized the importance of spreading awareness and proper planning to ensure the campaign's success. He directed the health department to form teams at the Union Council level, prepare a micro plan, and involve social mobilizers and Rescue 1122 in the campaign. "The campaign's success depends on effective planning and execution, just like our polio campaigns," Dr Sharjeel said. He added that the district health department has consistently performed well in polio campaigns, and the same dedication is expected for the measles campaign. The meeting was informed that measles is a highly contagious virus that can lead to serious complications, including pneumonia and fever. Globally, around 16 million children have died due to measles from 2000 to 2023. In Larkana, 113,609 children are targeted in the first phase. A Measles-Rubella plan has been prepared, similar to the polio campaign, which will be implemented by teams. Officers from the education department and school headmasters will also be involved to ensure the campaign's success.



Islamabad
30° – 38° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr 5:05 am
Zohr 11:51 am
Asr 3:35 pm
Maghrib 5:13 pm
Isha 6:37 pm

EMERGENCY

Rescue (Police) 15
Bomb Disposal 15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/
Islamabad 1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance 1122 &
& Rescue Services 4451122
Motorway Police 9266044
Motorway Police 9270601-20

Women Police Stations

Islamabad 9222596
Rawalpindi 9270601-20

ENQUIRY

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

HOSPITALS

CMH 561111
MH 561116
MH 561116
Cantt Hospital 9270907-11
DHQ 5556311-4
RGH 9290301-7
Holy Family 9290322-7
PIMS 9261707-79
Polyclinic 9218300-09
Shifa International 4603666

DEPARTMENTS

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

House Job Type Training for Engineers, PEC Signs MoU with 14 Organizations

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) signed Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with 14 leading organizations under its flagship Graduate Engineer Trainee (GET) Placement Program. Chairman PEC Engr. Waseem Nazir, along with representatives of these organizations, signed the MoUs at a ceremony held in Islamabad. The collaboration aims to provide young engineers with structured, hands-on professional training opportunities in the public and private sectors, bridging the gap between academic learning and practical experience.

The organizations that joined hands with PEC under this initiative include Frontier Works Organization (FWO), Pakistan Telecommunication Company Limited (PTCL), Tunneling Institute of Pakistan (TIP), National Institute of Electronics (NIE), National Electronics Complex of Pakistan (NECOP), National Telecommunication Corporation (NTC), Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA), Pakistan Mineral Development Corporation (PMDC), Heavy Industries Taxila (HIT), Heavy Mechanical Complex (HMC), Pakistan Ordnance Factories (POF), Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO), PAKSAT International, and PAKISTAN Housing Authority Foundation (PHAF).

Pakistan Shines on the Global Tourism Stage at WTM London 2025

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan made a strong impression at the World Travel Market (WTM) London 2025, one of the world's largest and most prestigious international tourism exhibitions, which commenced today at the ExCel Exhibition Centre, London. Organized by Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC) in coordination with Gilgit-Baltistan Tourism Development (GBTD), Sindh Tourism Development Corporation (STDC), Tourism Development Corporation of Punjab (TDCP) and private sector stakeholders, Pakistan's participation underscores the country's commitment to promoting its diverse tourism potential and strengthening its visibility in global travel markets.

The Pakistan Pavilion was inaugurated in a vibrant ceremony attended by high-level dignitaries, tourism professionals and media representatives. The 32-member Pakistani delegation, representing both the public and private sectors, is led by Mr. Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan, Prime Minister's Coordinator on Tourism and includes Mr. Syed Zulfiqar Ali Shah, Minister for Culture, Tourism & Antiquities, Government of Sindh and Mr. Ghulam Muhammad, Minister for Tourism, Sports & Culture, Gilgit-Baltistan. Senior officials from provincial tourism departments and representatives of leading private tourism and hospitality companies are also part of the delegation.

WTM London is recognized as a global hub for the travel and tourism industry, connecting more than 180 countries and attracting thousands of exhibitors, buyers, investors and international media. The event provides Pakistan with a valuable platform to showcase its scenic beauty, cultural heritage and adventure tourism and hospitality sector to a worldwide audience.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan said that WTM London offers Pakistan a remarkable opportunity to connect with global tourism leaders, investors, and travelers. Our participation aims to project the positive image of Pakistan, highlight its unparalleled natural beauty and build meaningful international collaborations in tourism.

Managing Director PTDC, Mr. Aftabur-Rehman Rana, emphasized the importance of Pakistan's participation, he stated that WTM London is one of the most significant tourism events globally. PTDC's collaboration with provincial departments and private sector partners ensures unified promotion of Pakistan as a compelling destination for international visitors. Through this joint effort, we aim to enhance Pakistan's brand image and attract investment in our tourism infrastructure.



Painting for Emirates Park

ISLAMABAD: A painter is busy in making beautiful paintings on different enclosures at newly named Hill View Park to Emirates Park, with the support of United Arab Emirates in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Multan Police Continues Series of Open Courts Under the Vision of Punjab CM

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Multan Police continues series of open courts under the vision of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz's open door policy. An open court was organized by City Police Officer Multan DIG Sadiq Ali Dogar at Police Station Chehleeek. During the open court, SP Cantt Division Kainat Azhar, ASP Cantt Hilal Khan Chandio, concerned SHOs and investigation officers were also present in the open court. City Police Officer Multan Sadiq Ali Dogar listened to the problems of the citizens who came to the open court and issued orders to resolve them immediately. The City Police Officer Multan handed over the recovered motorcycles and mobile phones of the plaintiffs of



the case to them during the open court. The plaintiffs of the case thanked City Police Officer Multan DIG Sadiq Ali Dogar and SHO Police Station Chehleeek Ansar Abbas for the recovery and expressed their happiness. The CPO Multan issued instructions to the police

officers to pay special attention to solving the complaints and problems of the citizens and to immediately redress the complaints of the civilians. City Police Officer Multan DIG Sadiq Ali Dogar said on this occasion that the purpose of the open court is to provide

maximum relief to the citizens. The City Police Officer Multan further said that the purpose of the open court is to provide relief to the people at their doorsteps. DIG Sadiq Ali Dogar said that the public should fight against lawbreakers and report them on the police helpline.

Faisalabad Under Siege: Security Lockdowns Paralyze City Life for Ten Days



Bureau Report

FAISALABAD: In the name of security, people's lives have been made a torment. The entire city has been locked down and all shops and businesses have been closed. It is being claimed that our security is excellent. Serena Hotel has been turned into a fort. No ordinary person can even move there. Those who have offices and banks inside this building are also barred from entering and they are also being humiliated. In every city of the world, even in Lahore and Rawalpindi, when the team passes, all roads are closed and they are opened after the team reaches the ground. But in Faisalabad, due to the incompetence of the security agencies, all roads and businesses have been closed for 10 days. Unfortunately, after the match, advertisements will also be printed and bouquets will be received from the interested businessmen to pay tribute to the police for providing excellent security.

Funeral held for late wife of former RCCI President Dr. Hasan Sarosh

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The wife of Dr. Hasan Sarosh, former President of the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry; mother of Hamza Sarosh, former Senior Vice President, and Yasir Sarosh; and mother-in-law of Zafar Bakhtawari, Secretary General of UBG, passed away by the will of Allah Almighty.

Her funeral prayer was offered yesterday, after which she was laid to rest at H-11 Graveyard, Islamabad, amid tears and prayers.

A large number of people attended the funeral, including MNA Malik Abrar, former MNA Mian Muhammad Aslam, Zafar Bakhtawari (Secretary General UBG), Punjab Health Advisor Zahid Bakhtawari, Abid Bakhtawari, Waqar Bakhtawari, Haris Bakhtawari, Uzair Bakhtawari, Arham Bakhtawari, RCCI Group Leader Sohail Altaf, President Usman Shoaib, former Presidents Saqib Rafiq, Asad Mashhadi, Raja Amir Iqbal, Chaudhry Abdul Rauf, Nadeem Rauf, Sheikh Manzoor Khurshid, Rahat Qudoosi, Sheikh Siddiq, Dr. Shamael Dawood, Chaudhry Iqbal, Chaudhry Imran Rasheed, ICCI Senior Vice President Tahir Ayub, ICC Council Member Abdul Rauf Alam, Khalid Javed, Mian Akram Fareed, Mian Shoaib Masood, Nasir Qureshi, Aamir Waheed, Ijaz Abbasi, Chaudhry Masood, President Anjuman-e-Tajiran Ajmal Baloch, President Talagang Chamber Malik Shabbir Awan, Babar Chaudhry, Nasir Chaudhry, Ruhail Anwar Butt, Malik Abdul Aziz, Nisar Mirza, Khalid Chaudhry, Raja Mujahid Officer, Saifur Rehman, Ameer Hamza, and a large number of members from the Rawalpindi-Islamabad business community, along with various social and political figures.

Austrian Ambassador Special Visit to Multan Cantt

Kiran Asim

MULTAN: The Ambassador of Austria to Pakistan, Mr. Wolfgang Oliver Kucera, paid a special visit to Multan Cantt, accompanied by the CEO and Managing Director of Real Change. The visit aimed to promote cultural harmony, highlight Multan's rich artistic traditions, and explore opportunities for mutual cooperation between Austria and Pakistan.

Among the distinguished guests present on the occasion were Nawab Feroz Khan, Chief Coordinator of the Central Traders Association Dr. Ghazanfar Malik, Hazim Arshad, and

Chaudhry Mehmood Ali, along with several other notable personalities from the business and social community.

The hosts briefed the Ambassador about Multan's centuries-old heritage as the "City of Saints", renowned for its spiritual shrines, lush mango orchards, world-famous Multani Hachalwa, and exquisite traditional handiwork and embroidered garments. They explained that Multan's artisans have preserved their ancestral craft for generations, turning the city into a living museum of Pakistani culture and creativity.

Dr. Ghazanfar Malik, while addressing the gathering, shared details about ongoing initiatives to promote

local craftsmanship through modern marketing techniques and international exhibitions. He expressed hope that Multani artisans and products — particularly handcrafted clothing, Sohan Halwa, and handcraft décor — could soon reach European markets, including Austria, showcasing Pakistan's rich cultural identity to the world.

During the visit, the Ambassador also viewed photographs of Multan's famous shrines and historical architecture, expressing deep admiration for the city's spiritual and cultural heritage. He remarked that Multan is not only a city of saints but also a symbol of Pakistan's artistic diversity and resilience.



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13-day national anti-measles and rubella drive to be launched across AJK from November 17

Provincial Program Manager EPI Azad Kashmir, Dr. Sardar Manzoor Hussain has said that like the whole country, a national campaign for measles and rubella was being started from November 17 to 29 under the auspices of the Public Health Department’s Program for Immunization.

Talking to journalists regarding the national campaign for prevention of measles and rubella, he said in the campaign, children aged 06 months to 05 years would be vaccinated against measles and rubella.

He said that parents must get their children aged 6 months to 5 years vaccinated against a deadly disease like measles, which was the guarantee of a healthy, safe and prosperous future for children.

During this campaign, he said teams consisting of 852 trained people would ensure the vaccination process through outreach sessions at EPI centers in hospitals, schools and community levels.

Measles-rubella was a very dangerous and rapidly spreading infectious disease that caused high fever, red rash on the body, cough, pneumonia and inflammation of the brain in children, he underlined.

“Millions of children are infected with measles every year around the world, while Pakistan ranks second in the world in terms of the number of children infected with measles. Due to the low coverage of the measles-rubella vaccine in the country, a large number of children are deprived of the vaccine every year, which leads to the spread of the virus and measles outbreaks,” he pointed out.

For this reason, a special measles-rubella campaign is organized every 4 years to provide the children with dextrose and additional doses, he added.

In the year 2024 alone, 23,372 children fell victim to measles in Pakistan and 265 children died and 396 children were infected with measles and 5 died in AJK.

In routine vaccination, measles vaccine is administered at the age of 9 months and 15 months, but a large number of children infected with measles are below 9 months of age, so in this campaign, children from 6 months to 5 years would be vaccinated, he added.

Sudan’s Silent Genocide: When Beasts Wear the Faces of Men

Qudsia Imran

As the world watches Sudan burn, the genocide unfolding in Darfur mirrors the moral collapse that once defined Rwanda, and now echoes in Gaza.

Every nation has a right to live; freely, safely, and with dignity under the open sky of light. Every people deserve the wisdom of peace and the freedom to breathe without fear. Yet, in Sudan, that right has been repressed under the wreckage of a brutal war that has stripped humanity of meaning. The land that once dreamed of democracy now burns under the boots of monsters who call themselves men, the Rapid Support Forces (RSF).

The RSF’s campaign is no mere conflict; it is a genocide disguised as civil war. They are killing non-Arab Sudanese, people of the same homeland, the same sky, the same soil. The world watches with muted horror, yet again, as history repeats itself in the ashes of Darfur. The question that pierces the heart of humanity is as haunting as the smoke over El Fasher: why are non-Arabs being slaughtered?

The RSF denies everything. Yet, their own videos betray them. Men begging for mercy, women separated and assaulted, children orphaned and starved, this is not war. This is extermination. As one survivor told aid workers, “They have surrounded us to kill us. There is no way out.”

This catastrophe is not just Sudan’s. It is humanities. The United Nations estimates more than 150,000 dead and 12 million displaced. UNICEF warns

of “blood-curdling atrocities.” The UN Refugee Agency calls it “a spiraling nightmare.” But statements do not save lives. Condemnations do not stop bullets. The international community’s paralysis has turned moral failure into a global habit.

What makes Sudan’s tragedy even more grotesque is that this time, the killer and the killed share the same flag. Arabs killing non-Arabs, Sudanese killing Sudanese, brothers against brothers. The cruelty is intimate. The hatred, home-grown. It exposes the darkest paradox of humanity: when the oppressor no longer wears a foreign uniform but speaks your own tongue.

This echoes painfully in Palestine, where an entire population has been bombed, starved, and buried beneath Israeli warplanes. Yet while Gaza’s killers come from beyond its borders, Sudan’s genocide is a betrayal from within. As Mahmoud Darwish once wrote, “The killer and the killed are sons of the same homeland.”

Both Sudan and Palestine reveal the same truth: the world’s conscience is selective. When the blood is brown, the silence is loud. When the victims are African or Arab, the outrage is optional.

Behind Sudan’s agony lie clear culprits. The RSF’s gold mines finance its terror. The UAE and Libyan warlord Khalifa Haftar have been credibly accused by a UN panel of arming and supporting the group. The Russian Wagner Group has trained and armed RSF fighters in exchange for access to Sudanese gold. This web of complicity turns every slug into an international crime.

What can be done? The world must stop pretending helplessness is neutrality.

It is complicity. The United Nations Security Council must impose an arms embargo, freeze RSF assets, and prosecute its leaders for war crimes and crimes against humanity. Regional powers, especially the Gulf states, must be held accountable for funding this slaughter. The International Criminal Court must reopen investigations into the Darfur genocide, because genocide does not expire.

But beyond sanctions and courts, Sudan needs something deeper, the revival of a moral order. For too long, Africa’s wars have been seen as distant tragedies, every refugee forgotten, weakens the fabric of our shared humanity. “To remain silent and indifferent is the greatest sin of all,” wrote Holocaust survivor Elie Wiesel. Sudan today stands as the measure of that sin.

Are the people of Sudan, Arab or non-Arab, not human enough to live freely beneath the same sky that shines over New York and Geneva? Are their tears less salty, their pain less real?

In Darfur’s blood-soaked plains and Gaza’s burning streets, humanity is being tested, and found wanting. The RSF fighters who film their crimes, laughing beside corpses, have traded their souls for power. Yet those who remain silent, who watch and do nothing, have traded theirs for comfort.

Sudan bleeds today not only because of the beasts who kill, but because of the world that watches. And as the fire of El Fasher glows against a darkened sky, one truth becomes clear: when we fail to defend the right to live with dignity, we become the beasts we fear.

Canada Ad That Rattled Trump

In October 2025, a seemingly harmless Canadian public-service announcement featuring Ronald Reagan’s 1987 speech on tariffs ignited an international political storm. What began as a provincial media campaign by Ontario quickly escalated into a full-blown trade confrontation with the United States—one that exposed the fragility of U. S.–Canada relations in the Trump era and the fine line between political messaging and economic provocation.

The ad opened with archival footage of Reagan declaring, “Protectionism is destructionism. Tariffs and quotas are barriers that protect the few at the expense of the many.” The message, originally delivered at the height of the Cold War, was reinterpreted by Ontario’s communications bureau as a critique of modern tariff nationalism. The closing frame read, “Free trade built North America. Tariffs break it.” The timing was deliberate. It aired just days after President Donald J. Trump announced a 5% tariff increase on Canadian steel, aluminum, and agricultural imports—part of his renewed “America First Fair Trade” agenda.

The fallout was swift. Trump’s administration suspended ongoing trade negotiations aimed at refining the U. S.–Canada Economic Partnership Framework. He ordered a 10% across-the-board tariff increase on all Canadian imports, including automotive parts, lumber, dairy, and consumer goods. For two economies intertwined through \$800 billion in annual trade, the move sent shockwaves through industries on both sides of the border. Trucking associations, small exporters, and retail chains immediately warned that price hikes were inevitable before the 2025 holiday season.

In Ottawa, Prime Minister Mark Carney acted quickly to contain the crisis. Although the advertisement originated

from Ontario’s provincial government rather than the federal cabinet, Trump’s reaction forced Ottawa to intervene. In a carefully worded statement, Carney expressed “regret for any misunderstanding” and emphasized that “the ad does not reflect Canada’s federal stance on U. S. trade policy.” According to The Washington Post, Carney even reached out to Trump personally to offer an apology—an unusual act in modern diplomacy that underscored how high the stakes were.

Trump acknowledged the apology publicly but refused to lift the suspension of trade talks. “I appreciate Prime Minister Carney’s words,” he said during a Mar-a-Lago press briefing. “But actions speak louder than apologies. We’ll see if Canada really wants fair trade—not propaganda.”

The ad’s creators defended their intent, claiming it was meant to “highlight the historical value of free trade” rather than criticize Trump personally. Yet political analysts in both countries saw it as a textbook case of how symbolic gestures can spiral into real-world consequences. “Reagan’s words were about global cooperation against communism, not about contemporary tariff disputes,” explained Professor Samuel Pritchard of the University of Toronto. “Re-contextualizing them during an active negotiation with a protectionist White House was politically reckless, even if rhetorically clever.”

Canadian citizens were deeply divided. Some praised Ontario for “standing up for free trade principles,” seeing it as a proud reaffirmation of Reagan-era conservatism and cross-border partnership. Others accused the provincial government of jeopardizing livelihoods for

political theater. Social-media platforms were soon flooded with hashtags such as #ReaganAdGate and #TariffWarNorth. Polls conducted by the Toronto Star indicated that 42% of Canadians supported the ad, while 47% thought it was ill-timed and diplomatically irresponsible.

For small business owners in Ontario and Quebec, the timing could not have been worse. Tariff hikes immediately disrupted auto-parts exports and timber shipments. The Canadian Chamber of Commerce estimated losses exceeding \$2.4 billion within the first two weeks of the new tariff regime. The Toronto Stock Exchange

saw its manufacturing index fall by nearly 4% in a single day—its steepest drop since early 2023.

In the United States, the political narrative was equally polarized. Trump’s supporters hailed the move as evidence of his “uncompromising defense of American workers,” while his critics accused him of hypersensitivity and using trade policy to punish political speech abroad. Several U. S. senators from border states, including Michigan and New York, quietly urged the administration to de-escalate, citing mounting pressure from local businesses dependent on cross-border supply chains.

Mark Carney’s apology, intended as a pragmatic gesture, triggered heated debate in Canada’s Parliament. Opposition leader Pierre Poilievre accused the prime minister of “bowing to American intimidation” and undermining Canadian sovereignty. Carney countered that leadership demanded “preventing a rhetorical dispute from turning into an economic war.” His cautionary tone reflected the grim reality that Canada could ill afford

another prolonged tariff standoff, especially after years of global inflation and energy-price volatility.

Meanwhile, the United States began leveraging the dispute in broader trade negotiations with Europe and Mexico, signaling that Washington was prepared to use tariffs not merely as economic tools but as instruments of political discipline. Analysts warned that such tactics risked eroding trust even among America’s closest allies. The Reagan-ad episode, they argued, revealed how fragile diplomatic etiquette had become in an era of social-media-driven politics and impulsive leadership.

For historians, the irony was impossible to miss. Ronald Reagan—whose words were meant to defend free markets—had unintentionally become the centerpiece of a 21st-century trade war. The contrast between Reagan’s optimism and Trump’s transactional realism encapsulated a profound shift in American conservatism: from a belief in open exchange to a strategy rooted in economic nationalism and leverage.

The “Reagan Ad Affair,” as international media dubbed it, may one day be remembered less for its economic cost and more for its symbolic power. It captured a moment when an old speech from the Cold War could still shake the foundations of modern diplomacy—when images, not policies, defined the fate of nations. In an age where political theater travels faster than policy restraint, one provincial ad in Canada became a global lesson in the perilous intersection of media, ego, and economics.

The writer is Press Secretary to the President (Rtd), Former Press Minister, Embassy of Pakistan to France, Former Press Attaché to Malaysia and Former MD, SRBC. He is living in Macomb, Michigan, USA



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

Moral Decline in the Contemporary Era and Its Remedies

If the present age is called an era of material progress and scientific advancement, it would not be an exaggeration. However, behind this apparent progress, humanity is rapidly losing its moral and spiritual values. The modern human being, though surrounded by comforts, is spiritually hollow, mentally restless, and emotionally unstable. Moral decline is a poison that slowly weakens the very foundation of society, and once a nation’s moral fabric deteriorates, its structure cannot stand for long. The Holy Qur’an declares: “Indeed, Allah does not change the condition of a people until they change what is in themselves.” (Surah Ar-Ra’d: 11) This verse reflects the bitter truth that the downfall of nations begins when they abandon moral and spiritual principles.

There are numerous causes of moral decay. The foremost among them is the lack of religious awareness. When religion is confined merely to acts of worship and its ethical dimensions are neglected, society inevitably becomes infested with falsehood, deceit, jealousy, greed, and immorality. Islam, however, does not restrict faith to rituals; rather, it integrates morality as an essential part of belief. The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ said: “The most complete believer in faith is the one who is best in character.” Unfortunately, Muslims today have forgotten this prophetic teaching in practice. Another major cause is materialism and worldliness. In the pursuit of wealth, fame, and power, humanity has lost its sense of integrity. The distinction between halal and haram has blurred; bribery is considered skill, and lying is seen as cleverness. The younger generation, absorbed in the superficial glamor of social media, is drifting away from its cultural and moral heritage. Truthfulness, honesty, modesty, patience, and contentment once our hallmarks are now seen as weaknesses.

The remedy for moral decline must begin both individually and collectively. At the individual level, every person must strive for self-reformation through repentance, self-accountability, remembrance of Allah, and emulation of the Prophet’s ﷺ example. At the family level, parents must nurture not only educated but also ethical

and responsible children. The home is the first school where character is formed. At the educational level, moral and civic education must be integrated into the curriculum, and teachers should act as moral role models rather than mere instructors.

Moreover, the role of the media must be redefined. Media outlets should realize their immense influence in shaping public morality. They must promote educational, ethical, and reformative content while curbing vulgarity, sensationalism, and moral corruption. The state also bears responsibility it should enact and enforce laws against dishonesty, corruption, and exploitation. Religious and social organizations must launch awareness campaigns to restore moral consciousness and collective responsibility.

Above all, it must be understood that the true source of morality is faith. When the fear of God and the belief in accountability in the Hereafter are alive in a person’s heart, he naturally abstains from wrongdoing. But when the heart becomes dead and the conscience sleeps, no worldly system can make him righteous. We must rekindle within ourselves the fear of Allah, the love of the Prophet ﷺ, and a sense of moral responsibility. These are the foundations of ethical revival.

In conclusion, moral decay in the modern era is not merely a religious or social issue it has become a question of human survival. If humanity does not restore its moral compass, it will be crushed under the very weight of its material success. As Muslims, we must return to the example of our righteous forebears who conquered hearts through truth, justice, and moral excellence. When Muslims were honest, virtuous, and upright, the world admired them; when they lost their ethics, decline became their destiny. Today, the need of the hour is to rebuild our lives according to the teachings of the Qur’an and Sunnah to revive truthfulness, honesty, modesty, patience, generosity, and justice. This alone is the true remedy, the path to salvation, and the key to success in this world and the Hereafter.

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Pakistan, Iran ink five MoUs to boost media, cultural cooperation

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran on Tuesday signed a series of Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) to enhance bilateral cooperation in broadcasting, film production, media regulation, and cultural exchange, marking a new chapter in the enduring partnership between the two brotherly nations.

The agreements were inked between the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB) and five major Pakistani media entities including Pakistan Television Corporation (PTV), Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA), Box Office (Pvt) Ltd, Sab TV Network, and VSH TV, during a ceremony held in Islamabad.

These agreements aim to foster collaborative content creation, promote cultural understanding, and streamline media practices across both countries.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar termed the visit of the Iranian media delegation "productive and inspiring," saying the signing of MoUs reflected both governments' resolve to strengthen people-to-people connections and promote shared values of peace, brotherhood, and resistance against oppression.

Tarar welcomed the Iranian delegation and described the recent visit



of President Masoud Pezeshkia as a meaningful step toward strengthening bilateral ties. He noted that the President's visit to the mausoleum of Allama Iqbal was a powerful gesture, reflecting how Iqbal's message

continues to inspire not only Pakistan but the broader Muslim world.

He emphasized that Pakistan and Iran are not just neighbors but also Muslim brothers, and expressed satisfaction that the long-desired bond

between the two nations has grown stronger in recent years.

Iranian Ambassador to Pakistan Dr. Reza Amiri Moghadam expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif for his personal interest

in fostering media and cultural ties between the two nations.

He said the new framework would bring the people of Pakistan and Iran closer through enhanced cultural understanding and media exchange.

"These agreements will not only promote cooperation between our media organizations but also pave the way for broader public diplomacy," the Ambassador said, highlighting the historic and cultural bonds that unite both countries.

According to official summaries, the MoUs signed between IRIB and Pakistani media institutions aim to promote cooperation in broadcasting, training, content production, and cultural exchange.

Under the IRIB-PTV MoU, both broadcasters will exchange television programs and co-produce news and cultural content.

The two sides will organize joint training courses, share technical expertise, and participate in each other's media festivals and cultural events. The agreement, valid for three years and automatically renewable, also provides for reciprocal exchange of personnel for professional development.

The SATRA-PEMRA MoU focuses on strengthening regulatory cooperation between Pakistan and Iran through knowledge-sharing, research collaboration, and joint working groups on media management, content

monitoring, and policy development.

A separate MoU between IRIB and Box Office (Pvt) Ltd, a subsidiary of Cinepax Media Group, aims to promote film industry cooperation under the "Punjab Film City" initiative. IRIB will provide technical consultancy, training, and support in areas such as cinematography, editing, and set design — while encouraging joint productions and cultural diplomacy.

Meanwhile, the IRIB-Sab TV MoU seeks to enhance broadcasting cooperation, joint productions, and staff training, with an emphasis on news, culture, and youth programs. Both sides agreed to hold annual coordination meetings and safeguard intellectual property of shared content.

The Head of the IRIB delegation, Dr. Ahmad Norouzi, who also serves as Deputy Managing Director and Head of IRIB's World Service, thanked the Government of Pakistan.

He said the agreements would serve as a bridge for academic, cultural, and professional exchanges, including opportunities for Pakistani students at Iranian universities.

Other members of the Iranian delegation included Dr. Abbas Moham-madnejad, Director General of IRIB's International Affairs, Morteza Shamsi, Director of Sahar Global Network, and Dr. Jaber Ali Mohammadi Nafchi, Director General of IRIB Sistan and Baluchistan.

Beaconhouse Changes Pakistan's Education Landscape During 50 Years of its Existence: Acting President

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Acting President, Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani, acknowledged that Beaconhouse has made quality education accessible to all sections of society through Beaconhouse School System, The Educators, United Charter Schools and the not-for-profit Beaconhouse National University. Additionally, he praised the role of the Mahmud Ali Kasuri Welfare Trust, through which Beaconhouse has consistently supported community uplift and responded with compassionate action during natural disasters and humanitarian crises.

The Acting President paid glowing tributes to the founder of Beaconhouse School System, Mrs Nasreen Mahmud Kasuri, for her vision and leadership in



expanding access to quality education and professionalising the teaching sector. "Her entrepreneurial spirit has empowered thousands of women to enter education and leadership, generating wide-reaching social and economic impact. Many of today's educators and school owners began their journeys

at Beaconhouse, a legacy that continues to shape the nation," he said.

Speaking at the event, Founder and Chairperson Beaconhouse Group, Mrs Nasreen Mahmud Kasuri highlighted the social aspects underlying Beaconhouse's strategic direction and pointed out that

currently 19,000 students at Beaconhouse were studying on scholarship (not including BNU and The Educators), reflecting a strong commitment to inclusivity and equal opportunity.

Mrs Kasuri said she was proud to see the alumni of Beaconhouse excel in different sectors of life in Pakistan, and congratulated the alumni who took part in the panel discussion at the Convention Centre on their achievements.

Mr Kasim Kasuri, CEO Beaconhouse, remarked, "We aim to understand how we, as individuals and as part of a wider global community, can continue to build a legacy like the one created for us. The next 25 years will not be defined by what we build, but by how courageously we rethink what learning can be."

NAVTTTC and Netsol Forge Partnership, Offering 1,600 Free Tech Trainings to Empower Youth

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The National Vocational & Technical Training Commission (NAVTTTC) and NETSOL Technologies have launched a major initiative to upskill Pakistan's youth, signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to provide 1,600 fully-funded scholarships in high-demand technology fields.

The "National AI Upskilling Initiative," signed into effect today, will deliver comprehensive training in Artificial Intelligence, Data Science, and Cybersecurity. As a cornerstone of the program, participants will also have the opportunity to earn international certifications from recognized global bodies, with all training provided completely free of cost.

Mr. Muhammad Aamir



Jan, Executive Director of NAVTTTC, emphasized the initiative's strategic importance. "This partnership is a strategic leap under our Industry-Led Trainings component in our mission to future-proof Pakistan's workforce," he stated. "By providing free, certified training in these frontier technologies, we are not just creating job seekers but future innovators and entrepreneurs who will drive our

national economy forward. NAVTTTC is committed to ensuring our youth are not left behind but are leading the charge in the global digital revolution."

The initiative, a key component of the Prime Minister's Youth Skill Development Program (PMYSDP 2023-2026), was formalized at a signing ceremony between Mr. Muhammad Aamir Jan and NETSOL's CEO & Founder, Mr. Salim

Ghauri.

Mr. Ghauri expressed his strong support, stating, "I would like to thank the NAVTTTC team for bringing this collaboration to fruition. We have been in business for 30 years with very limited partners because we believe in quality and maintaining standards. It has been a longstanding wish to venture into education, but we didn't want to do it commercially. These trainings will help Pakistan and its youth and contribute to our economy as well."

Designed to directly address the global skills gap, the "National AI Upskilling Initiative" aims to create a robust pipeline of tech talent, empowering a new generation to contribute to Pakistan's growing digital ecosystem and compete effectively in the international market.

ISSI Hosts Roundtable Discussion on "Pakistan and South Asia

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organized a Roundtable Discussion on "Pakistan and South Asia: Towards Progress, Partnership & Peace" with a visiting U.S. delegation headed by Mr. Imran Shaukat, Founder and Chairman, JOBS Group. Other distinguished members included: Skip Waskin, Chief Executive Officer, International Solutions; Anthony Renzulli, Associate Partner, Albright Stonebridge Group; Jon Danilowicz, Editor, South Asia Perspectives; Maureen Shauket, Chief Operating Officer,



URC; Elizabeth Threlkeld, Senior Fellow and Director, South Asia Program, Stimson Center; and Michael Kugelman, former Director, South Asia Institute, Wilson Center. The RT brought together former diplomats, practitioners, and South Asia experts from both the U.S. and Pakistan for an in-depth exchange on pathways to regional progress, partnership, and peace in South Asia.

In his remarks, Director General ISSI Ambassador Sohail Mahmood set the tone for the discussion by underlining the timeliness and significance of the discourse on the theme. He noted that while South Asia possesses

immense potential for economic development and regional integration, its progress continues to be constrained by structural inequalities, political divisions, and a persistent trust deficit.

Mr. Imran Shoukat expressed gratitude to ISSI for facilitating a constructive policy dialogue and emphasized the importance of engaging Pakistan's youth and private sector in regional initiatives to drive innovation and growth. He noted that Pakistan's future lies in fostering self-reliance, expanding cultural and business linkages, and adopting regional models of cooperation inspired by ASEAN's spirit of

collaboration.

Earlier, in his introductory remarks, Dr. Talat Shabbir, Director, China-Pakistan Study Centre (CPSC), ISSI, welcomed the participants and highlighted the need to reimagine regional development and cooperation in South Asia.

In his concluding remarks, Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman, Board of Governors, ISSI, appreciated the thoughtful inputs shared by participants and reaffirmed the Institute's commitment to fostering constructive regional discourse and partnerships that advance peace and prosperity in South Asia.

Policy Paradox: Govt Pushes Barter Trade Ignoring Calls to Enforce SRO 237

Zoha Chohan

ISLAMABAD: As business and industry leaders call for strict enforcement of SRO 237 (1)/2019 to curb smuggling and protect the formal economy, the government's latest move to expand the B2B barter trade mechanism with Afghanistan, Iran and Russia has raised concerns among industry circles over what they term a "contradictory policy direction."

Earlier last month, the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) approved amendments to the barter trade framework, allowing local businesses to exchange goods with the three neighbouring coun-

tries under a non-monetary settlement arrangement. Officials say the decision aims to ease pressure on foreign exchange reserves and sustain regional commerce at a time of dollar shortages.

However, industry stakeholders argue that the decision runs counter to the government's own commitments to formalise trade, ensure regulatory compliance and prevent tax leakages. The 2019 SRO 237, issued by the Ministry of Commerce, requires imported food items to have at least two-thirds of their shelf life intact, carry Urdu and English labelling, and be certified halal by accredited bodies. These requirements are meant to

ensure consumer safety and keep the market transparent for legitimate importers who pay duties and taxes.

In a letter by Pakistan Dairy Association to the Ministry of Commerce on 7th October, the industry said that the unchecked inflow of smuggled and grey-channel food imports — often routed through informal trade with border countries — has already caused enormous fiscal damage. A 2022 report by the Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry estimated that Pakistan loses nearly US \$2.6 billion annually due to smuggling, with the total value of smuggling-prone food items alone amounting to US \$9 billion,

almost three percent of GDP.

Allowing broader barter trade, they warn, could further blur the boundaries between documented and undocumented commerce. Because barter exchanges operate largely outside formal banking and customs channels, it becomes difficult to verify product standards, ensure traceability, or collect taxes — all central features of SRO 237's enforcement framework.

"On one hand, the government talks about documentation and protecting the revenue base; on the other, it's institutionalising a system that operates outside the tax net," said a senior representative of a multinational company. "This sends

mixed signals to compliant investors who have built local manufacturing capacity under Pakistan's regulatory regime."

Industry insiders note that the grey market, once limited to border regions, now stretches deep into urban retail shelves across major cities like Karachi, Islamabad and Lahore, undercutting companies that meet all import and labelling conditions. Despite repeated appeals from the private sector, raids and enforcement actions remain sporadic, while porous borders continue to facilitate the inflow of non-duty-paid products.

Officials close to the ECC decision maintain that the barter system will be subject to



a verification process and that only registered businesses will be allowed to participate. Yet, without a mechanism to reconcile barter imports with customs records and provincial food authority standards, critics fear the arrangement could inadvertently legitimise grey trade under a state-sanctioned framework.

With the economy under severe fiscal strain and every

rupee of tax revenue counting toward IMF-mandated targets, analysts say Pakistan cannot afford to pursue contradictory trade regimes. "If SRO 237 is to mean anything, it must be enforced consistently," said an Islamabad-based economist. "Otherwise, the government risks losing both credibility and control over the very sectors it is trying to regulate."

 **Bull & Bears**
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

| Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Current | Prev. Close |
| 161,281.76 | 162,803.15 |
| Day's High | Day's Low |
| 163,935.02 | 161,159.26 |
| Index Value | Change |
| 32,548,639,881 | −1521.39 |
| Percentage | Time |
| −0.93% | 4 Nov, 2025 4:30 pm |
| Europe: FTSE 100 Index | |
| Index Value | Change |
| 9,714.96 | +13.59 |
| Percentage | Time |
| +0.14% | 4 Nov, 4:35 pm GMT+1 |
| USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average | |
| Index Value | Change |
| 47,166.29 | −170.39 |
| Percentage | Time |
| −0.36% | 4 Nov, 11:41 am GMT-5 |
| Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average | |
| Index Value | Change |
| 51,497.20 | −914.14 |
| Percentage | Time |
| −1.74% | 4 Nov, 3:45 pm GMT+9 |
| Open Market Forex Rates | |

Solarization of
Farms Continues
as per CM Punjab's
Vision: AD Water
Management



Zafar Chishti

TOBA TEK SINGH, KAMALIA: Assistant Director Water Management Kamalia, Engineer Sheikh Muhammad Zubair, has stated that under the vision and directives of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, the process of providing solar-assisted irrigation systems to farms is actively underway.

He said the Water Management Department is committed to promoting modern and sustainable agricultural practices aimed at reducing farmers' dependency on traditional energy sources. The installation of solar-powered tube wells and drip irrigation systems will not only help overcome electricity shortages but also significantly reduce production costs for farmers.

Engineer Sheikh Muhammad Zubair added that by adopting solar energy, the agricultural sector will move toward greater efficiency, water conservation, and increased crop output. "We are ensuring that all initiatives are implemented with complete transparency to support the farming community and improve overall productivity," he emphasized. He further stated that the government is taking bold steps to modernize the irrigation system across Punjab and such projects will play a key role in strengthening the province's agricultural economy.

Launch of Chromebook assembly
line a “defining moment” for digital
transformation: Dar

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Ishaq Dar on Tuesday calling the launch of first Chromebook assembly line a “defining moment” for Pakistan’s digital transformation, said that the Government of Pakistan was taking concrete steps towards realizing the vision of a digital nation.

The deputy prime minister, addressing the event titled “Building the Digital Future, Together” marking the launch of first Chromebook assembly line, said that localizing the initiative would make access to digital tools more affordable and inclusive, particularly in the education sector.

“From the launch of Pakistan’s first Chromebook assembly line to Google’s announcement of establishing a local presence in Pakistan and to the agreement between the Government of Pakistan and



Google to upskill our youth, this is a defining moment for our country’s digital transformation,” he said addressing the event attended by federal ministers, IT experts and repre-



sentatives of tech giant Google.

He viewed that the initiative held great economic significance marking an industrial milestone laying the foundation for jobs, supply chain development, and future technology exports.

Dar said that the step would bring Google closer to Pakistan’s developers, startups, and entrepreneurs, enabling direct collaboration, capacity building, and great access to global platforms.

“Let me assure you, the management of Google, you won’t regret setting up all this in Pakistan... You will be very happy to be here... And in the years to come, you’ll find many multinational and others partners coming here. Pakistan is moving fairly fast to achieve the position in the comity of nations, which it was originally destined,” he stated.

He said that under the MoU, Google and Pakistan would collaborate to provide AI skills training for 100,000 developers nationwide.



Ground breaking ceremony

ISLAMABAD: Naeem Abbas Waraich presenting shield to guest Zahid Rafiq General secretary Special IEEE, on the occasion of the ground breaking ceremony of Empire Heights, Sales and Marketing.

Syngenta Pakistan Revives Hope for
Flood-Affected Farmers in Punjab

LAHORE/MULTAN: In response to the devastating floods that struck Punjab’s fertile lands, Syngenta Pakistan has launched a major CSR initiative to help affected farmers rebuild their livelihoods across Multan and Sahiwal divisions.

Committed to sustainability and rural prosperity, Syngenta Pakistan has pledged PKR 50 million worth of crop protection products and vegetable seeds for flood-affected farmers. In the first phase, products worth PKR 25 million are being distributed across the two divisions, supporting the restoration of nearly 12,000 acres of farmland.



The launch ceremony, held at Model Agrimall, Sahiwal, was attended by Syed Ashiq Hussain Kirmani, Minister for Agriculture (Punjab); Iftikhar Ali Sahoo, Secretary Agriculture; Dr. Asif Tufail, Commissioner

Sahiwal Division; and other senior government officials. Representing Syngenta Pakistan, Mr. Zeeshan Hasib Baig (Country General Manager), Syed Ali Murtaza (Head of Corporate Affairs & Business Sustainability), and

Banaras Habib (Head of Sales) distributed seeds, crop protection products, and PPEs to farmers.

“Our farmers are the backbone of Pakistan’s economy, and it is our duty to support them in times of adversity,”

Qaiser Sheikh Highlights
Pakistan’s Commitment
to Sustainable and
Climate-Friendly
Investments

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Board of Investment, Mr. Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh, addressed a high-level environmental conference where he emphasized the government’s commitment to fostering sustainable and climate-smart investment across Pakistan.

The Minister stated that under the leadership of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Pakistan is moving steadily on the path of economic growth and stability. He remarked that economic stability is only possible through increased investment and export led growth, adding that attracting foreign direct investment remains a key focus of the government.

Mr. Sheikh underlined that sustainable and environment-friendly investment is vital for Pakistan’s economic future. “The new trend in Pakistan’s investment landscape is shifting

towards environmental sustainability,” he said, adding that the government is providing a conducive environment to facilitate investors in green and responsible business sectors.

He noted that global investment is now transitioning towards low-carbon and eco-friendly projects, and Pakistan must align itself with this trend to ensure long-term competitiveness. He highlighted that Pakistan holds vast potential in renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, and green manufacturing sectors.

The Minister reaffirmed that the Board of Investment (BOI), under his leadership, is fully committed to promoting sustainable investment and strengthening public-private partnerships for green economic growth. “Despite challenges, we have maintained the momentum of development, and the government is actively working to support and incentivize green investors,” he said.

Spotify Reports Q3
2025 Earnings

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Spotify released its Q3 2025 Earnings today, marking another quarter of what the company previously termed as the “Year of Accelerated Execution.” Spotify delivered double-digit subscriber growth, surpassed a milestone of 700 million Monthly Active Users, and achieved record profitability, while expanding their leadership in music, podcasts, and audiobooks.

Key highlights from the Q3 2025 results include “Premium Subscribers climbed 12% Y/Y to 281 million, Monthly Active Users (MAUs) grew 11% Y/Y to 713 million, Total Revenue

increased 12% Y/Y constant currency to €4.3 billion, Gross Margin improved by 56 bps YoY to 31.6% and Operating Income reached €582 million.

Daniel Ek, Spotify Founder and CEO, said “The business is healthy. We’re shipping faster than ever. And we have the tools we need—pricing, product innovation, operational leverage, and eventually the ads turnaround—to deliver both revenue growth and profit expansion. It all comes back to user fundamentals and that’s where we are: 700 million users who keep coming back, engagement at all-time highs. We’re building Spotify for the long-term.”

PPL commences Production
from Dhok Sultan – 03

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Pakistan Petroleum Limited (PPL) is pleased to announce the commencement of oil production from well Dhok Sultan-03 under the Appraisal / Extended Well Testing (EWT) arrangement, effective November 1, 2025. Dhok Sultan Block, located in District Attock, Punjab, is operated by PPL with 75 percent working interest (WI) along with its Joint Venture Part-

ner, Government Holdings Private Limited (GHPL) with WI of 25 percent.

The joint venture is handling oil from the well at Dhok Sultan Oil Handling Facility and gas is transported at Meyal Gas Processing Facility. The oil is being sold to Attock Refinery Limited (ARL) and gas is being sold to Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL) as per government designated buyers. This arrangement has provided the potential

to ramp up production up to 1,400 barrels per day of oil, 2.5 MMscfd of gas and 15 Tons per day of LPG.

The foregoing will contribute positively towards reducing the gap between energy supply and demand, while also conserving significant foreign exchange through the production of indigenous hydrocarbons. PPL remains committed to enhance its hydrocarbon production in a cost-effective manner to ensure long-



term energy security for the country and support national economic growth.

IS Pakistan vs South Africa First One Day International Cricket Match

Pakistan Defeated South Africa By 2 Wickets in the First One-Day International Match



Asim Tanveer/Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: Pakistan defeated South Africa by 2 wickets in the first One-Day International match at the Iqbal Stadium in Faisalabad. Mohammad Rizwan and Salman Agha were the heroes of the match. Pakistan won the first match of the 3-match One-Day International series against South Africa by 2 wickets. The house was full in the international match held at the Iqbal Stadium in Faisalabad after 17 years. Babar Azam failed, but half-centuries by Mohammad Rizwan and Salman Ali Agha made Pakistan's victory possible.

Pakistan's new captain Shaheen Afridi won the toss of the match played in Faisalabad on Tuesday. This was South Africa's sixth consecutive toss

failure in Pakistan. Pakistan chose to bowl first.

South Africa started well against Pakistan. A brilliant partnership of 98 runs was established between the openers. South Africa suffered its first loss in the form of Pretoria. He was dismissed for 57 runs. The second wicket fell to Quinton de Kock, who returned to the pavilion after scoring 63 runs. At this time, South Africa was at 141 for 1 wicket but after that, Tony de Zorzi was dismissed for 18, captain Britzke for 42, and Karbin Bosh for 41 runs. The entire South African team was dismissed for 263 runs in 49.1 overs. For Pakistan, Naseem Shah and Abrar Ahmed took 3 wickets each, while Saim Ayub took 2, Shaheen Shah Afridi and Muhammad Nawaz took one wicket each.



In reply, Pakistan also made a good opening partnership like South Africa. The first loss was Saim Ayub on 87 runs, who was dismissed for 39 runs. Scores of 102 and 105 proved to be a musket for Pakistan. First Fakhar Zaman returned after scoring 45 and then Babar Azam returned after scoring 7 runs, and the Proteas returned to the match. After Babar's departure, the fans in the stadium also started leaving the stadium. Here, Mohammad Rizwan and Salman Ali Agha rescued Pakistan for the fourth wicket and made a valuable partnership of 91 runs. Mohammad Rizwan and Shandra were dismissed after scoring a half-century. He scored 55 runs with the help of 6 fours. South Africa did not benefit from his departure either. Hussain Talat and Salman Ali Agha became a

wall, but the Proteas' efforts continued. Hussain Talat was dismissed for 22 runs at a score of 241. Pakistan needed 23 runs off 25 balls to win. With the increase of 3 runs, Hassan Nawaz also One by one they were in the pavilion. The real thrill came when Salman Ali Agha was caught on the last ball of the 48th over after scoring 62 runs off 71 balls. He hit 1 six and 5 fours. Pakistan now needed 12 runs off 12 balls and had 3 wickets remaining. Mohammad Nawaz brought the match into the match after scoring 9 runs but when the score was level, he was also caught. He had 1 run remaining off 3 balls. Pakistan achieved the required target of 264 runs in 49.4 overs for 8 wickets and won by 2 wickets. Negidi, Ferreira and Boch took 2 wickets each. The second match of the series will be



played on November 6 at the Iqbal Stadium, Faisalabad.

Faisalabad ODI Ticket Chaos: Black Market Flourishes Under PCB's Online Sales Failure

Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: Cricket fans are humiliated and humiliated due to the sale of tickets for one-day series matches in Faisalabad, the PCB's major incompetence has come to light in the online sale of tickets for the first match of the three-match ODI series between Pakistan and South Africa at the Faisalabad Iqbal Stadium, all the tickets for the match were sold in black, 400-rupee tickets were sold for 1,000 rupees and 800-rupee tickets for 1,520,000 rupees, those who bought tickets online sold the tickets with three times the profit, a big threat to security, checking of identity cards should be made mandatory for entering the stadium, demand of cricket fans, the CB administration should take notice of the sale



and purchase of tickets, according to online, the PCB had claimed that Pakistan and South Africa All the tickets for the first match of the three-match

ODI series between Africa and Pakistan at the Faisalabad Iqbal Stadium have been sold online, but unfortunately, due to the PCB's online ticket poli-

cy, a number of cricket fans are missing out on watching the match and are forced to buy tickets in black to watch the match.

The PCB administration is happy that all our tickets have been sold online, while the situation is the opposite. A big online ticket fraud has come to light. After obtaining tickets online under fake names, the tickets are being sold in black, on which the identity card is registered for someone else and there is someone watching the match, which can also be a big threat to security.

Citizens and cricket fans have demanded that the district administration and the PCB administration check the identity card along with the tickets entered into the stadium. This has exposed those who are selling tickets in black and making profit.

Amin Mukaty: Pakistan's Marathon Prodigy on the Global Stage

Sports Desk

LAHORE: At just 23 years old, Karachi-based runner Amin Mukaty is rapidly cementing his place as one of Pakistan's most promising long-distance athletes. Having recently clocked an astonishing 2:48:47 at the 129th Boston Marathon to become Pakistan's fastest male finisher, Mukaty is now setting his sights on completing the Six World Marathon Majors and elevating the nation's presence on the global running map.

Having lived with stage 2 obesity from a young age, Mukaty reached a turning point in 2016. What began as an effort to regain control of his health soon evolved into a passion for running. By the time COVID-19 lockdowns arrived, he had doubled down on his training, a period that ultimately defined his transition from a casual runner to a professional athlete. His breakthrough came in 2021 at the Istanbul Marathon, where he became the youngest Pakistani to break three hours, finishing in 2:59:55.



Since then, he has completed three of the six majors, Berlin 2023 (2:46:30), Chicago 2024 (2:44:32), and Boston 2025 (2:48:47). He will next contest in London (April 2026), New York (November 2026), and Tokyo (March 2027), aiming to achieve the biggest goal of his life. If successful, Mukaty will become the youngest Pakistani ever to complete the "Six Star" majors.

The Pakistan's one of the top marathon runners follows an exacting weekly schedule, covering 70-80 km on road, supplemented with targeted workouts and strict nutrition. Mukaty credits ACTIVIT and CEO Rd. Rizwan Aftab Ahmed for standing firmly behind him, from tailored nutrition and performance scans to injury recovery and complete race sponsorships. "Their great support

helped me turn my dream into reality," he said.

At Boston 2025, Pakistan saw 13 runners finish under four hours, with Mukaty leading the contingent. He described crossing the finish line in Boston as a moment of immense pride: "Heartbreak Hill couldn't break my heart. The Boston Marathon tested my limits but I rose to the challenge."

Mukaty's message to young Pakistanis is simple: "Focus on your health. Running is the best. Join us and if you get addicted, you'll love it." He hopes his story will inspire a new generation to embrace fitness as a lifestyle.

In a country where marathon culture is still nascent, Mukaty's rise is noteworthy. His performances on world stages shine a spotlight on Pakistan's untapped endurance potential and underscore the importance of structured support systems. With three majors already under his belt and three more on the horizon, Amin Mukaty is not just chasing personal milestones, he's chasing history.

Cristiano Ronaldo hints at 'emotional' retirement

Cristiano Ronaldo has revealed he plans to retire "soon" as the Portugal and Al Nassr star prepares for a tearful end to his glittering career.

Ronaldo discussed his thoughts on retirement and his life after football in an interview with Piers Morgan Uncensored.

The 40-year-old, who has scored a remarkable 952 goals, is one of the most decorated players in the history of the game, but the end is in sight for his astonishing career.

Asked when he would consider hanging up his boots, Ronaldo, who is under contract with Al

Nassr until 2027, replied: "Soon. But I think I will be prepared. It will be tough, of course. It will be difficult? Yes. Probably will cry, yes. I'm an open person. It will be very, very difficult, yes. "But Piers, I prepare my future since 25, 26, 27 years old. I prepare my future. So I think I will be capable to support that pressure."

Ronaldo is confident he will be able to cope without football because he wants to focus on his family and his off-the-pitch interests.

"Nothing will be able to compare to the adrenaline that



we have for football to score a goal," he said.

"But everything has a beginning, and everything has an end.

I have other passions. I'm going to have more time for me, I'm going to have more time for my family to raise my kids.

"I want to follow Cristiano Junior because he's at an age when kids do stupid things. I was the same. Mateo loves football as well.

"I want to do more fun things. I love playing Padel with my closest friends. We are getting quite good."

After starting his career with Sporting Lisbon, Ronaldo enjoyed successful spells at Manchester United, Real Madrid, and Juventus.

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 each.

Shaheen Afridi reflects on Pakistan's victory against South Africa

FAISALABAD: Pakistan skipper Shaheen Afridi hailed batters for propelling his side to victory over South Africa in the first ODI of the three-match series here at Iqbal Stadium on Tuesday.

Set 264, Pakistan hit the winning runs on the loss of eight wickets with two balls to spare. For the home side, Mohammad Rizwan and Salman Ali Agha starred with the bat, both scoring gutsy half-centuries. Rizwan top-scored with 55 from 74 balls with the help of six fours, while Salman Ali Agha hit five boundaries and a six on his way to 62 from 71 balls.

After being put into bat, South Africa's innings folded for 263 in 49.4 overs, courtesy of Abrar Ahmed's and Naseem Shah's three wickets. Speaking in the post-match presentation, Shaheen, who was leading the ODI side for the first time, shed light on the team's victory.

Pakistan-Iran partnership to unlock new opportunities

Continued from Page 8

He stated that such initiatives would contribute to regional food security and help both countries cope with the impacts of climate change. He expressed confidence that the ongoing collaboration between Pakistan and Iran will pave the way for enhanced agricultural productivity, improved food security, and deeper economic integration.

Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to working together in the spirit of friendship and mutual benefit to promote sustainable agricultural development and regional prosperity.

The Iranian Ambassador conveyed an invitation from the Minister of Agriculture Jihad, Iran, for Rana Tanveer Hussain to attend the forthcoming ECO Summit on February 17, 2026. The Ambassador also expressed Iran's keen interest in expanding agricultural trade with Pakistan and highlighted the mutual potential for collaboration in livestock, crops, and food processing.

During the discussion, the Ambassador informed that Iran intends to import 350,000 livestock from Pakistan and expressed

satisfaction over the progress made on rice export agreements, stating that the purchase arrangements are expected to be finalized soon.

He added that wheat imports from Pakistan have already begun and that Iran is also ready to import maize and fodder in whatever quantity Pakistan can provide. He shared that the Iranian Ministry of Agriculture Jihad is looking forward to hosting a follow-up delegation from Pakistan to further enhance agricultural cooperation and finalize joint projects.

Both sides agreed that Pakistan and Iran share similar agro-climatic conditions, which provide a strong basis for collaboration in research, seed development, and technology transfer. The Iranian side showed interest in initiating joint ventures in areas such as modern irrigation systems, drought-resistant crop varieties, and organic farming.

The Ambassador further conveyed Iran's willingness to collaborate on training and capacity-building programs for agricultural scientists and technical experts, ensuring mutual growth and knowledge exchange

Development

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research, Rana Tanveer Hussain, meeting with the Ambassador of Iran to Pakistan, Reza Amiri Moqaddam, to discuss enhanced



Photo: PID

Govt to table 27th constitutional amendment after consultations: Dar

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar said on Tuesday that the government would present the proposed 27th Constitutional amendment in Parliament after completing consultations with all coalition partners and following due legal process.

Speaking in the Senate, Dar said it was the government's constitutional duty to introduce such amendments. "There should be no confusion



about who will present the bill, it is the government's responsibility to do so," he added.

He recalled his role in

earlier constitutional reforms, including the annulment of Article 58(2) (b) and said he fully understood the impor-

ance of adhering to legal procedures. "We will move forward in line with the constitution and the law, giving every member the right to debate and share their opinion," he added.

Dar assured that the amendment would not be passed in haste and would first be examined by the relevant committees before voting.

He emphasized that the government valued the input of its allies and had already held several rounds of discussions with Pakistan Peoples

Party (PPP) and also consulted with other allies including the MQM, ANP and BAP. "We will take all coalition partners on board before finalizing the draft," he said.

Dar suggested that, given the Senate's experience in detailed lawmaking, the amendment could first be introduced in the Upper House before moving to the National Assembly. "If the House wishes, I will recommend that it be tabled here first for a thorough and constructive debate," he said.

Over 2,000 Indian Sikh pilgrims arrive in Pakistan for Guru Nanak's birth anniversary

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Around 2,100 Sikh pilgrims from India arrived in Pakistan through the Wagah Border on Tuesday to participate in the 556th birth anniversary celebrations of Baba Guru Nanak Dev Ji, the founder of the Sikh faith.

The visiting pilgrims were warmly received by officials of the Evacuee Trust Property Board (ETPB) and the Punjab government.

Provincial Minister for

Minority Affairs Ramesh Singh Arora and ETPB Chairman Dr Sajid Mahmood welcomed the guests at the border.

The Sikh delegation is being led by Jathedar Akal Takht Kuldeep Singh Gurgaj, BB Gurinder Kaur of the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee, and Ravinder Singh Sweeta from the Delhi Gurdwara Management Committee.

After their arrival, the pilgrims were taken to Nankana Sahib by special



buses.

The central ceremony to mark Baba Guru Nanak's birth anniversary will be held on November 5 at Gurdwara Janam Asthan in Nankana Sahib.

The pilgrims will visit various gurdwaras during their stay and return to India on November 13.

Speaking to reporters, several pilgrims said it was an honour to visit Pakistan to celebrate Baba Guru Nanak's birth anniversary.

Israeli draft bill to impose death penalty on Palestinian detainees constitutes war crime: Palestinian Ministry

WAFA

RAMALLAH: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates of Palestine said that the Israeli draft law to impose the death penalty on Palestinian detainees constitutes a war crime and represents a new manifestation of the growing Israeli extremism and criminality against the Palestinian people.

In a statement issued on Monday, the Ministry stressed that the Israeli judicial system and the Knesset serve as additional tools of the occupation to legitimize crimes and ensure impunity. It said that the death penalty law represents an extrajudicial execution decision and reflects an inten-



tion to commit a new crime, adding to the ongoing genocide perpetrated in the Gaza Strip and now extending to the West Bank, including Jerusalem, with serious implications for detainees.

The Ministry strongly condemned the draft bill approved today by the Israeli Knesset, which imposes a mandatory death penalty on Palestinian detainees, describing it as a dangerous

step aimed at continuing genocide and ethnic cleansing under the guise of legality. It said that the move amounts to an official declaration of war crimes and crimes against humanity endorsed by the Knesset.

It affirmed that the proposed bill exposes the trajectory of racial extremism and fascism within the Israeli legal system, despite its blatant violation of all international conventions and norms, as well as international law, including the four Geneva Conventions.

The Ministry emphasized that the Palestinian people and their leadership will confront this plan through all available legal and political avenues. It warned that approving this

bill without concrete measures by states to hold accountable those who proposed, endorsed, or voted for it would mark a stain on humanity's conscience and amount to complicity in extrajudicial executions.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates urged the international community and legal institutions to take immediate action to expose and confront this dangerous course pursued by the occupying state, activate accountability and justice mechanisms, and place Knesset members supporting this approach on terrorism lists, and called for their boycott as well as the boycott of this racist institution.

PM Shehbaz Sharif to visit Azerbaijan on November 8



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Preparations are underway for Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's one-day visit to Azerbaijan, scheduled for November 8, diplomatic sources confirmed Tuesday.

During his trip, the Prime Minister will attend Azerbaijan's Victory Day celebrations in Baku, commemorating the country's liberation of Nagorno-Karabakh and its victory over Armenia.

According to diplomatic sources, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan will also be in Baku to participate in the national celebrations.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is expected to hold meetings with Azer-

bajani President Ilham Aliyev and other senior Azerbaijani officials to discuss bilateral relations, regional cooperation, and energy collaboration.

The two leaders last met in September this year on the sidelines of the SCO Summit in Tianjin, China.

Sources added that President Ilham Aliyev is expected to visit Pakistan in the coming months, a move seen as part of growing cooperation between the two countries.

Pakistan and Turkey have been strong supporters of Azerbaijan during the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, and the visit is being viewed as another step towards deepening strategic, economic, and defense ties among the three nations.

Pakistan-Iran partnership to unlock new opportunities in agri- trade, research

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister for National Food Security and Research, Rana Tanveer Hussain on Tuesday reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to realizing the goal of \$10 billion in bilateral trade with Iran as the partnership would not only strengthen the economic ties between both nations but also contribute to regional food stability.

The minister held a meeting with the Ambassador of Iran to Pakistan, Reza Amiri Moqaddam and discussed avenues of expanding cooperation in agriculture, food security, and trade between Pakistan and Iran, said a press release

issued by the Ministry of National Food Security and Research.

Rana Tanveer also highlighted that Pakistan's agricultural products, including rice, maize, and fodder, are of high quality and geographically closer to Iran, offering a cost-effective alternative to imports from distant markets like Brazil and Australia.

The minister appreciated Iran's desire to strengthen agricultural ties and welcomed the proposal for extra-territorial cultivation on Pakistani soil, emphasizing that Pakistan is open to innovative partnerships that promote sustainable agricultural practices.

Continued on Page 7

TLP ticket holders quit party over violent protests

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Ticket holders of the banned Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) party from Lahore and central Punjab have announced their decision to part ways with the party, condemning its recent violent protests.

Addressing a press conference in Lahore on Tuesday, the former TLP candidates strongly denounced the group's violent demonstrations, saying such actions were unjustified and harmful to the country.

They said that Pakistan must come first, adding that politics held no value if the state itself was at risk.

"It was completely unjustified to

hold a rally amid an extraordinary situation," one of the ticket holders remarked.

Former TLP candidate Nauman Khan, while announcing his separation, said the party's violent conduct was "utterly unacceptable."

"We cannot support attacks on the state," he said. "When the state is in danger, politics becomes meaningless. Armed groups even hijacked school vans and damaged both public and private property."

The dissident members reiterated their loyalty to Pakistan, declaring that they stood with the state and firmly condemned the violent protests.

Punjab battles dengue surge as cases cross 3,000 this year

Bureau Report

LAHORE: The dengue outbreak continues to grip Punjab as 23 new cases were reported in the province over the past 24 hours, the health department said on Tuesday.

According to a spokesperson for the provincial health department, 338 dengue cases have been recorded during the past seven days, while a total of 1,486 cases have been confirmed so far this month.

This year, 3,097 dengue patients have been reported across Punjab, with 565 cases from Lahore, 1,371 from Rawalpindi, and 122 from



Murree, the spokesperson added. Health authorities have advised citizens to take preventive measures, including eliminating standing water and using mosquito repellents, as dengue transmission remains active in several parts of the province.