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## US president says eight Indian aircraft were destroyed during May skirmishes

US President Donald Trump once again embarrassed India while commenting on the recent tensions between Pakistan and India, claiming that "a total of eight Indian aircraft were shot down during the three-day clashes in May."



## Maryam Nawaz departs for Brazil to attend COP30 climate summit

Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz on Wednesday departed for Brazil to attend the COP-30 Conference in Belém, where she will present Punjab's flagship environmental and climate-resilience initiatives, including Clean Punjab, e-mobility, and ongoing wildlife reforms, besides addressing the Climate Resilient Regional Leadership Meeting.

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## Martyrs' Memorial

RAWALPINDI: Field Marshal Asim Munir and United Kingdom's Chief of General Staff, General Sir Charles Roland Vincent Walker laying a flower wreath at the Yadgar-e-Shuhada in GHQ.



Photo: ISPR

# Field Marshal, UK army chief agree to boost defence cooperation

### Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Chief of the General Staff of the United Kingdom Army, General Sir Charles Roland Vincent Walker, called on Chief of Army Staff Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir at the General Headquarters (GHQ) in Rawalpindi, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said on Thursday.

day.

According to ISPR, the meeting focused on matters of mutual interest, regional security, and measures to enhance defence cooperation between Pakistan and the United Kingdom.

Both military leaders reaffirmed their commitment to continue working together for regional peace and stability.

During the meeting, Field Marshal Munir and General Walker agreed that defence relations between Pakistan and the UK are built on mutual trust, professional collaboration, and training cooperation, which need to be further strengthened to achieve lasting peace in the region.

The visiting UK army chief lauded the Pakistan Army's

achievements and sacrifices in the fight against terrorism and its role in promoting peace and stability in the region.

He praised the professional competence displayed by Pakistan's armed forces under challenging circumstances.

Upon his arrival at GHQ, General Walker was presented with a guard of honour by a

contingent of the Pakistan Army.

He also laid a floral wreath at the "Yadgar-e-Shuhada" (Martyrs' Monument) and paid tribute to the martyrs of Pakistan.

The ISPR said the high-level visit will further strengthen defence ties between the two countries and contribute to achieving shared objectives of peace and security in the region.

## MQM-P pushes for empowered LB in talks with PM Shehbaz



### City Desk

ISLAMABAD: A delegation of the Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) met with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in Islamabad on Thursday to discuss the proposed 27th Constitutional Amendment.

The meeting was part of the government's efforts to take its allies into confidence on the proposed legislation, according to sources.

During the meeting, Shehbaz assured MQM leaders that their proposals related to Article 140-A would be incorporated into the constitutional amendment.

The MQM delegation, led by Dr Khalid Maqbool

Siddiqui, included Sindh Governor Kamran Tessori, Mustafa Kamal, Dr Farooq Sattar, Aminul Haque, and Khawaja Ishaq Hassan.

From the government's side, Finance Minister Ishaq Dar, Defence Minister Khawaja Asif, Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar, Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah, Minister for Economic Affairs Ayaz Sadiq, and Adviser Atta Tarar attended the meeting.

The sources said the discussion focused on MQM's proposal regarding Article 140-A, which deals with the powers of local governments.

The prime minister assured the delegation that their bill would be made part of the amendment.

## Pakistan and Turkish Interior Ministries agree to establish Joint Working Group to boost cooperation

### City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister of Türkiye Ali Yerlikaya visited Ministry of Interior in Islamabad to hold talks with Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi warmly on bilateral cooperation in various fields.

According to details, Interior Minister Naqvi held one-to-one and delegation level meeting with his Turkish counterpart. Both sides agreed on the establishment of Joint Working Group to further boost cooperation in the Ministries of Interior of both countries.

Detailed talks were held at the delegation level, in which discussions were held on enhancing cooperation in the areas of counter-terrorism, counter-narcotics, human trafficking, border security, cyber-crime, coast guard and police.

There was agreement on the establishment of a joint working group which will meet four times a year to bolster cooperation between the interior ministries of the two countries.

Pakistan's security is not separate from Turkey's security, said Turkish Interior Minister Ali Yerlikaya. Turkey appreciated Pakistan's active role in counter-terrorism and counter-narcotics, immigration and



human trafficking.

Naqvi said human trafficking and illegal immigration were an international issue and there was critical need to work together to combat them. Pakistan announces full support for Turkey in Interpol elections. Naqvi said Pakistan's Anti-Narcotics Force was doing commendable work despite limited resources. Interior Minister Naqvi said not a single case of drug smuggling was reported during the last five years from Pakistan to Turkey.

The two countries agreed to increase cooperation in the field of police training so that two sides benefit from each other's experiences in various fields. Ali Yerlikaya said Turkey attaches great impor-

tance to brotherly relations with Pakistan. He said Turkey is keen to advance relations with Pakistan in all sectors.

"Establishment of joint working group will promote cooperation between the two countries", said Interior Minister Türkiye Ali Yerlikaya.

Members of the Turkish delegation, Minister of State for Interior Talal Chaudhry, Federal Secretary Interior, Special Secretary Interior, Additional Secretaries Interior, DGANF, DGFA, Commandant NPA, IGFC, National Coordinator NECTA, DGNCCIA, Chief Commissioner VIG Islamabad and DG Passport and Immigration were also present on this occasion.

### IS Istanbul talks

## Pakistan insists Afghan soil 'must not be used' for terrorism

### Spokesman Report

ISTANBUL: Dialogues with Afghan Taliban focus on establishing a verifiable mechanism to control cross-border militant activities

Pakistan and the Afghan Taliban regime are holding talks in Istanbul, with Islamabad maintaining a single-point agenda, ensuring Afghan soil is not used for terrorism against Pakistan.

The second round of the Istanbul talks is being mediated by Turkey and Qatar.

Discussions are focused on establishing a verifiable mechanism to control cross-border militant activities, officials familiar with the talks said.

The Afghan Taliban delegation includes intelligence chief Abdul Haq Wasiq, deputy interior minister Haji Najib, senior Taliban leader Anas Haqqani, and Afghanistan's



ambassador to Qatar Suhail Shaheen, among others. The Pakistani delegation also comprises senior civil and military officials.

During last week's round of talks, both sides agreed in principle to develop a credible and effective system to prevent militant infiltration across the border.

The ongoing round aims to finalise that mechanism under Turkish and Qatari mediation.

Islamabad has repeatedly urged the Taliban administration to take concrete action against groups operating from Afghan territory.

## Federal cabinet to approve draft of 27th Amendment before tabling it in Senate

### City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The federal cabinet will meet on Friday morning under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to approve the draft of the 27th Constitutional Amendment, official sources said on Thursday.

The meeting, scheduled for 9:00 a.m. at the Parliament House, will include a detailed briefing on the proposed amendment before its expected approval by the cabinet.

According to sources, following cabinet approval, Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar will formally table the 27th Constitutional Amendment Bill in the Senate later in the day.

Parliamentary sources said the Senate is expected to approve the formation of a joint parliamentary committee with the National Assembly (NA) to review the proposed amendment.

The Senate chairman will



seek nominations from the NA speaker for the committee, which will be chaired by Senator Farooq H. Naek, they added.

The joint parliamentary committee will be given two days to deliberate on the proposed amendment, with meetings scheduled over the weekend.

The committee's report is likely to be presented in the Senate on Monday, after which the upper house is expected to approve the amendment on Monday or Tuesday, sources said.

The same day, the amendment will be tabled in the NA. Following the debate, the lower house is likely to pass the bill by Wednesday or Thursday, according to parliamentary insiders.

## LHC bench recuses from Hassan Niazi's military custody, court martial case

### Bureau Report

LAHORE: A two-member bench of the Lahore High Court on Thursday recused itself from hearing a petition challenging the military custody and court martial proceedings against Hassan Niazi, nephew of the PTI founder.

The bench, headed by Justice Farooq Haider, sent the case file back to the Chief Justice of the Lahore High Court with a recommendation to fix the matter before another bench.

During the hearing, Niazi's counsel, Advocate Faisal Chaudhry, argued that following his client's arrest in connection with the May 9 incidents, he was never

produced before a civilian court. Instead, he claimed, Sarwar Road Police Station illegally handed over Niazi's custody to military authorities.

The petition further contended that the August 17, 2023, notification issued by the commanding officer, which placed Niazi in military custody, was unlawful and should be declared void.

The petitioner requested the court to declare all military custody and court martial proceedings null and void and to order Niazi's release or his production before an anti-terrorism court.

The case will now be taken up once the Chief Justice assigns it to a new bench.

# Prime Minister chairs high-level meeting on AJK law and order following university incident

 Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: A high-level meeting on law and order was held here today under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Azad Jammu and Kashmir Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq. The meeting was attended by Senior Minister and Minister for Interior Colonel (R) Waqar Ahmed Noor, Minister for Communications and Public Works Chaudhry Azhar Sadiq, Minister for Health Nisar Ansar Abdali, Inspector General of Police Rana Abdul Jabbar, Commissioner Muzaffarabad Division Chaudhry Guftar Ahmed, and DIG Muzaffarabad Region Yasin Qureshi.

During the meeting, the Prime Minister was given a detailed briefing by Commissioner Muzaffarabad regarding the incident that occurred at the University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir yesterday. The Prime Minister made it clear that no negligence of any kind would be toler-



ated in maintaining law and order. He directed that strict legal action be taken against those involved in the incident and that they be brought to justice without delay.

Meanwhile in another meeting of the Governing Body of Medical Colleges of Azad Jammu and Kashmir was held here today under the chair-

manship of Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq. While granting approval for the upgradation of the Accident and Emergency Department at AIIMS Hospital under the auspices of Medical College Muzaffarabad, the Prime Minister directed that PC-1 be prepared and submitted to the Departmental Working Party

(DWP) for approval. The meeting was attended by Minister for Health Dr. Nisar Ansar Abdali, Sardar Mir Akbar Khan, Chaudhry Azhar Sadiq, Special Secretary Health, and principals of the medical colleges. The Vice Chancellor of the University of Health Sciences, Lahore, and the Secretary Health participated through video link.

## Youm-e- Shuhada

MUZAFFERABAD: Kashmiri People are shouting slogans during protest at Azadi Chowk to mark the “Youm-e- Shuhada” against the cruelty of Indian Forces on oppressed Kashmiris of IIOK.



Photo: Online

## Shah Ghulam Qadir addresses Kashmir Martyrs Day

 Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: President of Pakistan PML-N Azad Jammu and Kashmir Shah Ghulam Qadir was addressing a function held on the occasion of Shahda Kashmir Day. He is the one who was martyred in the crime of love for Islam and Pakistan.

He is the blood martyr who has lit the candle of freedom of Kashmir even today of date amount. He said that November 6, 1947 was a dark day in history when Indian forces and other army recognized millions of innocent Kashmiri Muslims on the basis of religion. An estimated



250,000 Muslims lost their lives in this massacre in Jammu.

This incident symbolizes the brutal beginning of Indian domination, which has kept Kashmiris wounds fresh to this day. He said that today he pays tribute to those

martyrs who strengthened the foundation of freedom Kashmir Movement with their blood. His blood is still chanting in the air of the valley. We are Pakistanis, Pakistan is ours.

The dream of these martyrs was independence and accession to Paki-

stan, and this dream is still alive in the hearts of Kashmiris. He added that the state of Jammu and Kashmir has evicted millions of Muslims from their homes and martyred them painlessly. This date is one of the greatest tragedies of humanity.

Blood is shed? Today reminds us that if nations forget their history, their existence will be erased. To repay the debt of our martyrs, we must rely on unity, patience, and resistance 6.

Not only past, but also sends a message of the future that even in the darkness of justice, the candle of hope must not burn.

## Former PM Attique Khan Highlights Muslim Conference’s Steadfastness on Kashmir Recognition

 Abdul Majeed Tahir

RAWALPINDI: Former Prime Minister and President of All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference has said that we suffered more because we never compromised on state recognition and Kashmir movement. He said that since the Muslim Conference the only Liberation Front, the most prominent face of the present freedom movement, the resistance movement of free Kashmir, is a chapter of the continuity of global movements, Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan added.

Speaking to senior journalists in



Islamabad, All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference President and former Prime Minister Sardar Attique

Ahmad Khan said that the last three decades were apart from the -Muslim Conference, the most prominent role

in Azad Kashmir has been played by the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front,” he said.

Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan said that there must be differences in the political ideologies of the Muslim Conference and the Liberation Front, though the Muslim Conference has never followed a politics of hatred or enmity against any individual or community. “Throughout our political history, we have always avoided the politics of dispersion, accusations and divisions.”

He said that the Muslim Conference had decided the future of Kashmiris in favor of annexed Pakistan before the establishment of Pakistan.

## Aga Khan University’s Brain and Mind Institute Hosts Global Conference on Mental Health



 News Desk

KARACHI: The Aga Khan University’s Brain and Mind Institute (BMI) has concluded its three-day Global Conference on Brain and Mental Health, held from November 3–5 at AKU’s Stadium Road campus in Karachi. Themed “Building Thriving Communities: Promoting Brain and Mental Health,” the conference brought together leading researchers, clinicians, policymakers and community leaders from across Pakistan and around the world to discuss urgent priorities for mental health in the Global South.


The event featured national and international speakers and panelists, including experts from the University of Liverpool, National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR–UK) and Imperial College London. Dr Zafar Mirza, Former State Minister of Health, Government of Pakistan also addressed the audience at the conference.

“The science of the brain and mind has advanced enormously, but its greatest promise lies in how it can help us build healthier, more resilient individuals and communities,” explained Dr Ozioma Okonkwo, Professor from the University of Wisconsin–Madison. “This conference has been an inspiring example of that shared purpose.”

“We are seeing mental health move to the centre of conversations about public health and development,” said Professor Zul Merali, Founding Director of the Brain and Mind Institute.

“Conferences like this remind us that advancing brain and mental health requires connection across disciplines, countries and communities,” said Dr Rozina Karmaliani, Professor and Associate Director of the Brain and Mind Institute. “It is through collaboration that we can turn scientific discovery into meaningful impact for transforming the lives of the communities we serve.”

## Student Motorcycle Rally Ignites Traffic Safety Push in Jand

 City Desk

RAWALPINDI: Punjab College Jand held a motorcycle rally to raise awareness about traffic rules and accident prevention. The rally was inaugurated by Assistant Commissioner Jand, Ahmad Ali Raza, and supervised by Principal Professor Malik Mutiullah.

Distinguished guests, including Dr. Malik Abrar Hussain (President, All Pakistan Private Schools & Colleges Association), DSP Raja Zulfiqar, and representatives from Rescue 1122, traffic police, and the municipal committee, participated in the event.

The rally started from Barf Khana Chowk, where students demonstrated exemplary discipline, and concluded at Punjab College Jand with a formal ceremony highlighting the importance of following traffic laws. Awareness pamphlets were distributed to motorists along Rawalpindi–Kohat Road.

“Following traffic rules is the duty of every responsible citizen,” emphasized Dr. Malik Abrar Hussain.

## PACRA Upgrades JS Investments to AM1 (Stable) — Pakistan’s Highest Asset Manager Quality Rating

 Commerce Desk

KARACHI: JS Investments Limited (JSIL) has been upgraded to AM1 (Stable) by The Pakistan Credit Rating Agency (PACRA), the highest Asset Manager quality rating in Pakistan. The upgrade reflects JSIL’s ongoing elevation in governance and operational quality, a research-driven investment process delivering strong risk-adjusted performance, and broader retail participation through digital channels and pensions solutions.

As of end-September 2025, JSIL’s AUM increased ~50% YoY with an estimated ~3.72% market share. Advisory/SMA mandates contribute meaningfully to scale, while earnings momentum remains robust (management fee income +132% in 9M-CY25; PAT -PKR 370m). Investor concentration has continued to decline, supported by recurring inflows from provincial pensions, digital onboarding, and expanding Wealth Centers.

Iffat Mankani, CEO, JS Investments, said: “AM1 is an important validation of our governance standards, research depth, and client-centric execution. We will keep scaling digital access, pensions, ETFs, and outcome-oriented products so more savers can invest confidently across cycles.”



## Thirty Years, 2,261 Schools, One Education Movement: The Citizens Foundation at 30

 Spokesman Report

KARACHI: Celebrating 30 years of transforming lives through education, The Citizens Foundation (TCF) has built one of the world’s largest networks of community-based schools 2,261 schools educating 320,000 children across Pakistan. Founded in 1995 by six friends with a mission to make quality education accessible to every child, TCF has become a national movement for change.

“What started as a small idea has become a nationwide movement,” said Mushtaq K. Chhapra, Co-Founder and Director. “TCF is proof of what can happen when people unite for a cause larger than themselves.”

Since its founding, TCF has supported 71,000 graduates and nearly 293,000 adult learners through its Aagahi literacy programme. Its alumni have gone on to study at leading institutions including Harvard University and IBA Karachi.

“Behind each number is a story of courage,” said Zia Akhter Abbas, President and CEO. “Our success belongs to the children, teachers, and supporters who believe in the power of education.”

Supported by a global community of donors and volunteers, TCF aims to reach two million learners by 2030 through expanded access and partnerships. Its 30th anniversary theme, “Karwaan Bunta Gaya” “the caravan grew as it moved” reflects a journey that began with five schools in Karachi and now spans every province of Pakistan.



Islamabad

30° – 38° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr ..... 5:06 am  
Zohr ..... 11:51 am  
Asr ..... 3:33 pm  
Maghrib ..... 5:11 pm  
Isha ..... 6:36 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

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CAA ..... 9281092

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MH .....561116  
Cantt Hospital.....9270907-11  
DHQ .....5556311-4  
RGH .....9290301-7  
Holy Family.....9290322-7  
PIMS .....9261170-79  
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TMA ..... 5770886  
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Corporation ..... 9209224  
Potohar Town..... 9209224

The current system has failed to solve public problems: Syed Aman Shah



Bureau Report

KARACHI/QUETTA: Syed Aman Shah, Provincial Convener of Awaam Pakistan Party, has said that the party is determined to begin a new era of genuine public representation and national development. He stated that the current political and economic system has completely failed to address the problems of the people, and the time has come for the nation to choose a new, honest, and service-oriented leadership.

Syed Aman Shah emphasized that the core objective of Awaam Pakistan Party is public welfare, transparent governance, and the provision of education, healthcare, employment, and justice. He said that the party represents not just a specific class, but every worker, every farmer, every youth, and every mother and sister of the nation.

Syed Aman Shah expressed confidence that public awareness has now risen, and Awaam Pakistan Party will emerge as the force that will lead the country towards progress, justice, and stability.



Bureau Report

KARACHI: The Pakistan International Maritime Expo and Conference 2025 (PIMEC-25) successfully concluded in Karachi, marking the end of a four-day

premier maritime gathering held from 3 to 6 Nov 25. The second edition of PIMEC, a cornerstone initiative for Pakistan's maritime sector, served as a vibrant platform for strategic dialogue, academic exchange, and commercial collaboration,

Group Photo

KARACHI: Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Mr. Muhammad Junaid Anwar Chaudhry in a group photo alongwith Chief of Staff Vice Admiral Raja Rab Nawaz and Commander Karachi Vice Admiral Muhammad Faisal Abbasi during closing ceremony of PIMEC 2025 at Karachi Expo Centre.



Foundation University Islamabad Confers Degrees at Convocation 2025

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Foundation University Islamabad celebrated its Convocation Ceremony at the Jinnah Auditorium, Foundation University School of Health Sciences (FUSH), honoring graduates from BDS Session 2021-2024, DPT Spring & Fall 2020, and MS (MSKPT & NPT) Spring & Fall 2023 programs.

Lt Gen Arshad Naseem, HI (M), Surgeon General of Pakistan Army, graced the event as Chief Guest. He was joined by Maj Gen Muhammad Kaleem Asif, HI (M) (Retd), Rector FUI, and Maj Gen Prof. Dr. Qudrat Ullah Malik, HI (M) (Retd), Director FUSH and Principal FUMC, along with senior leadership, faculty, parents, and distinguished guests.

A total of 205 degrees were conferred — 49 in BDS, 97 in DPT, 31 in MS (MSKPT), and 28 in MS (NPT) — accompanied by 11 gold medals, 12 silver medals, 42 distinction certificates, and 49 merit certificates, celebrating academic brilliance and excellence in healthcare education.



Speaking on the occasion, Maj Gen Prof. Dr. Qudrat Ullah Malik congratulated the graduates and their families, highlighting milestone achievements including FUCD's 93% PMDC accreditation score and expansion of student intake, as well as FUCP's World Physiotherapy accreditation, the launch of its first PhD program, and successful international

academic collaborations.

In his address, the Chief Guest, Lt Gen Arshad Naseem, lauded the university's rapid progress and academic vision. Paying tribute to faculty and parents, he encouraged graduates to enter the professional world with competence, humility, and dedication. Inspiring them to lead with purpose, he quoted,

PIMEC-25 Concludes Successfully

Strengthening Pakistan's Maritime Vision and Blue Economy

reaffirming vision of Ministry of Maritime Affairs to develop a robust Blue Economy. The closing ceremony was graced by the Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs, Mr. Muhammad Junaid Anwar Chaudhry, as Chief Guest.

In his address, the Chief Guest announced establishment of Pakistan's first Green Ship Repair and Recycling Yard at Port Qasim. The Minister highlighted that looking ahead to Pakistan's "Maritime Century (2047-2147)", the five pillars include developing three new deep-sea ports, expanding national shipping fleet, building AI-enabled maritime industrial complexes, achieving 100% green digital ports and leading regional maritime cooperation.

Earlier, Commander Karachi, Vice Admiral Muhammad Faisal Abbasi, extended sincere appreciation to the visiting delegates, scholars, maritime experts and exhibitors for their dynamic participation throughout the event. He emphasized that PIMEC provides an ideal platform for Pakistan's maritime industry exchange ideas and creates new avenues for a prosperous maritime future. Commander Karachi also appreciated the National Institute of Maritime Affairs (NIMA) for successfully organizing the International Maritime Conference on the theme "Harnessing Blue Economy Potential for Sustainable Development" during the event.

PIMEC-25 received an overwhelming

international response, featuring participation from 178 exhibitors including 28 international firms and 150 local organizations showcasing a wide range of maritime innovations, technologies, and services. The event was also attended by 133 international delegations representing 44 countries across Europe, Asia, North America, South America, Africa, Middle East and the Far East, underscoring PIMEC's growing stature as a premier maritime event in the region.

The successful conclusion of PIMEC-25 not only highlights Pakistan's potential as a maritime hub but also reflects the nation's growing role in shaping regional Blue Economy landscape.

DHO TT Singh Dr. Faizan urges public to follow anti-smog precautions

Zafar Chishti

TOBA TEK SINGH: District Health Officer (DHO) Toba Tek Singh, Dr. Faizan Arshad has said that smog is a dangerous form of environmental pollution that can pose serious health risks to citizens. He stated that as per the directives of the Government of Punjab, anti-smog measures and public awareness campaigns have been intensified across the district. He informed that special medical desks have been established in hospitals, while doctors and paramedical staff have been instructed to remain on alert. Dr. Faizan Arshad urged citizens to avoid unnecessary outdoor activities. He advised the public to wear masks and protective glasses when going outside, increase water intake and immediately consult the nearest government hospital or health center in case of eye irritation, throat issues, or breathing difficulties.

He added that public cooperation is essential to control smog and all citizens must support the government in achieving this national health objective.



Archaeological finds trace the world's oldest bread traditions to Anatolia

Bureau Report

KARACHI: Anatolia, one of the earliest cradles of settled life, continues to reveal the ancient roots of this tradition through remarkable archaeological discoveries that trace the evolution of bread-making across millennia.

At Konya's UNESCO-listed site of Çatalhöyük, archaeologists uncovered an 8,600-year-old leavened bread near the remains of a damaged oven, dating to around 6600 BCE one of the oldest ever discovered. Similarly, at Eskişehir's Küllioba Mound, experts unearthed what is believed to be the world's oldest leavened and baked bread, dating back 5,000 years.

Analysis showed traces of emmer wheat and lentils, with evidence suggesting it was baked at around 140 °C and used in a fertility ritual before being buried. Excavations at the Topraktepe (Eirenepolis) Ancient City in Karaman revealed five carbonised loaves dating to the 7th–8th centuries CE, thought to be sacramental breads used in early Christian rituals. Meanwhile, a discovery of a mould with a diamond (baklava) pattern at the Harran ruins in Şanlıurfa, dating back 800 years, offers new insights into medieval bread-making techniques.

These findings illuminate Anatolia's enduring bread culture, which remains vibrant today. From golden corn bread in the Black Sea region to tandoor bread in Eastern Anatolia and "bazlama" in Central Anatolia, Türkiye's bread culture continues to thrive, reflecting regional diversity and centuries of tradition. Among the most cherished are pide, the wood-fired flatbread served in countless forms nationwide, and the UNESCO-listed breads lavash and yufka, whose communal preparation remains a treasured part of Anatolian life.



Women University Multan Concludes 5th Two-Day Int'l Seerat-un-Nabi Conference

Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Women University Multan successfully concluded the 5th Two-Day International Seerat-un-Nabi Conference titled "Intellectual and Social Challenges Faced by Youth: A Comprehensive Guideline in the Light of Seerat-un-Nabi". The event brought together distinguished scholars, researchers, and academicians from across Pakistan and abroad to explore how the teachings of the Holy Prophet Muhammad serve as a complete code of life and a roadmap for youth navigating modern intellectual and social complexities. They shared valuable insight into how the life and teachings of the Holy Prophet Muhammad provide

deep guidance for youth facing modern-day social and intellectual challenges.

Over the course of two days, 80 scholarly research abstracts were presented, reflecting extensive academic engagement and scholarly discourse on Seerah studies, youth character building, moral leadership, and contemporary social transformation.

The sessions of the conference featured scholarly addresses by Dr. Muhammad Mukhtar (Rector, University of Southern Punjab), Dr. Humayun (Humankind) Abbasi, Dr. Rana Akram, and several other notable scholars who highlighted the relevance of Prophetic teachings in addressing the moral, social, psychological, and technological challenges

being faced by the younger generation in today's rapidly transforming digital world.

Dr. Muhammad Mukhtar, as the Special Guest, emphasized the importance of integrating Seerah teachings into academic and social development frameworks. He highlighted that modern education must align with ethical values rooted in the teachings of the Holy Prophet to produce compassionate, responsible, and self-aware youth.

The second day of the conference featured thought-provoking sessions moderated by Dr. Saeed ur Rehman, Dr. Riaz Ahmed Dr. Ghulam Haider, Dr. Munazzah Hayat and Dr. Farid Yousaf



and Dr. Ruqia Bano maintaining an engaging and enriching scholarly environment.

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## Chinese investments in Punjab

Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif had a meeting with a delegation of prominent Chinese investors, in which they expressed their keen interest in making investments in Punjab. She was pleased to see women investors as part of the Chinese delegation. The meeting held prior to Chief Minister Punjab’s departure for Brazil holds great significance. She said on the occasion that Punjab possesses immense potential for investment. She added that for the first time, ‘Zero Time to Start Policy’ has been introduced in Punjab, aimed at providing complete facilitation to investors. She highlighted that Punjab is currently going through one of the best phases in terms of investment opportunities.

Chief Minister Punjab underscored that Punjab’s industrial zones and industrial parks offer excellent potential for investment. She revealed that investors will also be provided with tax holidays and import duty relief. She noted that infrastructure, IT sector and medical tourism fields present lucrative opportunities for foreign investment. She added that following her visit to China, the Punjab government has introduced innovation in medical and other sectors. She highlighted that real estate and infrastructure sectors in Punjab can yield swift profitable returns, adding that Ravi Urban Development Authority (RUDA) project will serve as a role model of infrastructure development in the province.

Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif underscored that for the first time, more than 100,000 houses have been constructed by setting a new record within a short span of ten months. She said that with the growth of the tourism sector, a rising demand occurs for the construction of more quality hotels to facilitate tourists across Punjab. She disclosed that for the first time, glass trains and high-speed trains are being introduced in Punjab, and noted that a vast area has also been allocated for the establishment of Punjab’s largest medical district. She emphasized that business processes in Punjab have been fully switched over to an online system, adding that no files or papers are required to launch any business, and investors can apply easily and start their business instantly. During the meeting, senior officials from various Chinese companies introduced themselves to Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif and expressed their keen interest in making investments in multiple sectors in Punjab. The Chinese delegation also expressed gratitude to Chief Minister Punjab for warmly welcoming them and extending them gracious hospitality.

## Jammu Martyrs Mission Completion at All Costs

November 6, 1947, stands as one of the darkest and most tragic days in the history of Jammu and Kashmir. On that day, the soil of Jammu was drenched in blood as humanity was butchered without mercy. Under the orders of Maharaja Hari Singh’s Dogra army, and with the support of RSS and extremist Hindu and Sikh militias, an organized genocide was carried out against Muslims — their only crime being that they raised the slogan of “Pakistan Zindabad” and believed in freedom.

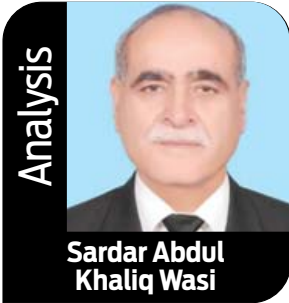
This massacre was the direct outcome of a political betrayal. Under the Partition Plan of June 3, 1947, all princely states were given the right to accede either to India or Pakistan, based on geographical continuity and the will of their people. With more than 80 percent Muslim population and natural access to Pakistan, the State of Jammu and Kashmir was expected to join Pakistan. Maharaja Hari Singh, however, defied this logic and secretly acceded to India, ignoring the wishes of his majority population. The result was a calculated campaign of extermination — one of the most horrific acts of ethnic cleansing recorded in South Asian history.

While Jammu burned, the world remained silent. Neither the departing British rulers intervened nor did the newly formed United Nations take notice of the unfolding genocide. The international media downplayed the tragedy as a “political issue,” burying what was

clearly a human catastrophe under diplomatic ambiguity. This silence remains one of history’s greatest moral failures. The massacre of Jammu was not merely a communal clash — it was a premeditated crime against humanity that still awaits global acknowledgment.

The blood of Jammu’s martyrs, however, was not shed in vain. The atrocities awakened the conscience of the Kashmiri people and transformed grief into resistance. Across Poonch, Mirpur, Bimber, and Muzaffarabad, freedom fighters rose against the Dogra regime. Their revolt culminated in the establishment of the Azad Government of the State of Jammu and Kashmir on October 24, 1947 — the first organized expression of Kashmiri self-determination. The martyrs of Jammu thus became the foundation stone of a struggle that still lives on.

Every year on November 6, Kashmiris across the globe commemorate Youme-Shuhada-e-Jammu — the Day of the Martyrs of Jammu. Ceremonies are held in Pakistan, Azad Kashmir, the United Kingdom, the Gulf states, and other parts of the world where the Kashmiri diaspora resides. This day is not merely a memorial; it is a reminder that nations which forget their martyrs lose their identity. The blood of Jammu’s martyrs teaches us that freedom is never gifted — it is earned through sacrifice. No tyranny, however powerful, can extinguish the light kindled by truth.



Analysis

Sardar Abdul Khaliq Wasi

## Afghan Jalebi

“Afghan Jalebi,” an Indian song, draws a symbolic parallel between Afghans and the sweet jalebi to highlight how appearances can be alluring yet deceptive. The jalebi’s golden, coiled form represents the complexity and duplicity often found in politics—where leaders project sweetness and sincerity while concealing self-interest and moral emptiness. This imagery reflects how political systems, much like the jalebi’s spirals, avoid straightforwardness, choosing manipulation and ambiguity over honesty and accountability.

The behavior of the Taliban government exemplifies this symbolism. After returning to power, it initially promised peace and cooperation with Pakistan but soon revealed contradictions by supporting militant groups and breaking diplomatic commitments. Pakistan, despite decades of sacrifice and support for Afghanistan, continues to face betrayal as trust erodes through the Taliban’s evasive policies. Yet, both Pakistan and the international community remain unable to sever ties, clinging to faint hope for genuine reform. Like the jalebi’s endless loops, the cycle of promises, deceit, and disappointment keeps repeating—offering sweetness on the surface but bitterness at its core.

According to the comprehensive narrative provided by the Pakistani side, while most of the technical and non-security agenda items were discussed in considerable detail during first round, the ultimate deadlock and failure of the talks occurred specifically and solely over Afghanistan’s complete refusal to commit to clear, verifiable, and enforceable actions against the specific groups actively using Afghan soil as a launchpad for terrorist attacks inside Pakistan.

Pakistan, on its part, presented specific, time-stamped evidence detailing militant sanctuaries and cross-border movements, while the Afghan delegates allegedly responded by aggressively questioning the provenance and integrity of the evidence, by deliberately attempting to divert the substantive security discussions to peripheral procedural and political matters, by repeatedly and unilaterally consulting Kabul during the critical proceedings, and by flatly declining to accept direct responsibility or agree to any practical, enforceable security measures that would prevent future attacks. The host nations and mediators, Qatar and Turkey, were reportedly surprised and profoundly disappointed by the Afghan side’s consistently uncooperative and evasive stance, with a draft agreement that had appeared finalized multiple times ultimately being dramatically abandoned at the critical last minute immediately after the Afghan delegation consulted with Kabul one final, crucial time before signing. Pakistan’s firm position conveyed was that while it continues to seek a negotiated, peaceful solution, it will not tolerate its sovereign territory being used as a staging ground for attacks and therefore reserves the inherent right to take all necessary measures to defend its people and its national sovereignty against hostile elements originating from Afghan territory. The overall account of first round was concluded with the stark assessment that the Taliban-led Afghan government failed demonstrably to exhibit the required political maturity, transparency, or sincerity, repeatedly presenting agreeable, friendly rhetoric

but consistently refusing to follow up with practical, tangible security commitments—a pattern of behavior unequivocally likened to a jalebi: outwardly sweet and enticing but structurally and politically not straight—and that Pakistan remained absolutely determined to protect its national peace and security, including by actively and relentlessly pursuing militants and their known facilitators wherever they may be found.

Pakistan demonstrated complete seriousness and commitment to the dialogue process, choosing to remain in Istanbul at Türkiye’s request to facilitate any further discussions. Owing to Türkiye’s mediation efforts, both sides agreed to hold a second round of talks. These discussions proved successful, resulting in a mutual decision to continue the ceasefire.

Throughout the entire process, Pakistan displayed maturity, patience, and a genuine desire to make the dialogue successful. However, challenges and complications primarily originated from the Afghan side. Pakistan reaffirmed its firm commitment to maintaining peace and stability along its western border, while making it clear that the ceasefire is neither open-ended nor unconditional.

For Pakistan, the continuation of the ceasefire depends on a single, critical condition: Afghanistan must ensure that its territory is not used for terrorist attacks against Pakistan. This includes taking clear, verifiable, and effective measures against groups such as Fitna al-Khawarij and Fitna al-Hindustan, as well as other terrorist organizations operating from Afghan soil.

Pakistan expects credible and tangible evidence of Afghan action — including the dismantling of militant hideouts, disruption of logistical networks, arrests or prosecution of leadership figures, and transparent reporting through the agreed monitoring and verification mechanism.

If Afghanistan fails to provide verifiable proof of these actions, or if cross-border attacks by militants continue, Pakistan will consider the ceasefire to have been violated. In such a case, Pakistan reserves the right to take all necessary measures to defend its sovereignty and protect its citizens.

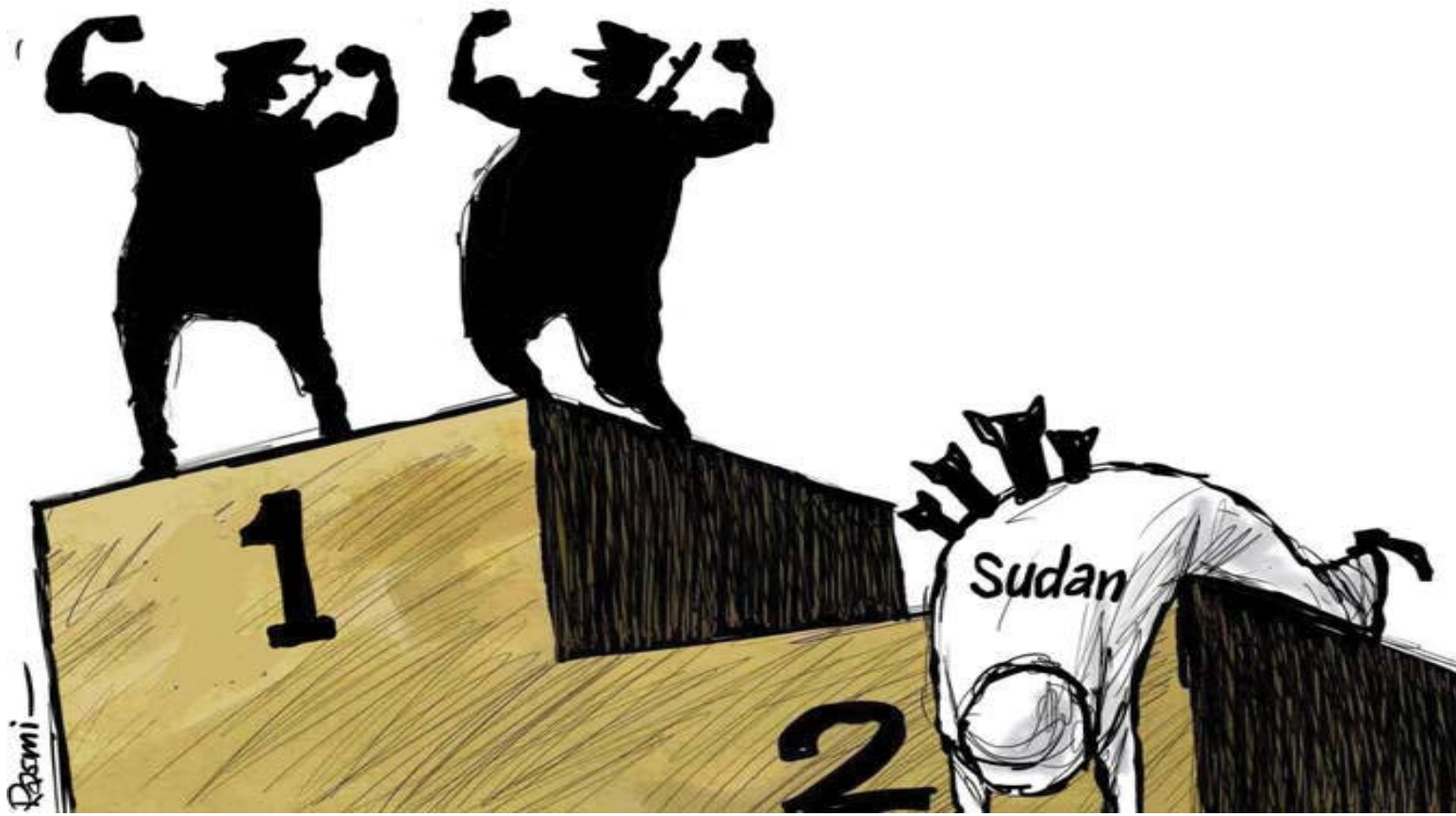
The monitoring and verification mechanism established under Türkiye’s mediation will serve as a neutral and essential instrument for determining Afghanistan’s compliance with the agreed terms.

Pakistan entered this phase of dialogue with sincerity but also with a realistic understanding that past experiences of border violence require not just promises, but consistent and verifiable implementation.

Afghanistan must recognize that this ceasefire is a conditional arrangement — its continuation depends entirely on the Afghan side’s demonstrable responsibility and actions. Failure to fulfill these commitments will compel Pakistan to consider alternative measures.

The Government of Pakistan and the Armed Forces remain united in their message: Pakistan prefers peace, but the protection of its territorial integrity and national security is non-negotiable.

Ultimately, the choice lies with Afghanistan. It must decide whether to follow the path of sincerity and cooperation — showing the “sweet and straight” character symbolized by a jalebi’s pleasant taste — or to revert to its “twisted and spiral” behavior by abandoning its commitments once again.



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

## E- Challans & poor infrastructure of Karachi

In recent days, I had the opportunity to spend some time in Karachi — a city once proudly known as “Uroos-ul-Bilad,” “The City of Lights,” “The City of the Quaid,” and “The Heart of Pakistan.”

It was deeply saddening and equally shocking to witness how this once vibrant Metropolis, despite its immense resources, now stands as a symbol of decay, mismanagement and despair.

This “Great City of the Quaid” has long been the backbone of Pakistan’s economy, contributing nearly 70 % of the national revenue. It houses skilled labor, industries, factories, heavy industries, ports, shipping lines, and the Pakistan Steel Mills

Yet, despite all these blessings, what have the citizens of Karachi received in return?

Piles of garbage, broken and dilapidated roads, chronic shortages of Electricity, Gas, and Water, and an unending list of problems — from ill-conceived laws and the quota system to decades of political neglect.

For over forty years, the city has been ruled alternately by the Pakistan People’s Party (PPP) and the Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM), taking turns on what seems like a Musical Chair of power.

Whether one voted for them or not, the common man still suffers from hunger, unemployment, and despair — still waiting for the “living Bhutto” who might one day bring change.

The so-called surgery was little more than wound dressing. The patient remained unconscious, and the next day, he passed away. Inna Lillahi wa Inna Ilayhi Raji’un. Even then, the hospital settled bills and possibly returned a small remaining balance — a painful reminder of how human life has been reduced to mere financial transactions.

In essence, Karachi’s infrastructure and governance are both in ruins. Over the past four decades, successive governments and political parties have offered the citizens only expensive electricity, unemployment, garbage

heaps, poor sanitation, and political instability. Instead of providing basic facilities like clean water and affordable energy, the government has now burdened residents with the e-challan system — making life even harder.

Citizens are outraged that fines in Karachi are often far higher than in other cities — for example, a helmet violation that costs Rs. 2,000 in Lahore is fined Rs. 5,000 in Karachi. Both MQM and Jamaat-e-Islami have protested, joined by Syed Arshad Hussain, Chairman of Pakistani Ghareeb Awam Party, who has demanded suspension of the system until Karachi’s infrastructure and public services are improved.

The irony, however, is that this E-challan system has been implemented only in Karachi, while the rest of Sindh remains exempt. One wonders what the Sindh government is trying to prove by singling out Karachi in this manner.

The citizens appeal to President Asif Ali Zardari, Prime Minister Mian Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, and Field Marshal Asim Munir to first uplift this city to the level of developed urban centers — only then should awareness and enforcement drives be introduced.

Penalties, they stress, should be proportionate to citizens’ income levels.

To address Karachi’s deep-rooted public issues, it is imperative that local bodies be empowered under Article A-140 of the Constitution.

At least Rs. 500 billion should be allocated to rebuild the city’s crumbling infrastructure.

The Sindh government’s powers must be devolved to true public representatives of Karachi.

Urgent attention is also required for the long-delayed K-IV transport supply project, while the city’s worsening transport crisis must be eased through the immediate introduction of 10,000 new buses.

Only through genuine administrative devolution, fair allocation of resources, and sincere governance can Karachi once again become the City of Lights — not the city of neglect.



Analysis

Dr Rashid Hussaini

# Rwanda-Pakistan Virtual Business Forum Paves Way for Stronger Trade Ties

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Rwanda's High Commissioner to Pakistan, Hare-rihana Fatou, reaffirmed her country's readiness to support all private-sector ventures between Pakistan and Rwanda during a virtual business meeting jointly organized by the Rwanda High Commission in Pakistan and the Rwanda Development Board (RDB).

Highlighting the shared vision of South-South cooperation, High Commissioner Fatou said both nations are committed to deepening trade and investment linkages across multiple sectors.

"Rwanda serves as a gateway to East Africa, while Pakistan stands as a vibrant market economy in South Asia — together, we can drive meaningful outcomes through constructive business collaboration," she said.

Participants from the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI), Rwanda's Private Sector Federation (PSF),

Rwanda Development Board, and Pakistan's Trade Development Authority (TDAP) exchanged views on emerging opportunities and practical steps to expand bilateral trade.

FPCCI President Atif Ikram Sheikh emphasized agro-processing, manufacturing, and services as promising areas for partnership. Commending Rwanda's investor-friendly climate, he said its policies offered "a model for other African economies" and proposed the establishment of a Pakistan-Rwanda Business Council alongside negotiations for a Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA).

A representative of the Rwandan Private Sector Federation noted that the dialogue would accelerate the implementation of memoranda already signed between FPCCI and PSF, further institutionalizing business-to-business cooperation.

The Rwanda Development Board representative presented an overview of Rwanda's economic environment; citing transparent regulations, zero ownership restrictions



for foreign investors, and competitive tax regimes as key factors attracting international investment.

He invited Pakistani entrepreneurs to explore opportunities in logistics, agriculture, tourism, and renewable energy.

TDAP Director General Abdul Karim called for the reduction of non-tariff barriers to enhance market access and underscored the importance of sustained engagement through trade fairs and single-country exhibitions.

He also announced Pakistan's intent to organize a dedicated trade exhibition in Rwanda to showcase Pakistani products and services.

The interactive session that followed allowed business leaders from both countries to raise

sector-specific questions and identify potential areas of collaboration. Discussions focused on enhancing logistics connectivity, exploring joint ventures, and building institutional mechanisms to facilitate private-sector partnerships.

# Kazakhstan boasts record presence at Shanghai Import Expo 2025

News Desk

ASTANA: The 8th China International Import Expo (CIIE) kicked off in Shanghai bringing together 4,100 international companies from 155 countries and attracting over 449,000 professional visitors, Kazinform News Agency learnt from the Kazakh Trade and Integration Ministry.

This year, over 100 Kazakh producers, the country's largest delegation to date, are participating in the exhibition. According to Kazakh Trade and Integration Minister Arman Shakkaliyev, the platform reveals new export potentials for the country's manufacturers and serves as a gateway not only to China but also to other global markets.

He stressed Kazakhstan-China trade volume nearly doubled in five years, reaching 30.2 billion US dollars by 2024. Kazakhstan's exports to China



also doubled.

According to QazTrade, contracts signed at CIIE over recent years total 306.5 million US dollars. Tens of agreements on supplies of vegetable oils, meat, dry camel milk, juices, and

purees were signed in 2023-2024. This year, Kazakhstan expects to sign new long-term deals on supplies of agricultural and food products targeting China, Southeast Asia, and the Gulf region.

Besides, QazTrade and Optimize Integration Group (OIG) of Shenzhen inked a Memorandum of Understanding to develop digital trade platforms, promote Kazakh food and agricultural products in China, enhance logistics, branding, and payment systems.

Minister of Trade and Integration Arman Shakkaliyev said Kazakhstan opened pavilions and trade houses across Chinese provinces. Offices in Urumqi and Nanjing are already operational. This year's expo sets a new benchmark for Kazakh producers. Kazakhstan was represented across four major venues: National Pavilion, China Co-Op Platform (All-China Federation of Supply and Marketing Cooperatives), Jiangsu SOHO Platform and Almaty City Pavilion, featured for the first time. Noteworthy, Kazakhstan showcased its tourism potential at WTM London 2025.

## Embassy of Pakistan in Brussels Commemorates Youm-e-Shuhada-e-Jammu



Bureau Report

BRUSSELS: To mark Youm-e-Shuhada-e-Jammu (Jammu Martyrs' Day), the Embassy of Pakistan in Brussels organized a solemn Photo Exhibition at the Chancery to pay heartfelt tribute to the martyrs of Jammu, who laid down their lives in November 1947 for their faith, dignity, and right to live in freedom.

The exhibition was inaugurated by H. E. Rahim Hayat Qureshi, Ambassador of Pakistan to the European Union, Belgium, and Luxembourg.

Ambassador Qureshi emphasized that Pakistan will continue to extend its unwavering political, diplomatic, and moral support to the Kashmiri people in their just and peaceful struggle for freedom, as pledged in the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions.

A special prayer (dua) was offered for Shuhada-e-Jammu and for lasting peace, freedom, and dignity for the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

The exhibition featured powerful and poignant images portraying the harrowing tragedy of 1947 and the continuing suffering of Kashmiris in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). The moving display served as a reminder of the indomitable spirit, courage, and resilience of the Kashmiri people, who, despite decades of oppression, remain steadfast in their quest for justice and self-determination.

## Kyrgyzstan sends over 150 tons of humanitarian aid to Syria

AZERTAC

BAKU: President Sadyr Zhaparov instructed the State Committee for National Security (SCNS), in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic and with the assistance of competent Turkish authorities to deliver over 150 tons of humanitarian aid to the people of the Syrian Arab Republic, according to Kabar.

According to SCNS, essential food products—flour, rice, sugar, vegetable oil, and other goods were donated to the Syrian side as part of a special operation. This humanitarian mission is a manifestation of Kyrgyzstan's commitment to strengthening peace, international solidarity, and humanitarian support for peoples facing difficult situations.

Representatives of the Syrian government, speaking on behalf of the President of the Syrian Arab Republic, Ahmed Hussein al-Shara'a, and the Syrian people, expressed deep gratitude to the President and people of Kyrgyzstan. "Your support is especially important now, and the Syrian people perceive Kyrgyzstan's initiative as a manifestation of fraternal friendship and mutual assistance," the Syrian representatives emphasized.

# Young Iraqis run for parliament to challenge status quo

Reuters

Anwar Ibrahim, 25, is so frustrated with Iraq's sectarian politics that he is running for parliament, joining a wave of young Iraqis challenging an entrenched elite at elections next week.

"I believe young people and technocrats should be given the space to participate in the management of the state, and that we should put an end to the domination of certain parties," said Ibrahim, a pro-democracy activist.

Many Iraqis remain sceptical, seeing the November 11 vote as unlikely to bring real change to the country's stagnant politics, with the same powerful groups controlling the state and its oil wealth since Saddam Hussein's fall in 2003.

Yet the presence of significant numbers of youth candidates for the second time since elections in 2005 marks a political coming of age for Iraqis who were infants or children when Saddam was toppled, and could energise

demands for reform.

"The fact that around 40 per cent of registered candidates are young people shows there's growing interest among Iraq's youth to take part in shaping the country's future," an Iraqi High Electoral Commission official told Reuters.

"It reflects a desire for renewal and for a stronger voice from a generation that has long felt excluded from politics."

Most of the new youth candidates are in their late 20s to mid-30s, a sharp contrast to the current parliament, where the average age of lawmakers is about 55, and include members of the Shia and Sunni communities.

The IHEC says about 40% of registered candidates are under 40, and roughly 15% are under 35, typically 28 to 35 years old. In elections in 2021, 24 per cent of candidates were under 30, the IHEC said.

The fresh influx of young candidates may persuade some Iraqis to vote for the first time, eager for alternatives to



the sectarian leaders repeatedly voted in by older generations.

Despite routine democratic elections, Iraqis continue to grapple with corruption, unemployment and poor services. **Marginalised generation begins to find a voice**

However, young Iraqis appear split on whether to vote. Some are enthusiastic, but others have given up on politics.

Ali Abd Al Hussain, 28, a violinist and graduate of the Institute of Fine Arts in Baghdad who works as a musician in a Baghdad restaurant, ripped up his voter registration card.

"Those we previously elected to parliament started their campaigns wearing simple clothes and travelling by taxi, saying 'vote for us so we can bring

change," he said.

"After we voted for them, a big change did happen, but not for us, the poor; it happened for them."

Overnight, they started wearing expensive suits and driving luxury cars with tinted windows because they no longer wanted to see our faces. Of course, I will not vote. "have not formed new political parties and have instead opted to join well-established political blocs to try and force change from the inside, a highly ambitious goal."

"Patronage networks tied to political parties distribute jobs, contracts and security positions, ensuring loyalty and limiting space for outsiders," said Baghdad-based constitutional expert Kadhoom Al Bahadli.

# Ethiopia's Just Quest: Red Sea Access as a Historical Right and Modern Imperative

Chalachew Eshetie

Ethiopia, with a population projected to reach 150 million by 2030, finds itself in a unique and untenable geopolitical position as the world's most populous landlocked nation. Ethiopia's Prime Minister Dr. Abiy Ahmed has correctly articulated Ethiopia's desire for access to the Red Sea as an existential matter for the nation.

**The Historical Perspective: A Legacy Denied**

Ethiopia's historical and cultural links to the Red Sea are not a matter of opinion; they are a matter of fact. The Aksumite Kingdom, which thrived from the 1st century CE, was a dominant global maritime power. Its ports, primarily Adulis and later Massawa, were the anchors of a vast trading network connecting Ethiopia to the Roman Empire, the Arabian Peninsula, and Asia. This history forms the bedrock of Ethiopia's identity but Ethiopia's landlocked status is a relatively recent and unnatural imposition.

**The Economic Imperative: A Matter of Survival**

Ethiopia's economy has been characterized by sustained, rapid growth. However, this growth is stifled by its complete lack of direct sea access, forcing it to rely on neighboring ports this dependency is not just vulnerability; it is an immense financial burden, costing the nation an estimated \$1.5 to \$2 billion annually in port fees and logistics costs.

Prime Minister Dr. Abiy Ahmed has cited studies indicating that sea access can account for up to 25-30% of a country's GDP. For a nation of 150 million, securing a sovereign or leased port is not a luxury it is the key to unlocking sustainable development, ensuring food security, and creating a prosperous future for its vast, youthful population.

**A Proactive, Multi-Pronged Diplomatic Strategy**

Ethiopia's quest is not based on hope; it is now an active, multi-pronged diplomatic strategy rooted in the principles of peaceful negotiation and mutual benefit. Recent events demonstrate this clearly.

In a historic move in January 2024, Ethiopia translated its strategy into action by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Somaliland. This landmark agreement paves the way for Ethiopia to gain long-term, reliable access to the sea, including a naval base. In return, Ethiopia is offering tangible economic stakes, such as shares in Ethiopian Airlines—a direct implementation of the mutually beneficial concessions the Prime Minister has proposed.

Ethiopia's proactive diplomacy has also spurred new, positive opportunities with existing partners. In response to

Ethiopia's clearly stated needs, Djibouti proposed a significant enhancement to their partnership in September 2024, offering Ethiopia the chance to manage the Port of Tadjoura. This development underscores a key truth: Ethiopia's quest for diversified access encourages healthy regional cooperation and creates more options for all.

Simultaneously, Ethiopia has maintained its consistent call for peaceful dialogue with its northern neighbor. In late 2025, the Prime Minister renewed a call for international mediation to find a durable, just solution with Eritrea, specifically regarding the historical port of Assab. This demonstrates an unwavering, open-door policy that prioritizes negotiation above all else.

**Regional Stability through Cooperation**

Ethiopia's pursuit of Red Sea access is an opportunity to reconfigure regional relationships for the better. Prime Minister Dr. Abiy Ahmed's vision

of joint utilization of the Red Sea is a call to foster peace and unity. This quest is not a zero-sum game. The region's dynamics have understandably been complex, and this bold pursuit has been met with misunderstanding by some.

However, Ethiopia's commitment to peace remains its guiding principle. This was clearly demonstrated by its constructive participation in the Ankara Declaration of December 2024, a successful effort to de-escalate tensions and promote dialogue with Somalia. This act affirmed that Ethiopia's strategy is one of discussion and regional integration, not confrontation.

**An Inevitable and Just Future**

Ethiopia's quest for access to the Red Sea is rooted in undeniable historical rights, urgent economic imperatives,



and a clear-eyed strategy for regional stability.

The nation's growing population and economy makes this a matter of existential necessity. Recent diplomatic actions from the Somaliland MoU to the renewed calls for dialogue with Eritrea and new opportunities with Djibouti show a government actively and peacefully pursuing every available avenue.

Ultimately, Ethiopia's aspiration is a critical component of its quest for economic prosperity. A stable, economically vibrant Ethiopia with secure access to the sea is not a threat to the Horn of Africa; it is the essential anchor for its future peace and prosperity.

*Author is Chargé d'Affaires (ad interim) in Ethiopian Embassy, Islamabad*

Bull & Bears  
PSX 100-Share  
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
159,096.78	159,578.19
Day's High	Day's Low
160,590.77	158,252.62
Index Value	Change
17,771,114,733	−481.41
Percentage	Time
−0.3%	6 Nov, 2025 4:30 pm
Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
9,735.78	−41.30
Percentage	Time
−0.42%	6 Nov, 4:35 pm GMT +1
USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
46,857.38	−453.62
Percentage	Time
−0.96%	6 Nov, 12:19 pm GMT-5
Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
50,883.68	+671.41
Percentage	Time
+1.34%	6 Nov, 3:45 pm GMT+9
Open Market Forex Rates	

Guidelines Issued  
for Trading  
Accounts by  
Minors in the  
Capital Markets

**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX), in collaboration with the National Clearing Company of Pakistan Limited (NCCPL) and the Central Depository Company of Pakistan Limited (CDC), has issued guidelines for opening trading accounts for minors under the age of 18. This initiative was developed under the guidance of the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP).

This initiative marks a significant milestone in promoting investor awareness and financial inclusion. It aims to foster a culture of saving and investment among the next generation in Pakistan, enabling minors' early participation in the capital markets, instilling financial discipline, and providing access to formal investment avenues.

These guidelines are an important leap toward broadening investor participation and building a financially aware future generation.

The detailed guidelines can be accessed on the PSX website.

Algeria invites industrialists to  
explore lucrative investment  
opportunities in Africa

Bureau Report

KARACHI: The Ambassador of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, H. E. Braham Romani, has invited businessmen of Karachi to invest in Algeria which offers a lot of incentives to new investors. He said that Algeria is the gateway to Africa where an industrial exhibition is going to be held in the month of December. He also invited the businessmen of S. I. T. E. to participate in the industrial exhibition.

He was speaking as Chief Guest on the occasion of his visit to S. I. T. E. Association of Industry the other day. He was accompanied by Syed Zaigham Hussain, Vice President Muhammad Riaz Dhedhi, Former President Abdul Rasheed, Former SVP Abdul Kadir Bilwani, EC Member Muhammad Kamran Lakhany and Zahid Hussain were present in the meeting.

The Ambassador gave detailed briefing to SAI members on investment opportunities in Algeria and facilitation for new investors including visa processing on fast track. He categorically mentioned that Algeria has a long term investment policy and offers many free incentives to new investors such as land, electricity, internet connectivity etc. Algeria has a one-window operation for investors. He added



that healthcare facilities are free in Algeria and the Energy prices are symbolic.

Earlier, President SAI Ahmed Azeem Alvi welcomed the Ambassador to the Association and presented a brief introduction of S. I. T. E. area and highlighted its contribution in the

national economy and exports. He requested the Ambassador to share a sector-wise list with the Association to see the possibilities of collaboration. He also announced plans to take a business delegation to Algeria to participate in the forthcoming industrial exhibition being held

in December.

Possibilities of enhancing Bilateral trade, particularly in the areas of textile, leather goods, vaccines, solar energy, phosphate, surgical instruments, exploration of iron reserves, food items and IT products, were also discussed.

Final Preparation

ISLAMABAD: Workers are busy in final preparation for the different enclosures and pavilions as the Capital Biggest fair "Lok Mila" is going to start from 07th till 16th November at Lok Versa in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

15th Fire Safety & Security  
Convention-2025

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Leading representatives of Karachi's builders, businessmen, and industrialists have called for a social boycott of retail outlets operating illegally in residential buildings, in defiance of building and fire safety regulations.

Earlier, in his address as chief guest of the convention's inaugural session, Rehan Hanif, President of the Karachi Chamber of Commerce & Industry (KCCI), announced that the chamber had recently issued fire prevention guidelines—now available on its website—for the safety of businesses and industries in the city.

Speaking on behalf of ABAD, Senior Vice-Chairman Syed Afzal Hameed said he would "not hesitate to condemn even fellow builders" found guilty of converting residential build-



ings into commercial establishments without proper fire safety arrangements.

Muhammad Ikram Rajput, President of the Korangi Association of Trade & Industry (KATI), pledged full cooperation with relevant authorities to organise fire safety and emergency response training sessions for industrial workers

and ensure proper fire protection standards across KATI's member industries.

NFEH President Muhammad Naqem Qureshi highlighted that the Fire Safety & Security Convention had been held annually for the past 14 years, serving as a vital platform for dialogue among builders, industrialists, regu-

lators, and safety experts to promote a robust fire safety culture in Pakistan's urban and industrial sectors.

Ahmed Azeem Alvi, President of the SITE Association of Industry, Dr. Imran Taj, President of the Fire Protection Industry of Pakistan, Renowned fire safety expert Saeed Jadoon, Ruqiya Naqem, NFEH General-Secretary, NFEH Vice-President Nadeem Ashraf, M. Aamir Nadeem, Lead HSE Trainer & Consultant, Anas Hammad, General Manager Safety, Gas & Oil Pakistan, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Mohsin Aman, Director ASURE Centre, Department of Electrical Engineering NED University Of Engineering And Technology, Tariq Ali Nizamani, Managing Director, Sindh Solid Waste Management Board and others also spoke.

SECP Releases  
Annuity Working  
Group Report; Seeks  
Stakeholder Feedback

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has released the report of its Annuity Working Group (AWG). The group was established to support the development of a sustainable retirement income market in Pakistan and enhance citizens' post-retirement financial security.

The report highlights key gaps in the current

retirement landscape and proposes measures to broaden access to lifetime income solutions and strengthen Pakistan's retirement income framework.

The SECP invites comments and feedback from pension industry stakeholders, insurance and takaful providers, policy experts, and the general public on the recommendations and implementation roadmap outlined in the report.

Payoneer Reports  
Record Q3 2025  
Revenue

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: Payoneer (NASDAQ: PAYO), the global financial technology company powering business growth across borders, today announced its third quarter 2025 financial results, reporting record quarterly revenue and continued momentum in supporting small and medium-sized businesses (SMBs) and digital entrepreneurs around the world, including in rapidly expanding markets such as Pakistan.

John Caplan, Chief Executive Officer of Payoneer, said: "Payoneer delivered a record revenue quarter, and three consecutive quarters of mid-teens revenue growth ex. interest, demonstrating the strength of our business in the dynamic macro environment.

Our mission is straightforward: remove friction between an entrepreneur's ambition and their achievement by delivering a financial stack that is secure, easy to use, and built for global commerce. We are executing



against our strategy and have driven over 10 consecutive quarters of year-over-year ARPU and SMB take rate expansion as we move upmarket, increase adoption of multiple products and services, and align our pricing with the value we offer customers.

We will continue to navigate short term volatility as our customers adapt their businesses in a dynamic landscape while evolving our business to capture the significant long-term opportunity in front of us, with a clear focus on delivering shareholder returns."

With millions of Pakistani freelancers and digital businesses exporting services worldwide, Payoneer continues to serve as a critical infrastructure partner supporting cross-border payments, business scalability, compliance, and international market access.

BankIslami Strengthens Its Digital Islamic  
Banking Platform 'aik'

KARACHI: Committed to its mission of advancing Islamic banking in Pakistan, BankIslami has further strengthened 'aik'— the country's first digital Islamic banking platform offering truly Riba-free banking solutions.

The upgraded aik platform now delivers a more powerful, intuitive, and seamless user experience, featuring enhanced system capabilities and new tools designed to improve accessibility and provide a customer-friendly digital banking

journey.

Through aik, BankIslami is expanding its digital reach by enabling customers to open current and Bachat (saving) accounts instantly through their smartphones—with just a few clicks. The platform aims to serve diverse customer segments promoting financial inclusion across Pakistan.

In alignment with the State Bank of Pakistan's and the Government of Pakistan's "Go Cashless" strategy, the aik mobile application now supports Raast QR payments, providing Shari-

ah-compliant digital payment solutions for micro and small merchants (SMEs).

Beyond banking, 'aik' is evolving into a comprehensive Islamic lifestyle application. The newly introduced 'aik Deen' module enriches the user experience with features such as Azaan alerts, a digital Quran, Islamic calendar, Qibla compass, Hadith and Ayat notifications, and live streaming from Makkah and Madinah.

Additionally, customers can enjoy modern digital conveniences

such as bill splitting, gifting money, referral rewards, and invite-and-earn programs, making banking simpler and more rewarding.

"As digital adoption accelerates, we continue to innovate with purpose. This upgrade positions aik as more than a banking app, it is a lifestyle companion for customers seeking a Shariah-compliant way of life," said Ashfaque Ahmed, Chief Officer of aik.

Rizwan Ata, President & CEO of BankIslami, added: "At BankIslami, we believe that a society free from

Riba can only be achieved when Islamic banking is effortless, accessible, and trusted by all. By strengthening our digital platform, we are empowering every Pakistani with a modern, Shariah-compliant alternative, taking a meaningful step toward our mission of 'Saving Humanity from Riba'.

With 'aik' at the forefront, BankIslami continues to advance its mission

of "Saving Humanity by Providing Riba-Free Islamic Banking Solutions", combining modern technology with Islamic values to make Shariah-compliant banking simple, accessible, and relevant for generations to come.



# PM praises role of AFC in football development

**Sports Desk**

ISLAMABAD: President Asian Football Confederation (AFC) President and FIFA Senior Vice President Shaikh Salman Ebrahim Hamad Al Khalifa called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif here on Thursday and discussed matters related to football.

The Prime Minister welcomed the AFC President and praised the role of the AFC under the leadership of Shaikh Salman Ebrahim Hamad Al Khalifa in the development of the game of football in Asia.

The Prime Minister, while highlighting the government's initiatives for the promotion of sports in the country, said that the government was striving to provide equal opportunities to the youth in all sports, including football.

He reiterated his commitment to the development of football in Pakistan, making it an important hub for the game of football in the region and establishing an autonomous and merit-based football federation.

The Prime Minister expressed keen interest in cooperation between Pakistan and the AFC in the development of football in Pakistan, including Azad Jammu and Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan, provision of coaches and referees,



establishment of stadiums, national training centers and talent pathways. The Prime Minister also expressed his

desire to host AFC matches in Pakistan. Shaikh Salman Ebrahim Hamad Al Khalifa thanked the Prime Minister for

his excellent hospitality and reiterated the AFC's support for the development of football in Pakistan.

## DC Layyah Amira Bidar Inaugurated 10th Thal Desert Sports Festival

**Asim Tanveer**

LAYYAH: Deputy Commissioner Layyah Ms Aamira Bidar Inaugurated 10th Thal Desert Sports Festival. Spring has returned to the desert of Chaubara Tehsil. The 10th Colorful Thal Mela has Begun in a grand manner. Deputy Commissioner Amira Bidar inaugurated the 4-day family fair by hoisting the flag. On this occasion, political leaders Sahibzada Faizul Hassan Swag, Abdul Shakoor Swag, Lala Tahir Randhawa, Usman Ali Aulakh, Chaudhry Basharat Randhawa, Hasnain Khan, Mehboobul Hassan Swag, Rana Ijaz Ahmed, Aslam Samra, Additional Deputy Commissioners Shahid Malik, Shabbir Ahmed Dogar, Assistant Commissioners Haris Hameed Khan, Nadeem Arshad, DD Colleges Zulfiqar Haideri, CEO Health Dr. Shahid Riaz, DD Development Ishaq Kherani, ADLO Dr. Tariq Gadara, DSO Imtiaz Ahmed Bhatti, DEO Gul Sher, DD Social Welfare Saima Seemab, TSO Iram Naz, Tehsildar Naved Zubair, CO District Council Muhammad Faisal, Syed Altaf Hussain Shah, Arif Chheena, media representa-



tives, and a large number of fans attended.

On this occasion, Deputy Commissioner Ameer Bidar said that Thal Jeep Rally and Lay Thal Mela have become a major event of South Punjab. The route of Thal Jeep Rally consists of three districts Muzaffargarh, Kot Addu and Lay. The Deputy Commissioner said that the fair has been held at Rakh Khairwala, the midpoint of the jeep rally, for the past ten years.

The fair is a complete mega family event. According to the vision of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, the people are being provided with ample opportunities for entertainment. He further said that the best arrangements have been made for families, women and children.

Thal Jeep Rally and Lay Thal Mela are the bearers of the message of culture, tourism and peace. The people of Paki-

stan, Punjab and especially Layyah are welcome to participate in the fair in full. Focal Person Additional Deputy Commissioner Revenue Shahid Malik said that all possible steps have been taken to decorate Thal Jeep Rally and Lay Thal Mela and the best environment has been created for the entertainment of the people. On the occasion of the inaugural ceremony, a march past was presented by the students.

A cultural dance was presented by the Jhumar Party and the young singers sang national songs and received a lot of applause.

On the inaugural day, a shooting volleyball match was played between Lajpal Abbas Club Layyah and Afzal Gujar Club Ludhiana, which was won by Afzal Gujar Club Ludhiana. Former Parliamentary Secretary Lala Tahir Randhawa acted as the match referee in the match. Deputy Commissioner Amira Bedar inspected the stalls set up by the departments on this occasion and commended them for the excellent arrangements. Deputy Commissioner Amira Bedar and former Parliamentary Secretary Lala Tahir Randhawa distributed prizes on this occasion.

## Pakistan vs South Africa 2nd One Day International Cricket Match

# South Africa defeated Pakistan by 8 wickets: One Day Series level by 1-1



**Asim Tanveer/ Abdul Majid**

FAISALABAD: Pakistan cricket team, which won the first match, suffered a humiliating defeat in the second ODI. In the second match of the 3-match ODI series at Iqbal Stadium, Faisalabad, Pakistan cricket team suffered a humiliating 8-wicket defeat at the hands of South Africa. They also scored a century against themselves. The Green Caps won the first match in a big way but lost the second match in a terrible manner. This difference

in modern cricket, which is being run by the PCB, must be remembered.

Pakistan once again won the toss of the second One Day International match played in Faisalabad, 2 Tests, 3 T20 matches and now the second ODI. South Africa lost the toss for the 7th consecutive time in Pakistan's tour. Pakistan chose to bat first against expectations. As a result, they lost 3 big wickets in the first 5 overs. Among those who went to the pavilion, opener Fakhar Zaman made 0, Babar Azam



11 and Muhammad Rizwan could make 4. The team, which had lost 3 wickets by 22, was rescued by Salman Ali Agha and Saim Ayub and made an important partnership of 92 runs for the fourth wicket. Saim Ayub returned to the pavilion at a score of 114 after scoring 53

runs, Hussain Talat could only score 10 runs. Pakistan suffered its 5th biggest loss at a score of 190, when set-batsman Salman Ali Agha went for 69 runs, he played 106 balls. Pakistan had lost 8 wickets by 234 runs. Fahim Ashraf was out for 28. Mohammad Nawaz's aggression worked in the last overs. He returned 22 runs in the last over. Pakistan managed to score 269 runs for 9 wickets in the allotted 500 overs. Mohammad Nawaz made 59 off 59 balls. There were 4 sixes and 3 fours. Ann Burger took 4 wickets for 46 runs. Ann Peter took 3 wickets for 55 runs. Corbin Butch got 2 wickets for 58 runs.

In reply, South Africa made a good start of 81 runs by the 12th over. Petraeus was out for 46 runs, but the problems for Pakistan increased further

when Tony de Zorzi came to Quinton de Kock. Both batted aggressively and made a partnership of 155 runs for the second wicket and played only 22 overs for it. Pakistan took the second wicket in the 35th over when de Zorzi was out for 76 runs. Earlier, De Kock scored a brilliant century. He said that if you fail in 4 innings continuously, then a century happens like this.

South Africa achieved the target in 40.1 overs for 2 wickets. De Kock returned unbeaten on 123 runs off 119 balls, hitting 7 sixes and 8 fours. For Pakistan, Mohammad Wasim and Faheem Ashraf took one wicket each. With the 8-wicket win, the Proteas leveled the 3-match series 1-1. The deciding match will be played here on November 8.

## CPO Multan meets Pakistan National Academy Mati Tal Hockey Team — Pledges to Promote Sports Among Youth



**Zain Khan Malghani**

MULTAN: City Police Officer (CPO) Multan, Sadiq Ali Dogar, met with the players of the Pakistan National Academy Mati Tal hockey team at his office. During the meeting, the CPO distributed hockey sticks among the young players and appreciated their dedication, discipline, and enthusiasm for the game.

He emphasized that engaging the younger generation in sports activities plays a vital role in bringing about positive change in society and promoting healthy lifestyles. Sports, he said, not only enhance physical fitness but also nurture discipline, teamwork, and character building.

CPO Dogar announced that a friendly hockey match would soon be organized between the Multan Police Hockey Team and the National Academy Mati Tal Team to strengthen ties between the police and the public.

He added that such initiatives significantly contribute to community policing by fostering cooperation and mutual understanding between citizens and law enforcement agencies.

The CPO advised the players to continue their hard work with discipline and team spirit, describing these qualities as the key to lasting success.

On the occasion, the academy's coach and players expressed their gratitude to the CPO for his keen interest in promoting sports and appreciated the police administration's support for youth engagement through healthy and constructive activities.

## PCB Talent Hunt Programme for School Cricket (Karachi Region)

**Sports Desk**

KARACHI: Two more matches decided in the PCB Talent Hunt Programme for School Cricket (Karachi Region) at various Grounds of the City.

The highlights of the days play was deadly bowling by right arm leg spinner Muhammad Shaheryar 5/7, Off Spinners Hadi Dero 4/2 and Muhammad Aqil 4/12.

Scores in Brief:

The City School beat Karachi Public School by 5 Wickets at Jinnah College Ground. Karachi Public School 60 all-out in 13.3 overs. Muhammad Saad Khan 32. Muhammad Shaheryar (rlb) 5/7, Hadi Dero (ob) 4/2.

In reply The City School 61/5 in 8.3 overs. Usman Waheed 29. Ayan Zia (rlb) 31.5, Muhammad Saad Khan 2/35.

In the 2nd Match Hira Foundation School beat NJV School by 8 Wickets at Darul Uloom Korangi Ground. NJV School 102 all-out in 27.5 overs. Ameen Raza 26 not out. Muhammad Aqil (ob) 4/12, Muhammad Zakwan Usmani 2/12.

In reply Hira Foundation School 104/2 in 21.3 overs. Muhammad Fakhar Sialvi 51 7x4, Usman Ghani 35 both not out.

## ICCI President inaugurates Tape Ball Cricket Tournament: terms sports vital for personal growth, national progress



**Sports Desk**

ISLAMABAD: President of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI), Sardar Tahir Mehmood, formally inaugurated the Tape Ball Cricket Tournament here on Thursday at the F-9 Park Cricket Ground. The event, being jointly organized by the ICCI and the Islamabad Estate Agents Association (IEAA), will be played under the knockout format from 6th to 9th November, featuring the participation of 24 enthusiastic teams.

Speaking at the opening ceremony as Chief Guest, the President ICCI highlighted the indispensable role of sports in fostering mental and physical well-being, promoting teamwork, discipline, and resilience, the qualities equally vital in personal development and national progress. He said that sports are not just recreational activities, but effective tools for uniting communities, empowering youth, and shaping a healthier, more dynamic society.

He stated, "A nation that actively engages in sports is not only strong in spirit but also well-positioned for growth. Sports invigorate energy, build character, and cultivate the sense of unity that every nation needs to progress."

Emphasizing ICCI's broader mission, Sardar Tahir Mehmood reaffirmed the Chamber's commitment to fully support initiatives that bolster both physical well-being and industrial growth. He underlined that a vibrant sports culture goes hand in hand with a prosperous business climate as both rely on motivation, teamwork, and continuous improvement.

"ICCI is actively working to create an environment where business flourishes alongside human development. Supporting sports is part of our broader goal to boost national confidence, attract global engagement, and strengthen social harmony through inclusive, healthy activities," he added.

On this occasion, those prominent included ICCI Council Members Mian Shaukat Masood, Mohammad Ejaz Abbasi, Executive Members Zulqurnain Abbasi, Ishaq Sial Umair Aziz Malik, former President IEAA Chaudhry Abdul Rauf, General Secretary Chaudhry Zahid Rafique, ICCI members Israr Mishwani, Tahir Abbasi, Ahmed Khan, former Vice President Mohammad Naveed Malik and renowned tape ball cricket stars Khuram Chakwal, Taimour Mirza and Ethsham Satti.

Group Photo

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in a group photo with the Turkish Delegation led by Turkish Interior Minister Ali Yerlikaya on Thursday.



Photo: PID

# Prime Minister reaffirms unbreakable Pakistan-Turkiye fraternal bonds

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister of the Republic of Türkiye Ali Yerlikaya,, who is currently on an official visit to Pakistan, paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister Muham-mad Shehbaz Sharif, at the Prime Minister House here on Thursday.

During the warm and

cordial meeting, the Prime Minister welcomed the Turkish Minister and his delegation, and said that the visit highlighted the strong fraternal ties between Paki-stan and Turkiye.

The Prime Minister conveyed his warm regards and greetings to Recep Tayyip Erdogan, President of the Republic of Türkiye and

reaffirmed Pakistan’s reso-lute commitment to further deepen bilateral coopera-tion in the fields of security, counter-terrorism, coun-ter-narcotics, police training, disaster management, trade, and economic development.

The Prime Minister praised Turkiye’s strong and unwa-vering support for Paki-stan’s stance on key issues.

He particularly thanked the Turkish leadership for its role in facilitating the ongoing peace talks between Pakistan and Afghanistan in Istanbul.

While thanking the Prime Minister for the warm hospi-tality extended to him and his delegation, the Turkish Interior Minister conveyed greet-ings from President Erdogan and expressed Turkiye’s strong

desire for enhanced collabora-tion in law enforcement, intel-ligence-sharing, and disaster management.

The Prime Minister was assisted by Deputy Prime Minister & Foreign Minister, Interior Minister, Minister of State for Interior, SAPM Tariq Fatemi, Chairman NDMA, Interior Secretary and Foreign Secretary.

# CJCSC Gen Sahir Shamshad meets Brunei Sultan, top military leadership

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJCSC) General Sahir Shamshad Mirza, who is on an official visit to Brunei Darussalam, had an audience with Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu’izzaddin Waddaulah Ibni Al Marhum Sultan Haji Omar ‘Ali Saifud-dien Sa’adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.

The CJCSC also held sepa-rate meetings with Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Laila-raja Major General (Retired) Dato Paduka Seri Awang Haji Halbi bin Haji Mohd Yussof, Minister at PM’s office and Minister of Defence-II and Major General Dato Paduka Seri Haji Muhammad Haszaimi bin Bol Hassan, Commander of the Royal



Brunei Armed Forces, said a news release issued by Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) on Thursday.

In addition, the CJCSC also

visited KDB DARULAMAN at Muara Naval Base and Defence Academy Royal Brunei Armed Forces, where he delivered a talk on “Pakistan’s contribu-

tions to regional peace and stability” and interacted with the students of the Command and Staff course, including officers from 19 foreign coun-

tries, it further said.

During meetings, both sides discussed the evolving global and regional security environ-ment.

The Chairman JCSC under-scored Pakistan’s cordial rela-tions with Brunei Darussalam and expressed his commit-ment to further strengthening military-to-military ties and defence cooperation.

The Sultan and civil-mil-itary leadership of Brunei Darussalam appreciated the high professional standards of the Pakistan Armed Forces and their achievements and sacrifices in the fight against terrorism.

Upon arrival at the Head-quarters of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces, a smartly turned-out military contingent presented ‘Guard of Honour’ to the CJCSC.

## Two abductees rescued from Katcha area

LAHORE: Rahim Yar Khan Police conducted a successful intelligence-based targeted operation against Katcha criminals, safely recover-ing two abducted citizens on Thursday.

According to a Punjab Police spokesperson, the police also arrested the notorious kidnapper, Ibrahim Machhi, during the operation.

The spokesperson added that the abducted citizens, Nabeel and Hasnain, were kidnapped two days earlier by armed men from the Ahmadpur Lamma area.

Inspector General of Police (IGP) Punjab Dr. Usman Anwar commended the Rahim Yar Khan Police for the safe recovery of the kidnapped citizens and the arrest of notorious criminal.

# Amir Muqam pays tribute to Jammu martyrs, reaffirms Pakistan’s support for Kashmir cause

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs, Gilgit-Baltistan and SAFRON, Engineer Amir Muqam, on Thursday paid rich tribute to the martyrs of Jammu, reiterating Pakistan’s unwavering political, moral and diplomat-ic support for the Kashmiri people in their just struggle for self-determination.

Addressing a seminar held at Kashmir House, Islamabad, in connection with Youm-e-Shuhada-e-Jammu (Jammu Martyrs Day), organized by the All Parties Hurriyat Conference under the lead-ership of Convener Ghulam Muhammad Safi, the minister saluted the courage and sacri-fices of the Kashmiri people.

He said the All Parties Hurriyat Conference, despite all hardships, had kept the Kashmir issue alive at the international level. “Many



people are unaware of the atrocities committed in oc-cupied Jammu and Kashmir where hundreds of thou-sands of people were martyred within a few days in 1947,”

Amir Muqam remarked.

He lamented that Indian forces had forcefully entered Kashmir and tried to occupy it, adding that the oppres-sion of innocent Kashmiris

continues to this day. “The resilience and faith of Kash-miris remain unshaken even after eight decades. Their spirit for freedom is alive,” he said.

# President Zardari appreciates Qatar’s media diplomacy for peace



City Desk

DOHA: President Asif Zardari has appreciated the Qatar’s role in promoting peace and understanding through media diplomacy.

He was talking to Director General of Al-Jazeera Media Network, Nasser Bin Faisal Bin Khalifa Al Thani, who called on him in Doha today. Welcoming the Director General, President Zardari appreciated Qatar’s warm hospitality and the excellent meetings held with the Qatari leadership, including Emir of Qatar, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, the Prime Minister, and the Minister for Defence. The President commended Al Jazeera’s global role

in promoting objective journalism and fostering understanding among nations.

He lauded Qatar’s principled stance on regional and interna-tional issues, particularly its lead-ership in efforts to end the suffering of the Palestinian people and bring peace to Gaza. In his remarks, Director General of Al-Jazeera Media Network, Nasser Bin Faisal Bin Khalifa Al Thani thanked the President for the opportunity to call on him.

The meeting was attended by First Lady Bibi Aseefa Bhutto Zardari, Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, and Paki-stan’s Ambassador to Qatar.

# Speaker of Iran Consultative Assembly calls on Gilani



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Iran have reaffirmed their commitment to deepening cooperation in all fields and to continuing close consultation on matters of common interest. This came at a meeting between Acting President Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani and Speaker of the Islamic Consulta-tive Assembly of Iran Dr Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf in Islamabad today.

A wide range of subjects, including bilateral trade, overall bilateral rela-tions, the regional situation and international developments, were also discussed. During the meeting, the Acting President emphasised the need to further strengthen political dialogue, economic connectivity and people-to-people exchanges.

He highlighted the role of regular interaction between parliamentary

committees and friendship groups in promoting cooperation on issues such as border management, counter-nar-cotics and facilitation for pilgrims. He further said that parliamentary engagement provides an important channel to advance understanding and promote cooperation for the benefit of the people of both coun-tries.

The Acting President also called for greater collaboration between the two countries in education, culture and youth linkages through academic and medical cooperation and exchange programmes.

In his remarks, Dr Ghalibaf said Iran is keen to expand parliamen-tary and economic ties with Paki-stan. He added that a parliamentary delegation from Iran would attend the upcoming Inter-Parliamentary Speakers’ Conference in Pakistan.

# Balochistan imposes Section 144 for 30 days, denies PTI rally over security concerns

Bureau Report

QUETTA: The Balochistan govern-ment has imposed Section 144 across the province for 30 days to maintain law and order, according to an official notification issued on Thursday.

Under Section 144, the display of weapons, public rallies, sit-ins, and gatherings of more than five people have been banned.

The notification stated that the deci-sion was taken to prevent any unto-ward incident and ensure public safety.

Authorities warned that legal action would be taken against violators.

Meanwhile, the provincial govern-ment has denied permission for a Paki-stan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) rally sched-uled for November 7 in Quetta.

Official sources said the decision was made due to serious security threats.

Security alerts have been issued in the provincial capital, and the local administration has tightened meas-ures to avoid any untoward situation, officials added.