

ABC Rectified le Spokesman

ر صحیح بزاری: حدیث نبر ۵۹6 **Barkat Rice Mills** (Pvt) Limited

Nation stands behind armed forces in fight against terrorism: Raja Pervez Ashraf

In his statement, Raja Pervez Ashraf strongly condemned the cowardly terrorist attack on Cadet College Wana, saying that the security forces foiled the terrorists' attempt to carry out another tragedy like the APS (Army Public School) attack



Targeting innocent people is unforgivable crime: Sarfraz Bugti

Chief Minister of Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Bugti on Tuesda strongly condemned the suicide attack in Islamabad and said that targeting innocent people is an unforgivable crime. He expressed heartfelt condolences to the families of the martyrs, and prayed for the speedy recovery of the injured.

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Jamadi-ul-Awwal 21, Thursday, November 13, 2025

www.dailyspokesman.net



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Daily Spokesman Vol: 19, Issue: 208 Price Rs. 25.00 Pages 8

A Leading National Daily

Addressed

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif addresses session of the National Assembly on Wednesday.



National Assembly approves 27th amendment bill with two-thirds majority

Naveed Ahmad Khan

A total of 234 members voted in the key legislation. favour of the amendment, while four voted against it.

Ayaz Sadiq, the House completed the in favour and four against. clause-by-clause approval of all 59 clauses of the amendment.

conducted under the Division of House

Governor

parties attend

Pakhtunkhwa

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government held the peace jirga at the provincial assembly to discuss the law and order situation in the province. The peace jirga began

under the chairmanship

of Babar Saleem Swati,

speaker of the assembly,

and was presided over by

Chief Minister Sohail Afri-

Upon his arrival, Sohail

Afridi was presented with

the guard of honour by the

Governor Kundi calls

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

for unity to restore peace in

Governor Kundi said

that everyone must work

guide the younger genera-

tion in the right direction.

together for peace and

police.

peace jirga

Kundi, political

Khyber

Constitutional Amendment bill with to the House, and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif congratulated the assembly members on the passage of

During the clause-by-clause

The law minister introduced eight

All 59 clauses were approved with a two-thirds majority.

Following National Assembly approval, the bill will now be sent to the Senate for approval.

Speaking after the vote, Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar said Earlier, Law Minister Azam Nazeer that ambiguity around the office of

> tations, he stated that all parties supported the amendment.

Field Marshal Asim Munir 'himself oversaw' operation after Wana College attack

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Security sources said that Field Marshal Asim Munir closely monitored the operation at all times. According to security sources, Field Marshal Asim Munir instructed the security forces conducting the operation that the teachers and students are a precious national asset and must be protected at all costs.

Colonel Muhammad Tahir, the operation commander who led the mission that foiled the attack by Afghan militants on Cadet College Wana, stated that on November 10, five Afghan extremists launched an assault on the college.

He said Cadet College Wana is a valuable gift from the Pakistan Army to the people of South Waziristan, and the and development to demor- militants were eliminated."



Colonel Tahir explained that one suicide attacker detonated himself while the other militants tried to storm through the main gate and attempted to take students hostage. The army officer added that

the prompt and decisive action of the security forces thwarted both the attack and the terrorists' malicious objectives.

"We confined the terrorists to a specific block to ensure the safety of the students," Colonel Tahir said. "Between 10 and militants had attempted to 10:30 pm yesterday, following target this symbol of education a full-scale operation, all the

Continued on Page 7

PM Shehbaz summons cabinet meeting today

Photo: Online

Punjab Bar

跨 City Desk

abad lawyers.

cases as usual todav.

arrangements in courts.

ISLAMABAD: Punjab Bar

Council called for complete

ince today against blast in

District Court Islamabad.

Council, lawyers will not

strike in courts across the prov

According to Punjab Bar

Council calls for strike against

Islamabad blast

appear in courts today and strike will be held as

a mark of mourning and solidarity with Islam-

Lahore High Court Bar also expressed deep

sorrow and anger over Islamabad District Court

Lawyers demanded transparent investigation

of the incident from the government and exem-

Lawyers also demanded effective security

plary punishment for those responsible.

blast. However, Lahore High Court will hear

ISLAMARAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif summoned acts of terrorism, they reafwill be taken during the meeting. The Prime Minister directed all ministers to ensure their

presence during the meeting. The meeting with be held at Committee Room No 2 at Parliament House at 5:00 pm. The ministers will be briefed about the changes made further in the 27th Constitutional Amendment Bill.

On November 11, 225, Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif called on President Asif Ali Zardari at and Abdul Aleem Khan Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad. were also present during the They discussed overall secu- meeting.

rity and political situation of the country. Condemning the recent

a meeting of his cabinet in firmed that operations against Islamabad today. According foreign-sponsored terrorto details, important decisions ists and their facilitators will continue till terrorism is completely eliminated from the country.

The President and the Prime Minister also discussed matters of national importance.

Chairman Senate Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani, Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, and federal ministers Mohsin Naqvi, Chaudhry Salik Hussain, Azam Nazeer Tarar, Khalid Hussain Magsi

ISLAMABAD: The National Assembly on Wednesday approved the 27th an overwhelming two-thirds majority amid a noisy protest by the opposition.

Presided over by Speaker Sardar

The final stage of voting was

procedure, with separate lobbies designer new clauses to the amendment bill. nated for supporters and opponents

After the voting, members returned

Tarar moved the 27th Amendment bill in the House, which received 231 votes

approval process, the opposition staged

the Chief Justice of Pakistan has been removed. Pointing out that amendments should be made after thorough consul-

Continued on Page 7

Security beefed up at IHC, LHC after suicide attack



👺 Bureau Report

LAHORE: Security was tightened at the Islamabad High Court (IHC), Lahore High Court (LHC), and adjacent areas on Wednesday after Tuesday's suicide attack outside the Judicial Complex in Islamabad. Islamabad High Court Chief Justice, Justice Sarfraz main gate of Islamabad High Court and reviewed security

arrangements. stand outside the building of the Islamabad High Court.

of the Lahore High Court (LHC) Justice Alia Neelum has directed the Inspector and district administra-General of Punjab Police to strengthen security at all courts across the province, including the Lahore High Court, following the suicide threat. blast outside the Islamabad district courts.

Punjab has been placed Ahmad Dogar stopped at the on high alert after a deadly suicide attack in Islamabad that left several people dead No person is allowed to an immediate security review

across the province.

and scores injured, prompting

(Rescue 1122).

According to an official

In Lahore, Chief Justice notification issued by the Punjab Home Department, law enforcement agencies tions have been directed to enhance vigilance and implement comprehensive security plans to prevent any spillover

> circular dispatched to all senior officials, including the Inspector General of Police, divisional commissioners, regional and city police officers, deputy commissioners, and the Punjab Emergency Service

Continued on Page 7

DON'T MISS THE SPECIAL OFFER



Thursday, November 13, 2025

Spiritual leader Pir Syed Basir Hussain Shah Gardizi passes away suddenly

👺 Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: prominent political and spiritual figor Pir Syed Basir Hussain Shah Gardizi Sohavi has been expired to here today.on sudden death news President Muslim Conference Sardar Attique Khan left Islamabad for Dhirkot and attended funeral prayers

Expressing deep sorrow and regret over his sudden death, Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan. He said that Suhawa Sharif is the ancestor Shrine of our grandfather late Sardar Abdullah Khan and we have a deep spiritual and emotional connection with him from generation to generation. We extend our heartfelt condolences to all the members of the elderly family and the family, adding that the services and spiritual guidance of the deceased will always be remembered or appreciated. Meanwhile, in a joint statement, the leaders of the Muslim Conference expressed their condolences to former President Mirza Muhammad Shafiq Jaral Advocate, Muslim Conference Secretary-General Mohtarma Meha-

Chief Organizer Muslim Conference Raja Saqib Majid, former Prime Conference District Muzaffarabad



Maroof, Former Chairman Youth Wing Sardar Usman Ali Khan, Chairperson Women Wing Samia Sajid Raja, Muslim Conference Advocate, Major Retired Nasrullah Khan, Sardar Abid Razaq, General Secretary of Muslim

Minister Shamim Ali Malik, Raja Zafar Raja Liaquat, President of Muslim Chaudhry Shaukat, Riaz Pulhaji, Haji Conference City Muzaffarabad Sheikh Magsood Ahmed, Chairman Vice President Advocate, Chairman Muslim Conference Finance Board Sved Abbas Shah, Raja Muhammad Latif Hasrat. Junaid Altaf, Raja Zarin Khan, Majid Tahari, Afshan Saeed, Choudhry,

Ashraf Advocate, Salim Awan, Sajjad Anwar Abbasi, Syed Tassuor Mousavi, Retired Colonel Arif Abbasi, Bashar Jihandad, Bashri Tabshem Advocate,, Gaddafi Altaf and others expressed deep sorrow over the death of Pir Syedy

Funeral prayers

ISLAMABAD: Mourners offer funeral prayers for a deceased lawyer, a day after suicide bombing in the Federal Capital, a day after suicide bombing. Charred vehicles and a mangled motorcycle lay outside Islamabad's district court on November 11, their metal frames still warm as investigators sealed off the area where a suicide bomber had killed at least 12 people.



Photo: Online

Markazi Jamiat Ahle Hadith Mourns Islamabad Tragedy, Hails Army

Abdul Majeed

FAISALABAD: Nazim-e-Ala Markazi Jamiat Ahle Hadith Pakistan Allama Abdul Rashid Hijazi and Khalid worth condemning. Markazi Jamidi said that an attack on innocent lives is Mahmood Azamabadi expressed at Ahle Hadith Pakistan prays for the an attack on humanity. Markazi Jamideep sorrow over the martyrdom of 12 forgiveness of those who lost their lives at Ahle Hadith Pakistan pays tribute people and the injury of many others during the cowardly act and prays for to the sacrifices of the Pakistan Army

in a suicide blast near the courthouse the speedy recovery of the injured. in G-11 Sector, Islamabad, and said Expressing deep sorrow and grief over that the suicide blast is a very sad and heartbreaking tragedy, which is not

the suicide blast, Allama Abdul Rashid Hijazi and Khalid Mahmood Azamaba-



and hopes that the Pakistan Army will play the best role in eliminating terrorists. The entire nation stands by them.

13th Day of World Culture Festival 2025 at Karachi Arts Council

👺 Bureau Report

KARACHI: The 13th day of the 39-day World Culture Festival 2025 was marked by the celebration of film and theatre, featuring screenings and stage performances in Urdu and Sindhi languages that received great appreciation from the audience. The day began with a film screening session titled "Central / South Asian Stories", featuring two films, "Fish on the Hook", a joint Iran and Tajikistan production and" Scent of Life" from Afghanistan. Both films attracted a large audience. "Fish on the Hook", directed by Muhiddin Muzaffar, tells the story of a ten-year-old boy named Daler, who embarks on a journey with a gambler named Samad to find his perspective. mother. Along the way, Daler faces challenges that shape his personality and maturity. The film highlights the importance of family from a child's



The Afghan short "Scent of Life", directed by Sayed Mohsen Hossaini, portrays a student preparing a gift for his friend. The film, presented in

Persian, was praised for its emotional simplicity and human connection. At the end of the film screening, a bouquet was presented to Satish Anand by the Arts Council of Pakistan

wright and director Sameena Nazeer presented her Urdu theatre play 'Kheltay Raho" at Studio II. Actors Samhan Ghazi and Rachna Kirpalani delivered powerful performances in this two-character absurd play set on a cold, lonely night in Istanbul. The story depicts a woman seeking shelter from bad weather with her baby and the emotional world that unfolds within the flat — filled with hope, fear, truth, and illusion. The play also references "Alf Laila, where tells a new story each night. "شرزاد The day concluded with the Sindhi adaptation of the French playwright, actress, and novelist Yasmina Reza's acclaimed drama "Art", directed by Paras Masroor. The cast, Arshad Shaikh, Nadir Hussain, and Umair Bhutto, captivated the audience with their remarkable performances.

Karachi as a gesture of appreciation. Later in the evening, renowned play-

PPP Azad Kashmir gears up for grand 58th Foundation Day Celebration

ISLAMABAD: People's Party (PPP) Azad Kashmir has announced that its 58th foundation day will be celebrated with utmost devotion and respect in the Azad Region with utmost devotion and ideo-



logical enthusiasm. Chairman of the party's founding leader Quaid-e-Awam Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, daughter of the East, Ms. Benazir Bhutto Pakistan

While briefing the media persons The Minister AJK and Central leader People's Party Azad Kashmir Seyed Bazil Ali Naqvi and Central Deputy Secretary Information Candidate Assembly Member Shaukat Javed Mir said that President of Pakistan Asif Ali Zardari, Chairman Bilawal Bhutto, Chairperson of Political Affairs Ms. Faryal Talpur Central Sinhari Party Chaudhry Muhammad Yasin Speaker Chaudhry Latif Akbar General Secretary Faisal Rathore issued instructions to party organizations to make preparations to celebrate the day in a dignified manner Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto kept the issue of Kashmir and the right to self-determination and asked the beloved Islamic Republic of Pakistan not to use its nuclear program to defend its unanimous

GC Women's VC Meets FCCI President to Bridge Skills Gap and Industry Needs



Majid Majid

FAISALABAD: There is a need to develop the overall personality of university graduates so that they can take decisions in the best interest of the country and nation, despite the rapidly changing conditions and curriculum. This was said by the Vice Chancellor of Government College Women University Faisalabad, Professor Dr. Ms. Kanwal Amin, during a meeting with the President of Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Farooq Yousuf Sheikh. She said that artificial intelligence has eliminated many professions and sectors, but for social evolution, we have to use artificial intelligence as well as enhance the creative and critical skills of students. He stressed on research in universities according to the needs of industries and said that the links between universities and industries will be increased through the chamber so that industries can be provided with manpower according to their needs and also be informed about the research being done in higher educational institutions. President Faisalabad Chamber Farooq Yousuf Sheikh appreciated the positive thinking of the Vice Chancellor and said that we have to get out of personalism to $\,$ become a nation so that educated female students can be made good human beings. He said that he will hold another meeting with the Vice Chancellor Ms. Kanwal Amin in which important decisions will be taken to enhance mutual cooperation. Finally, President Farooq Yousuf Sheikh also presented the Chamber's honorary shield and gifts to the Vice Chancellor. Senior Vice President Naveed Akram Sheikh, Vice President Engineer Asim Munir, Abdullah Qadri and Muhammad Haroon Waheed were also present on the occasion.

An intellectual session on the Islamic Renaissance held at Al-Hamra Arts Council



Bureau Report

LAHORE,: An academic and intellectual session was organized under the auspices of the Islamic Culture Department, in collaboration with the Lahore Arts Council Al-Hamra and in collaboration with the Pakistan Philosophical Association on the title "Creative Thought of the Islamic Renaissance: From Allama Iqbal to Dr. Burhan Ahmed Farooqi". The speakers emphasized the adoption of Allama Iqbal's creative ideas for the rise and intellectual revival of the Muslim Ummah and said that Iqbal's thought is still the source of the intellectual revival of the Muslim Ummah. The ceremony was presided over by Dr. Muhammad Akram Chaudhry, while Executive Director Lahore Arts Council Al-Hamra Muhammad Mehboob Alam Chaudhry was the special guest. While expressing his views, he said that Allah Almighty has made man understand the fact by taking eleven oaths that the real success lies in the purity of the soul. Dr. Burhanuddin Ahmed Farooqi considers the spiritual development of an individual to be hidden in the resistance to psychological demands and has subordinated social rise to the institutional order of interests. Dr. Waheed-uz-Zaman Tariq and Dr. Abdul Rauf Rafiqi were present as guests of honor. A large number of renowned scholars, intellectuals, students and citizens of the city attended.

Development projects in Karachi to serve as milestone for urban populace: Sharjeel

KARACHI:Senior Minister Sindh Sharjeel Inam Memon on Wednesday said that the ongoing development projects in Karachi will serve as milestone for urban convenience and sustainable future growth.

The K-IV project is a promise made to the people of Karachi, under which the city would be provided clean and abundant water. In a statement, Senior Minister and Provincial Minister for Information, Transport, and Mass Transit, Sharjeel Inam Memon, said that all departments of the Sindh government were working in complete coordination as per the directives of the Chief Minister.

The purpose of laying a water pipeline from Aziz Bhatti Park to Urdu University is to provide long-term convenience to citizens. While temporary traffic issues are arising, these challenges are steps toward a permanent solution. He appealed to the public to cooperate, as these projects are being completed for their better future.



Namaz Timings

EMERGENCY

FIMILIZOFIAC I
Rescue (Police) 15
Bomb Disposal 15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/
Islamabad1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance 1122 &
& Rescue Services 4451122
Motorway Police9266044
Motorway Police 9270601-20

ENGLIIDV

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

HOSPITALS

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

DEDADTMENTS

. 9221334-43
9208301-04
. 9250360-6
5555864
5770886
9270151-3
an
9209224
9209224
5773343

COMPLAINTS

E-7, F-10 & F-11 .. G-5, G-6, G-7, G-8,9203883 G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, H-8 ..9266316 Wapda Islamabad......9217579-80 Sui Gas Complaint..... 119, 9272249 Wasa Water Tank ..0331-5022125

Revolutionary measures will be taken to resolve public issues, DC Mardan

跨 Tariq Khan Yousafzai

TAKHT BHAI: Deputy Commissioner of Mardan, Wasif Rehman, has said that revolutionary measures will be taken to resolve public issues. He stated that, in addition to imposing fines, shops involved in encroachments or selling adulterated food items will also be sealed without hesitation. He urged the business community to fully cooperate with the administration in eliminating illegal encroachments. Regarding the eradication of ice (crystal meth) and other drugs, he announced that a task force will soon be formed in collaboration with the police.

The Deputy Commissioner emphasized that eliminating bribery and tout culture from all government offices is their top priority. To address the problems highlighted by the public, a special committee has been formed under the supervision of Assistant Commissioner Takht Bhai, Adnan Mumtaz, which includes TMO Takht Bhai Rehman Sher Khan, DSP Takht Bhai Abid Wazir, and a senior officer from the DHO office Mardan as members

AIOU Islamabad Chapter Convocation 2025: 800 students awarded degrees

ISLAMABAD: The convocation of Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) Islamabad Chapter was held in a grand ceremony at Jinnah Convention Centre yesterday. A total of 800 male and female students were conferred degrees for successfully completing their academic programs while Gold, Silver and Bronze medals were awarded to those who demonstrated outstanding performance.

The chief guest of the memorable ceremony was Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui, while Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Nasir Mahmood hosted the event. The ceremony was attended by Secretary of Education / Acting Chairman Higher Education Commission Nadeem Mahbub, Vice Chancellors of various universities, faculty members and distinguished social and political figures, which added further prestige to

Addressing the graduates, Federal congratulated the students and their uating from a university that is spreading country," he said.



parents, saying "Today, as you step out of the world of academia and into practical life, it is time to use your knowledge and abilities to build the nation. The destination may be far, but if the path is right it will surely be reached. I am confident that each of you represents the promise of a Minister Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui bright future for Pakistan. You are grad-

the light of knowledge across the country."

Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood expressed pride in the students' achievements stating that there is hardly a home in Pakistan without a student of Allama Iqbal Open University. "We are proud of our graduates who are serving in various institutions across the

Highlighting the university's excellence, Dr. Nasir added that AIOU students are in no way behind those from other universities, having earned numerous awards at national and international levels. Speaking about the university's social initiatives, he mentioned that AIOU provides free education to transgender persons, prison inmates and

persons with disabilities, as well as free matriculation education for children in Balochistan, Gilgit-Baltistan and merged tribal districts.

He further noted that the university's academic outreach now spans the globe, with international students from 37 countries enrolled in the most recent

Grass Cutter

ISLAMABAD: Girls are taking interest in the traditional grass cutter at Punjab Pavilion during annual Lok Mela at Lok Versa in Federal Capital



Attock Deputy Commissioner Declares Book Friendships Key to Progress at 5th Book Fair Opening

👺 Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: Deputy Commissioner Attock, Rao Atif Raza, has said that friendship with books is a guarantee of human development, intellectual growth, and social stability. He stated that knowledge and reading grant a person awareness, tolerance, and positive thinking.

He expressed these views while addressing the opening ceremony of the 5th Book Fair at the Attock Municipal Committee Hall as the chief

On this occasion, District

Sardar Moarrhan Khan, Additional Deputy Commissioner General Anil Saeed, Assistant Commissioner Attock Anza Abbasi, Chief Officer Municipal Committee Sardar Aftab Ahmad Khan, CEO Education Dr. Muhammad Azhar, and a promote the habit of reading large number of literary figures, and study within society. They teachers, students, and citizens added that the district adminfrom different walks of life were istration is taking effective

mony, Deputy Commissioner the younger generation can be Rao Atif Raza and DPO Sardar Moarrhan Khan visited various and constructive pursuits. stalls at the book fair. The stall

Police Officer (DPO) Attock distinguished guests about the that a grand poetry sympobooks published on different topics and also presented them with important literary and academic works.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC and DPO said that organizing book fairs helps measures to promote literary After the inaugural cere- and academic activities so that encouraged toward positive

Commissioner Deputy representatives briefed the Attock further announced

sium (mushaira) would soon be held at the Attock Gymkhana. featuring both renowned and local poets. He also stated that the next book fair would be organized at a larger and more suitable venue to allow greater participation from citizens and students.

The book fair proved to be a successful literary and educational event, drawing significant public interest in the promotion of knowledge and literature. Shields and certificates of appreciation were also distributed among the partic-

Meezan Bank Receives the 'Best Bank of the Year-Large Size Banks' Award

KARACHI: Meezan Bank, utive year that CFA Society Pakistan's leading Islamic Pakistan has recognized bank, has been declared the winner of the 'Best Bank of the industry basis as the 'Best Year - Large Size Banks' award by the CFA Society Pakistan, a member society of the CFA Institute, USA, at its 22nd Annual Excellence Awards

held recently in Karachi. This marks the sixth consec-

Meezan Bank on an overall Bank of the Year', competing with the largest local and conventional players. The years of this prestigious recog-Bank was also named the 'Best nition. Islamic Bank of the Year' for its outstanding performance, innovation, and leadership in



Islamic finance, marking 15 Deputy CEO-Meezan Bank,

Mr. Irfan Siddiqui, Founder President & CEO-Meezan stan, who graced the occasion Bank, and Dr. Syed Amir Ali, as the Chief Guest.

received the Best Bank award from Mr. Jameel Ahmad, Governor, State Bank of Paki-

The Bank has previously been honored multiple times by the organization for its excellence in providing Islamic financial services that cater to the diverse needs of its clients.

Federal ombudsman's advisor Shahid Hussain Jilani holds open court in Kamalia Fesco complex

👺 Zafar Chishti

TOBA TEK SINGH: Advisor to the Federal Ombudsman of Pakistan Shahid Hussain Jilani, held an open court at the WAPDA Complex Kamalia, where a large number of citizens participated and presented various complaints related to WAPDA. Advisor



Shahid Hussain Jilani attentively listened to the public grievances and issued on the spot instructions to the concerned WAPDA officials for their immediate resolution. He stated that the institution of the Federal Ombuds man is actively working to ensure prompt justice to the people.He informed that around fifty complaints were heard during today's open court, most of which were related to excessive billing, meter issues, pension matters and delays in new connections.

Advisor Jilani said that the purpose of holding open courts is to establish direct communication between the public and government institutions to ensure quick redressal of issues. He further added that the doors of the Federal Ombudsman of Pakistan are always open for citizens and no one will face obstacles in seeking justice. WAPDA officials, representatives of the local community and media persons were also present on the occasion.

Action against farmers involved in burning crop residues

Zafar Chishti

TOBA TEK SINGH: The Extra Assistant Director (Extension) Kamalia Ali Mohtisham said that strict action is being taken against farmers involved in burning crop residues in view of the ongoing smog situation. He stated that the agriculture department's field teams are actively monitoring rural areas to discourage the harmful practice of residue burning, which contributes significantly to environmental pollution and smog.

Ali Mohtisham further informed that 24 farmers have been fined a total of Rs. 435,000 for violating the government's ban on burning crop residues. He emphasized that awareness campaigns are also underway to educate farmers about environment-friendly methods of disposing of crop residues and promoting sustainable agricultural practices.

He added that the government has directed all agriculture officers to remain vigilant in the field and take immediate action against any violations to ensure clean air and public health during the smog season.

RWU hosts 4th Int'l Scientific Conference to reimagine 21st-century research landscape

RAWALPINDI: The Rawalpindi Women University (RWU) on Wednesday successfully organized its 4th International Scientific Conference titled "Revamped Scientific Outlook of the Twenty-First Century," bringing together leading researchers, scientists, industrialists, and academicians from Pakistan and abroad to discuss emerging scientific frontiers and collaborative research opportunities.

Continuing the tradition established in 2022, the two-day event provided an inclusive platform for multidisciplinary dialogue and research exchange, enabling participants to share innovative ideas and explore solutions to global challenges through science and technology.

In her inaugural address, Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Bushra Mirza (Pride of Performance, Tamgha-e-Imtiaz) expressed pride in witnessing the transformation of her alma mater from a college into a vibrant, researchdriven university. "The defining feature of any university is its research culture," she remarked, emphasizing that cross-disciplinary collaboration is essential for addressing complex issues of the modern era. Dr. Mirza highlighted the importance of academia-industry linkages, expressing confidence that RWU's young researchers and faculty would drive impactful scientific advancements.

The chief guest, Prof. Dr. Shahid Mahmood Baig (Tamgha-e-Imtiaz), Head of the Life Sciences Department at the Health Services Academy, Islamabad, lauded RWU's efforts in nurturing a culture of scientific inquiry. He, however, expressed concern over Pakistan's low investment in research—only 0.16% of GDP, calling for greater focus on applied science to ensure tangible societal benefits. "We live in an era of integrated science where solutions emerge from collaboration among diverse disciplines," he noted, urging the creation of stronger national and international research networks. Prominent international scholars, including Prof. Dr. Axel Klein from the University of Cologne, Germany, and Prof. Dr. Norma Alias from Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT), delivered insightful keynote lectures. Prof. Dr. Hassan Sher, Vice Chancellor of the University of Swat, attended as Guest of Honour, commending RWU's commitment to scientific excellence.

Asim Nazir Ahmad

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Daily The Spokesman available only on annual subscription

Hajj conference

s part of the Hajj Conference and Exhibition 1447 AH, currently being held in Jeddah under the slogan "From Makkah to the World," the Dallah Albaraka Group announced a series of strategic expansions in its transportation and hospitality sectors to better serve pilgrims.

Strategic expansions in transportation, hospitality sectors launched to better serve pilgrims, as part of Hajj conference

The announcement came on the sidelines of the group's participation as a strategic sponsor of the conference, organized by the Ministry of Hajj and Umrah under the patronage of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, according to SPA.

Strategic expansions in transportation, hospitality sectors launched to better serve pilgrims, as part of Hajj conference

Loay Abdul Latif Gharab, Managing Director of Hospitality, Holy Sites, and Transportation Services at Dallah Albaraka Group, underlined the company's longstanding commitment to serving pilgrims by continuously enhancing its operational systems. He revealed that the group has added 400 new 2026-model buses to the fleet of Dallah Hajj Transport Company, all equipped with advanced smart comfort and safety technologies.

"With this expansion, Dallah's total fleet now exceeds 1,250 buses," Gharab said. "This strengthens our capacity to meet the growing demand for transportation services during Hajj and Umrah seasons and ensures an exceptional travel experience that aligns with the goals of Saudi Vision 2030."

In the hospitality sector, Gharab noted that the group has launched a comprehensive renovation project for the Dallah Taibah Hotel in Madinah, which features 473 units and is located only steps away from the Prophet's Mosque.

"We are completely redesigning the hotel to meet the highest international hospitality standards," he explained, "drawing inspiration from the authenticity and spiritual essence of Madinah to establish it as one of the region's premier luxury destinations."

Gharab emphasized that these initiatives reflect Dallah Albaraka's strategic direction toward sustainable Hajj and Umrah services and its commitment to enhancing the overall pilgrim experience through investment in technological and operational innovation and the empowerment of national

He added, "We derive our vision from the legacy estabished by Sheikh Saleh Kamel – may God have mercy on him - who dedicated investment to serving the Two Holy Mosques. Today, we continue this approach in line with our ambitious vision."

Gharab concluded by reaffirming that Dallah Albaraka will continue to strengthen its strategic partnerships with both government and private sectors to achieve integration within the Hajj and Umrah services ecosystem and to offer pioneering investment models that reinforce the Kingdom's global leadership in serving the guests of God.

The Foundations of Xinjiang's Transformation (1949–1990)

order, we must first cultivate our family; to cultivate our family, we must first cultivate Confucius, The Great ourselves." Learning

China's modern transformation cannot be understood without revisiting its civilizational foundations — a heritage of harmony, moral restraint, empowering herders, and self-cultivation that has guided its statecraft for more than five millennia. Unlike the expansionist powers that defined much of world history, China's rise was shaped not by conquest but by conscience. It built walls to protect, not to dominate; it refined its governance rather than subjugating others. Its dynasties prized stability over aggression, and its influence radiated through culture, learning, and diplomacy rather than through force.

That sense of moral responsibility still anchors China's modern policy. "The United States has three centuries and no burden of memory; China has five millennia and the full weight of civilization," a Beijing historian once observed. This weight of memory continues to guide decision-makers in Beijing, reminding them that true legitimacy comes not from power but from the welfare of the people. The Chinese concept of statecraft, rooted in Confucian harmony and socialist humanism, insists that progress must uplift all regions, not merely the prosperous coastal centers.

Beijing's approach was carefully phased and deeply pragmatic. It began with what China called the "dual-track" strategy cultivating human capacity while modernizing the material base. The first track

o put the world in order, we focused on education. Schools were built nation but service — an act of moral Urumqi, once a frontier garrison, had must first put the nation in across rural and pastoral areas; literacy order; to put the nation in drives reached adults as well as children; and vocational institutions trained the first generation of local teachers, doctors, and technicians. In a society where modern schooling was almost unknown, this was an intellectual revolution. Education became not merely an instrument of

> tion and modernity artisans, and farmers to become participants in national progress.

The second track focused on physical transformation. Surveys of coal, oil, and mineral deposits were conducted; irrigation

systems were rebuilt and expanded; and model farms introduced scientific methods to improve yields. Roads and later railways linked Urumqi to Gansu and Kazakhstan, ending centuries of isolation. Pilot industries in textiles, food processing, and energy emerged, while healthcare and housing programs improved living standards. These modest beginnings carried profound significance: they gave Xinjiang its first modern infrastructure, a foundation on which later waves of reform in the 1980s and 1990s would build.

Governance played a crucial role in this transformation. Beijing recognized that success required not only resources but moral discipline and administrative competence. Local cadres were trained to balance ethnic diversity with unity, ensuring that modernization did not erode cultural identity. Governance, in the Chinese conception, was not domi-

stewardship aligning with the Confucian ideal that good government begins with self-cultivation and ends in social harmony.

By the late 1980s, the transforma-- it was a living reality written across its deserts, valleys, and cities. In 1949, governance but a bridge between tradi- the region had barely 4.3 million people,

most living in poverty, with life expectancy below 30 years and illiteracy above 90 percent. By 1980, its population had doubled to 8.3 million; life expectancy had climbed to 58 years; and literacy had risen beyond 65 percent. Primary schools had

multiplied from barely 1,300 to over 6,000, and secondary and higher institutions — once nonexistent — were training a new generation of engineers, doctors, and teachers.

Infant mortality, which exceeded 200 per 1,000 births at liberation, had fallen below 70, while hundreds of hospitals and rural clinics now reached even the remotest oases. The region's per-capita income, once less than 150 yuan, ĥad increased nearly threefold by 1980, powered by new industries in energy, textiles, and food processing. Roads expanded from less than 3,000 kilometers of crude tracks to over 20,000 kilometers of paved highways, and the first rail lines linked Urumqi with Lanzhou and Kazakhstan, ending centuries of President (Rtd), Former Press Minister, geographic isolation. Irrigation networks reclaimed tens of thousands of hectares of arid land, transforming wastelands into fertile cotton and grain fields.

become a bustling city of half a million people — the commercial and administrative heart of the northwest.

These gains were not merely economic; they were civilizational. tion of Xinjiang was no longer a vision Health, literacy, and connectivity created a new consciousness among the people — a realization that they were no longer isolated tribes surviving at the edge of empire, but citizens of a rejuvenated nation moving confidently toward modernity. The sense of shared destiny — of being participants in a collective renaissance larger than ethnicity or geography — began to define the spirit of Xinjiang. A province that once symbolized remoteness was now a symbol of revival, a living testament to China's faith that through education, planning, and moral resolve, even the harshest desert could bloom.

> Xinjiang's transformation between 1949 and 1990 was not a miracle of concrete and steel alone. It was a moral undertaking — a testament to China's belief that civilization endures through harmony and shared progress. The guiding spirit of that transformation lay in an ancient truth: that national order arises from personal virtue, and prosperity from collective dignity. In resurrecting a region long forgotten, China did not simply build roads or refineries; it reaffirmed a civilizational covenant that to put the world in order, one must first cultivate the self, the family, and the

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

Of Silence and Surveillance: The Erosion of Rights in India occupied Jammu and Kashmir

towns of occupied Jammu and Kashmir, a new normal is being meticulously constructed—one built not on the shifting sands of suspicion and the pervamandate forcing shopkeepers to install CCTV sive eye of surveillance. Recent reports of cameras at their own expense, with footage widespread detentions, the Criminalization accessible to police without a court order, instiof professions, and the arbitrary summoning of tutionalises a surveillance state. This move, citizens paint a disturbing portrait of a region justified under the same security pretext, where the fundamental rights to expression, ensures that every public and commercial space privacy, and due process are being systemat- becomes a panopticon. The right to anonymity,

of counter-terrorism. The official narrative of Indian authorities in occupied territory is familiar and unwavering. Security forces, in "unwavering efforts to eradicate the remnants of terror networks," conduct coordinated raids, detaining individuals under preventive meas-

ically eroded under the guise

ures based on "credible inputs." As reported in Ganderbal and Sopore, these operations lead to the detention of dozens—39 persons in one instance—often described as "Over Ground Workers (OGWs)" or "associates of terrorist handlers." Their homes are searched, digital devices seized, and they are lodged in jails without trial, their liberty sacrificed at the altar of public security.

This targeting of professionals is not random. It sends a chilling message: even the most educated and integrated members of society are not safe from accusation. It serves to dismantle community trust, create societal paranoia, and dissuade the youth from aspiring to roles of influence and respect. When a doctor, a symbol of healing and trust, can be transformed into evidence, no one is safe. This appears less like
Article 370 was promised to bring develop-

demoralise a population and dismantle its

Underpinning this entire apparatus is the pillars of justice and liberty, but on a brutal assault on the right to privacy. The

to a private life free from constant government monitoring, is effectively abolished. This vast network of surveillance is not merely about solving crimes; it is about preempting dissent, monitoring political activity, and creating a permanent record of every citizen's movements and associations.

Furthermore, reports of raids within jails to "harass already detained people" complete this grim picture. If even incarceration does not spare an individual from further intimidation, then the state's power becomes truly absolute and terrifying. It signifies a move beyond punishing illegal acts to punishing the individual themselves, breaking their spirit long after they have been deprived of their liberty.

Altaf Hussain Wani

The statements of political leaders like Mehbooba Mufti, who speaks of Jammu and Kashmir being "locked in a cage," are dismissed as political rhetoric. But they articulate a profound truth felt by all residents of occupied Kashmir. It must be remembered that the only crime of the people of Indian occupied Kashmir is demanding the rights enshrined in UN Secua terrorist suspect based on such dubious rity Council resolutions. The abrogation of

n the picturesque valleys and bustling law enforcement and more like a strategy to ment and integration. Instead, it has brought a perpetual state of exception where legal protections are suspended and the authority of the security apparatus is supreme.

> A counter-terrorism strategy that operates without robust legal safeguards, that criminalises dissent and profession, and that places an entire population under constant surveillance is ultimately self-defeating. It may create a fragile, enforced silence, but it does not create lasting peace or security. True security is built on trust, justice, and the unwavering protection of fundamental rights. By sacrificing these principles, the state is not combating terrorism; it is risking the alienation of an entire generation and undermining the very democratic values it claims to protect.

> As these lines are written, news breaks of a car blast at a metro station in New Delhi-a tragic event that will inevitably have repercussions far beyond the capital. History suggests the ultimate outcome of this news will be increased repression against Kashmiri Muslims both in India and occupied Kashmir, a familiar pattern of collective punishment that follows such incidents. The critical question now is whether the Indian government will immediately resort to its well-practiced blame game, pointing fingers across the border, or whether it will have the courage to investigate its own security failures and address the root causes of unrest. The cage being built around India occupied Jammu and Kashmir is not just physical; it is a cage for the mind and spirit, and its doors threaten to close tighter than ever. Only time will tell which path toward security India will choose-one of accountability and rights, or one of further repression and alienation.

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Shadows in the Market of Peace

ties worldwide. Achieving and maintaining peace is a complex process that involves multiple actors, institutions, and dynamics. Within the realm of where various stakeholders engage in activities region. In some cases, powerful states or interaimed at promoting peace and

preventing conflicts. The market of peace encompasses a wide range of activities and initiatives aimed at addressing the root causes of conflicts, building consensus, and promoting peaceful coexistence. This market involves a diverse set of actors, including

governments, international

organizations and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) civil society groups, and private sector entities. Each stakeholder plays a unique role in contributing to peacebuilding efforts.

Governments are key players in the market of peace, as they have the authority and resources to implement policies and programs that promote peace and stability. For instance, perpetuates inequalities, injustices, and grievgovernments can engage in diplomatic efforts to mediate conflicts, provide humanitarian assistance to communities affected by violence and support peacebuilding initiatives at the national and international levels. Additionally, governments can allocate funding for peacebuilding projects and leverage their political influence to facilitate peace negotiations and reconciliation processes.

NGOs and civil society groups are vital actors in the market of peace, as they have grassroots connections and networks that enable them to mobilize communities, advocate for peace, and provide humanitarian assistance. These organizations engage in conflict prevention, peace education, and reconciliation activities that empower individuals and communities

n the global landscape, peace is a to resolve conflicts peacefully. NGOs and civil fundamental aspiration for socie- society groups often work in partnership with governments and international organizations to implement peacebuilding programs and initiatives.

Furthermore, the instrumental of peacepeacebuilding and conflict resolution, the building by powerful actors is another shadow market of peace emerges as a significant arena that undermines the process of stability in

national organizations geopolitical interests, often at the expense of local ownership and inclusivity. This instrumental measures can lead to the imposition of peace agreements that do not address the underlying grievances of conflicting parties resulting in fragile and unsustainable peace

Dr. Muhammad Shahzad Ashfaq The exclusion of marginalized voices and groups in peacebuilding processes is vet another shadow in the market of peace. Many peace initiatives are dominated by elites, political leaders, and international actors, marginalizing the perspectives or needs of women, youth and indigenous communities other vulnerable populations. This exclusion ances that fuel conflicts making sustainable

> peace elusive. The shadows in the market of peace highlight the complexity and challenges inherent in peacebuilding and conflict resolution efforts. Addressing these shadows requires a concerted effort to promote transparency, accountability, inclusivity and a genuine commitment to peace at all levels of engagement. Recognizing and mitigating these shadows, stakeholders in the market of peace can enhance the effectiveness, legitimacy and sustainability of peacebuilding initiatives, ultimately contributing to a more

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peaceful and just world.

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The Spokesman 5

Tribute to unmatched courage and sacrifices of Pakistan's Armed Forces in Marka e Haq:

President UMT

Pakistan Navy War College, successfully organized a two-day interna- and sustainability. tional conference titled "Tradition-Transforming World.

former provincial minister and Presgraced the occasion as a distinguished guest.

including Provost UMT Dr. Asghar Prof. Dr. Saeed Shafqat, DG Ahmad Abdullah, Prof. Abid Sherwani and Department of Political Science and International Relations.

Nawaz also held a special meeting in defending the nation. He high-

with President UMT Ibrahim Hasan lighted the vital role of the Pakistan Murad, where they discussed matters LAHORE: The University of of national security, education, and Management and Technology mutual cooperation. Later, both (UMT), in collaboration with the dignitaries planted a sapling at the UMT ground as a symbol of growth

Addressing the participants, Vice al and Non-Traditional Threats in a Admiral Raja Rab Nawaz congratulated UMT, the Maritime Center of The Chief Guest of the conference Excellence, and Pakistan Navy War was Vice Admiral Raja Rab Nawaz, College on the successful organi-Chief of Staff Pakistan Navy, while zation of the conference. He urged students and young professionals to ident UMT, Ibrahim Hasan Murad, confront the challenges of an increasingly digital and interconnected world with determination and The conference brought together integrity. He emphasized that true eminent scholars and defense experts patriotism extends beyond military service and lies in professional excel-Zaidi, Lt. Gen. (R) Javed Hassan, lence, honesty, and sincere contributions to national development.

President UMT Ibrahim Hasan Admiral Raja Rab Nawaz for his presence and lauded the courage and Earlier, Vice Admiral Raja Rab sacrifices of Pakistan's Armed Forces

Navy in ensuring national security, noting that nearly 90% of Pakistan's trade depends on the Arabian Sea.

Murad further stated that addressing emerging non-traditional threats requires intellectual preparedness, regional cooperation, and strong institutional strategies. He added that the people of Pakistanespecially the youth-stand united with the Armed Forces to resolutely counter all hostile elements.

Provost UMT Dr. Asghar Zaidi welcomed the participants and briefed them about UMT's vision and achievements. He said that the purpose of the conference was to explore new academic and intellectual dimensions while enhancing youth awareness of emerging security challenges in a global context.

Lt. Gen. (R) Javed Hassan shed Dr. Usman Askari, Chairperson, Murad expressed gratitude to Vice light on the current challenges to national security and shared valuable insights on ways to strengthen Pakistan's defense posture.

Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed, contemporary national and regional



in his online address, also discussed various aspects of the conference and proposed practical solutions to

challenges.

President UMT Ibrahim Hasan of their participation and contribu-Murad presenting souvenirs to Vice tion.

Admiral Raja Rab Nawaz and other The ceremony concluded with distinguished guests in recognition

Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq in a meeting with Irani Parliamentary delegation headed by Deputy Speaker Islamic Parliament of Iran Dr. Ali Nekzad Samarin at Parliament House on Wednesday.



Eco-Friendly Cars and Their Role in Combating Climate Change

Yousuf Uddin Ahmed

he roar of engines may the smoke they leave behind tells another powered by petrol and diesel have towards reducing emissions. been central to modern life, yet they have also been major contributors to climate change. Reliance on fossil fuels continues to release vast amounts dioxide, into the atmosphere, trapping heat and upsetting the Earth's balance. The urgency of the climate crisis, however, has pushed us towards cleaner and more sustainable alter-

The transport sector is among the largest sources of pollution, making its role in climate change impossible to ignore. Cars and lorries account for

which means that transforming the way we travel has a direct impact on symbolise progress, but slowing global warming. Eco-friendly cars are no longer futuristic concepts or luxury items; they are practical solustory: one of rising tions to one of today's greatest chaltemperatures, polluted skies, and a lenges. Every cleaner vehicle on the planet under strain. For decades, cars road represents a meaningful step

Electric cars, hybrids, and hydrogen-fuelled vehicles are leading this change. Fully electric models produce no exhaust fumes and can be powered of greenhouse gases, mainly carbon by renewable energy such as solar or wind. Hybrids combine petrol engines with electric motors, cutting fuel use and emissions. Hydrogen vehicles, still in their early stages, release nothing but water vapour. Each of these technologies signals a break from a century of fossil-fuel dependence.

The advantages of eco-friendly cars Cleaner air means healthier cities,

disease linked to pollution. Reducing reliance on oil also shields countries from global fuel price shocks and energy insecurity. For drivers, the benefits are financial as well as ethical. Although the initial purchase price can be higher, running costs are lower. Electricity is cheaper than petrol, and electric cars need less maintenance due to simpler mechanics. Many governments are also offering tax cuts and subsidies to encourage the switch, making eco-friendly vehicles increasingly accessible.

This global movement is echoed in Pakistan. Team Envision, a student-led group at NUST, has developed AZAAD-E, the country's first urban electric vehicle. The team is now preparing new models for the Shell Eco-Marathon 2026. Their work demonstrates how sustainable extend beyond environmental gains. vehicle technologies, clean energy, efficient design, and reduced emissions

a significant share of global emissions, lowering risks of asthma and heart can move from concept to reality. By proving that such solutions are possible locally, they highlight how innovation in Pakistan can contribute to the worldwide fight against climate

Of course, challenges remain. Battery production requires rare minerals, raising environmental concerns, and charging networks need to expand to support wider adoption. Yet, even with these hurdles, eco-friendly cars represent progress that far outweighs their drawbacks.

The future of transport cannot rely on yesterday's fuels. Eco-friendly cars are more than machines; they are symbols of possibility. A chance to choose cleaner air, healthier lives, and a more stable climateh. While no single solution can end the climate crisis, sustainable transport offers a practical step towards a greener tomorrow.

The writer is Head of Marketing in NUST Team Envision

"Nihao! China" Showcased at Pakistan Folk Heritage Festival (Lok Mela)

ISLAMABAD: The annual cultural grand event of Pakistan, the Folk Heritage Festival (Lok Mela), with a history spanning over forty years, opened today in the capital, Islamabad. Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture H. E Mr. Aurangzeb Khan Khichi attended the opening ceremony and delivered remarks.

For the first time, the China Cultural Center in Pakistan was invited to participate in the festival and simultaneously launched the event "Nihao! China - 2025 China Tourism and Culture Week.

Through diverse and engaging cultural showcases, the event injected new vitality into China-Pakistan cultural exchange and mutual learning among civilizations.

The China Pavilion, centered around striking replicas of the Forbidden City gate and the Great Wall of China, presented a highly recognizable visual symbol of Chinese culture and quickly became popular spot for visitors to take photos. With four major thematic sections — a Cultural Tourism Photo Exhibition, Smart Tourism Products Display, VR Experience Zone, and Intangible Cultural Heritage Showcase — the pavilion offered a panoramic display of the rich diversity of China's cultural and tourism resources. Visitors were able to experience the natural wonders and profound cultural heritage of China in an immersive manner, helping to strengthen the positive image of the country among the Pakistani public.

To enhance audience engagement, a special "Chinese History and Culture Quiz" was introduced in the pavilion. Participants could win exclusive logo stickers or stamps by answering questions correctly, and those who collected eight to ten stamps were invited to enjoy immersive VR experiences such as "Eternal Tang Dynasty" and "Chinese Gardens." This interactive experience deepened visitors' understanding of Chinese history and culture in a fun and engaging way.

ZTE Corporation also presented its glasses-free 3D technology within the pavilion, where the integration of culture and technology significantly enhanced the appeal of the China Pavilion, allowing Chinese culture to reach the Pakistani audience in an accessible and

H. E Mr. Chen Peng, Cultural Counselor of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Pakistan and Director China Cultural Center in Pakistan, invited Minister Aurangzeb and representatives from various embassies in Islamabad to visit the China Pavilion and enjoy an immersive experience of Chinese cultural charm.

This year's Lok Mela will run for ten days, attracting an estimated over 100,000 visitors. It stands as one of the most influential cultural events in Islamabad in 2025. In addition to China, the Embassies of Uzbekistan and Vietnam in Pakistan also actively participated, making the festival a vivid demonstration of mutual learning and cultural exchange among civilizations.

Al-Shifa's Haveli Lakha hospital to become operational by March

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: Construction of the Al-Shifa Trust Eye Hospital in Haveli Lakha, Okara, has entered its final phase, with inauguration planned for March next year. The facility, built on two acres of donated land, will provide free eve care to thousands of residents in South Punjab, where more than 1.8 million Pakistanis live with blindness and 85 percent of cases are considered avoidable.

Maj. Gen. (Retd) Rehmat Khan, President of Al-Shifa Trust, told reporters that all major construction work has been completed and finishing touches are underway. He said the hospital will serve patients from Haveli Lakha, Depalpur, Pakpatan, Sahiwal, and Bahawalnagar, areas long deprived of specialized eve treatment. Nearly half of all blindness stems from cataracts, a condition largely treatable through routine surgery,



but rural areas face severe short- serve up to 250 OPD and IPD ages of trained staff and advanced

patients daily. Staff training and surgical facilities, he added. procurement of state-of-the-art The hospital is designed to equipment are underway. The

total cost of the project is 122 million rupees for construction, while equipment accounts for 40 million rupees. The land and construction costs were fully donated by a local doctor, while Al-Shifa will manage operations. The facility is expected to reduce the burden on major city hospitals, said Maj. Gen. Khan.

He added that the expansion reflects the trust's effort to extend healthcare access. By bringing eve care closer to remote populations, the trust cuts travel costs and ensures early diagnosis, key to preventing blindness.

Local officials and residents have welcomed the development, saying it will ease pressure on existing facilities in Okara and Sahiwal. For many families, especially daily-wage workers, the new hospital will mean shorter travel and lower treatment costs, addressing gaps where limited access to services remains a major challenge.



and Chakwal, and screened reach over 2 million patients and provided free of cost.

The trust currently operates more than 175,000 schoolchil-perform more than 120,000 eye hospitals in Rawalpindi, Sukkur, dren through over 550 free eye surgeries in the coming year, with Kohat, Muzaffarabad, Gilgit, camps in the past year. It aims to around 80 percent of services



index Fluctuation				
Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index				
Current	Prev. Close			
158,183.94	157,870.50			
Day's High	Day's Low			
159,516.41	159,516.41			
Index Value	Change			
22,191,433,053	+313.44			
Percentage	Time			
+0.2%	12 Nov, 2025 4:30 pm			
Europe: FTS	E 100 Index			
Index Value	Change			
9,911.42	+11.82			
Percentage	Time			
+0.12%	12 Nov, 4:35 pm GMT+1			
USA: Dow Jones I	ndustrial Average			
Index Value	Change			
48,249.61	+321.65			
Percentage	Time			
+0.67%	12 Nov, 11:54 am GMT-5			

1 0.07 /0	GMT-5				
Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average					
Index Value	Change				
51,063.31	+220.38				
Percentage	Time				
+0.43%	12 Nov, 3:45 pm GMT+9				

Open Market Forex Rates			
Currency	Buying	Selling	
Australian Dollar	185.6	190.6	
Bahrain Dinar	747.2	754.7	
Canadian Dollar	205.85	212.85	
China Yuan	39.05	39.45	
Danish Krone	43.05	43.45	
Euro	332.2	335.7	
Hong Kong Dollar	35.75	36.1	
Indian Rupee	3.09	3.18	
Japanese Yen	1.8768	1.9768	
Kuwaiti Dinar	914.2	923.2	
Malaysian Ringgit	66.65	67.25	
NewZealand \$	156.1	158.1	
Norwegians Krone	27.35	27.65	
Omani Riyal	731.6	739.10	
Qatari Riyal	76.45	77.15	
Saudi Riyal	75.65	76.25	
Singapore Dollar	217.3	222.1	
Swedish Korona	29.15	29.45	
Swiss Franc	346	348.75	
Thai Bhat	8.5	8.65	
U.A.E Dirham	76.95	77.95	
UK Pound Sterling	381.2	384.2	
LIS Dollar	281 65	281.85	

Pakistan Customs Seizes 15.2 Kg Of Crystal Methamphetamine

Example 2 Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: In a major anti-smuggling operation, the Customs Enforcement team, acting on credible information conveyed by the Deputy Collector Customs, D. I. Khan-II, under the directions of the Collector Customs (Enforcement), Peshawar, successfully intercepted a large quantity of foreign-origin narcotics from a passenger bus during a routine vigilance check at IP-JCP Aman Mela.

Upon thorough inspection of the suspected Daewoo bus bearing Registration No. CAT-4488, Customs officials recovered foreign-origin narcotics ICE (Crystal Methamphetamine) concealed inside three specially designed inverters placed in the bus. The driver and conductor were arrested on the spot, and an FIR was lodged against them.

The recovered narcotics comprised 15 packets of foreign-origin substance resembling ICE (Crystal Methamphetamine), weighing a total of 15,350 grams (net 15,200 grams after sampling). The estimated value of the narcotics is Rs. 910.200 million, while the value of the seized Daewoo bus is Rs. 15.000 million, bringing the total estimated value of the case to Rs. 925.200 million.

As the recovered narcotics were being transported from IP-JCP Aman Mela to the State Warehouse, the Customs staff came under attack by unidentified miscreants/terrorists, who opened straight and indiscriminate fire on the customs convoy. The attack appeared to be aimed at harming the customs personnel due to high market value of the seized narcotics. However, the swift and courageous response of the customs team ensured the safety of both personnel and the seized goods. Meanwhile, Pakistan Army troops and police personnel acted swiftly and reached the site of the incident promptly, providing immediate support and security. They safely escorted the Customs staff and the recovered narcotics consignment to the State Warehouse, D. I. Khan, without any loss of life or property.

This successful operation demonstrates the continued commitment of FBR against smuggling and narcotics trafficking.

RCCI hosts 36th International Achievement Awards in Tashkent, Uzbekistan

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) hosted its 36th International Achievement Awards ceremony in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. The prestigious event celebrated outstanding accomplishments in business, innovation, and industry, while fostering regional trade, investment, and industrial cooperation between Pakistan and Uzbekistan.

The Chief Guest, H. E. Kurdatov Laziz Shavkatovich, Minister of Investment, Industry and Trade of Uzbekistan, in his remarks, Minister Kudratov Laziz Shavkatovich lauded the growing business partnership between Pakistan and Uzbekistan and identified key areas for future collaboration, including fruits and vegetables, textiles, pharmaceuticals, tourism and information technology. He also commended RCCI's efforts to promote cross-border collaboration and economic partnership. Group Leader and Former RCCI President Sohail Altaf received unwavering advocacy on behalf of Pakistan's budgetary and policy matters. memento for his dynamic leadership and business community, particularly on critical



The Lifetime Achievement Award to national platform."

former RCCI President Sved Asad Mashadi, in recognition of his outstanding services, visionary leadership, and lasting contributions to the growth and empowerment of Pakistan's business sector. His recognition stands as a tribute not only to his personal achievements but also to the collective strength and progressive spirit of RCCI and its members.

The ceremony was graced by several distinguished dignitaries, including H. E. Ahmed Farooq, Pakistan's Ambassador to Uzbekistan; Alisher Shaikhov, Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Uzbekistan; and Zaheer Abbas, Pakistan's Trade Counselor in Tashkent.

Speaking on the occasion, RCCI President Usman Shaukat emphasized the chamber's commitment to strengthening international linkages, enhancing trade diplomacy, and building new avenues for Pakistani exports and investments.

"This event showcases the dynamism and excellence of our entrepreneurs on an inter-

Pharma industry

revives as prices

climb moderately

by 15%, not 32%:

PPMA

Commerce Desk

cy in February 2024, reject-

5th Pakistan Prosperity Forum

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime minister Haroon Akhtar Khan addressed the Pakistan



ing reports that claimed a 32 percent hike.

following deregulation. The actual post-deregula-KARACHI: The Pakistan tion increase of 15 percent Pharmaceutical Manufacalso includes about 2.5 percent growth in producturers Association (PPMA) tion units and new product has clarified that medicine prices have increased by an launches, indicating that average of 15 percent since the real impact on existing the government introduced medicines is closer to 13.5 percent the price deregulation poli-

Citing the latest IQVIA report, a globally recognized source for pharmaceutical In a statement, PPMA market data, the associexplained that the figure ation noted that overall of 32 percent quoted by medicine prices – even after some sections of the media factoring in new molecules represents the cumula- and organic growth — rose tive increase over the past by only 16 percent over the two years, not the period last 12 months.

FFC Wins the Prestigious 'Company of the Year Award'

Example 2 Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Fauji Fertilizer Company Limited (FFC) has been honored with the prestigious "Company of the Year Award" by the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) at its 36th International Achievement Awards Ceremony and Business Opportunity Conference held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan on November 10, 2025.

The award recognizes FFC's outstanding business performance, dedication, and commitment to excellence during the year 2024, reaffirming the Company's position as one of Pakistan's leading corporate entities.

FFC continues to play a vital role in strengthening Pakistan's agriculture and industrial sectors through its consistent focus on quality, innovation, and corporate



responsibility.

Mr. Muhammad Azhar Finance received the award

Khan, Senior Manager on behalf of FFC at the cere-

SECP Registers 14,802 New Companies in First Four Months of FY 2025, Reflecting **Strong Investor Confidence**

Sommerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) registered 14,802 new companies in the first four months of the fiscal year 2025, reflecting growing confidence in the country's corporate sector. Of these incorporations, 99.9% were processed online through eZfile, bringing the total number of registered companies in Pakistan to 272,918.

The total paid-up capital for the period stood at Rs. 20.59

In terms of company structure, private limited compa-

nies accounted for 59% of new registrations, followed by single-member companies at 37%. The remaining 4% comprised public unlisted



organizations, trade organizations, and limited liability partnerships. Additionally, 10 foreign companies established a place of business in Pakistan during this period.

CCP approves acquisition of Standpharm Pakistan by Crest Garments International

Example 2 Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) has authorized the transaction of Standpharm Pakistan (Private) Limited by Crest Garments International (Private) Limited. The transaction forms part of an internal corporate restructuring, as both entities are under the common ownership and management of the same group of individual shareholders.

operates in the pharmaceu- acquisition does not give rise tical and nutraceutical sectors, to any horizontal, vertical,

offering a diverse product or conglomerate overlaps anti-rheumatics, analgesupplements, gastrointestinal drugs, antibiotics, and psycholeptics, among others. Crest Garments Internathe garment manufacturing business, has no existing operations in the pharmaceutical or nutraceutical markets.

Following its detailed the assessment, Standpharm Pakistan concluded that the proposed

portfolio across nineteen ther- between the merging entiapeutic categories, including ties and will not result in increased market concensics, vitamins and mineral tration. The pharmaceutical and nutraceutical markets in Pakistan remain competitive, with a large number of active players, moderate tional, primarily engaged in market concentration, and continued entry of new firms. Therefore, the transaction is not expected to substantially lessen competition or create a dominant position in any relevant market.

constitutes an intra-group management. The existing nities for new entrants in the unaffected.



The Commission further restructuring, resulting in no

market dynamics, competi-

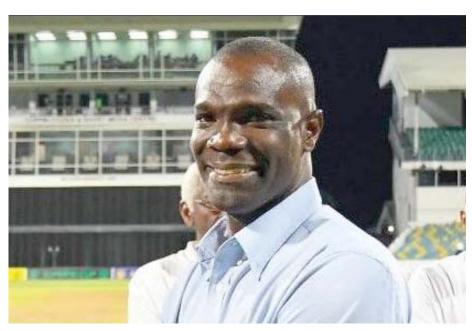
noted that the transaction change in ultimate control or tive pressures, and opportuceutical sectors will remain

Reon King to referee T20 tri-nation series in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: Former West Indies fast bowler Reon King has been appointed match referee for T20 tri-nation series. Tri-nation tournament to be played in Rawalpindi and Lahore from November 17 to 29. Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe will participate in the event.

According to press release issued by the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) in Lahore on Wednesday, Ahsan Raza, Faisal Afridi, Rashid Riaz, Tariq Rashid and Asif Yaqoob will be the umpires.

In the opening T20I between Pakistan and Zimbabwe at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium, Asif Yaqoob (ICC Emerging Panel of Umpires) and Rashid Riaz (ICC International Panel of Umpires) will stand as on-field umpires, while Faisal Afridi umpire for the match. (ICC International Panel of



Umpires) will act as third Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe at the umpire duties, respectively. umpire. Tariq Rasheed, part of same venue on 19 November, PCB's National Elite Panel of Faisal Afridi and Rashid Riaz

Yaqoob and Tariq Rasheed Lahore, Asif Yaqoob and Faisal For the second T20I between taking up third and fourth

Afridi will stand as on-field umpires, while Rashid Riaz For the 22 November contest and Tariq Rasheed will serve between Pakistan and Sri Lanka as third and fourth umpire, Umpires, will serve as fourth will officiate on-field, with Asif at the Gaddafi Stadium in respectively. On 23 November,

stan and Zimbabwe, Rashid Riaz and Faisal Afridi will officiate on-field, with Asif Yaqoob and Tariq Rasheed as third and fourth umpire, respectively. On 25 November, in the

in the match between Paki-

fixture between Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe, Asif Yaqoob and Rashid Riaz will be the on-field umpires, while Ahsan Raza (ICC Elite Panel of Umpires) will perform third umpire duties. Faisal Afridi will serve as fourth

For the 27 November fixture between Pakistan and Sri Lanka, Ahsan Raza and Faisal Afridi will stand as on-field umpires, with Rashid Riaz and Asif Yaqoob performing third and fourth umpire duties, respectively.

In the final match, scheduled for 29 November, Ahsan Raza and Asif Yaqoob will officiate on-field, while Rashid Riaz and Faisal Afridi will serve as third and fourth umpire, respectively.

Final to be played in Lahore on November 29.

National Assembly approves 27th amendment bill...

PCB Talent Hunt Programme for School Cricket

moved into Final

Sports Desk

Scores in Brief:

Grace Academy School and Standard Secondary School

KARACHI: Grace Academy School and Standard Secondary

School moved into Final of the PCB Talent Hunt Programme for

School Cricket (Karachi Region) after beating their opponents at various Grounds. The highlights of the days play was brilliant

Century 155 with 14 boundaries and 8 huge Sixes by Muham-

mad Khan of Grace Academy School and some good batting

by Majid Ali 75 with 13 fours and, Muhammad Hassn 69, M Hassan 51 and deadly bowling by off Spinner Aish Malik 4/22.

In the first Semi Final Grace Academy School beat Oasis

School by 216 runs at Jinnah College Ground. Grace Academy

School 343/8 in 40 overs. Muhammad Khan 155 14x4 8x6,

Majid Ali 75 13x4, Muhammad Hassan 51 4x4 4x6. Rehan Ali

(mf) 3/45, Hadeez (sla) 2/48. In reply Oasis School 127 all-out

in 24 overs. Rehan Ali 47 7x4 1x6 not out, Kaleem ullah 36 5x4

2x6. Muhammad Waheed (mf) 3/14, Muhammad Zafar (mf)

3/43, Abdul Rehman (rlb) 2/27. In the 2nd Semi Final Standard

Secondary School beat Five Star School by 18 runs. Standard Secondary 137 all-out in 27.5 overs. Muhammad Hassan 69

9x4 3x6, Muhammad Mudasser 30. Muhammad Anas 2/11,

Murtaza Taqi 2/25, Tausif ul Hassan 2/28, Shazil Farooqui 2/38.

Continued from Page 1

The law minister noted that the joint parliamentary committee had carefully reviewed the draft before tabling it in the Senate.

Tarar added that all stakeholders had been consulted on the amendment, confirming that Justice Yahya Afridi would serve as Chief Justice of Pakistan.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, PML-N President Nawaz Sharif,

and Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar attended the assembly session.

Upon arrival at Parliament House, the prime minister and federal ministers accorded Nawaz Sharif a warm welcome.

PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari also attended the session, while senior PPP leader Khurshid Shah was brought into the House in a wheelchair due to illness; he has been receiving treatment at a

Security beefed up at IHC, LHC after suicide attack

Continued from Page 1

It instructed them to strengthen security, particularly in sensitive and densely populated areas, and to ensure that emergency response teams remain on standby. In Lahore, the police initiated a province-wide tightening of security protocols.

A spokesperson said, additional forces had been deployed around key government offices, courts, commercial centres, and critical installations. Police checkpoints at all entry and exit points of the provincial capital were reinforced, with officers conducting stricter lance. inspections of vehicles and verifying identification documents to the public to remain vigilant and

detect any suspicious movement. DIG Operations Faisal Kamran directed divisional superintendents to remain in the field and personally supervise security oper-

He ordered the Dolphin Squad and Police Response Unit (PRU) teams to increase patrol frequency, especially in high-risk areas, and to maintain a visible presence to deter potential attacks.

Search-and-sweep operations have been intensified in multiple localities across Lahore to ensure that unregistered vehicles or suspicious individuals do not evade scrutiny. Police have also stepped up monitoring of public transport terminals, parking areas, and government complexes, while judicial and administrative buildings are under additional surveil-

Authorities have appealed to cooperate with the law enforcement agencies. Citizens have been urged to immediately report any unusual activity, unattended objects, or suspicious individuals by calling the police helpline 15.

Field Marshal Asim Munir 'himself oversaw' operatio....

Continued from Page 1

The rescued teachers and cadets of Cadet College Wana remained in high spirits, vowing to stand as an unbreakable wall against terrorism.

The rescued cadets praised the courage and dedication of the army personnel, saying that Pakistan Army soldiers stood as a shield between them and the militants for more than 24 hours.

One cadet recalled that they were preparing for a drill competition at sunset when the suicide explosion occurred. "We knew right away that the attackers

were enemies of education who wanted to stop us from learning," he said. Another cadet said the soldiers

swiftly evacuated them from the college to a secure location, "No matter what these enemies of education do, they cannot stop us from learning," he declared.

A teacher at the college added that during the blast, all cadets were participating in drill practice. "We told the students to remain calm, as the Pakistan Army had arrived. Their timely action turned what could have been a tragic terrorist incident into a complete failure," he said.

Sri Lanka decide to continue Pakistan tour after PCB's security assurance

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Sri Lankan cricket team has decided to continue its Pakistan tour after the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) assured enhanced security measures for players and staff, following concerns raised within the visiting squad.

Earlier, Sri Lanka's team manager had hinted that at least eight players were considering cutting the tour short and returning home, prompting urgent discussions between officials of both

According to sources, the PCB made every possible effort to safeguard the ongoing ODI and upcoming tri-series, assuring Sri Lanka that security around the team would be further strengthened.

Following these assurances, the Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) confirmed that the team would proceed with the tour.

The SLC stated that if any player chooses not to continue, replacements would be arranged. The Lankan board added that PCB

Chairman Mohsin Naqvi personally briefed the Sri Lankan players on the security arrangements, reiterating that the safety of all team members and officials remains the top priority.

PCB sources confirmed that the Lanka will take place as scheduled in



second ODI between Pakistan and Sri Rawalpindi on Thursday (tomorrow). two ODIs of the series, followed by partic-

Sri Lanka are set to play the remaining ipation in a tri-nation series in Pakistan.

Pakistan, Bangladesh set to clash in World Cup hockey play-off in Dhaka Thursday

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: The World Cup hockey play-off series between Pakistan and Bangladesh is set to begin on Thursday at the Maulana Bhashani Stadium in Dhaka, 24NewsHDTV reported on Wednesday.

The three-match series will determine which team advances to the World Cup Bangladesh earned the play-off spot

after finishing sixth in the recent Asia Cup but could not travel to India for the event due to political reasons. Similarly, Pakistan also skipped the

tournament in India for the same reason. As a result, Bangladesh has agreed to host the play-off series and will bear all organizational expenses.

Pakistan, a historic powerhouse in world hockey with multiple World Cup



and Olympic titles, remains far ahead of Bangladesh in terms of experience and achievements, though its golden era has

For Bangladesh, losing the home series to Pakistan would be a major setback in their bid to qualify for the World Cup. Bangladesh will also make its maiden

appearance at the FIH Junior World Cup, scheduled to start on November 28 in Chennai, India.

The Bangladesh Hockey Federation had brought in Dutch coach Eric Mein to prepare the Under-21 side, but the senior team's play-off commitments caused some disruptions in planning and coordination.

Pakistan's head coach, Tahir Zaman, did not travel with the team to Dhaka, but the squad held three days of training sessions ahead of the series.

Pakistan captain Ahmad Shakeel Butt said his team was excited to compete in Dhaka, describing the series as "an important opportunity for both sides to qualify for the World Cup."

The first match between Pakistan and Bangladesh will be played on Thursday at 2 pm in Dhaka's busy Gulistan area, with free entry for spectators.

President Zardari for stronger economic engagement with **Philippines**

☼ Continued from Page 8

He appreciated the Philippines' decision to grant long-term residence permits to Pakistanis married to Filipino nationals and hoped for reciprocal facilitation for

Pakistani visitors. Ms Macapagal thanked President Zardari for the warm welcome and reaffirmed her country's resolve to deepen cooperation with Pakistan in trade, defence, and people-to-people exchanges. She expressed sympathies over the loss of lives in terrorist attacks in

Recalling her father's visit to Pakistan in 1959, when he served as President of the Philippines, she said that Pakistan and the Philippines have long shared bonds of mutual respect and friendship.

Ms Macapagal noted that being a vibrant part of the Global South and the fifth most populous nation in the world, Pakistan must take a leadership role for other countries to follow.

Ambassador of the Philippines to Pakistan, Emmanuel R. Fernandez was also present during

Chairman Senate Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani, Senator Sherry Rehman, and Senator Saleem Mandviwala also attended the meeting.

Pakistan's Ishaq Dar Champions Dialogue at Inter-Parliamentary Speakers' Conference

Continued from Page 8

He highlighted Pakistan's ongoing leadership role at the United Nations, Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), and other multilateral forums, stressing that the country remains committed to promoting cooperation over competition and equitable partnerships over hierarchies in shaping a just and peaceful international order.

The DPM/FM also addressed global security challenges, particularly terrorism, stating that "terrorism recognizes no religion, race, or boundary." He condemned the recent attacks in Wana and Islamabad, which claimed 15 lives. and expressed heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families. He emphasized that such acts cannot weaken Paki-

stan's resolve; instead, they reinforce the nation's commitment to dialogue, understanding, and partnership as the only

sustainable paths to peace and security. Concluding his remarks, the Deputy Prime Minister reaffirmed Pakistan's role as a bridge-builder, uniting regions, amplifying the voices of the developing world, and advancing peace through justice and dialogue. "Diplomacy, whether in the chamber or the chancery, must always serve the people. People-centered diplomacy ensures that the dividends of peace reach citizens, that development is inclusive, and that international cooperation translates into tangible human progress," he said.

He extended best wishes to all foreign delegates for a pleasant stay in Islamabad and a safe return to their respective countries.

Public Notice

The "ALL PAKISTAN PAPER AND BOARD MILLS ASSOCIATION" propose to register the Trade Organization under the Trade Organizations Act 2013 read with the Trade Organizations Rules, 2013 to represent the businesses, companies, corporations and AOP involved in and dealing with manufacture and production of paper and the paper mills industry producing paper locally, thus accordingly application is being submitted to the Regulator, Trade Organizations, Ministry of Commerce, Islamabad.

THIS NOTICE IS BEING ISSUED THROUGH PRESS IN COMPLIANCE OF RULE 9 OF THE TRADE ORGANIZATIONS RULES 2013.

SPONSORS

Mr.Shahid Ali

■ Mr. Syed Ibrar Hussain

■ Mr. Muhammad Wasif Rashid

■ Mr. Shiekh Gulzar Haider

ALL EXECUTIVES MEMBERS NAME

■ Mr. Ch. Tanveer Ahmed ■ Mr. Ageel Ahmad Mr. Yasir Igbal Gopayra Mr. Abdul Wahab Khan
 Mr. Abdul Mugeet Ahmed

■ Mr. Faisal Mustafa Mr. Syed Farukh Hassan
 Mr. Imtiaz Ahmad Mr. Burhan Ahmed Kundi
 Mr. Muhammad Awais Rafiq

All Pakistan Paper and Board Mills Association ('APPBMA') Head Office. 95-1, Management Office No.2, First Floor, Near Tim Hortons, Johar Town Lahore. Tel. +92 334-66 66 794

Called on ISLAMABAD: Former President and current Member of the House of Representatives of the Republic of the Philippines, Ms Gloria Macapagal, called on President Asif Ali Zardari at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Pakistan's Ishaq Dar Champions Dialogue at Inter-Parliamentary Speakers' Conference

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister, Foreign Minister, and Leader of the House in the Senate, Senator Ishaq Dar, opened the second day of the two-day Inter-Parliamentary Speakers' Conference (ISC) in Islamabad and presided over the morning session on "General Debate: Peace, Security, and Development." In his remarks, he highlighted Pakistan's firm belief that dialogue, cooperation, and multilateral engagement are essential for achieving lasting peace, stability, and sustainable develop-



Chairman, Senator Syed Yousaf rity, and prosperity. He empha-Raza Gilani, under whose guid-sized that parliamentary diploance the Senate of Pakistan macy complements traditional continues to champion multi- diplomacy by bringing the The DPM/FM commended lateralism and parliamentary perspectives of elected reprethe leadership of the Chairman diplomacy as a platform for sentatives into international crises, terrorism, and growing among nations. Senate and ISC Founding advancing global peace, secu-discourse, helping to trans-

late global commitments into cooperative spirit that has tangible actions at the national and regional levels.

"Parliamentarians, who are closest to the people, play a critical role in fostering dialogue, sharing experiences, and promoting governance, human rights, and democracy," he said, adding that such engagement strengthens interstate relations, enriches global cooperation, and ensures diplomacy reflects the values and aspirations of citizens worldwide.

Highlighting the global context, the DPM/FM noted that the world is experiencing profound transformations, with geopolitical rivalries, economic disparities, climate ference, and friendly relations inequalities challenging the

sustained peace for decades. He said that forums such as ISC are vital in revitalizing multilateralism through openness, inclusivity, and people-centered engagement, reminding the international community that dialogue, diplomacy, mutual respect, and shared responsibility are essential for global trust and collective

action. Reflecting on Pakistan's foreign policy, the DPM/FM reaffirmed that it is firmly guided by the principles of the UN Charter, including sovereign equality, peaceful settlement of disputes, non-inter-

Pakistan, Tajikistan reaffirm commitment to bolstering defence cooperation

👺 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Tajikistan reaffirmed their commitment to bolstering defence cooperation and promoting peace and stability in the region during a high-level meeting between Tajik Defence Minister and Pakistan. Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJCSC) General Sahir Shamshad Mirza was also present at the Joint Staff Headquarters in Rawalpindi.

The meeting focused on enhancing bilateral defence relations as well as reviewing the regional and global security environment. Both sides expressed a shared resolve to deepen collaboration in areas of mutual interest, particularly in counter-terrorism, training,



and defence production.

stan and Tajikistan, as broth- to ensure peace, stability, and

erly nations with shared histor-General Sahir Shamshad ical, cultural, and geographical Mirza emphasized that Pakities, are united in their efforts lauded Pakistan's significant

prosperity in the region. The Tajik Defence Minister

contributions to global peace-

keeping missions and its steadfast efforts in combating terrorism. He also conveyed his government's desire to further expand cooperation between the two countries' armed forces.

Upon his arrival at the Joint Staff Headquarters, the Tajik Defense Minister was presented with a guard of honor by a smartly turned-out contingent representing the three services of Pakistan's armed forces.

The visit underscores the growing defense partnership between Pakistan and Tajikistan and highlights their mutual commitment to fostering security, stability, and development across the broader Central and South Asian region.

Tarar slams opposition's 'hollow resistance' to 27th Amendment

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar on Wednesday criticised what he termed the opposition's "hollow" resistance to the 27th Constitutional Amendment, saying they had not even read the bill.

Speaking to the media outside Parliament House, Tarar said that making noise and shaping political narratives without understanding the legislation served no purpose.

He added that instead of rejecting a comprehensive, clause-by-clause discussion, the opposition should have engaged in constructive debate.

Tarar expressed confidence that the 27th Constitutional Amendment, once presented today, would be approved without any difficulty.



The minister hailed the Pakistan as well." Published by: Almass Ayoub Sabir from Zero Point Printers Rawalpindi

achievement worthy of great appre-

He said the army had successfully rescued over 500 students, describing the mission as one that would be remembered globally and studied in military academies around the world.

Tarar said the operation had sent a clear message to the enemy, noting that Pakistan had triumphed against an adversary four times its size.

He added that the enemy was forced to abandon its positions and flee, asserting that this proxy war posed no real challenge for Pakistan.

When asked if former prime minister Nawaz Sharif would visit Parliament House today, Tarar replied, "We'll arrange your meeting with him

President Zardari for stronger economic engagement with Philippines

👺 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari on Wednesday called for of enduring friendship and cooperastronger economic engagement, including enhanced trade in food and pharmaceutical products and greater private-sector collaboration with Philippines.

He said Pakistan stands with the Philippines in its recovery and commended Manila's leadership in advancing regional climate resilience, including through the establishment of the Loss and Damage Fund to be based in Manila.

to former President and current ment of the Philippines over the Member of the House of Represent- loss of lives and widespread damage atives of the Republic of the Phil- caused by the recent earthquake in ippines, Gloria Macapagal, who Cebu and Typhoons Kalmaegi and called on President Asif Ali Zardari Fung-wong. at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Welcoming Ms Macapagal, the president said that Pakistan and the Philippines share over seven decades tion across political, economic, and defence fields.

The president said the 2022 MoU on Bilateral Defence Cooperation was a milestone and congratulated the Philippines on assuming the ASEAN Chairship for 2026.

He also reaffirmed Pakistan's appreciation for Manila's continued support for Pakistan's engagement with ASEAN.

President Zardari expressed soli-President Zardari was talking darity with the people and govern-

Continued on Page 7

Pakistan continues to participate in Neutral Expert proceedings on IWT: FO



E City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Wednesday said that it continued to fully November 17-21 in Vienna

were initiated on India's request, with their next phase scheduled to take place in Vienna from 17-21 November 2025. While India has decided to halt its participation, Pakistan continues to fully participate in the Neutral Expert proceedings in good faith," the Foreign Office these proceedings in a phased spokesperson Tahir Andrabi said in a statement.

had ruled that India's non-participation could not operate as a bar to the added.

proceedings going forward.

The spokesperson said that in the context of the arbitration initiated by Pakistan against India under the participate in good faith in the provisions of the Indus Waters Treaty Neutral Expert proceedings, with its (IWT), Pakistan had taken note of next phase scheduled to take place on the recent Decision of the Court of Arbitration which has offered helpful "The Neutral Expert proceedings clarification on certain aspects of the Court's 'Award on Issues of General Interpretation of the Indus Waters Treaty', published on 8 August 2025.

Pakistan has also taken note of the Procedural Order issued in parallel with the decision which affirms that the Court will continue to conduct manner and would take into account the proceedings taking place before He said that the Neutral Expert the Neutral Expert under Article IX and Annexure F of the IWT, he

World Bank praises Maryam Nawaz as 'climate change warrior' and leader from **South Asia**



News Desk

ISLAMABAD: World Bank's Global Director for Climate Change Group, Valerie Hickey, met Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz in Belem and praised her as a "climate change warrior and climate leader" emerging from South Asia.

During the meeting, Hickey commended CM Maryam's commitment to environmental protection and her speech at the global forum, calling it inspiring.

She even quoted three excerpts from the chief minister's address, Punjab.

appreciating her clarity and passion for climate action.

Hickey said the World Bank was ready to collaborate with the Punjab government on clean air, forestation, and sustainable development projects, and invited Punjab to participate in the international carbon

Expressing gratitude, CM Maryam said she aimed to make Punjab a model province for environmental progress and sustainability.

Valerie Hickey also accepted Maryam Nawaz's invitation to visit