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Minorities in Pakistan enjoy equal rights: Ahsan Iqbal

Minister for Planning and Development, Ahsan Iqbal says minorities have always been provided equal rights in Pakistan. Addressing a ceremony at Narowal on Sunday, he said minorities' rights have always been given due importance whether in jobs or public private partnership projects.



AJK Assembly meets today to decide fate of PM Anwarul Haq Ch

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

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Meeting

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari in a meeting with King Abdullah II ibn Al Hussein of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan at



Photo: PID

President Zardari meets King Abdullah II of Jordan, confers Nishan-e-Pakistan

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari received His Majesty King Abdullah II ibn Al-Hussein, King of the Hashe-State visit to Pakistan, at Aiwan-e-Sadr here on Sunday.

Muhammad, Chief Advisor for Religious and Cultural Affairs and Personal Envoy; Mr Ayman Safadi, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign

Zardari; Chairman PPP, Bilawal itarian and development cooperation. Bhutto Zardari and Senator Sherry Rehman were present on the occasion.

The two leaders reaffirmed the longstanding and fraternal ties between mite Kingdom of Jordan, who is on a Pakistan and Jordan and discussed the full range of bilateral relations. They noted the need to build on the His Majesty was accompanied by strength of these relations and to His Royal Highness Prince Ghazi bin encourage greater people-to-people contact between the two countries.

They also reviewed regional and international developments of mutual

On Palestine, the President and His Majesty noted the convergence of

views and reiterated their shared principled position on post-war Gaza. They rejected any displacement of Palestinians and emphasised the need for a Two-State solution. They called for the establishment of an independent, sovereign, viable and contiguous State of Palestine on pre-June 1967 borders

with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital. His Majesty King Abdullah II expressed pride in the deep-rooted ties between Jordan and Pakistan, reaffirming Jordan's keenness to expand cooperation across various sectors.

Continued on Page 7

Saudi Arabia bans medically unfit Pakistani pilgrims from Hajj 2026

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Saudi Arabia has imposed strict restrictions on medically unfit pilgrims, including Pakistanis, for Hajj 2026 and has introduced a deportation policy for those found unwell after arrival. Under the new rules, any pilorim deemed medically unfit will be sent back to their home country, and in cases of policy violations, the cost of repatriation will be borne by the pilgrim.

According to Pakistan's Ministry of Religious Affairs, action will also be taken against doctors who issue fitness certificates to unfit pilgrims.

The ministry said the Saudi Ministry of Health has set mandatory medical conditions for all pilgrims intending to perform Hajj in 2026.

Individuals suffering from kidney diseases, including those on dialysis, will not be permitted to perform Hajj. The Saudi Ministry of Health has also barred patients with severe heart conditions who are unable to endure physical exertion. Restrictions have additionally been placed on those suffering from lung and liver diseases.

The Ministry of Religious Affairs noted that the Saudi government has also prohibited pilgrims with severe neurological or psychological disorders, weak memory, dementia, major disabilities, and cancer from undertaking the pilgrimage.

Army chief warns against bid to impose war, recalls response given in May

跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Field Marshal Asim Munir has said that those who attempt to impose war will be given the same response as the one given in May.

He made the remarks at a ceremony held at Aiwan-e-Sadr in honour of Jordan's King Abdullah II, where the army chief received a warm reception

The army chief said that "Allah granted Pakistan honour and success" in its war against India.

Field Marshal Asim Munir said that when a Muslim places full trust in Allah, "Allah can turn even the dust he throws at the enemy into a missile."

The army chief said the Pakistan Army is "the army of Allah," and that "our soldiers fight in the name of Allah."

During the ceremony, King Abdullah II of Jordan was conferred the Nishan-e-Pa- Abdullah II at Aiwan-e-Sadr.



kistan, the country's highest civil award.

President Asif Ali Zardari said on the occasion that "we are all one family."

A large number of federal ministers, governors and foreign diplomats attended the ceremony. Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari and Aseefa Bhutto also participated.

Following the formal proceedings, a luncheon was hosted in honour of King

Mohsin Naqvi pays surprise visit to Lahore airport

👺 Bureau Report

LAHORE: Interior Minister Syed Mohsin Naqvi and Federal Minister for Overseas icates of commendation for Pakistanis Chaudhry Salik them.

Hussain on Sunday paid a surprise visit to Lahore's Allama Iqbal International Airport and inspected the immigration process.

The rush of people at the immigration counter angered Naqvi, who ordered speeding up the

process.

Both ministers talked to the passengers going overseas and inquired about the immigration process.

Naqvi, on the occasion, patted on the back of the immigration staffers who stopped a passenger going also be taken against the FIA abroad without necessary travel documents allegedly

in connivance with the FIA employees and gave them cash from his pocket.

He also announced certif-



He ordered that nobody should be allowed to travel sans documents.

The minister made it clear that illegal immigration would not be tolerated. "Any passenger going abroad illegally will not be allowed to board the plane," Naqvi said, adding that action would employees facilitating such passengers.

concern, with particular focus on peace, Affairs and Expatriates and Major stability and security in the Middle General Yousef Huneiti, Chairman of East. Both sides underlined the importhe Joint Chiefs of Staff. tance of working together in multilat-First Lady Bibi Aseefa Bhutto eral forums and of promoting human-DPM reaffirms Second round of Aalmi resolve to pursue proactive foreign

policy

👺 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar Sunday chaired a meeting at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and discussed with the Foreign Secretary and senior officials of Foreign Office, Pakistan's foreign policy priorities, key regional and global developments, and forthcoming high-level engagements.

The DPM/FM reaffirmed Pakistan's resolve to pursue a proactive foreign policy focused on securing economic opportunities, reinforcing strategic partnerships, strengthening multilateral cooperation, and contributing to regional stability and global peace.

Tablighi Congregation concludes at Raiwind

👺 Bureau Report

LAHORE: All roads leading to Raiwind were closed for traffic as the second round of Aalmi Tableeghi Ijtema concluded on Sunday, Maulana Ibrahim Dewla of India offered collective prayer.

One-way traffic plied on Raiwind to

Lahore road, Sundar Road and Manga As many as 1,200 additional traffic

police personnel were deployed on these routes on CTO Athar Waheed's instruc-The CTO said that traffic from the and 12:00 at noon.

motorway Ring Road would not be allowed to enter Raiwind until all participants left the venue of the congregation.

He further said that the traffic coming from Raiwind should reach the Ring Road via Adda

The CTO went on to say that road crossing would not be allowed from Raiwind Road, Manga Road and Sundar Road.

Waheed said that first of all motorcycle and rickshaw drivers would be asked to vacate their stands. "Later, car stands, wagon stands and then bus and truck stands will be vacated," he added. He said that routine traffic would be

tion is reduced. He asked motorists to avoid travelling on the Raiwind Road between 7:00 AM

restored on roads once traffic conges-





PPP's Prime Ministerial Nominee Faisal Mumtaz Rathore holds important meeting with Faryal Talpur

跨 Abdul Majeed Tahir

ISLAMABAD: PPP Women's Wing Central President Faryal Talpur met PPP's Prime Ministerial Nominee Faisal Mumtaz Rathore at Zardari House, Islamabad. In the meeting, Faisal Mumtaz Rathore expressed full confidence in the party leadership and thanked President Asif Ali Zardari, Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and Faryal Talpur for his nomination.

On this occasion, Faisal Mumtaz Rathore reiterated his commitment to carry forward the vision of the Kashmir cause of Quaid-e-Awam Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto.

Farval Talpur directed Faisal Mumtaz Rathore to make a comprehensive plan for the development and welfare of the people of Azad Kashmir, especially the youth.



Attention to concerned authority

CHINIOT: A view of the sewragw water accumulated in street of Mohallah Muzzamshah Riaz Shah Koti Road from several days which needs the attention of concern authorities.



Kashmir's Future Secure with 'Kashmir will become Pakistan' slogan, says Sardar Attique

Spokesman Report

RAWALPINDI: The President of All Jammu Kashmir Muslim Conference and former Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir, Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan has said that the slogan "Kashmir will be become Pakistan" is a guarantee of the region's secure future. He stated and Kashmir can never be denied. The that the freedom of occupied Jammu and Kashmir is written on the wall. fact, a movement for the completion of The role of the Muslim Conference Pakistan. The Muslim Conference has in the history of the state of Jammu always emerged successful after every



freedom movement of Kashmir is, in

The President of the Muslim Conference said that the history of Kashmir can never forget the sacrifices of the Muslim Conference, Chaudhry Ghulam Abbas, Ghazi-e-Millat, and the first Mujahid e Awwal Sardar Muhammad Abdul Qayyum Khan. Sardar Attique said that no conspiracy of the enemy can separate Kashmiris from Pakistan. The armed forces of Pakistan have set a new history in Operation Baan-e-Marsus. The Paki-

stani army is now counted among the most powerful armies in the world. The entire nation stands united with the armed forces of Pakistan.

The meeting of the Central Executive Committee was attended by several prominent leaders and office bearers of the Muslim Conference, including former President Mirza Muhammad Shafiq Joral, Central Chief Organizer Raja Šaqib Majeed Khan, Additional Secretary General Raja Latif Hasrat,

Sindhiyon Tehreek and Awami Tehreek, held a protest march

👺 Qayoom Sarohi

HYDERABAD: On the call of the Sindhiyani Tehreek and Awami Tehreek, thousands of women held a protest march from City Gate to the Hyderabad Press Club against the 26th and 27th Constitutional Amendments, corporate farming, proposed dams on the Indus River, alleged encroachments on mineragainst women.

Sindhu, Sajid Mahesar, Noor Ahmed Katiyar, Konj Lashari, Ghulam Mustafa Chandio, and other leaders, while lawyers and civil society representatives also participated. A public gathering was held upon reaching the press club. Addressing the gathering, the

leaders said that the 27th Constitutional Amendment is an attack on democracy and equivalent to depriving al resources, karo-kari, and violence citizens of their fundamental rights. Corporate farming was termed a The march was led by Wassand conspiracy to seize local lands, and all dam projects including Kalabagh Thari, Umra Samoon, Dr. Marvi the proposed dams were described



as an attempt to rob Sindh of its and anti-terrorism laws, and an end water. The speakers demanded the abolition of SIFC, cancellation of corporate farming projects, an end to efforts to divide Sindh, halting of

to violence against women.

The resolutions passed during the march rejected the constitutional amendments and called for the protection of democratic and provincial and Bhasha, withdrawal of PECA rights across the country.

AJ&K new govt cabinet size sparks controversy, warns Action Committee



👺 Abdul Majeed Tahii

MUZAFFARABAD: Azad Jammu Kashmir Joint Public Action Committee core member Shaukat Nawaz Mir has said that the new government formed in Azad Kashmir will have a total of 20 flag holders, including 16 ministers in addition to 4 important post holders.

He made it clear that if any of the refugees were made a minister, it would be considered a violation of the agreement.

He says that in such a case, he will not sit for further negotiations and will decide the next course of action after his consultation.

According to Shaukat Nawaz Mir, it is necessary to implement all the points included in the agreement. If not implemented, Jammu and Kashmir Joint People's Action

Committee She will be completely free to make her own decisions and then decide

what to do next. He said that the message has been delivered to the new government

A joint Human Rights and Legal Support Unit to be established at Sir Cowasjee



B Abdul Ghafoor Sarohi

HYDERABAD: The Human Rights Department, Government of Sindh, conducted a high-level visit and coordination meeting at Sir Cowasjee Jehangir Institute of Psychiatry, Hyderabad. The meeting was chaired by Agha Fakhur Hussain, Director (Human Rights), and attended by Professor Dr Nisar Sohu, Medical Superintendent, senior clinical psychologists, hospital administration, and Maqbool Rahu CEO HANDS, along with representatives of HANDS, one of Pakistan's leading development and health-sector organisations.

The visit was undertaken in line with the vision of Rajvir Singh Sodha, Special Assistant to the Chief Minister on Human Rights, who has emphasised the urgent strengthening of mental-health services, legal-aid mechanisms, and community-based psychosocial support-particularly in vulnerable regions of Sindh.

HANDS would support by nominating qualified candidates. For this purpose, four psychologists would be selected from the desertbelt districts so they could be stationed locally to respond swiftly and effectively.

During the visit, Agha Fakhur Hussain inspected various wards, interacted with staff, and reviewed service delivery mechanisms.

Hameed Akbar distributes motorbikes to empower veterinary field staff in Attock

👺 Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: Under the vision of Chief Minister Punjab Ms. Maryam Nawaz Sharif for the improvement of the livestock sector and to further strengthen field services, a dignified ceremony was held at the Livestock Complex Attock. Acting upon the special instructions of Secretary Livestock Ahmad Aziz Tarar, Director General Extension Dr. Muhammad Ashraf, and Director Livestock Rawalpindi Division Dr. Naveed Sehr Zaidi, Additional Director Livestock Dr. Tauseef Tahir participated in

The chief guest of the ceremony was Pakistan Muslim League (N) Punjab Assembly ticket holder Mr. Hameed Akbar, who distributed service motorcycles among 14 field veterinary officers of the Livestock $\,$ Department. The purpose of this initiative is to improve the provision of veterinary facilities to the public at their doorstep.

Addressing the ceremony, the speakers termed the motorcycle distribution scheme an important step taken by Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif for the improvement of the Livestock Department, and said that it would significantly enhance the availability of animal treatment, breeding, and veterinary services in remote areas.

The participating veterinary doctors and staff of the Livestock Department expressed their gratitude to the Chief Minister Punjab and pledged to further accelerate their efforts to provide quality and timely services to the public.

Operations launched against illegal fireworks warehouses, shops in Hyderabad

 $HYDERABAD, NOV\,16\,(APP): On the instructions of Deputy Commissions of Deputy Commissions and Commissions of Deputy Commissions and Commissions of Deputy Commissions and Commission and Commissio$ sioner Hyderabad Zainul Aabdin Memon, operations have been launched against illegal fireworks warehouses and shops in the city.

The district administration, police and civil defense teams conducted joint operations in different areas of the city and raided several places. According to the district administration, shops selling fireworks openly and illegally were sealed during the operations.

A large quantity of fireworks was also seized from a warehouse located in Liaquat Colony. The DC said that the people involved in the illegal business are absconding from the spot while the police are continuing raids to arrest all the accused.

He made it clear that any illegal activity that endangers human lives will not be tolerated.





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Women Police Stations

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| Islamabad | 922259 | |
| Rawalpindi | 9270601-2 | |
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| Edhi Ambulance | 115 |
| PIA Flight Info | 114 |
| PIA Cargo | 9280979 |
| Railway Inquiry | 117 |
| Railway Exchange | 9270831-5 |
| WASA Rawalpindi | 5555489 |
| C 4 4 | 0201002 |

HOSPITALS

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

DEPARTMENTS

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

COMPLAINTS

Water Tanker Service G-5, G-6, G-7, G-8, G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, H-8 ..9266316 Wapda Islamabad......9217579-80 Sui Gas Complaint..... 119, 9272249 Wasa Water Tank0331-5022125

Obhartay Sitaray Returns-Where Young Voices Rise for a Greater Cause

👺 City Desk

KARACHI: The stage is set, the lights are on, and the voices of change are ready to sing again. Obhartay Sitaray (OS) one of The Citizens Foundation's (TCF) most vibrant and beloved musical fundraising events, is back-bringing with it a powerful blend of youthful talent, community spirit, and heartfelt giving.

More than just a singing competition, Obhartay Sitaray gives students from schools across Karachi. a platform to showcase their musical talent while raising funds to help less-privileged children gain education. This year, 71 schools are participating, including both the fundraising schools and others, with over 75,000 children coming together to make a real difference. With a total of 26 judges on the panel, the event brings together seasoned artists and mentors who guide and celebrate these young performers. With each note sung, students play a part in changing lives-helping other children like them access the education they deserve.

Second Pakistan Sustainability Summit to focus on climate smart housing, infrastructures

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Development Communications Network (Devcom-Pakistan), in collaboration with a wide network of leading public and private sector institutions, will host the 2nd Pakistan Sustainability Summit 2025 on December 3 at the Best Western Premier Hotel in Islamabad. The national summit is expected to attract more than 300 experts and stakeholders along with over 10,000 visitors to its sustainability expo, focusing on the theme "Sustainable Housing for Economic Resilience & Climate-Smart Living." The event takes place at a time when Pakistan confronts a widening housing deficit exceeding 400,000 units annually, a rapidly growing urban population, and esca-



lating climate-induced risks. Nearly 40 percent of urban residents lack access to adequate housing and essential services. highlighting the urgent need to reform

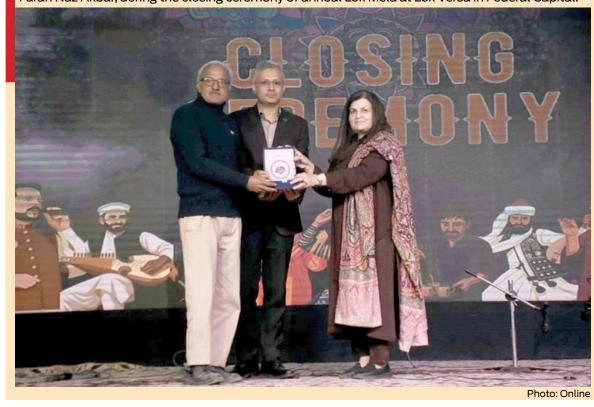
how Pakistan builds, plans, and manag-

Speaking to a group of media professionals on Sunday afternoon, wellknown environmentalist and climate advocacy expert, Executive Director Devcom-Pakistan Munir Ahmed said: "While the construction and real estate sectors remain critical for national GDP and employment, they also account for substantial natural resource consumption

and large volumes of carbon emissions. Munir Ahmed, Executive Director of Devcom-Pakistan and a prominent environmentalist and climate advocacy expert, underscored the strategic importance of this year's summit. "Pakistan can no longer afford to expand its cities on outdated, resource-intensive, and climate-insensitive models," he said.

Best Coverage Award

ISLAMABAD: Photojournalist of Online International News Network Sultan Bashir takes best coverage award from Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training Farah Naz Akbar, during the closing ceremony of annual Lok Mela at Lok Versa in Federal Capital.



Dance Night 2.0 Steals the Show on the 17th Day of World Culture Festival 2025at Karachi Arts Council

KARACHI: The 39-day World Culture Festival 2025 continued its vibrant cultural iourney on its 17th day with Dance Night 2.0, workshops, film screenings, and theatre performances. Dance Night 2.0 showcases spectacular performances by both international and local artists. Anisha Thai performed alongside the Sovapa students, while the Philippines Folk Dance drew massive attention from the audience. The ACP Classical Fusion group captivated spectators with their intricate and graceful movements, making



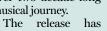
the event a memorable cultural celebration.

Earlier, the day began with a dance workshop by renowned

Hong Kong dancer Anisha Thai, where students explored various dance styles through expressive body movements and learned the art of synchronisation and stage presence. Addressing the participants, Anisha Thai said that "Dance is not just movement, it is a feeling. When we energize each other, the performance comes alive. Harmony between partners adds beauty and grace. I am impressed by the talent, enthusiasm, and dedication of Arts Council students. Keep working hard, and you can shine on the global stage. Dance connects hearts and spreads joy and positivity."

Farhan Saeed Releases First Single 'Khat' from His Debut Solo Album

KARACHI: Pakistani music superstar Farhan Saeed released the first single and title track, Khat, from his highly anticipated debut solo. Produced and sung by Farhan himself, Khat is a heartfelt dedication from his heart to his fans, marking the beginning of an exciting new chapter in his over two-decade-long musical journey.





already set the internet on fire, with a wave of excitement and love pouring in from fans across the globe. He announced the song on Instagram with the caption "KHAT is yours now", further amplifying the buzz online. The track is available to watch on YouTube, and the audio is streaming across major platforms including Spotify, Apple Music, Amazon Music, Deezer, and more.

Khat is Farhan's first solo album after more than 20 years in the music industry and features 10 tracks, with one song set to release every month, keeping fans eagerly anticipating each new drop. The music direction for Khat is led by Muhammad Hassan Abbas and Qasim Dahir, delivering a sound that is both soulful and refreshing.

This album is a journey I've always wanted to share with my fans. Khat is just the beginning," says Farhan Saeed, reflecting on this venture and his dedication to his audience.

With Khat, Farhan Saeed not only marks a milestone in his personal musical journey but also sets the stage for a fresh and dynamic chapter in contemporary Pakistani music.

Sundas Foundation and Punjab Social Welfare Department Honor Blood **Donors**

👺 City Desk

LAHORE: Sundas Foundation, in collaboration with the Social Welfare & Bait-ul-Maal Punjab and under the Plus Guard Network Punjab, organized a recognition ceremony to honor blood donors. The event was graced by Secretary Social Welfare & Bait-ul-Maal Punjab Mr. Javed Akhtar Mahmood, Additional Secretary Ms. Amna Munir, Director Ms. Faiza Naeem Warraich, and Director General Social Welfare Mr. Muhammad Tariq Qureshi.

The distinguished guests were warmly received by Founer/ President Sundas Foundation Mr. Yaseen Khan, Patron Mr. Sohail Ahmed Warraich, and Director Mr. Khalid Abbas Dar. They visited thalassemia, hemophilia, and other blood disorder patients, distributed gifts among them, and reviewed the medical facilities being provided at the center.

On the occasion, Medical Director Dr. Adnan Gilani briefed the guests about the available medical services, modern equipment, highquality treatment systems, and the blood management system at

Later, Secretary Javed Akhtar Mahmood expressed heartfelt appreciation for the humanitarian services of Sundas Foundation. He said that the Foundation not only honors blood donors but has also emerged as a true ray of hope for patients by providing free treatment and advanced medical facilities.

Grow More Wheat, Boost Production campaign gains momentum in Murree

RAWALPINDI: The "Grow More Wheat, Boost Production" campaign is progressing with vigour in Murree district, aimed at increasing wheat yield through farmer awareness and adoption of modern agricultural practices, officials said on Sunday.

Organised jointly by the Department of Agriculture (Extension), Murree, and Pir Mehr Ali Shah Barani Agricultural University, Rawalpindi, the campaign has included field days, awareness seminars, demonstrations, and roadshows across the Tehsils of Murree and

Farmers attending the events were guided on the use of certified seeds, balanced fertilisation, seed treatment techniques, and timely sowing to maximise wheat productivity. Experts emphasised that adopting modern wheat varieties and best cultivation practices could substantially increase yield per acre. In Kotli Sattian, practical demonstrations and seminars highlighted effective crop management, modern agricultural techniques, and weed control methods.

The Deputy Director, Department of Agriculture, university faculty, and students actively participated, commending farmers' enthusiasm. During the campaign, the participants were also briefed on timely

land preparation, optimal fertiliser application, and proper irrigation. Awareness walks and interactive sessions saw large turnouts of local farmers and university students.

The agricultural experts said consistent use of certified seeds, adherence to modern cultivation methods, and following seasonal guidance could significantly boost wheat output.

The participants praised the collaboration between the Department of Agriculture (Extension), Murree, and Barani University, calling for continued and regular farmer guidance programmes.

Constitutional Amendment or Consolidation of Power

constitutional amendments, power struggles, of authority. Since its inception, the country has faced recurring constitutional crises that have weakened democratic traditions and disrupted institutional balance. A constitution is the backbone of any state it defines the distribution of power, guarantees unity. However, when the constitution is repeatedly altered to serve personal or party interests, it breeds division. distrust, and political instability instead of harmony and consensus. Pakistan's but to secure or extend the power of particular individuals or political

In the early years, Pakistan struggled to formulate a constitution that truly reflected the aspirations of its people. this imbalance. On the other hand, the

Pakistan is marked by 1956, but within two years, it was abrogated, and martial law was imposed. The 1962 constitution introduced a and the centralization presidential system that concentrated power in the hands of one man. The 1973 constitution, though a landmark of national consensus, was soon altered through amendments that disrupted the balance of power. Each successive government reshaped the constitution to suit its political agenda — some citizens' rights, and ensures national empowering the president, others the prime minister while the rights of the people were continually undermined. In principle, constitutional amend-

ments are meant to improve governance and adapt the system to changing constitutional history offers several realities. Unfortunately, in Pakistan, examples where amendments were most amendments were driven by made not to strengthen democracy political self-interest rather than public welfare. The 8th Amendment, for example, gave the president the power to dissolve the assembly, thereby destabilizing the parliamentary system. Later, the 17th Amendment reinforced

restore parliamentary supremacy, sparked new debates over the division of powers between the federa- ciary, and executive forms the foundation and the provinces. Thus, behind tion of the constitutional system. Yet, every amendment stood a political when one branch seeks dominance slogan, but in practice,

personal or partisan interests prevailed. In Pakistan, the constitution has too often been treated as a political tool. Every

government, upon

coming to power, has

sought to manipulate **Muhammad Asif** constitutional proviinstitutions, and secure its own survival. Even judicial interpretations

at times reflected the prevailing political climate. Consequently, the constitution the embodiment of justice, equality, and public participation was reduced to a mere document, stripped of its true spirit.

This constant consolidation of power

he political history of The first constitution was adopted in 18th Amendment, while claiming to not only fuels political instability but justice, it serves democracy. But if it Nations thrive on principles where law also triggers institutional conflict. The balance among the parliament, judi-

over the others, the entire state structure begins to crumble. As Allama Iqbal once said, "Nations are made in the hands of individuals; every person is a star in the destiny of the nation." But when individuals consider themselves above

sions to weaken opponents, control the constitution, the nation's destiny

Amending the constitution is not inherently wrong; societies evolve, and so must their legal frameworks. The crucial question, however, is why amendments are made for the people's welfare or for the entrenchment of power? If an amendment enhances representation, transparency, and

aims to suppress opposition, concentrate authority, or extend personal rule, it undermines democracy itself.

The pursuit of absolute power has another grave consequence: the alienation of citizens from politics and the constitution. When people perceive that laws serve only the powerful, their faith in the system collapses. This disillusionment breeds helplessness, despair, and ultimately, institutional decay. Transparency, inclusiveness, and accountability in the constitutional process are essential to ensure that amendments reflect public interest, not private ambi-

Political parties must realize that the constitution is not a game to be rewritten with every change in government. If constitutional supremacy is not maintained, democratic continuity will remain fragile. The desire for power is natural, but it must remain within constitutional limits. The consolidation of authority may bring temporary satisfaction but causes long-term harm.

is supreme, and power serves institutions, not individuals.

What Pakistan needs today is constitutional stability, institutional balance, and public trust. If every government continues to mold the constitution to its own advantage, neither law nor democracy will survive. Amendments can only be meaningful when made transparently, through national consensus, and in the interest of the people.

In conclusion, it is vital to understand the difference between constitutional amendment and consolidation of power. When amendments aim at reform and progress, they strengthen the nation; but when they serve to entrench authority, they strike at the very heart of democracy. Pakistan's true need is a system where the constitution stands firm, the law reigns supreme, and power becomes a means of service not a weapon of control.

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Tractors Distributed to Farmers in Jhelum **Under Green Tractor Scheme**

nder the Green Tractor Scheme of Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif, tractors were distributed to farmers in

Minister of State for Finance and Railways, Bilal Azhar Kayani, distributed the Green Tractors to 39 farmers from Jhelum, Dina, and Sohawa tehsils. Of these beneficiaries, 10 belong to Tehsil Jhelum, 10 to Tehsil Dina, and 19 to Tehsil Sohawa. Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif has provided a special subsidy of PKR 1 million on each tractor.

Addressing the ceremony, Minister of State Bilal Azhar Kayani stated that Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif is promoting agriculture in Punjab by providing tractors to farmers at affordable prices.

The Minister of State emphasized that the provision of modern agricultural machinery to farmers will modernize agriculture in Punjab, and the process of e-mechanization marks the beginning of a new era for the sector in the province. He highlighted that the development of farmers leads to the development of agriculture and Pakistan, as agriculture is the backbone of Pakistan's industrial and economic progress. He further noted that the use of modern equipment such as super seeders, balers, and Kubota machines is significantly aiding the promotion of modern agriculture. controlling smog, and addressing the issue of crop

Bilal Azhar Kayani also mentioned other government welfare projects, including Suthra Punjab, the Kisan Card, early construction of the Lilla Jhelum Road, provision of new blocks and health facilities at DHQ Jhelum, establishment of a THQ in Dina, and linking Jhelum with the Lahore-Sialkot Motorway. He affirmed that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is focused on providing employment to youth and ensuring the country's economic development, and both he and Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif are working sincerely day and night for the service of the people. The Minister of State also announced that efforts are underway to promptly fulfill the long-standing demand for gas supply in Dina and Sohawa, and he would make a special request in this regard to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Federal Minister Ali Pervaiz.

Significant Decisions on the Constitutional Court, Chief of Defense Forces and Lifetime Field Marshal

Amendment marks a stan's judicial system by establishing a permanent Constitutional Court, institutionalizing the ad hoc Constitution Bench This specialized court will exclusively handle complex constitutional matters, alleviating the Supreme Court and other courts of an overwhelming caseload and allowing them to focus on routine civil. criminal, and administrative cases. By creating an autonomous court with expert judges and clear procedures, the amendment aims to ensure consistent constitutional interpretation, strengthen the separation of powers, protect fundamental rights, and improve efficiency and transparency across the judiciary. Public reaction has been overwhelmingly positive, with citizens and legal experts viewing this reform as a longawaited step toward reducing delays and improving the fairness and effectiveness of Pakistan's judicial system.

A considerable amount of well-deserved praise and popular acclaim has been specifically and notably directed toward the current Army Chief and Field Marshal, Sved Asim Munir, who has earned a distinguished, impeccable, and stellar reputation both within the military hierarchy and among the general public for his unwavering leadership, exceptional discipline, and clear, decisive strategic foresight. Under his resolute and disciplined command, the Pakistan Army has reportedly performed with alism, not only in the foundational and integrity of the armed forces.

he 27th Constitutional critical duty of maintaining the country's internal security and external stability these constitutional amendments and historic reform of Paki- but also in effectively confronting and overcoming various complex regional and domestic challenges that have arisen. He has been widely and consistently credited with leading the army with created under the 26th Amendment. unimpeachable integrity and profound determination during numerous crit-

ical and challenging times, particularly in crucial matters related to national defense, counterterrorism operations, and managing regional tensions with a firm hand. His decisive and strategic leadership during the highly publicized recent Operation

Marka-e-Haq against India has been universally highlighted by the people as powerful evidence of his unvielding commitment and proven effectiveness in protecting the nation's sovereignty and core national interests. Moreover, Field Marshal Asim Munir has been actively and substantively engaged in addressing the complex, interwoven challenges facing Pakistan, which include internal security threats, intricate border management issues, and successfully navigating the rapidly evolving geopolitical situation in the South Asian region. His comprehensive approach successfully combines high military professionalism with a deep, nuanced awareness of the political, economic, and social dimensions of national security, thereby decisively strengthening public confidence in the exceptional distinction and profession- professionalism, capacity, and ultimate

the accompanying institutional reforms collectively represent an exceptionally important and forward-looking evolution in Pakistan's governance system, powerfully reflecting the State's determined and proactive efforts to actively adapt to changing regional and global

realities, clearly establish precise, unambiguous lines of authority, thoroughly modernize both its civil and military institu-

tions for the modern era. By strategically placing the appointments of the nation's top military officials

firmly within a constitutional framework that is legally grounded in the Prime Minister's binding advice, the amendment simultaneously and forcefully reinforces the fundamental and paramount principle of democratic oversight over the armed forces—a crucial, essential, and non-negotiable element in maintaining the essential and delicate balance between civilian leadership and military power within a functional and progressing democracy. The decisive institutional introduction of the Chief of Defence ForceS and the formal continuation of the Field Marshal rank as a lifelong honor symbolize not only structural and operational change but also the enduring, grateful recognition of profound service, immense personal sacrifice, and unwavering profession-

alism within the military establishment. Overall, these far-reaching and nation as a whole.

In a much broader and systemic sense, complex decisions are being broadly interpreted by observers as visionary, well-executed, and genuinely forwardlooking measures that are explicitly aimed at significantly enhancing the efficiency, unity, and international prestige of Pakistan's defense system. They clearly reflect a strong national determination to learn valuable strategic lessons from international experiences while simultaneously preserving the country's own unique strategic priorities, its core national sovereignty, and its deep-rooted military traditions and ethos. The entirety of these reforms demonstrates that Pakistan is proactively and seriously striving to create a well-defined, constitutionally grounded, and modern command structure that is fully equipped, trained, and prepared to meet the complex and multifaceted challenges of the 21st century with demonstrable strength, institutional coherence, and absolute national confidence. all while continuing to properly and prominently honor those exceptional leaders who have served the nation with unparalleled dedication, courage, and supreme distinction. The populace of Pakistan fundamentally believes and profoundly hopes that the 27th Amendment will indeed serve as a significant and powerful catalyst to help usher in a new, transformative era of peace, stability, and lasting prosperity for the country. The people of Pakistan universally and strongly welcome all decisions and regulations that are clearly, explicitly, and demonstrably aimed at bringing greater stability, profound peace, and sustained national prosperity to the



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

Dengue in Multan: Incompetence, Apathy, and the State's Attempt to Bury the Truth

 ${\it ``History\,will\,judge,our\,administration\,does'}$ Lip service only'

he rising dengue outbreak in Multan is no longer merely a public health issue; it has become a glaring testament to administrative incompetence, journalistic complacency, and bureaucratic self-interest. The city is under a ruthless mosquito invasion, homes are filled with fever-stricken patients, and

ically, those responsible remain blind, the pen has fallen silent, and the collective conscience seems to have vanished.

Veteran journalist Anila Ashraf from Multan aptly remarked that dengue in the city is out of control, yet prominent media voices and "influential" officers are too busy offering courtesies in bureau-

cratic drawing rooms. This bitter truth has become a symbol of our social decay where journalism becomes a slave to power rather than a voice for the people. It seemed that the journalists had adopted a bought-and-sold policy.

Zain-ul-Abideen Abid

To understand the real extent of the outbreak, we conducted a detailed survey across Multan's localities-townships, colonies, slums, and upscale areas. Shockingly, people from middleclass to elite neighbourhoods reported that no dengue spray was carried out this year. A resident, Naeem Rana, made a startling revelation: upon asking a spray worker why they were not covering certain areas, he was told that department officers load workers into vehicles every morning, take them to DHA and Buch Villas, conduct the entire day's spray there, and drop them back by evening. Moreover, trained employees who lack even basic expertise. In and demand that trained dengue workers be our administration does Lip service only.

New Shah Shams Colony, Grain Market, Peer Colony, Double Phatak, Old Shujaabad Road, Nazimabad, and Loha Market, residents unanimously stated that no spray had been conducted, despite widespread dengue cases. Senior journalists and citizens on social media

continue to report that Multan is currently in the grip of a devastating dengue wave. Streets, markets, neighborhoods, and homes are fear grips the queues outside hospitals. Yet trag- heavily affected. Hospitals are overcrowded,

beds have run out, and patients are lying helpless on floorswhile the administration's apathy remains unchanged. The most disturbing aspect is that trained dengue workers, who had protected the city for a decade, were dismissed over personal grudges. Even after court orders, authorities refuse to reinstate them. These expe-

rienced workers, replaced by untrained individuals, were the backbone of surveillance and larva control. As a result, no surveillance was conducted, no systematic spraying was done, and not a single foundational requirement of dengue prevention was fulfilled throughout

The height of incompetence surfaced when, as dengue cases surged, the administration instructed laboratories to stop testing just to prevent the real numbers from coming to light and to avoid being exposed. This is not just negligence: it is cruelty and barbarity towards human lives. Children are burning with fever, mothers are crying helplessly, hospitals have no spaceyet the corridors of power remain silent like "Asleep at the wheel."

Well said for bureaucrats all 'smoke and dengue teams have been replaced with Grade-IV mirrors. We strongly condemn this behaviour campaign can finally begin. History will judge,

areas such as Mumtazabad, Qasimpur Colony, reinstated immediately, surveillance and spray campaigns be launched without delay, and the illegal restrictions on laboratories be lifted so that the real situation can emerge and citizens' lives can be protected.

> The real question is: Will the Government of Punjab shed light on this darkness, or remain silent and become complicit in this criminal

> If mainstream media—the eyes and ears of the public-has also been "managed," then where will the city's five million people knock for help? This is why citizens are now pleading on social media. The truth is that the real epidemic in Multan is not the mosquito-it is administrative incompetence.

> The real poison is not the virus it is bureaucratic behavior. The real illness is not feverit is the negligence of the administration and the silence of the media. If immediate action is not taken, this crisis will not only increase in numbers-it will become an indelible stain on the face of the entire system. The Government of Puniab must now decide whether it stands with the people or with those who fabricate "all is well" reports.

> Dengue patients and affected citizens have expressed deep concerns, urging the Chief Minister of Punjab to take urgent and serious notice of the situation in Multan. According to them, poor planning, ineffective measures, and disorganized strategies allowed dengue to spiral out of control and infect large numbers of residents. They stated that neither timely spraying was done, nor surveillance conducted, nor any of the basic preventive measures taken to curb the outbreak. Citizens insist that officials responsible for this grave negligence must be immediately removed from Multan so that lives are no longer endangered and an effective dengue prevention

The New Umbrella Over Our Heads

Harmain Javed

fter World War II, Japan made a strategic decision that would define its post-war identity — it accepted protection under the American nuclear umbrella. In return, Japan renounced the pursuit of its own nuclear weapons and placed its faith in Washington's deterrence. It was a practical compromise: Japan could not afford to build a nuclear arsenal, and aligning with the United States ensured both security and reconstruction. Yet this alliance came with an invisible cost — dependence.

Seventy years later, the world is repeating that pattern, only this time the shield is not nuclear. It's digital. Instead of missiles and warheads, it's data centers, algorithms, and artificial intelligence systems that shape the balance of power. What Japan once accepted for survival, almost every nation today accepts for progress: protection, infrastructure, and innovation under a new kind of umbrella — the AI and cloud umbrella.

Their algorithms decide what we see, believe, and even fear. For postcolonial states, the irony is striking. Having once fought to break free from imperial domination, they now walk willingly into a new form of colonization - digital colonization. The masters of this new empire don't plant flags or invade territories; they collect data, own servers, and set global technological standards. Control no longer comes through armies, but through infrastructure — whoever controls the cloud, controls the country. China recognized this early and began developing its own digital ecosystem, banning major Western platforms and building domestic alternatives like Alibaba Cloud and Baidu. The European Union followed suit with GAIA-X, a project to ensure that European data stays within European borders. But most countries, especially in the Global South, remain entirely dependent on foreign clouds for even their basic digital operations. It's a new hierarchy: the data-rich and the data-dependent.

It is tempting to believe that nations can

reclaim control through quick regulations or new data policies. But digital sovereignty cannot be declared — it must be built. Constructing national data centers, creating indigenous AI models, and producing chips all require decades of investment and coordinated policy. Meanwhile, AI development races ahead at an exponential pace, leaving most nations permanently behind. You can't build a self-sufficient cloud in months, nor can you regulate an algorithm you didn't design. The digital infrastructure of the world is already locked into the hands of a few — and the gatekeepers are moving faster than governments can legislate.

In a sense, the world today faces the same paradox Japan once did: security through dependence. Japan accepted the U. S. nuclear umbrella because the alternative — building its own arsenal — was too costly. Similarly, today's nations embrace the AI umbrella because the alternative — total digital autonomy — seems impossible. The logic hasn't changed; only the weapon has.

It may already be too late for many countries to break free from this digital dependence. The foundations were built while policymakers were still debating yesterday's issues. Every step toward modernization — cloud migration. digital governance, AI-driven surveillance has strengthened the hold of those who own the code. The new global order will not be written in treaties but in algorithms. The most powerful nations won't necessarily be those with the largest militaries, but those with the largest datasets and the deepest computing capacity. Just as Japan once lived under America's nuclear shield, the rest of the world now lives under its digital one. The umbrella has changed — from missiles to machines, from bombs to bytes — but the dependency remains.

And perhaps that's the most dangerous part of all: this time, we don't even see the umbrella above our heads.

The writer is currently pursuing a bachelor's degree in International Relations at Air University, Islamabad.

PRCS convenes global partnership meeting in Kuala Lumpur to expand humanitarian collaboration

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) organised the two days Partnership meeting in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, bringing together representatives from leading National Societies from around the world.

This meeting was convened by PRCS after nine years to explore new avenues of partnership and collaboration aimed at strengthening institutional capacity and expanding outreach for more efficient humanitarian services in Pakistan, said a press release.

deeper dialogue, mobilize collective resources, and enhance joint efforts in Climate Change, Health and Care, Migration and Displacement support, and other critical humanitarian services across Pakistan.

The event brought together the dignitaries including, the President of the Iraqi Red Crescent Society Dr Yaseen Ahmed Abass, Regional Director of IFRC Asia Pacific Mr Alexender Mathaeu, Head of IFRC Country Delegation in Pakistan Farid Abdulkadir, Head of ICRC in Pakistan Mr. Christoph Sutter, Head of Office German Red Cross in Pakistan Asif Aman Khan, Head of Norwegian Red Cross in Pakistan Dr Ulugbek Khusenovich Aminov, Head of Turkish Red Crescent in Pakistan Ms Beyza Tuner, representatives of Canadian Red Cross, Italian Red Cross, Red Cross Society of China, Singapore Red Cross, British



It said that PRCS aimed to foster Red Cross, Japanese Red Cross, Qatar Red Crescent, Australian Red Cross, Malaysian Red Crescent Society, and others corporate partners as well.

> The PRCS in coordination with the respective provincial branches in Pakistan will prioritise several critical areas to strengthen its humanitarian footprint including, focus on system development to reinforce transparency, accountability, and institutional efficiency across all levels including.

> The partnership meeting also featured presentations on the PRCS Transformation Plan and Strategic Plan, outlining how the organization is improving systems and processes to enhance humanitarian service delivery across Pakistan.

> Thematic sessions highlighted PRCS initiatives in Climate Change Adaptation, Migration and Displacement, and Health and Wellbeing.

The second day focused on commit-

ments from partner National Societies, moderated by Alexander Matheou, Regional Director for IFRC Asia

In her welcome remarks, Chairperson Farzhana Naek thanked participants for their continued support and emphasized that this meeting marks a milestone in PRCS's transformation

She noted that renewed cooperation will help build stronger partnerships and advance humanitarian action for vulnerable communities across Paki-

She also expressed hope for deeper collaboration with existing and new partners in the years ahead.

Dr Yaseen Ahmed Abbas, President of the Iraqi Red Crescent Society, commended PRCS for hosting the meeting and creating a platform that brings partners together to share ideas, strengthen coordination, and work

toward a more resilient future.

Heads of Delegation from IFRC and ICRC also addressed the gathering. PRCS Secretary General, Muhammad Abaid Ullah Khan, highlighted the growing humanitarian needs in Pakistan and the importance of collective support to reach the most vulnerable.

Representatives from various National Societies appreciated PRCS's efforts and reaffirmed their commitment to continued cooperation in humanitarian service delivery.

The Honourable Chairperson of PRCS also had a sideline meeting with the delegation of Canadian Red Cross, German Red Cross, Red Cross Society of China and Iraqi Red Crescent Society.

The meeting concluded with a shared resolve to strengthen partnerships, scale up support, and work collectively to address the evolving humanitarian challenges in Pakistan.

Pakistan's Geopolitical Crossroads

diate for its ordinary citi- amid China's rise in the region zens. Foreign policy decisions are directly shaping the prices of daily essentials, job prospects at home and abroad, and even neighborhood security. The country finds itself at the intersecting interests of rival powers, enduring both renewed hope and persistent chal-

India: A Flashpoint Rekindled Tensions with India surged this May following a violent episode along the Line of Control—the most serious conflict in decades. Although a U.

S.-brokered ceasefire is in place, deep distrust endures. The around the Indus Waters Treaty has heightened: farmers in Pakistan anxiously monitor upstream Indian water management,

prices remain volatile.

Afghanistan: Strained Borders and Rising Threats The Afghan border remains a source of instability. Attacks by militants crossing into Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, mainly the TTP, have escalated. Ongoing fencing, while meant to curb security threats, has disrupted traditional family and trade links. Meanwhile, new waves of Afghan refugees since 2021 continue to challenge Pakistan's already stretched jobs and infrastruc-

China and CPEC: Progress with Caveats Chinese investmentespecially in the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)—has brought fresh projects and a 20% FDI boost this year. However, security concerns linger after repeated attacks on Chinese interests, particularly in Balochistan. Locals complain about being left out of the economic gains, and both Washington and New Delhi watch China's growing regional profile with suspicion.

United States: A Relationship Reboot Pakistan-U. S. relations are entering a cautious reset. A joint counterterrorism operation in March and American intervention during the recent India crisis have revived strategic cooperation. Still, public memory of past drone strikes and

akistan's geopolitics have sanctions shapes attitudes, and both never felt more imme- countries are recalibrating priorities

> .Regional Challenges Iran: The Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline remains on hold due to international sanctions and regional security volatility. Border clashes continue, with wider rivalry between Iran and Saudi Arabia complicating matters. Power shortages in Pakistan persist as a

Middle East: Remittances from Gulf countries remain vital, and in September, Pakistan signed a mutual defense pact with Saudi Arabia, reflecting deepening ties but also the

> precarious balancing act with Iran and shifting regional alignments.

Internal Security: Resurgent terrorism, with thousands of attacks this year, has linked domestic peace directly to external factors. In

fearing for their livelihoods as food Balochistan and Karachi, foreign meddling and unresolved grievances continue to spark unrest

Mohammed Anwar

Connectivity and Economic Choices Ambitious projects to connect Pakistan with Central Asia, such as TAPI and Gwadar Port expansion, are yet to deliver promised gains. Persistent security and infrastructure concerns hinder tangible results, leaving citizens waiting for

Security vs. Economics: The Pivot Priority Although inflation is easing and some exports are rising, Pakistan faces tough choices about its future direction. Should security concerns continue to dominate, or is it finally time for economic reforms, trade expansion, and better services to take center stage? The Stakes for Ordinary Pakistanis Every foreign policy move now ripples outward, shaping lives from local shops in Sindh to classrooms in Quetta. For lasting progress, experts urge a strategic pivot from old rivalries to regional cooperation and geoeconomic growth. Only then can Pakistan turn its location from a geopolitical trap into an opportunity for prosperity and peace.

The writer is Graduated from University of Balochistan Žuetta in International Relations. He can be reached at manwarbrohi3@ gmail.com

Lok Mela 2025 concludes with grand award ceremony & spectacular all-provinces



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Lok Virsa's flagship cultural festival Lok Mela 2025 concluded Sunday with a magnificent closing ceremony that drew tens of thousands of visitors, rounding off ten days of vibrant cultural celebration, traditional performances, and artistic

All-Provinces Cultural Showcase and a prestigious award ceremony, honouring the artisans, performers, and cultural custodians whose contributions made this year's festival a resounding national success.

The final day saw an exceptional public turnout as families, students, diplomats, and culture enthusiasts continued to stream into the festival grounds. Pavilions representing Punjab, Sindh, Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Gilgit-Baltistan, Azad Jammu and Kashmir, and Islamabad bustled with activity till late evening, offering signature crafts, regional the overwhelming response received cuisines, folk music, and interactive over the ten days, stating, "Lok Mela

The highlight of the closing festivities was the Grand Cultural Showcase, where regional folk troupes delivered an electrifying fusion of traditional performances including Attan. Luddi, Dhamaal, Leva, Ho Jamalo, Shehnai folk processions, and Shina/

The visually stunning procession The grand finale featured an celebrated Pakistan's unity in diversity and kept the audience enthralled throughout.

The award ceremony, presided over by Lok Virsa Executive Director Dr. Muhammad Waqas Saleem, recognized master artisans, emerging young artists, folk musicians, cultural bearers, pavilion teams, and craftsmen for their outstanding contributions.

Special awards were presented to those preserving endangered crafts and to performers who showcased authentic regional traditions with excellence.

Addressing the closing ceremony, Dr. Waqas Saleem expressed gratitude for





2025 has once again proven that Pakistan's cultural roots are deeply loved This festival belongs to our artisans, our performers, and every visitor who believes in preserving our heritage."

As fireworks lit up the Islamabad festival.

sky and the final musical performances echoed across Lok Virsa, Lok Mela and proudly celebrated by our people. 2025 concluded on a triumphant notebigger, brighter, and more vibrant than ever-cementing its place as Pakistan's largest and most cherished cultural

The Wounds of Delhi and Islamabad: Who Lies **Behind the Curtain?**

Khan Singhanvi

he incidents of the past activity emanating from Afghanitwo days have thrust explosion is not merely

of intricate political, military, and diplomatic undercurrents. On November 10, near the Lal Qila Metro Station in New Delhi, a car bomb claimed several civilian lives; the following day, on November 11, another blast near the

in multiple casualties and injuries. The CCTV scrutiny, and international simultaneity, proximity, and precision of these events have not only triggered fear and unease among the residents of both capitals but also unveiled the fragile façade of regional security. The immediate question haunting

every mind is who is responsible? Preliminary intelligence and media assessments have cited social media

stan prior to the Islamabad attack. South Asia to a perilous Some accounts had ominously posted crossroads where every phrases such as "Coming soon Islamabad", while Taliban-affiliated online an act of violence but the culmination profiles circulated threatening state-

ments. Such digital forewarnings have led Pakistan's official quarters to conclude that the incident could be the handiwork of external elements or transnational proxy networks. Yet, accusation and evidence are two distinct

District Courts of Islamabad resulted domains: without forensic analysis, intelligence collaboration, no definitive verdict can be rendered.

Historically, violence and proxy interference are hardly novel features in India-Pakistan relations. From the Kashmir conflict to border skirmishes and mutual allegations of

Continued on Page 7

Javed Ullah Raja

or several decades, gas and electricity load shedding in Pakistan has remained a severe and persistent problem for the public. It has not only disrupted domestic life but has also caused significant harm to industries, businesses, and the national economy. In winter, the demand for gas increases sharply, while in summer, electricity becomes a critical necessity. As a result, throughout the year, people constantly face shortages

sometimes of gas and sometimes of situation shows that Pakistan's electricity. This crisis is not merely due to low production or lack of resources rather, it stems from deep

rooted administrative, economic and policy related issues that continue to worsen the situation.

Our country possesses considerable reserves of natural gas, yet despite these reserves, gas shortages have become a serious issue. The primary reasons include declining production, faulty distribution systems, outdated pipelines, theft, leakage, and inefficient methods of supply. Additionally, providing free electricity and gas to employees of certain institutions places a heavy burden on the national treasury and creates a major obstacle to the fair use of energy resources, this burden falls on the general public. A detailed analysis of the

energy infrastructure is outdated, weak, and lacking adequate investment. Moreover, dependence on imported fuel has made the cost of electricity generation highly unstable. Fluctuations in global energy prices directly impact state's electricity supply system. Despite all this, the government's failure to implement effective reforms in the energy sector remains one of the main reasons why the crisis continues. Public trust is further damaged when tariff increases are announced frequently, yet the quality of service does not improve.

'Brighter Future Radiance'

Sustainable solution to this crisis lies in transitioning toward renewable energy, but unfortunately, hurdles are often created by ourselves. When people attempt to install solar panels through their own resources, they face new taxes, changes in net metering policies, import restrictions, and various other obstacles. This has created the impression that the government wants to keep the public dependent on the traditional electricity system so that revenue for state-run institutions continues. However, the reality is that the entire world is now shifting toward solar power, and for a country like Pakistan where abundant sunlight is available this transition can be highly beneficial. Solar energy is not only inex-

pensive and environmentally friendly but also reduces dependence on imported fuel. Many regions in Pakistan particularly Southern Punjab, Sindh, and parts of Balochistan receive excellent sunlight throughout the year.

With proper governmental planning, a large portion of the country's energy requirements can be met through solar power. Many countries around the world have successfully implemented such models, and Pakistan can overcome its energy crisis as well, provided that policy making is transparent, strong, and people-centered. The benefits of solar energy are numerous. It is a renewable source that never depletes, it does not pollute the environment, and it significantly reduces the cost of electricity generation. Several countries now generate over 40% of their power from solar energy. If Pakistan adopts the same pathway, it can overcome a major portion of its electricity crisis. However, this is only possible if the government controls the prices of solar panels and makes them affordable for the

If the government should install solar panels in people's homes at

through easy installments added to the electricity or gas bills. This approach would not only reduce the financial burden on the excellent investment model for the government, Furthermore, foreign Pakistan's energy projects. If they energy crisis in a remarkably short

For a developing country like Pakistan, it is equally important that government institutions improve their performance. Therefore, institutional reforms, transparency, modern technology, reduction in line losses, and administrative improvethe government is truly serious about resolving the energy crisis, it must shift toward renewable energy on an urgent, war footing basis. Pakistan spends billions of its own cost and recover the price dollars annually on imported oil

and gas. Solar energy can substantially reduce this burden while ensuring uninterrupted electricity for the people. Estimates public but would also serve as an indicate that Pakistan has a solar energy potential of 2,900 gigawatts, far exceeding current and investors have shown interest in future national demand. With timely action, the gas crisis alone are encouraged toward solar can be reduced by up to 50%. In energy, Pakistan could resolve its conclusion, Pakistan's energy crisis is not without a solution rather, it requires strong political will, the right direction, and honest longterm planning. Instead of offering free electricity and gas to selected groups, the government must provide sustainable and practical solutions for everyone and promote renewable energy projects. Solar power can open the door to a ments have become essential. If brighter future for Pakistan and stands as the most viable and lasting solution to end this crisis once and for all. The writer is senior analyst. He

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Monday, November 17, 2025

Bull & Bears PSX 100-Share

| Index Fluctuation | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|--|
| Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index | | |
| Current | Prev. Close | |
| 161,935.19 | 160,657.49 | |
| Day's High | Day's Low | |
| 162,118.75 | 160,791.78 | |
| Index Value | Change | |
| 23,852,698,178 | +1277.70 | |
| Percentage | Time | |
| +0.8% | 14 Nov, 2025 4:30 pm | |
| Europe: FTS | E 100 Index | |
| Index Value | Change | |
| 9,698.37 | -109.31 | |
| Percentage | Time | |
| -1.11% | 14 Nov, 4:35 pn GMT | |

| | GIVII | |
|--|--------------------------|--|
| USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average | | |
| Index Value | Change | |
| 47,287.86 | -169.36 | |
| Percentage | Time | |
| -0.36% | 14 Nov, 1:13 pm GMT-5 | |

| Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Averag | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| Index Value | Change | |
| 50,376.53 | -905.30 | |
| Percentage | Time | |
| -1.77% | 14 Nov, 3:45 pm GMT+9 | |

Open Market Forex Rates

| Currency | Buying | Selling |
|-------------------|--------|---------|
| Australian Dollar | 185.5 | 190.5 |
| Bahrain Dinar | 747 | 754.5 |
| Canadian Dollar | 205.65 | 212.65 |
| China Yuan | 39.1 | 39.5 |
| Danish Krone | 43.1 | 43.5 |
| Euro | 332.2 | 335.7 |
| Hong Kong Dollar | 35.75 | 36.1 |
| Indian Rupee | 3.09 | 3.18 |
| Japanese Yen | 1.8769 | 1.9769 |
| Kuwaiti Dinar | 914.1 | 923.1 |
| Malaysian Ringgit | 66.55 | 67.15 |
| NewZealand \$ | 156.1 | 158.1 |
| Norwegians Krone | 27.3 | 27.6 |
| Omani Riyal | 731.55 | 739.05 |
| Qatari Riyal | 76.4 | 77.10 |
| Saudi Riyal | 75.65 | 76.25 |
| Singapore Dollar | 217.2 | 222 |
| | | |

348.85

8.65

77.8

281.45 281.75

76.8

Investment in $human\, capital$ is need of hour to produce highly skilled manpower



Example 2 Commerce Desk

Swedish Korona

Swiss Franc

U. A.E Dirham

Thai Bhat

LAHORE:-CEO Pakistan Furniture Council Mian Kashif Ashfaq Sunday said investment in human capital is the need of the hour to meet acute shortage and equip Pakistan with a highly skilled workforce capable of running sophisticated industrial units with modern technologies in the country.

Addressing board of directors meeting here today he said as global industries rapidly shift toward advanced technologies, automation, and innovation-driven production, nations with strong human capital gain a clear advantage. Pakistan must therefore prioritize education, technical training, vocational skills, and continuous professional development to ensure its youth are fully prepared to embrace these opportunities. Modern investors seek not only favourable policies but also a trained labour force that can operate sophisticated machinery, adapt to global standards, and maintain high levels of productivity. By strengthening institutions, upgrading technical training centres, and forging partnerships between industry and academia, Pakistan can significantly enhance its human resource capabilities. Investment in human capital will also help reduce unemployment, boost economic growth, and create sustainable opportunities for the younger generation, he added.

He is of the opinion that skilled workforce enhances the confidence of multinational companies, encouraging them to invest more broadly across various sectors including manufacturing, information technology, renewable energy, and automotive industries. In essence, developing human capital is the cornerstone for economic revival and a prerequisite for attracting longterm, technology-driven foreign investments, he concluded.

'Made in Pakistan' **Drives Auto Show Success** as Guard Group **Attracts Foreign** Investment

Example 2 Commerce Desk

Korea, China, Singapore, Iran and other countries Sunday have shown keen interest in LAHORE: Leading groups of investors from international standard products of Guard at because of its quality.



concluding 3-day Pakistan Auto Show 2025. executive Guard Group of Industries Shaharyar Ali Malik said Pakistan's auto market is much stronger than those of Bangladesh, Ethiopia and Sri Lanka. He said we are using modern technology in all our products to support engineering manufacturing and allied industries. He said nearly 172 foreign and local auto industry has showcased their products and Guard products were centre of attraction

Later talking to media, he said local automo-Briefing the foreign and local investors senior tive industry has shown significant improvement this year due to the adoption of the "Made in Pakistan" approach. He hoped the "Made in Pakistan" formula would soon be fully implemented across the sector? given its key role in national development, employment and tax generation. He said PAAPAM has created a grand opportunity for automotive industry to display their products to attract foreign and local investors which he added will play key role in securing export orders.

Price Hike

ISLAMABAD: People are buying vegetables from vendors at Weekly Sunday Market of G-10 in Fed-



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

SAARC Expert Calls for Integrated Capital Markets to Unlock Asia's Economic Future

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry former President Iftikhar Ali Malik Sunday stressed the urgent need for greater regional cooperation and innovation to build integrated capital markets capable of mobilising investment, enhancing resilience, and fostering sustainable growth across Asia.

In a statement here today he said that in an era of rapid geopolitical and economic transformations, regional economies can no longer afford to work in isolation. Instead, he urged SAARC member states to focus on harmonising financial frameworks, reducing trade barriers, and strengthening institutional linkages to create a more vibrant and interconnected economic landscape. He emphasised that integrated capital markets would not only boost cross-border investments but also enable countries to pool resources, diversify risks, and attract global investors seeking stability and long-term returns. According to him, Asia's vast potential remains underutilised largely due to fragmented financial systems, inconsistent regulations, and limited regional collaboration. By adopting modern financial technologies, improving governance stand-



ards, and ensuring transparency, he said within SAARC would create new opporregional markets could be transformed into engines of inclusive and sustainable

development, he added. Iftikhar Ali Malik also highlighted the importance of public-private partnerships in accelerating this regional economic integration. He said that governments must work closely with the corporate sector, chambers of commerce, and financial institutions to design investor-friendly policies and foster innovation-driven growth. He reaffirmed that increased cooperation

tunities for trade, industrial expansion, and job creation, ultimately benefitting millions across the region. He added that the time has come for Asian economies to shift from conventional economic practices to more dynamic, technology-powered strategies in order to remain competitive in the global marketplace. Strengthened regional capital markets, he said, hold the key to unlocking Asia's economic future by ensuring stability, sustainability, and shared prosperity.

Severe Infrastructure Breakdown in SITE Hyderabad Hindering Industrial Productivity: **Zubair Ghangra**

Commerce Desk

HYDERABAD: Chairman Hyderabad SITE Association of Trade & Industry, Zubair Ghangra, has expressed deep concern over the rapidly deteriorating infrastructure in SITE Hyderabad. He stated that the destruction of basic infrastructure and the unjustified delays in road construction have severely affected industrial production, exports, workforce mobility, and the movement of heavy transport within the industrial zone.

He said that SITE Hyderabad, which was once counted among Pakistan's model industrial zones, is currently facing one of the worst administrative and developmental crises in in the dispatch of finished submerged. orders and disrupting timely delivery to markets.



Mr. Ghangra added that these delays are causing substantial financial losses to industrialists, while thousands of workers are also facing extreme difficulties in reaching their workplaces. He further pointed out that dust, debris, and unhygienic conditions are giving rise to health issues among workers.

The situation worsens its history. Due to the slow during rainfall, when pace of road construction, major roads including Nara heavy trucks and trailers Jail Road, Fateh Chowk, are unable to reach facto- and the PC and T-series ries on time, causing delays roads become completely production activities to a

Pakistan's Mineral Wealth: Untapped Engine for Economic Growth

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: Coordinator to Saif ur Rehman, Sunday said that the modern globdriven by minerals, technology, and resource-based innovation, and Pakistan must fully harness its vast natural wealth to secure sustainable growth and develop-

Talking here today to a delegation of traders, he said Pakistan is richly endowed with valuable minerals, including copper, gold, coal, gypsum, chromite, and rare earth elements, but these assets remain largely underutiinvestment,

mining methods, and lack of modern infrastructure. He urged the governthe Minister of State and ment and private sector to Federal Tax Ombudsman, collaborate on adopting advanced exploration technologies, improving al economy is increasingly regulatory frameworks, and ensuring transparency in the mining value chain to attract both domestic and foreign investors.

He further emphasized that efficient exploitation of mineral resources could significantly boost exports, generate employment, enhance government revenues, and reduce reliance on external borrowing.

Saif ur Rehman said that with proper planning and strategic utilization of its mineral potential, Pakistan can pave the way for lized due to insufficient a stronger, more resilient, outdated and self-reliant economy.

Tech Adoption Holds Key to Pakistan's Prosperity Over Next Decade, says FPCCI Convener

Example 2 Commerce Desk

LAHORE: Convener Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry Regional Committee on Food, Shahid Imran, Sunday said that the adoption of emerging modern technologies across all sectors has the potential to shape and secure Pakistan's next decade preneurs. He emphasized that in a of progress, prosperity and devel-

Talking to a delegation of traders here today he said agriculture, food processing, supply chain management, and allied industries must integrate digital solutions, automa-

come persistent challenges. He said modern technologies such as precision farming, artificial intelligence, biotechnology, and smart logistics can significantly reduce waste, improve crop yields, ensure food safety, and generate new economic opportunities for farmers and entrerapidly transforming global landscape, embracing innovation is no longer optional but a prerequisite for sustainable development, enhanced productivity, and inter-

national competitiveness. He hoped that with timely invest-

tion, and advanced research to over- ments, policy consistency, and a forward-looking approach, Pakistan can reshape its economic trajectory, strengthen food security, and position itself as a dynamic player in the regional and global markets in the coming decade.

While concluding he further highlighted that Pakistan's youth, when equipped with modern skills and supported by conducive policies, can drive technological adoption at an accelerated pace. Public and private sector collaboration, he added, is critical for creating an enabling environment where innovation can flourish.



Pakistan sweep ODI series with 6-wicket victory in third and final match

➣ Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan completed a clean sweep over Sri Lanka by securing a comfortable six-wicket victory in the third and final One-Day International in Rawalpindi on Monday.

After winning the toss, Pakistanopted to bowl first and restricted the visitors to 211 runs.

The Sri Lankan innings folded in the 46th over.

Chasing a target of 212, Pakistan reached the finish line with ease, losing just four wickets.

Haseebullah Khan was dismissed for a duck, but Fakhar Zaman counterattacked with an impressive 55 runs off 45 balls.

The hero of the second ODI, Babar Azam, scored 34 before being dismissed.

From Sri Lanka's side, Jeffrey Vandersay claimed 3 wickets, while Maheesh Theekshana took Fakhar Zaman scored 55, while

Mohammad Rizwan anchored the chase with an unbeaten 61. Hussain Talat also played a valu-

Earlier, Pakistan had won

able knock of 43 not out to steer

the second match by 8 wickets, sealing a commanding 3-0 series

triumph. Sri Lanka have set Pakistan a target of 212 runs to win the third and final ODI of the series being

played in Rawalpindi on Sunday.

Sadeera Samarawickrama top-scored with 48 runs, while Kusal Mendis made 34, Kamindu Mendis added 29, and Pawan Rathnayake contributed 32.

Pakistan's bowling attack remained dominant, with Mohammad Wasim Jr. picking

Haris Rauf and left-arm spinner

Sri Lanka lost their first wicket at 55 when Pathum Nissanka was bowled by Haris Rauf after scoring 24 runs. At 69, Mohammad Wasim dismissed Kamil Mishara caught behind by wicketkeeper Haseebullah.

Wasim then bowled the stand-in captain for 34 to claim his second wicket.

Pakistan's bowlers performed impressively. Mohammad Wasim Jr claimed 3 wickets, while Haris Rauf and Faisal Akram picked up 2 wickets each.

Pakistan made four changes the opening ODI by 6 runs and Faisal Akram claimed two wickets for the match. Captain Shaheen



Shah Afridi, Faheem Ashraf, Faisal Akram, and wicketkeeper Haseebullah were included in the playing XI, while Saim Ayub, Mohammad Nawaz, Naseem Shah, and Abrar Ahmed were

Sri Lanka also made four changes to their lineup.

With regular captain Charith Asalanka unwell, Kusal Mendis is leading the side.

Pakistan already hold an unassailable 0-2 lead in the threematch series.

The Green Shirts won the first ODI by 5 runs and the second by 8 wickets—powered by a brilliant

unbeaten century from Babar

Today's match allows Pakistan to complete a clean sweep.

PAKISTAN: Fakhar Zaman, Haseebullah Khan (wicket-keeper), Babar Mohammad Rizwan (wicket-keeper), Salman Ali Agha, Hussain Talat, Faheem Ashraf, Mohammad Wasim, Shaheen Shah Afridi (captain), Haris Rauf, Faisal Akram

LANKA: Pathum Nissanka, Kamil Mishara, Kusal Mendis (captain/wicket-keeper), Sadeera Samarawickrama, Pavan





Rathnayake, Janith Liyanage, Kamindu Mendis, Maheesh Eshan Malinga, Jeffrey Vandersay.

Theekshana, Pramod Madushan,

PCB Chief lauds Pakistan's dominant wins over Sri Lanka and India A

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Chairman Mohsin Naqvi on Sunday congratulated the Pakistan national team and the Pakistan Shaheens for securing impressive victories in their respective international fixtures.

Pakistan completed a clean sweep of the threematch ODI series against Sri Lanka with a six-wicket win in Rawalpindi.

Naqvi praised the squad's consistency, describing the back-to-back wins as "brilliant" and commending the players, coaches, and management for their "hard work and spirit."

He urged fans to continue supporting the team, saying the players were "giving their all for the country."



praise to fast bowler Haris Rauf for being named in the Asia Cup Rising Stars for Pakistan cricket, he said Man of the Series, calling T20 Tournament in Doha. the young squad had shown his bowling performances

"outstanding throughout." The PCB chairman also in what Naqvi described as celebrated the Pakistan a "dominant, fearless and

wicket victory over India A The Shaheens chased down

He also extended special Shaheens' emphatic eight- unforgettable performance." Calling it a proud moment that "the future of Pakistan is the target in just 13.2 overs shining bright," and congratulated cricket fans across the

National Women's One-Day Tournament



跨 Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD:) Matches played on Sunday in the National Women's One-Day Tournament. Invincibles (114 runs, 2 out) defeated Strikers (112 runs) by 8 wickets.

Strikers' Alia Riaz scored 31 runs. Muniba Ali's 80 not out was helped by 14 fours and a six for the winning team, and Momina Rivat and Tasmia Rabab took three wickets each. Muniba Ali was declared the Player of the Match. Stars (187 runs) defeated Challengers (150 runs) by 37 runs. Challengers' Sadaf Shams scored 95 runs. Stars' Aroob Shah took 5 wickets for 42 runs, Sidra Amin for 40 runs and Anam Amin for 34 runs. Anam Amin was declared the Player of the Match.

Pak cueists win matches in IBSF Snooker World Cup

ordinator also Present on the occasion.

KARACHI: Nadeem Ur Rahman Secretary College

Education Presenting Shield to Mr.Qazi Arshad

Hussain Regional Director College Education Ka-

rachi on the end of PCB Talent Hunt Programme

for School Cricket Championship Final at Jinnah

College Nazimabad Ground, Rahat Ali Shah Co-

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani cueists continued their winning streak on Day 2 of the IBSF Snooker World Cup 2025, with Muhammad Asif, Muhammad Hasnain, and Asjad Iqbal securing victories in their respective matches at Muscat, Oman. According to details, Asif



dominated Gebby Putra of Indonesia 3-0, winning the frames 78-38, 73-6, and 89-19. Asif followed up with another convincing win against Qasim Albalushi of Oman, winning 3-0 (80-1, 75-31, 83-3). Hasnain also had a strong performance, defeating Samer Althaher of Jordan 3-0 (69-0, 80-0, 67-6). However, Hasnain's winning streak was halted by Ali Gharahgozlou of Iran, who won 3-1 (71-27, 1-74, 96-4, 61-47).

Iqbal secured a 3-0 win over Fred Wagner of Luxembourg (74-32, 83-7, 124-14), showcasing his impressive skills on the table.

Dinner hosted in honor of Sri Lanka, Zimbabwe teams

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's ODI team Skipper, Shaheen Shah Afridi, hosted a dinner in honor of the visiting Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe teams. The event held here, brought together the national ODI and T20 squads, as well as the players from the visiting teams, said a statement issued here. The dinner featured a diverse array of Pakistani cuisine, which was thoroughly enjoyed by the players. The Sri Lankan and Zimbabwean players praised the local dishes, savoring the flavors and hospitality of their hosts.

The 70th National Track Championship successfully concluded in Lahore

15 Tahir Amin Malik

Day one comprised six events primarily focused on individual categories. Day two expanded the competitive landscape with seven events, featuring team races, individual time trials, and sprint disciplines. Detailed results for today's events are attached for reference and record-keeping.

A key highlight of the day was the participation of Lt. Col. Naeem Usman gilgat batistan scout and Mrs. Curtina, a professional cyclist from Belgium, who travelled from Belgium alongside her husband to witness the championship. Both guests observed the track events and commended the Pakistan Cycling



Federation's commitment and resilience in hosting a national-level hampionship on a challenging and high-risk velodrome. They also participated in the medalawarding ceremony, recognizing the

outstanding performance of the athletes. During the official prize distribution ceremony, Lt. Col. Naeem Usman presented medals and certificates to successful competitors. On this occasion, Syed Azhar Ali Shah, President of the Pakistan Cycling Federation, formally acknowledged and appreciated the support extended by Rescue 1122, Nishile Water, and McDonnell, whose contributions were instrumental in ensuring seamless event operations.

The Wounds of Delhi and Islamabad: Who Lies Behind the Curtain?

Solution Continued from Page 6

militant sponsorship, the subcontinent has recurrently stood on the brink of global tension. This time, however, the synchronized targeting of the two capitals conveys a far more ominous message that the operations are not mere acts of terrorism but a calculated component of information and psychological warfare, designed to erode public morale, destabilize domestic political cohesion, and transmute a cold rivalry into a potentially combustible confrontation between two nuclear-armed states.

From Pakistan's internal security perspective, an urgent three-tiered strategy is imperative.

First, rigorous civic defense immediate enhancement of protection for judicial complexes, educational institutions, and

Second, reinforcement of intelligence-sharing mechanisms, particularly

through robust cooperation with Afghanistan and other regional stakeholders

Third, addressing the root causes of militancy through long-term socioeconomic reforms targeting poverty, unemployment, and ideological extremism.

Purely military responses may yield temporary respite, but sustainable peace demands structural transformation.

For India, the warning is equally explicit: while every nation faces internal security challenges, cross-border interference through proxies or covert operations is tantamount to pouring oil on a smoldering flame. The international community, on several prior occasions, has advocated for evidence-based arbitration in South Asia; under the present circumstances, transparent presentation of proof, joint investigative mechanisms, and the inclusion of neutral international observers are

essential to avert further escalation. The economic and social repercussions

of these attacks will be equally severe. dence-building measures that may prevent Heightened insecurity deters investment, disrupts trade, and stalls long-term development initiatives. Daily life marked by restricted mobility, intermittent closures of schools, and soaring security expenditures will become an additional burden on an already strained populace. Most perilously, if public resolve falters and fear prevails, it would achieve precisely what terrorism seeks: social fragmentation and diminished state functionality.

At the international level, the continuity of this tension is profoundly alarming. A single miscalculated reaction on either of nuclear arsenals does not limit hostilities it magnifies the stakes to catastrophic proportions. Thus, it is vital to keep diplomatic channels open, pursue early mediation through the United Nations and other global institutions, and initiate confi-

the crisis from spiraling out of control.

Ultimately, all claims and accusations must be subjected to an independent, transparent, and internationally monitored investigation. Only when facts are authenticated can legitimate diplomatic and legal recourse be undertaken. Meanwhile, what is incumbent upon every citizen and institution is restraint, humanitarian responsiveness, and collective commitment to eradicate the twin roots of terrorism unemployment and radical-

Otherwise, a single spark may ignite side could transform strategic posturing a conflagration of unimaginable magniinto active confrontation. The presence tude one that would scorch not only the peoples of India and Pakistan but also the fragile fabric of regional economies and the broader edifice of global peace.

The writer is PhD and senior analyst. He can be reached at muhammadtayyabk773@gmail.com

President Zardari meets King Abdullah II of Jordan, confers Nishan-e-Pakistan On this occasion, His Majesty

Continued from Page 1

Both leaders expressed confidence in the future direction of Pakistan-Jordan relations and agreed to maintain close coordination on bilateral, regional and global issues.

The meeting was also attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar; Federal Minister for Climate Change & Environmental Coordination, Senator Musadik Malik; Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs as well as Ambassadors of Jordan in Pakistan and Pakistan in Jordan.

The meeting was followed by a special investiture ceremony in which President Asif Ali Zardari conferred Nishan-e-Pakistan on His Majesty the King of Jordan.

the King also conferred on President Asif Ali Zardari the Wisam al-Nahdah al-Mursa' (Beiewelled Grand Cordon of Al Nahdah translated as Order of the Renaissance), which is awarded by the King to Heads of State and distinguished dignitaries. The ceremony was also attended

by Prime Minister, Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif: Chairman Senate. Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani; Field Marshal, Syed Asim Munir; Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmad Babar Sidhu; Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Naveed Ashraf, Cabinet ministers and members of the diplomatic corps.

Later, a state banquet was hosted in honour of the visiting dignitary at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

King Abdullah II ibn Al Hussein visited GIDS

RAWALPINDI: King Abdullah II ibn Al Hussein, King of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the Supreme Commander of the Jordan Armed Forces, visited Global Industrial and Defence Solutions (GIDS), Prime Minister of Pakistan Mr. Shehbaz Sharif and Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir and others high officials present on the occasion.



King Abdullah II ibn Al Hussein visits GIDS

Naveed Ahmad Khan

RAWALPIND: King Abdullah II ibn Al Hussein, King of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the Supreme Commander of the Jordan Armed Forces, accompanied by Princess Salma bint Abdullah II ibn Al Hussein and a delegation of Jordanian civil and military officials, here on Sunday visited Global Industrial and Defence Solutions

Field Marshal Sved Asim Munir, NI (M), HJ, Chief of Army Staff (COAS), along with other senior officials, received the royal guests at

given a comprehensive Firing Ranges. briefing on the structure, capaof GIDS.

Pakistan's progress in indigenous defence production, technological innovation, and Pakistan and Jordan.

Ranges. Prime Minister urations and roles. Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif also graced the occasion.

During the visit, he was the distinguished guests at the aircrews.

King Abdullah II ibn Al

King Abdullah II appreciated the high standards of Vugar Valeh oglu Musta- training, professionalism, and fayey, Minister of Defence operational capabilities and the venue, said an ISPR news Industry of the Republic of preparedness demonstrated tary-to-military cooperation Kingdom of Jordan.

Azerbaijan, was also amongst by the participating troops and

On the occasion, Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif expressed

Marshal underscored the between Pakistan and the Hashemite Kingdom.

The Field Marshal reiterated Pakistan's commitment to further enhancing mili-

with Jordan and jointly realising the mutual vision of a stable and peaceful region.

Earlier, King Abdullah II conferred upon the COAS the

which marks a significant milestone in reinforcing the historic bonds of fraternity and brotherhood between Pakistan and the Hashemite

bilities, and product portfolio Hussein and distinguished guests witnessed a joint fire Pakistan's deep respect and Order of the Military Merit of The briefing showcased affection for King Abdullah and maneuver exercise. First Degree, in recognition of his outstanding service and The exercise demonstrated II and the people of Jordan, noting that the visit reflects the significant contributions to multi-domain operations, including conventional and enduring friendship, mutual strengthening military cooppotential avenues for bilateral air firepower, coordinated eration between the Hashe-Bureau Report trust and a shared desire for defence cooperation between maneuvers, and spectrum peace and development. mite Kingdom of Jordan and During the visit, Field FAISALABAD/CHINIOT: Federwarfare capabilities supported Pakistan. Later, King Abdullah II by multi-purpose drones King Abdullah II is on a al Minister for Investment Board strong defence partnership Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh emphavisited the Tilla Field Firing employed in various configtwo-day visit to Pakistan,

Digital sector key to Pakistan's economic security: Shaza

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja Sunday said that Pakistan is working to strengthen its IT industry, expand exports, and build a "Digital Nation" based on a digital economy, digital society and digital governance.

She was speaking at the 27th National Security Workshop at the National Defence University (NDU) on the topic "Pakistan's IT Potential: Opportunities and Challenges." She said the country's digital progress is supported by three key areas: telecom, cybersecurity and arti-



ficial intelligence.

the Director General of ISSRA Institute for Strategic Studies, The minister was invited by to address participants at the Research and Analysis (ISSRA).

The session was attended by members of national and provincial assemblies, entrepreneurs, journalists and civil society representatives.

Shaza said Pakistan's digital sector has become a core asset for economic security, strategic stability and global competitiveness. She added that the Prime Minister, the Federal Cabinet, the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) and senior leadership are fully backing the digital transformation agenda.

She said federal and provincial governments, industry, universities and international partners are working together to build an inclusive and futureready digital ecosystem.

Deliver Record Recoveries, Landmark **Institutional Changes Introduced**

跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: National Accountability Bureau's (NAB) institutional reforms have produced unprecedented results, with newly released data showing a dramatic rise in recoveries, enhanced transparency measures, and structural improvements across the organisation.

According to official statistics, NAB recovered Rs 883.58 billion over a period of 23 years from its establishment in 1999 to February 2023. In stark contrast, during the last two-and-a-half years-from March 2023 to October 2025—NAB achieved record recoveries of Rs 8,397.75 billion, marking a 947% increase, nearly 10 times higher than the year. cumulative recoveries of the previous 23 years.

During this period, NAB operated with a budget of Rs 15.33 billion, meaning that every single rupee spent generated Rs 548 in recoveries. Overall, NAB's total recoveries now stand at Rs 9,281.33 billion, with another Rs 2,000



Officials stated that these reforms were introduced under the amended NAB law to enhance the institution's efficiency, transparency, and accountability. Key reforms include the establishment of new complaints cells at the NAB Headquarters and regional bureaus, as well as sub-offices in Gwadar and Chaman. billion expected by the end of the current For research and specialized training,

the Pakistan Anti-Corruption Academy (PACA) has also been launched.

To ensure fairness, accused persons will now have the right to be heard at every stage, while their identities will remain confidential until a final decision is made. Meanwhile, special Accountability Facilitation Cells have been set up for parliamentarians and the bureaucracy, and a dedicated Business Facil- around the world.

itation Cell has been created for the commercial sector.

The bureau has also introduced a complete e-office system, digital witness statements, and AI-driven analysis of financial evidence. A high-level committee has been formed to identify and rectify errors or gaps in cases.

Following these reforms, the volume of initial complaints dropped significantly—from 2,338 per month to 1,639, indicating improved screening and more credible reporting.

NAB highlighted major achievements such as the recovery of 4.53 million acres of state land worth Rs 8,000 billion through the Land Directorate. Additionally, Rs 124.86 billion has been returned to victims of Ponzi schemes and housing scams, while 21 high-value money laundering cases involving illegal assets worth Rs 118 billion are under

To strengthen international cooperation against corruption, NAB has also signed multiple MoUs with countries pandemic preparedness, adolescent true future."

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M-tag just for Rs250: Mohsin Naqvi leads campaign to make Islamabad safe



ISLAMABAD: In a major step toward enhancing security across the capital, Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Saturday launched a large-scale campaign to install M-tags on vehicles and motorcycles in Islamabad — and officials say the biggest incentive for citizens is the remarkably low fee of just Rs250.

On the minister's instructions, excise teams set up M-tag facilities across the city, drawing an over- the number of excise teams and are whelming response from residents. extending M-tag services to Islam-Long queues were seen at installa- abad Traffic Police offices as well.

tion points, especially in popular public spaces such as Kuchnar Park, Jasmine Park, Lake View Park, Gulberg Green and DHA, as citizens rushed to secure the low-cost tags.

The Islamabad excise director said the move was aimed at ensuring foolproof monitoring to curb crime and terrorism, adding that the M-tag will serve as a "third number plate", a concept introduced by Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi himself. To accommodate rising demand, authorities have decided to increase

Investment in education critical for Pakistan's growth: Qaiser Sheikh

sized that Pakistan's future hinges on restoring education as its top national priority, warning that the country's economic decline begins when it stops investing seriously in learning, planning, and human development.

Speaking at the convocation o FAST National University's Chiniot-Faisalabad Campus on Sunday, he noted that countries which invested earliest and most consistglobal leaders. Pakistan, he said, cannot afford to stand still at this critical juncture.

He reflected on how Pakistan and South Korea once shared almost both nations closely studying each other's developmental models. He recalled that Pakistan's five-year plans were considered exemplary by South Korea's

Prof. Dr. Shahzad Sarfraz, Director of the FAST Chiniot-Faisthe campus's achievements. He distinguished guests.



ently in education have emerged as informed the audience that degrees were conferred in PhD Electrical Engineering, MS Computer Science, MBA, BS Electrical Engineering, BBA, BS Computer Science, and BS Software Engineering, with medals identical economic standing, with and awards presented to high-performing students.

The ceremony was also attended by H. E. Mr. Rongvudhi Virabutr, Ambassador of Thailand and Chair of the ASEAN Committee in Islamabad (ACI), H. E. Dato' Mohammad Azhar Mazlan, High Commissioner alabad Campus, presented the of Malaysia, H. E. Mr. Wunna Han, welcome address and highlighted Ambassador of Myanmar, and other

15th International **Public Health** Conference to be held on November 18



👺 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The 15th International Public Health Conference 2025, organized by the Health Services Academy (HSA), will be

held in Islamabad on November 18, The conference, titled "The Next Generation's Shield One Health, Vaccination, Adolescent Health & Climate Change," will be inaugu-Mustafa Kamal.

health, vaccination, climate change, and environmental safety. National and international experts, policymakers, and researchers will participate to deliberate on current and future public health challenges.

HSA Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Shahzad Ali Khan said the conference will be a historic step in integrating One Health Model approaches to ensure protection rated by Federal Minister for health against epidemics, environmental risks, nutrition, and health secu-The conference is expected to serve rity into a unified national strategy. as a major global forum in Pakistan $\;\;$ He added, "The protection of the for discussions on public health, younger generation is Pakistan's