(مصحى بنارى: مديث نمبر 7122) **Barkat Rice Mills** 



MQM-P demanded protection of local bodies under 27 Amendment, says minister

Addressing a press conference along with other MQM-P leaders in Karachi, he said that if the party wanted, it would have demanded more ministries from the government. "But our only demand was the protection of local governments in Sindh.



Nationwide anti-rubella and measles vaccination drive kicks off

receive the vaccines during the drive. In parallel, a v

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Jamadi-ul-Awwal 26, Tuesday, November 18, 2025

www.dailyspokesman.net

(a) @daily spokesman



Daily Spokesman Vol: 19, Issue: 213 Price Rs. 25.00 Pages 8

### Inauguration Monday.

KARACHI: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif inaugurates newly constructed facilities at Cantt Railway Station Karachi on



# Raja Faisal Mumtaz Rathore Takes Helm of AJK Government after PM Ousted

👺 Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: The session of the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly was held on Monday under the chairmanship of Speaker Chaudhry Latif Akbar. During

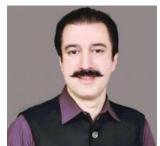
New AJK PM Raja

**Sweeping Reforms,** 

**Faisal Promises** 

elected Leader of the House with 36 votes, while only two votes were cast in opposition.

Leader of the Opposition Khawaja Farooq Ahmed congratulated the newly elected Leader of the House, stating that a democratic process had the proceedings, Member of been completed smoothly. He the Assembly Chaudhry Qasim praised all political parties for Majeed moved a no-confidence maintaining a peaceful political motion against Prime Minis- environment and emphasized ter Chaudhry Anwar-ul-Haq. the need for timely appoint-Following a vote, Pakistan ment of the Chief Election Peoples Party's nominee, Raja Commissioner, a position ensure its early appointment Faisal Mumtaz Rathore, was vacant for an extended period. in accordance with the consti-that PML-N would play a governance.



He expressed hope that the new Leader of the House would

PML-N President Shah Ghulam Qadir said the change in Leader of the House demonstrates that future elections should result in a clear majority for a single party, as coalition governments have proven ineffective. He expressed expectation that the Chief Election Commissioner would soon be appointed and stated that PML-N supported the PPP to protect the democratic system from instability. He reaffirmed

constructive role as opposition. PPP President Chaudhry Muhammad Yasin congratulated Raja Faisal Mumtaz Rathore, stating that leadership is a blessing from Allah. He recalled his association with the late Raja Mumtaz Rathore's cabinet and affirmed his acceptance of party leadership decisions. He noted that PPP remains the largest party in the Assembly, emphasizing the importance of timely decision-making and responsible

# **Information Minister Tarar** highlights Pakistan's global role and diplomatic achievements

macy, including a strong response to

Indian aggression.

Pledges Transparency 跨 Bureau Report

elected Prime Minister of of leading the government. he pledged to uphold integrito serving the people with

The Prime Minister announced a wide range of formulating a new trans- government.

port policy, enforcing biometric attendance, and depos-MUZAFFARABAD: Newly iting additional government vehicles into the central Azad Jammu and Kash- transport pool. He also mir, Raja Faisal Mumtaz directed the activation of the Rathore, expressed grati- Public Service Commission, tude to Allah Almighty and restoration of withdrawn the leadership of Pakistan vacancies advertised before Peoples Party for entrusting January 2020, introduction him with the responsibility of a minimum 50% quota for direct recruitment, and full Addressing the Legislative implementation of the Third Assembly after his election, Party Act across all departments. A uniform time-scale ty, transparency and efficient policy will be enforced, while governance, and committed supervisory posts in departments with existing Section Officer and Assistant Director positions will be abolished. Prime Minister Rathore

administrative and structural concluded by stating that the and showed resilience on both the reforms, including limiting political deadlock has ended security and diplomatic fronts," he the number of secretaries to and that effective delivery 20, abolishing unnecessary in the coming months will posts, merging TEVTA with pave the way for stability the Education Department, and public confidence in the

#### 👺 City Desk ISLAMABAD: Federal Information Minister Attaullah Tarar Monday addressed a debate titled "Pakistan's Role in a Changing World," organised by the Sanobar Institute,

emphasising the country's active foreign policy and its growing prestige on the global stage.

Speaking at the event, Tarar said Pakistan has played a vital role in shaping regional and international developments. He highlighted the sacrifices

made in the war against terrorism, noting that the country lost 90,000 lives and billions of dollars in the fight against extremist threats. "Pakistan made great sacrifices

The minister underscored the contributions of the Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister, and Field Marshal in presenting Pakistan's



from India through social media narrative to the world. According to him, Pakistan's during periods of tension.

perspective was widely accepted The minister further noted that internationally, and the country the leadership of Prime Minister achieved notable successes in diplo-Shehbaz Sharif and Field Marshal Sved Asim Munir received praise from the US President for their He praised the role of youth in contributions to Pakistan's interexposing misinformation and lies national image.

# **PM** inaugurates upgraded Karachi Cantt Station, **Shalimar Express**

跨 Khurram Jaffran

KARACHI: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday said that the digitisation of Pakistan Railways and the provision of modern facilities would play a key role in strengthening the national economy.

He added that the federal government, in collaboration with the Sindh government, would modernise the Karachi Circular Railway (KCR) and upgrade railway stations across the province and the country.

The prime minister expressed these views while addressing the inauguration ceremony of the renovated Shalimar Express and the newly upgraded waiting

Cantt Railway Station during his visit to Karachi. Sindh Chief Minister Murad

Ali Shah, Federal Minister for Railways Hanif Abbasi, Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar, and other dignitaries were present on the occasion. The prime minister said

that soon after assuming office, Federal Minister for Railways Hanif Abbasi had worked diligently to modernise the railway system.

He reiterated that cooperation with the provincial governments of Punjab, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and Balochistan would continue to ensure modernisation across the railway network and help areas and lounges at Karachi stabilise the economy.

## Khawarij militant admits group misled youth, spread anti-army hate

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: An arrested ij has made significant revelations about the extremist faction, admitting that the group misled young people in the name of religion, spread hatred against the Pakistan Army, and carried out multiple attacks.

The militant claimed that the group's commanders were themselves involved in immoral behaviour, lies and violent extremism.

During interrogation, the militant said the faction recruited and manipulated youths under the guise of religion and used them to advance its own agenda.

Identifying himself as Ehsanullah, son of Abdul Janan, belonging to the Mehsud tribe, the militant said he worked for several militant commanders, including Commander Badri, Commander Mushtaq and Commander Grenade, and also facilitated activities for Commander Islamuddin.

According to the militant, the group was involved in attacks on an armoured vehicle and a police know earlier.



station, and not only misled youngsters but also pushed them towards immoral activities.

He claimed that the commanders engaged in misconduct with their own

The arrested militant stated that the group falsely portrayed the Pakistan Army as "non-believers" to incite youth, but his own experience proved other-

He said he witnessed army personnel offering prayers five times a day and learned how to pray and recite the Kalima himself — practices he did not

#### Pakistan, China vow to boost counter-terrorism, security cooperation



跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Jiang Zaidong called on Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi in Islamabad on Monday and discussed with him bilateral relations and matters of mutual interest. The Chinese Ambassador condemned the suicide bombing in Islamabad, expressing condolences for the loss of precious lives.

Mohsin Naqvi and Chinese envoy agreed to further strengthen counter-terrorism and security cooperation.

Mohsin Naqvi said Pakistan-China relations are based on mutual trust and respect. He said China is a trusted friend, which has always stood by Pakistan in difficult times.

The Chinese Ambassador said his country will continue to maintain full cooperation with Pakistan.

# A meeting of the JICA expert team held under the chairmanship of MD WASA

👺 Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: A meeting of the JICA expert team was held under the chairmanship of Managing Director WASA Sohail Qadir Cheema, during which the progress made so far on the Capacity Management Improvement Project in the Water Supply Sector in Faisalabad was discussed.

On this occasion, the JICA expert team informed the MD WASA about the improvements made so far in water supply in priority areas of Medina Town X Block and People's Colony No. 2. Similarly, a briefing was also given about the installation of smart meters in Gulistan Colony and G Block.

The Managing Director WASA assured the JICA expert team that they should work on this project expeditiously and WASA Faisalabad would fully support them.



Improvement Project in the Water financial improvement and business Supply Sector.

He further said that under this project, there will be further improve-There should be no obstacle in any ment in water supply services, operawork under the Management Capacity tions facilities, customer related works,

improvement plan.

expert team also briefed about modern machinery to detect water leakage in water supply lines.

The JICA expert team also informed about other modern machinery During the meeting, the JICA including gateway operations installed on tanks to prevent drinking water from being wasted, which was appreciated by the MD WASA.

#### Celebration

MUZAFFERABAD: Workers of Pakistan People's Party are celebrating outside Legislative Assembly of Azad Kashmir, after electing of PPP Candidate Raja Mumtaz Hussain Rathore as Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir.



Photo: Online

# **AKUH Delivers Critical Diabetes Awareness** to Mark World Diabetes Day

News Desk

organised a public awareness session titled 'Live Well With Diabetes -Diabetes Day, addressing the fact that more than one in four adults

opportunities, and free-of-charge KARACHI: The Aga Khan Univerhealth assessments, empowering sity Hospital (AKUH) successfully attendees to better understand, manage, and prevent diabetes and Track. Treat. Thrive.' to mark World together healthcare professionals, students, and members of the public.

The session centred on the crucial in Pakistan is currently living with need for early detection and adherence to proper management plans. The session offered invaluable Dr. Qamar Masood, Consultant and health assessments, including tests related health challenges.

"Diabetes remains one of the most pressing public health challenges in Pakistan. By creating awareness and encouraging screening, we can its complications. The event brought empower people to take charge of their health and prevent complications before they occur."

> To facilitate immediate screening and awareness, AKUH offered a wide

expert guidance, interactive learning Section Head, Endocrinology, said, for Blood Glucose and HbA1c, Cholesterol and Blood Pressure, as well as measurements for BML waist circumference, and body fat compo-

> This initiative strongly reflects AKUH's commitment to community health, raising awareness of pertinent health issues and delivering excellence in healthcare while supporting range of complimentary, on-site individuals living with diabetes and

## A Home Reduced to Rubble — The Unlawful Demolition of Dr. Umar's Ancestral House and the Global Failure to Protect Justice

**Mushtaq Hussain** 

is a direct affront to human the state in citizens' conscience and international law. Intelligence agencies have alleged Dr. Umar lives. The destruction was the suicide bomber in the Red Fort of private property is attack. Yet no formal charges were filed, no trial was conducted, and no verdict tary necessity (Fourth issued. Despite this judicial vacuum, Geneva Convention, a house with no proven connection to Article 53). Dr. Umar's the alleged crime and unrelated to Dr. parents' home was not Umar's parents was destroyed using explosives. This is a blatant misuse operation, making this international human rights law.

proven guilty in a court of law. Collective punishment, or imposing the conse-

the demolition of Dr. Umar's Fourth Geneva Convention, Article tions, yet the international commuparents' home is not merely 33. Furthermore, ICCPR Article 17 nity remained largely passive, leaving an administrative action—it prohibits arbitrary interference by

homes or private lawful only under milipart of any military

of state power and a clear violation of act a direct breach of international law. trauma, social isolation, and financial Historical references illustrate that Legal and human principles are clear: this is not an isolated incident. The Every individual is innocent until Pahalgam incident shows that houses were demolished and young men killed in staged encounters based solely on quences of one person's alleged crime suspicion. Political, religious, and civil

n Indian-occupied Kashmir, on family members, directly violates society leaders raised serious quesaffected families without justice. The

same pattern is now evident in the demolition of Dr. Umar's parents' home. The human and

social consequences of such actions are profound. Collective punishment imposed on family members leads to psychological

loss. Children, elders, and innocent civilians caught in retaliatory measures are victims of a gross violation of moral and ethical principles. International law clearly states that the punishment of one individual cannot be imposed on

For the international community, this situation is a litmus test: will it stand up for human rights and legal principles, or remain silent? Immediate measures

Launching an independent international legal inquiry

Requesting a Fact-finding Mission

by UN Special Rapporteurs Ensuring the affected family has access to the International Court of

Justice (ICJ) Mobilizing global lawyers to provide

Pro bono legal assistance This event violates not only legal standards but also fundamental human values and morality. Silence today risks the loss of justice tomorrow. Humanity demands that wrongdoing be exposed, the rule of law upheld, and affected families' rights protected.

# Visit of SCJIP & BS Hyderabad Team to SZABIST Hyderabad



👺 Abdul Ghafoor Sarohi

HYDERABAD: Dr. Nisar Ahmed Sohoo, Medical Superintendent of Sir CJ Institute of Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences Hyderabad, along with his team, visited SZABIST Hyderabad today.

Mr. Jawad Zafar Khoso, Head of SZABIST Hyderabad, and Madam Prof. Irfana Shah warmly welcomed all visiting members of the hospital and appreciated the valuable services being provided by the Sir CJ Institute of Psychiatry.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the proposed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the two institutions. It was agreed that psychiatrists and psychologists from both sides will work collaboratively to promote teaching, training, academic growth, research, continuing education, advanced learning for students, and the welfare and benefit of patients and the general public at large.

The visit concluded with a mutual commitment to strengthen cooperation and improve mental health services in the region.

Finally, the MoU committee, comprising Dr. Qalib-e-Hyder, Dr. Parveen Channar, and Dr. Huma Agha, will finalize the draft as soon as possible and arrange a signing ceremony, which is a formal event held at CJ Hospital where representatives of both parties officially sign the MoU.

#### APHC Letter Secretary General Amnesty *International*

Her Excellency,

Dr. Agnès Callamard

Secretary General of Amnesty International

AI Headquarters, London, United Kingdom

Urgent Appeal Regarding Systematic Repression of Kashmiris and Violations of Human Rights: Respected Madam,

I am writing to draw your kind attention to the systematic repression of Kashmiris by the Indian state, the dire plight of political prisoners, widespread human rights abuses, and the ongoing campaign to dehumanize and malion Kashmiris and their neaceful struggl Following the recent blast in New Delhi, the stereotyping and profiling of Kashmiris, particularly students, professionals, and

businesspeople on the Indian mainland, has triggered a renewed wave of fear, anxiety, and insecurity affecting millions of Kashmiris who are already living in an atmosphere of unending chaos and uncertainty. Regrettably, Kashmiris have become easy targets for the BJP and other right-wing actors, who exploit them as scapegoats to advance their divisive agenda.

Excellency,

It is a matter of grave concern that a heightened anti-Kashmiri sentiment is spreading across India; it is not limited to social media alone. Even mainstream media outlets are complicit, peddling lies and propaganda against Kashmiris, with some voices openly calling for "teaching them a lesson" and advocating their expulsion from India.

These repressive tactics echo a pattern that we witnessed after the Pahalgam incident, when collective suspicion and punitive measures were used to construct a narrative that diverts attention from the underlying political realities. This smear campaign, branding the entire Kashmiri nation as extremists and dehumanising the community, serves only the ruling BJP, which has a long history of exploiting such incidents to conceal failures and intensify oppression.

Reports from the Kashmir Valley indicate a renewed wave of state repression: large-scale CASOs (cordon-and-search operations) and raids have led to the detention of thousands of innocent civilians. Apart from the witch-hunting of political activists, their families are being harassed and humiliated, and their properties confiscated. During nocturnal raids, men, women, and children are often forced to sit outside their homes in the bone-chilling winter cold. While aimed at silencing dissent, these measures have left Kashmiris traumatised. On the other hand, the Indian authorities' policy of letting prisoners languish under life-threatening conditions and die a silent death far from home represents a dangerous trend, which not only violates international law and humanitarian principles but poses a serious threat to the prisoners' lives.

It is worth recalling here that thousands of Kashmiris, including prominent campaigners for the right to self-determination, remain in Indian jails without any substantial evidence against them in a court of law. Despite this, they continue to suffer solely for representing their people and advocating a referendum in a UN-recognised disputed territory awaiting final settlement under UNSC resolutions. Shabir Ahmed Shah, one of the most prominent Kashmiri political prisoners, has been declared a prisoner of conscience by Amnesty International in 1994 for his peaceful political struggle. Shah, along with many others, suffers from serious ailments, yet authorities remain reluctant to provide them access to medical care and other basic necessities that happen to be fundamental rights of all prisoners.

Excellency,

We wish to express our sincere appreciation to Amnesty International for consistently exposing systematic repression in Kashmir and defending the fundamental rights of its people. Your unwavering commitment has been crucial in bringing international attention to the plight of political prisoners and vulnerable communities in the region.

In view of these grave violations, we urge your Excellency to take urgent cognisance of the situation in Indian held territory of Jammu and Kashmir. It is high time that the global community must hold Indian authorities accountable for their systematic repression, ensure the protection of political prisoners, and uphold the fundamental principles of human rights and humanitarian law. Yours sincerely,

Mehmood Ahmed Saghar

Acting President,

Jammu Kashmir Democratic Freedom Party





#### **Namaz Timings** Maghrib ..5:04 pm .. 6:30 pm

## **EMERGENCY**

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

## **Women Police**

Stations		
Islamabad	922259	
Rawalpindi	9270601-2	

# **ENQUIRY**

PIA Cargo	9280979
Railway Inquiry	117
Railway Exchange	9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi	5555489
CAA	9281092
HOSPITA	ALS
CMH	5611111
ML	561116

HOSEL	IALJ
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**

PEIAIL	
CDA	9221334-43
CDA	9208301-04
Met Office	9250360-6
RDA	5555864
TMA	5770886
Cantonment Boa	rd 9270151-3
Islamabad Metro	politan
Corporation	9209224
Potohar Town	9209224
Rawal Town	5773343

#### **COMPLAINTS**

G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, H-8 ..9266316 Wapda Islamabad......9217579-80 Sui Gas Complaint..... 119, 9272249 ...0331-5022125

#### ChildLife Foundation sets benchmark in Consistent Excellence to Save Lives

#### **№** City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Pakistan (ICAP) and the Institute of Cost and Management Accountants of Pakistan (ICMAP) have once again recognized the Child-Life Foundation with the Best Corporate Report (BCR) Award, marking it the fourth consecutive year the foundation has secured 1st position in the Non-Profit Organization (NPO) category. The accolade reinforces Child-Life's consistent efforts to save children lives while adhering to high standards of financial reporting, governance and trans-

Dr. Ahson Rabbani, Managing Director of ChildLife Foundation, said: "Winning this award again is not about trophies, it is a proof that sustained governance and transparency are part of our life-saving work. Consistency in systems, reporting and governance ensures every resource is utilized to save children's lives across Pakistan."

# Pakistan-Korea Collaboration to Boost Seed Potato Self-Reliance

Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research, Rana Tanveer Hussain, chaired a detailed briefing session with the visiting research team of the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) at the Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC). The delegation presented the feasibility study for the proposed project "Establishment of Seed Potato Production and Supply Centre (SPPSC) at PARC, Islamabad." During the meeting, the Minister welcomed the delegation and appreciated KOICA's continued commitment to Pakistan's agricultural development, describing the proposed project as a timely and transformational initiative for the country's potato sector.

Rana Tanveer Hussain said that Pakistan's heavy reliance on imported seed potatoes-despite its massive cultivation area and high demandremains a critical challenge that must be addressed through technology and collaboration. He emphasized that the SPPSC project would significantly reduce import dependency and help Pakistan achieve self-sufficiency in high-quality seed production.

Sharing the delegation's perspective, Director KOICA, Mr. Je Ho Yeon, the years ahead.

expressed high regard for Pakistan's ongoing efforts in seed potato research

He said that Korea values its partnership with Pakistan and considers the proposed project a model initiative for long-term agricultural cooperation between the two countries. Mr. Yeon highlighted that Korea has achieved global success in seed potato production through aeroponics and advanced cold-chain systems, and KOICA is ready to transfer this expertise to Pakistan on a large scale. He stated that the project will not only strengthen local seed production but also build institutional capacity through modern training programs, ERP-based traceability, and postharvest management systems. He reaffirmed KOICA's full support in ensuring that Pakistan develops a sustainable, high-tech seed potato production system.

Rana Tanveer Hussain added that the success of this project would not only reduce seed costs for growers but also uplift rural incomes and strengthen national food security. The meeting concluded with both sides expressing confidence that Pakistan-Korea agricultural cooperation will continue to grow and deliver impactful results in



### Security arrangements

ISLAMABAD: A view of the closed NADRA Chowk and adjoining roads towards Serena Hotel, closed by ICT Administration for providing security to Cricket Teams of Tri-Nation Series staying there, as the series will start from 18th November at Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

# AIOU Experts Stress Linking Research with Community Needs

#### 

ISLAMABAD: The Third International Conference on Social Sciences, titled "Innovations and Interdisciplinary Strategies in Social Sciences," was held on Monday at Allama Igbal Open University (AIOU) where experts emphasized the need for high-quality research, contemporary trends and solution-oriented studies in social

Vice-Chancellor Professor Dr. Nasir Mahmood in his address stated that innovation nities and society. today is not limited to techapplication. He highlighted the importance of bringing experts from different fields together on a single platform to address complex social



Keynote speeches were human soul. nology but lies in its effective delivered by Professor Dr. Abdul Aziz Sahir, Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Professor Dr. Tanveer Anjum and Secretary Dr. Salman Ali from Quaid-i-Azam Univer- Qureshi also addressed the sity. Professor Abdul Aziz event, highlighting the role of

**Zafar Chishti** 

issues and linking research Sahir remarked that social academic dialogue, research with the real needs of commusciences and human behavior collaboration, and internaare deeply connected to the

> The conference convener, Professor Dr. Sved Muhammad Amir Shah,

tional partnerships in social

development. The conference was organized by the Department of Business Administration, and 166 research papers will be presented to promote research in social sciences.

# Pera Force Established in Punjab to Eliminate Illegal Encroachments

standing issue of illegal encroachments across the province. Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has formally established the Pera Force, a dedicated enforcement team responsible for carrying out swift and effective operations against encroachments in urban and rural areas. The initiative aims not only to human lives. restore the original structure of markets and public spaces but also to improve public safety and urban mobility.

Illegal encroachments have been a persistent problem in major cities of Punjab. Shopkeepers and vendors occu-

has taken a significant tions in the flow of traffic. As a result, and a systematic action plan to ensure narrow roads and congested marketplaces have become routine challenges delay. The government has also empha-

for citizens. According to government officials, these encroachments are among the major causes of daily road accidents, which often lead to loss of precious

Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz, acknowledging the

gravity of the situation, directed all tance of creating long-term awaredistrict administrations to provide full ness among the public and business support to the newly formed Pera Force. communities. Market associations pying footpaths, roadsides, and public The force has been equipped with are being engaged to ensure cooper-

he Government of Punjab property have created severe disruptrained personnel, modern machinery that operations are carried out without

sized a zero-tolerance policy against those who attempt to rebuild or support

illegal encroachments after removal. The purpose of the Pera Force is not limited to demolition alone. Authorities have stressed the impor-

ation, while strict legal action is being taken against individuals who resist or violate the rules. The administration believes that clearing public spaces will ultimately benefit citizens by reducing accidents, improving traffic flow, and restoring the beauty of cities. The Punjab government hopes that with consistent enforcement and public support, illegal encroachments will be permanently eliminated. The establishment of the Pera Force reflects the commitment of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif to ensure safer roads, accessible markets, and a more organized urban environment for all residents of the province. (Writer is Correspondent of Daily The Spokesman atToba Tek Singh)

## Abida Parveen, global identity of Pakistan: Minister Culture Šindh

#### 👺 Qayoom Sarohi



KARACHI: Sindh Minister for Culture and Tourism Syed Zulfiqar Ali Shah met with world-renowned Sufi singer Madam Abida Parveen, where they discussed the promotion of Sindh's culture, Sufi music, and fine arts. During the meeting,

both sides deliberated on organizing a Sufi Music Festival in Sindh. They also exchanged views on initiatives for supporting

young artists, including the Sindh Talent Hunt and various music-pro-The provincial minister extended a special invitation to Madam Abida Parveen to participate in upcoming cultural programs of the Sindh govern-

ment, which she appreciated, acknowledging the government's efforts for cultural development. Syed Zulfiqar Ali Shah stated "Madam Abida Parveen is a global iden-

tity of Pakistan and a true ambassador of Sindh's culture." "She is an institution in herself, and young singers must learn from her

artistic journey." The Culture Department will organize her programs in cities across Sindh."He dismissed social media rumors about her health as baseless, confirming that she is perfectly well.

At the end of the meeting, Madam Abida Parveen also hosted a luncheon in honor of Minister Syed Zulfiqar Ali Shah.

#### FFC honoured with CFA Excellence Award in ESG Reporting

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

ISLAMABAD: Fauji Fertilizer Company (FFC) has been honoured with the CFA Corporate Excellence Award for ESG Reporting at the 22nd Annual Awards Ceremony organized by the CFA Society Pakistan



in Karachi. This win underscores FFC's industry-leading ESG integration, future-proof sustainability practices, and unwavering compliance with global disclosure standards.

The accolade reflects the dedicated efforts of the entire FFC team. whose commitment to transparent reporting and cutting-edge sustainable operations has driven this success under the visionary guidance of the board and the dynamic leadership of MD&CEO, Mr. Jahangir Piracha.

#### Dr. Zahid visits to Bio Lab Toba Tek Singh and Performance Review

#### 👺 Zafar Chishti

TOBA TEK SINGH: Doctor Zahid Director Input Management Lahore Punjab, paid a visit to the Bio Lab Toba Tek Singh where he inspected the record and reviewed the overall performance of the facility. He was given



a comprehensive briefing by Dr. Nosher Khan Deputy Director Agriculture (Extension)Toba Tek Singh, who highlighted the technical activities and ongoing initiatives of the Bio Lab. Agriculture Officer Bio Lab, Ms. Sadia also provided further explanations regarding the lab's operations. During the visit, Dr. Zahid personally contacted several farmers over the phone to obtain direct feedback about the services and support provided by the Bio Lab. A detailed presentation on smog control measures was also given to him. It was informed that Toba Tek Singh has emerged as one of the top performing districts in the province in terms of smog control efforts.

Expressing his satisfaction, Dr. Zahid appreciated the performance of the Toba Tek Singh team. He stated that their hard work and dedication are commendable and that their performance could serve as a model for other districts across Punjab.

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## King Abdullah II's visit signifies pivotal juncture in revitalizing Pak-Jordan strategic partnership

is Majesty King Abdullah II's recent official visit to Pakistan – the first by a Jordanian monarch in 21 years - transcends mere diplomatic protocol and it signifies a pivotal juncture in revitalizing the strategic partnership between the two nations, a bond deeply rooted in decades of fraternal ties and shared values.

Prof. Cheng Xizhong, Senior Research Fellow at the Charhar Institute, a non-governmental Chinese think-tank on diplomacy and international studies based in Beijing said in a statement on

He said that the grandeur of the reception—from the escort by Pakistan Air Force JF-17 Thunder fighters to the joint welcoming of President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif at Nur Khan Airbase – underscored Pakistan's profound regard for this bilateral relationship.

Beyond the warmth of ceremonial gestures, the visit yielded substantial and tangible outcomes, most notably the signing of the key agreements spanning media, culture and education.

The establishment of Chairs for Urdu and Pakistan Studies at the University of Jordan, coupled with cooperation pacts between state-owned broadcasters, will nurture people-to-people connectivity—the cornerstone of sustainable diplomatic relations.

On the economic front, discussions centered on expanding collaboration in trade, investment, and science and technology sectors pivotal to both nations' developmental aspirations.

Pakistan's burgeoning technology industry and Jordan's proven expertise in regional trade networks present mutually complementary strengths, laying the groundwork for enhanced econom-

ic engagement. Defense cooperation, a longstanding pillar of their bilateral ties, also received renewed focus, reflecting shared security concerns amid the region's lingering volatility, he added.

What truly elevates the significance of this visit is its pronounced regional dimension—particularly in addressing the

The convergence of Pakistan and Jordan's positions—firmly opposing the displacement of Palestinians and advocating for post-conflict reconstruction—showcases their collective influence as steadfast advocates for Muslim world issues.

Their commitment to coordinating within the Arab-Islamic coalition striving for a Gaza ceasefire further amplifies their collective voice in global diplomatic forums, he said.

Prof Cheng said that deliberations on Afghanistan and India further highlighted their aligned stance on regional stability.

His Majesty King Abdullah II's acknowledgment of Pakistan's indispensable role in upholding regional peace underscores Islamabad's strategic significance in South Asia, while Pakistan, in turn, gains a valuable ally in the Middle East—one that serves as a vital bridge between the Arab world and South Asia.

# Takaichi Invents a China Crisis

**Qamar Bashir** 

could be a "survival-threatplates of East Asian security shifted. Her words this November did more than stir diplomatic tempest: they signalled a decisive step away from Japan's longstanding post-war pacifism and into a far more volatile era of militarised logic.

The phrase "survival-threatening situation" refers to the controversial 2015 security legislation under Shinzo Abe that permitted Japan's Japan SelfDefense Forces (JSDF) to act when Japan's survival was directly endangered—even if Japan itself was not under attack. Takaichi, widely regarded as Abe's political heir, now seeks to wrench that framework into a domain far riskier than its original intent.

In the parliamentary session on 7 November, Takaichi tied Taiwan explicitly into that formula: if China moved by warships or other force to bring Taiwan under its control, that would, in her view, meet the threshold for Japan's intervention. Japan's Security Council would thereby be triggered. Until then, Tokyo had maintained the diplomatic stance of "strategic ambiguity." But instead of nuance, a red line was drawn.

The ripple effects extend far beyond Tokyo and Beijing. Already, the Senkaku Islands (known in China as the Diaoyu) are once again flashing as potential flashpoints. On 16 November a Chinese Coast Guard formation sailed through the waters near the islands, citing a "rights enforcement patrol." The timing was no accident: the patrol followed Takaichi's remarks by days and underlined Beijing's willingness to translate diplomatic anger into maritime pressure.

What is unfolding is a brave-yet-reck-

Takaichi stood in parliament hand, Takaichi is tackling the undeniand declared that a possible able fact that Japan's western flank now Chinese attack on Taiwan faces a giant neighbour gathering forces, asserting its claims, and threatening to ening situation" for Japan, the tectonic change the status quo. Taiwan lies just 110 km from Japan's Yonaguni island. A Chinese move across the Taiwan Strait would have direct implications for Japa- pacifist by default" is fading. nese sea lines of communication and

defence. On the other hand, by linking Japan's survival to Taiwan's fate, she is converting long-dormant capabilities into forwardleaning military logicwell beyond the classic self-defence posture.

It is true that under her leadership Japan is

moving on several vectors immediately. Within weeks of taking office she has floated raising defence spending, relaxing arms and-export controls, and revisiting Japan's long-sacrosanct "three non-nuclear principles." The contours of Japan's strategic transformation are visible: from self-defence to power projection.

There is, however, a danger of mis-calculation. The architecture of Japan-China relations is still underpinned by four political documents and the one-China policy. Takaichi's invocation of Taiwan as an existential threat, in Beijing's eyes, tears at those threads. The Xinhua commentary argued that this was not prudent defence policy but "militaristic adventurism" masquerading as legitimacy. "Plainly not a country with close ties to Japan," the commentary said of Taiwan—and therefore not eligible under Japan's survival threshold.

Domestically, Japanese society is wrestling with the new narrative. Many recall that when Japan permitted limited collective self-defence in 2015, public

Article 9 which renounces war. A decade whether Japan should prepare to intervene aggressively alongside the U. S. or avoided diplomacy of force. even independently in a Taiwan contingency. The traditional myth of "Japan as

Globally, the United States is watching nervously. Washington values Tokyo as its most reliable ally in the Pacific, but historically the U.S. has maintained strategic ambiguity over Taiwan. Japan's embedding of Taiwan into its own survival equation complicates that U.S.

position—and may lead to Tokyo being the flash-point for U.S.-China escalation. Beijing certainly interprets it that way: "Japan is taking up the role of dragging the United States into confrontation," the Xinhua commentary stated.

Should this drift continue, the region faces multiple fault-lines. First, Japan may formalise a new policy that treats Taiwanese contingencies as threats to its own survival, with equal standing to attack on Japan's home islands. Second, Japan may transform its Self-Defence Forces into an expeditionary capability suited for overseas intervention not only in support of allies, but under Japan's own mandate. Third, diplomatic and economic fallout with China would accelerate. Already tourism from China to Japan is threatened; trade ties and investment flows could follow.

Yet there remains an alternative route: a recalibration rather than escalation. Domestic push-back and regional concerns may force Tokyo to clarify its position and restrain from pushing the

protest rose at the idea of rewriting Taiwan threshold too far. The United States may pull Tokyo back into alignlater, the argument is no longer about ment on ambiguity. But whether that whether Japan can defend itself-it is happens is uncertain-and delayed action risks slipping Japan into a once-

The irony is sharp: Japan, whose devastation at Hiroshima and Nagasaki shaped a post-war constitution grounded in pacifism and relief by American defence guarantee, now appears poised to raise its military profile not simply for defence, but for intervention. The shadow of its prior militarism, which invaded - and colonised - other nations, looms large. The question Japan must answer is whether its patriotic defence is a shield or a spear.

In the end, Takaichi's gambit is a crossing of the Rubicon. By pulling Taiwan inside her "survival-threatening situation" framework, she has torn away the last veil of ambiguity. Japan has claimed the right to act-not in defence of its own soil—but in defence of a regional ally whose fate it now says is its own. That claim may win some admiration in Tokyo; in Beijing it is seen as provocation. And in the wider region it raises a chilling possibility: that the next crisis will not be Taiwan's alone but Japan's too.

If this moment is mishandled, we may witness not just a rhetorical shift, but a strategic pivot—and the region may find itself drawn into a wider conflict far sooner than anyone anticipated. Japan might believe it is merely upgrading its defences; in reality it could be lifting the stage curtain on a return to great-power

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



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

# Quetta: A City of Dust and Neglect

a few memories of my chunk of our messed-up lives. Being a member of a lower middle-class family, I did not have many colorful toys around. However, there were a few things that made my childhood special: plenty of loved ones, an airy home, with a spacious garden brimming with varoius fruit, flowers, a roadside cart — and the traffic police and domesticated animals, and a cricket will ensure your car stays untouched.

ground, which was an empty plot belonging to our neighbors.

We used to eat a lot of fruits; it was never considered a luxury because fruit trees were available in all the adjacent houses, dwelled by my cousins. My uncle, may his soul

rest in peace, was the best fruit chaat vehicles half on the road — these have maker I have ever known. He used to make it almost every evening. Where ticed. others poured artificial cream, my uncle squeezed lemon and kinno instead. Their sharp, glistening juice constituted the roghan of his delicious chaat. Though a few ingredients were bought from the market, most came from his own garden.

To live in Quetta today is to live in constant noise — to breathe dust instead of air, and to watch the city crumble under the weight of its own people.

Going to the bazaar has become a painful task. If you are on a bike, your black coat or clothes will turn grey before you even reach the main road. Your face will look like that of a man dug out of a grave — your eyes burning, throat dry. If you are in a car, you'll arrive four times one-ways, cut lines, and squeeze through project has turned into a joke — a cruel

hough vaguely, I remember narrow alleys. And when you finally get one. You might see an excavator once a there, there is nowhere to park. You circle childhood — a golden endlessly, trying to cram your car wherever a few inches of space appear, just like everyone else already did.

If you happen to be a government servant with a sarkari car, the rules are different. You can park right in the middle of the road — whether to withdraw cash from an ATM or buy something from

No one dares to say a word. Mr. Hamza Shafqaat, the last Deputy Commissioner, tried to declare the bazaar a non-parking zone, but the rule never truly worked. The chaos continues. Blocking others' paths, parking in front of cars, leaving

become daily acts, accepted and unno-

**Abdul Waheed Khan** 

Where does all this dust come from? The answer is simple, yet shameful. It rises from half-completed constructions, broken roads, careless digging, and i'll-followed protocols. It comes from stone-crushing plants running freely perhaps because the right palms are greased on time. The city breathes dust

because some men profit from it. Take, for example, the so-called dualisation project of the bypass road (N-25), A project awarded to currently famous ZKB, a company whose former managing director Ahmad Khan voted against his party's dariction in the senate a few days earlier. The PC-1 cost was 6.89 billion rupees. Its deadline has long later than you should, even if you take passed, yet the work crawls on. This

month, digging a hole that stays open for weeks. Cars drive over loose earth where a road is supposedly being built. When a vehicle passes, everything disappears behind a suffocating cloud of dust. If you're on a bike, you get a dust shower for free — a bitter gift bought with your

You can literally inhale the soil of Quetta now. Sit in your garden, even three kilometres away from the site, and you will still feel it on your tongue - that dry, bitter taste of neglect. It clings to your clothes, your hair, your eyelashes. You leave for work in the morning, and by the time you return, there's a new hole in the road — unmarked, unguarded, waiting for the next unlucky passerby.

For the last three years, this has been the reality. Now, the road is somewhat constructed, but only in patches. You drive over a freshly paved strip that ends abruptly in rubble, then another smooth piece begins after a few metres. It is not a road; it is a mosaic of mistakes — a symbol of how Quetta is managed: half done, half abandoned, and wholly

And yet, amid all this dust and despair, the city still breathes — stubbornly, painfully, beautifully. Its people have learned to live with broken roads, to smile through clouds of dust, to keep faith in a place that gives them nothing but nostalgia. Quetta is no longer the city of flowers it once was, but those who were born here still carry its scent deep within. We remember what it used to be - the calm evenings, the clean air, and laughter echoing through gardens.

The writer, a lawyer based in Islamabad, sheds light on the pressing humanitarian issues faced by less developed regions, particularly

## **Dark Academia: How Universities** Die under Neoliberalism

Zain-ul-Abideen Abid

"Unethical Activities Continue at Zakariya University; Video of Female Students Emerging from Boys' Hostel Goes Viral" The video reportedly shows two female students from the Business Institute being seen leaving the rooms of male students, Bismillah Khan and Ismatullah, in the boys' hostel. Security wing guards accompanied the students and took them along, but instead of taking action, the matter was allegedly suppressed on the orders of Resident Officer Rao Muqarrab. Daily Baithak

claims that "Resident officer Rao Muqarrab has formed a group within the security wing consisting of guards from Rao, Rana, and Junoon communities, including Riaz, Sajid, Naeem Junoon, Farhan Saiful, and others."

The newspaper has repeatedly highlighted unethical activities and issues within universities, but the responsible administration has seldom taken notice. Such indifference, the cold attitude of authorities, and the administration's silence are contrib-

uting to the deterioration of universities and the education system.

Dark Academia: How Universities Die This is the title of a book written by Peter Fleming. In this book, the author highlights various aspects of the death of universities. One important aspect discussed in detail is neoliberalism—the economic and educational ideology that emphasizes the privatization of educational institutions and running them according to market demands. In this column, I focus on this particular aspect.

In some universities, vice-chancellors and senior faculty have been accused of misconduct or corruption, resulting in resignations or disciplinary inquiries. In others, the environment of fear, politics, and silence prevents any real reform. Such crises reveal that universities, rather than being centers of transformation, are becoming reflections of the same societal rot they were meant to cure. The root of this tragedy lies in the neoliberal transformation of education. When everything is judged by profit, prestige, or performance, human values

ccording to a report in Daily Baithak, disappear. Teachers become administrators, researchers become grant-hunters, and students become mere statis-

> This is the "dark academia" of our age, not the romanticized aesthetic of candle-lit libraries and Latin texts. but the grim reality of moral exhaustion, institutional decay, and intellectual emptiness.

> If universities are to survive, they must rediscover their moral and social mission.

> Policymakers must end the commercialization of education. University administrations must be held

accountable, not just for finances but for ethical conduct and academic standards. Faculty members must remember that their duty is not only to teach but also to embody integrity, curiosity, and compassion. Above all, society must reclaim the university as a public good not a private business, not a political instrument, but a space for the pursuit of truth.

The death of universities is not sudden; it is slow, silent, and bureau-

cratic. But there is still hope. The cure lies in courage the courage to speak, to reform, and to resist the systems that have turned our centers of learning into markets of survival. Until we do that, the dark academia will remain not as a poetic idea, but as a lived tragedy.

Newspapers that report on misconduct or corruption among university faculty are often unfairly branded as blackmailers or troublemakers. Yet, it is precisely these fearless journalists and publications who act as the true guardians of society, holding powerful individuals accountable and safeguarding the integrity of our educational institutions. By bringing hidden scandals to light, they protect the interests of students, parents, and the nation at large. Without such investigative reporting, abuses of power would go unchecked, and the moral and intellectual foundations of our universities would continue to erode in silence. Far from being villains, these journalists are champions of truth and pillars of national progress.

The writer is a senior analyst. He can be reached at zakhanmultan@yahoo.com

# The Spokesman 5

# The President of Uzbekistan outlines priority areas for practical regional cooperation within the new format

**Spokesman Report** 

attended by President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev, Pres-Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, President of President of the Republic of Tajikistan ment, and humanitarian contacts. Emomali Rahmon, President of Turkwell as the head of the UN Regional cooperation, offering us new opportu-Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia Kaha Imnadze.

In accordance with the agenda, issues of further strengthening regional cooperation, as well as the implementation of joint projects and initiatives in priority areas, were considered.

In the beginning of the summit, the Head of our state announced with the Consultative Meeting format as a full-fledged participant. As the Leader of Uzbekistan emphasized, this decision fully meets the interests of our peoples, who are strongly connected by a common history, ties of kinship, spiritual and cultural affinity.

He also expressed confidence that this strategic step will provide strong its role in global affairs is increasing. momentum to the Consultative Meetings, open new horizons for expanding trade, economic, investment, cultural, and humanitarian cooperation, as well as for developing consolidated solutions on issues of sustainable development.

- In essence, we will build a strong bridge between Central Asia and the South Caucasus and pave the way for the formation of a single space of cooperation, which will undoubtedly strengthen the strategic interconnectedness and stability of both regions,noted President Shavkat Mirziyoyev.

The Leader of Uzbekistan then gave was emphasized that thanks to open

range of problems crucial to the region.

Territorial issues have been finally ISLAMABAD: The summit was settled, border crossing points have opened, mutually beneficial cooperation in the water and energy sector has been ident of the Republic of Kazakhstan established, transport links have been restored, and favorable conditions have the Kyrgyz Republic Sadyr Japarov, been created for active trade, invest-

 Today, Central Asia is a space of menistan Serdar Berdimuhamedov, as dynamic development and fruitful nities for sustainable growth and prosperity,-emphasized the Head of state.

The region is rapidly integrating into the global economy: its investment attractiveness is growing, export opportunities to third-country markets are expanding, and its transit potential is increasing. Last year, the volume of mutual trade among the region's counsatisfaction Azerbaijan's accession to tries reached \$10.7 billion, and the total volume of investment in Central Asia increased by 17%

Systematic measures are being taken to ensure security and stability and to counter the threats of terrorism, extremism, and transnational crime.

The region's stature as an international actor is being strengthened and Cooperation in the "Central Asia Plus' formats is intensifying, and the region is presenting a unified position on influential international platforms.

Confidence was expressed that with Azerbaijan's accession to the format, the region's voice in the global community will become even more significant.

It was noted that during Uzbekistan's chairmanship, more than 20 major events were held. The Forum for Interregional Cooperation at the level of deputy prime ministers was launched, and the first meetings of heads of defense agencies, special services, as a brief assessment of the integration well as ministers of geology, industry, processes in the region in recent years. agriculture, ecology, and culture took place On the eye of the summit the

It was emphasized that all these events are clear evidence of the systematic strengthening of the institutional foundations and mechanisms of regional partnership.

The Head of our state noted that against the backdrop of complex and unpredictable international political processes, strengthening the cohesion and mutual support of the region's countries is of particular importance.

I am convinced that today we stand on the threshold of the region's historic revival as a New Central Asia. We have set ourselves the task of further strengthening the institutional foundations of our cooperation and developing a coordinated response to security and sustainable development challenges. It is important for us to have a clear understanding now of what we would like the region to look like in 10-20 years,-the President stated.

The leader of our country then put forward a number of initiatives to further strengthen regional coopera-

Primarily, it was proposed to transform the current meetings from a consultative form of regional dialogue into the "Community of Central Asia" strategic format. It was noted that the first steps towards this could be the development of regulations on Consultative Meetings, the establishment of a Secretariat operating on a rotational basis, and the upgrading of the status of national coordinators to special representatives of the presidents.

The President also advocated for the creation of a Council of Elders composed of respected public figures with rich life experience, which would help strengthen ties between generations and reinforce regional solidarity

The leader of Uzbekistan highlighted the priority of reaching a qualitatively countries. level of trade, economic, and invest

of mutual trade and total foreign trade of deputy prime ministers. turnover in the medium term.

**MARKAZIY OSIYO** 

**DAVLATLARI RAHBARLARINING** 

VII MASLAHAT UCHRASHUVI

2025-YIL 16-NOYABR.

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The importance of eliminating administrative barriers, simplifying tax and customs procedures, and jointly using free economic and industrial zones was emphasized.

- In our view, the development and adoption of a Comprehensive regional program for trade and economic cooperation until 2035, covering the aforementioned issues, will create favorable conditions for a significant increase in trade volumes,-stated the leader of our

Furthermore, the need to adopt a Declaration on a common investment space to form a unified investment climate in the region was noted. The demand for developing a Program of Joint Measures for the Development of e-commerce was pointed out, aimed at harmonizing approaches in this area, creating virtual trading platforms, and establishing reliable digital payment

The critical importance of the joint development of high-tech regional infrastructure and transport and logistics potential for the region's future was specially highlighted.

We propose to consolidate efforts to implement strategically important regional projects for the construction and modernization of power plants, transmission lines, roads and railways, border crossing points, "green corridors", fiber-optic lines, and others,noted the Head of our state.

The construction of the China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan railway and the Trans-Afghan transport corridor were identified as priority projects for interregional transport connectivity. Attention was drawn to the significant potential of the Trans-Caspian routes connecting the region with European

To coordinate work in these ar dialogue and active joint efforts, effec- Dialogue of Women Leaders of Central ment cooperation, which would allow it was proposed to create a Council for cooperation. In this context, hope was Asia, who delivered an address from UN

In the context of ensuring regional security and stability, the documents adopted at the summit-the Concept of Regional Security and Stability, as well as the Catalogue of Risks and Threats, were highly praised.

Taking into account the impact of the situation in Afghanistan on the security and sustainable development of the entire region, the importance was emphasized of integrating this country into regional infrastructure, energy, and transport projects.

The leader of Uzbekistan also advocated for transforming the recently held Ferghana Peace Forum into a regular nternational forum.

With environmental, climate, and water scarcity issues becoming increasingly critical for the region's countries, the importance of accelerating the adoption of the Concept of green development for Central Asia was empha-

Given the increasing water scarcity in the region, it was proposed to declare 2026-2036 the Decade of practical actions for the rational use of water in Central Asia.

The importance of actively involving neighboring Afghanistan in the regional dialogue on the joint use of the Amudarya basin's water resources was emphasized.

To invest in the professional training of personnel in the water sector, the President of Uzbekistan put forward an initiative to establish a Regional Center of Competencies in Water Management at the Tashkent institute of irrigation and agricultural mechanization engi-

The Head of State also called for active participation in the World Water Conservation Forum, which is sched-

uled to be held in our country next year. Azerbaijan, as well as Kaha Imnadze, xpanding cultural and humanitarian for Preventive Diplomacy for Central

Civilization in Tashkent will become a center of attraction for young people, fostering their scientific and spiritual enlightenment.

VII КОНСУЛЬТАТИВНАЯ ВСТРЕЧА

ГЛАВ ГОСУДАРСТВ

ЦЕНТРАЛЬНОЙ АЗИИ

16 НОЯБРЯ 2025 ГОДА,

**ТАШКЕНТ** 

It was also proposed to regularly hold the International Congress on spiritual heritage and enlightenment, which was held in our capital on the eve of the summit for the first time.

To further develop this topic, the President of Uzbekistan put forward an initiative to adopt a Special Resolution of the UN General Assembly dedicated to the contribution of prominent scholars and intellectuals from our region to the development of global enlightenment.

As part of scientific and educational cooperation, it was proposed to establish a Scientific Research Fund to finance interstate projects, encourage the academic community, and expand opportunities for implementing artificial intelligence technologies.

Concluding his speech, the Leader of Uzbekistan noted that the documents adopted today and the initiatives put forward embody the common goal of building a sustainable, secure, and prosperous Central Asia.

I want to underscore that our strength lies in unity, and our path to success is through friendship and cooperation. Only by uniting, based on mutual respect, solidarity, and a strategic vision, will we achieve our noble goals,-noted Shavkat Mirziyoyev.

The Head of State also congratulated the President of Turkmenistan on assuming the chairmanship of the Consultative Meeting of Heads of State in 2026, which will be held in the new "Central Asia and Azerbaijan" format.

Speeches were then delivered by the leaders of the Central Asian states and Special attention was paid to the head of the UN Regional Centre tive solutions have been found for a Asia was successfully held in Tashkent. for a 1.5 to 2-fold increase in the volume infrastructure development at the level expressed that the Center for Islamic Secretary-General António Guterres.

# Church Affairs Representative Highlights Faith-Based Justice Amidst Alleged Genocide at Kairos Launch

B News Desk

Amira Hanania, Member of the Higher Presidential Committee for Church Affairs in Palestine and its Representative in Europe, participated today in the Kairos Palestine International Conference held at Bethlehem Bible College, where the second Kairos Document, "A Moment of Truth: Faith in a Time of Genocide," was officially launched.

Speaking on behalf of Dr. Ramzi Khouri—Member of the PLO Executive Committee and Head of the Higher Presidential Committee for Church that the Palestinian cause is funda-Affairs in Palestine—Hanania conveyed his greetings to conference participants. The opening session was attended by the Kairos Palestine, along with its atives from Palestine and abroad, inter-through action. national delegations, and public figures.

Bethlehem Office, Jihad Khair, also took part in the proceedings.

In her remarks, Hanania underscored the Committee's profound appreciation for Kairos Palestine and its continued efforts to articulate a theological and moral vision that elevates the voice of the Palestinian church in the face of injustice and oppression. She highlighted the enduring significance of the first Kairos Document, "A Moment of Truth," describing it as a cry of conscience through which the Palestinian church affirmed mentally a matter of faith-based justice before it is a political issue.

Hanania stressed that the release of Patriarch Michel Sabbah, Chair of the new document comes at a time of genocide against the Palestinian people, members, numerous church represent- affirming that true faith is measured

Silence in the face of genocide and

Committee member and Director of the collective punishment, she said, represents a departure from the essence of the Christian message. She commended Kairos Palestine for ensuring that the Palestinian Christian voice remains courageous, steadfast, and influential in confronting policies of exclusion and oppression.

She concluded by reaffirming the full support of the Higher Presidential Committee for the second Kairos Document, emphasizing its commitment to working closely with Kairos Palestine and all partners to translate this spiritual and moral support into concrete action on the ground. Hanania called on all churches-East and West-and Christian institutions worldwide to make their witness of faith an active commitment rooted in international law and principles of international legitimacy. She urged them to adopt courageous positions calling for an end to the occu-



pation, the cessation of genocide and mentation of relevant United Nations able rights of the Palestinian people to collective punishment, and the imple- resolutions that safeguard the inalien- freedom and self-determination.



#### **Hamdard Naunehal Assembly session**

# President Hamdard Foundation Stresses Education and Self-Belief for National Progress

KARACHI: The guests and young speakers from different schools paid glowing tribute to Shair-e-Mashriq Allama Muhammad Iqbal and reaffirmed his message of hope in a monthly Hamdard Naunehal Assembly Karachi session, held yesterday at the Bait-ul-Hikmah Auditorium,

Ms Sadia Rashid, President Hamdard Foundation Pakistan said that Dr Allama Iqbal reminded us that no nation can discipline, good character, and Children must embrace his for their people. This is exactly

philosophy of khudi(self-realiin one's abilities, staying true to one's purpose, and living with dignity and confidence. For today's youth, this message is more important than ever.

Dr Ambareen Haseeb Amber said that confident and well-disciplined children are the true promise of Pakistan's bright future. Hakim-ul-Ummat, chose children and young people as the focus of his poetry. Great individuals are people of insight and wisdom; they think ahead progress without education, and keep their attention on the future and through chila higher sense of responsibility. dren they build a bright future

what Shaheed-e-Pakistan Hakim zation) which means believing Mohammed Said also did. By establishing a respected platform like the Hamdard Naunehal Assembly, he laid the foundation for nation-building. Inshallah, it will continue to guide and shape young minds in the years

to come. "In Allama Iqbal's time, the Muslims of the subcontinent were surrounded by despair. The poetry of his contemporaries and the writings of many authors reflected this hopelessness. But Allama Iqbal, a visionary deeply concerned for his people, inspired hope during difficult days," she added.

Syeda Maryam Fatima Speaker of the Naunehal the session.



Tuesday, November 18, 2025

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

index Fluctuatio			
Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index			
Current	Prev. Close		
161,687.18	161,935.19		
Day's High	Day's Low		
163,602.15	161,481.68		
Index Value	Change		
26,321,988,161	-248.01		
Percentage	Time		
-0.15%	17 Nov, 2025 4:30 pm		
Europe: FTSE 100 Index			
Index Value	Change		
9,675.43	-22.94		
Percentage	Time		
·	17 Nov, 4:35 pm		

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average		
Index Value	Change	
47,119.94	-27.54	
Percentage	Time	
-0.058%	17 Nov, 12:09 pm GMT-5	

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average		
Index Value	Change	
50,323.91	-52.62	
Percentage	Time	
-0.10%	17 Nov, 3:45 pm GMT+9	

#### **Open Market Forex Rates**

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	185.5	190.5
Bahrain Dinar	747.1	754.6
Canadian Dollar	205.75	212.75
China Yuan	39.2	39.6
Danish Krone	43.15	43.55
Euro	332.3	335.8
Hong Kong Dollar	35.8	36.15
Indian Rupee	3.10	3.19
Japanese Yen	1.8771	1.9771
Kuwaiti Dinar	914.2	923.2
Malaysian Ringgit	66.6	67.2
NewZealand \$	156.2	158.2
Norwegians Krone	27.35	27.65
Omani Riyal	731.65	739.15
Qatari Riyal	76.45	77.15
Saudi Riyal	75.7	76.3
Singapore Dollar	217.25	222.05
Swedish Korona	29.15	29.45
Swiss Franc	346.1	348.85
Thai Bhat	8.5	8.65
U.A.E Dirham	76.85	77.85
UK Pound Sterling	381.1	384.1
US Dollar	281.55	281.8

Pak-Qatar Participates in InternationalCapital Market Conference & Expo 2025



KARACHI: Pak-Qatar Group participated in the International Capital Market Conference & Expo 2025, held to highlight Pakistan's progress and potential in fostering sustainable financial growth, investment opportunities, and market innovation. The event brought together leading policymakers, financial institutions, and industry experts to discuss the future of the capital market and the role of Islamic

finance in promoting financial inclusion. During the event, Mr. Jamil Ahmad, Governor, State Bank of Pakistan, and Mr. Akif Saeed, Chairman, Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP), visited the Pak-Qatar exhibition booth. They appreciated Pak-Qatar's role in introducing need-based Takaful, VPS, Annuity and other investment solutions that align with Pakistan's broader financial literacy and inclusion objectives.

Mr. Waqas Ahmed, CEO, Pak-Qatar Family Takaful Limited, briefed the Chairman SECP and Governor SBP on Pak-Qatar's innovative Voluntary Pension Scheme (VPS) and Annuity products.

"At Pak-Qatar, we firmly believe that every product must serve a real need. Our mission is to enhance customer experience by combining Shariah-compliant savings and protection with value-driven financial planning. The acknowledgment from the country's  $top\ financial\ regulators\ reinforces\ our$ belief that trust and innovation go hand in hand in shaping Pakistan's financial

# AI driven exploration can unlock Pakistan's massive oil and gas reserves, experts tell Islamabad conference

#### **Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan can unlock billions of barrels of untapped oil and gas reserves through modern AI supported exploration techniques that allow deeper, faster and more accurate identification of resources, speakers said at the 2nd International Oil and Gas Conference 2025

They said Pakistan's onshore and offshore basins hold enormous potential that remains underexplored and technology can help close the growing gap between supply and demand.

Kuwait Petroleum Country Manager Ali Taha Al Temimi, delivering the keynote address, said Pakistan's domestic supply no longer meets national energy needs and the country is forced to rely heavily on imported fuel.

He said Pakistan currently produces a maximum of around four billion cubic feet of gas a day which is far below the country's



Earlier in his welcome address, Energy tunities in Pakistan's oil and gas sector. Update Managing Director and Chairman

He said Energy Update has played a key role Organising Committee M Naeem Qureshi said in promoting dialogue and awareness in the the conference brings together leading experts antional energy industry for almost two decades and innovators to discuss challenges and oppor- and thanked OGRA, OCAC and Nimex Petro-

leum Group along with sponsors including PARCO, Pakistan Petroleum Limited, OGDCL, Engro Vopak Terminal Limited, ILF Consulting Engineers and SSGC LPG for supporting the

Joint Secretary Petroleum Shehbaz Tahir told the conference that the government has introduced reforms to stabilise the energy sector.

The conference featured presentations by senior professionals including Pakistan Petroleum Limited General Manager Exploration and Core Business Development Arshad Palekar, Pak Arab Refinery Limited Head of Exploration Sohail Hashmi and Attock Refinery General Manager Saleem Anwar who discussed refinery challenges, supply pressures and the need for new exploration.

H. E. Atadjan Movlamov Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Turkmenistan, Apex Energy Chief Executive Raziuddin Razi and Barrister Sarah Kazmi also addressed the gathering.

#### Dry Fruits

ISLAMABAD: A view of the dry fruits shop at Aabpara Market as due to the winter season the sales of such shops takes hike, in Federal Capital.



# DWP Technologies Unveils Advanced Digital Printing Innovations at PrintPak Lahore 2025

ISLAMABAD: DWP Technologies, in collaboration with Xerox, made a notable impression at PrintPak Lahore 2025 by showcasing a range of high-performance digital printing technologies designed to meet the growing needs of Pakistan's print and packaging sector.

The DWP Technologies × Xerox booth drew significant attention, offering live demonstrations of Xerox's advanced production printers, intelligent workflow automation tools, and color-accurate printing systems. These solutions aim to improve efficiency, consistency, and overall performance for businesses in the commercial printing industry.

"PrintPak Lahore is a key event for connecting with Pakistan's vibrant printing community. This year, our goal was to highlight how modern printing infrastructure, powered by smart automation and reliable service, can help print providers grow and compete with confidence," said Yousaf



Ahmed, Country Manager - Printing & Document Technologies at DWP Technol-

By participating in PrintPak Lahore 2025,

DWP Technologies reaffirms its commitment to supporting Pakistan's print industry with the latest technology, expert guidance, and exceptional service across the country.

## **HBL Microfinance Bank** and SUPARCO Begin **First Disbursements** Under Climate-Smart Agri Finance Using Satellite Data Intelligence

#### Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: HBL Microfinance Bank (HBL MfB), in partnership with the Pakistan Space & Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (SUPARCO), has commenced disbursements under Pakistan's first climate-smart agri-finance, by using satellite data intelligence. The initiative represents a major milestone in the country's journey toward sustainable, technology-driven agriculture.

This pilot, previously announced as a pioneering financing agriculture. collaboration between HBL MfB and SUPARCO, uses (SAR), satellite data intelligence. crop monitoring, and remote- tion showcases how Pakistan's sensing analytics to assess crop health, support risk managerate, and timely agri-credit

impactful execution. Speaking on this develop-

ment, Amir Khan, President & CEO, HBL Microfinance Bank, stated "Agriculture is the backbone of Pakistan's economy, yet highly vulnerable to climate shocks. By integrating satellite intelligence into agri-financing, we are equipping farmers with the tools to withstand climate risks, improve productivity, and contribute to national food security. Furthermore, it also strengthens risk management for the banking sector

Mr. Zafar Iqbal, Member SUPARCO. remark nis collabora space technology can directly support economic development, and enable more accu- ment. By applying satellite analytics to agriculture, we decisions. With the first loan are strengthening livelihoods now disbursed, the partner- and contributing to national ship moves from planning to climate resilience."

#### TCL and Call of Duty® Unite to Elevate the Launch of Black Ops 7 **With Next-Generation QD-Mini LED Immersion**



#### Commerce Desk

LAHORE: TCL, Pakistan's No.1 LED TV Brand and a global leader in consumer electronics, has announced the expansion of its partnership with Call of Duty® in celebration of the world-7. Returning once again as

the Official TV Partner, TCL aligns its most advanced QD-Mini LED technology with one of the year's most anticipated game releases, promising Pakistani gamers a deeply immersive visual experience that brings every mission, environment, wide launch of Black Ops and detail to life like never

# ABHI, UAE-based Numou sign agreement to power SME procurement financing

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

KARACHI: Abhi has partnered with Numou, ADGM's SME growth platform, for providing embedded finance and working capital solutions to enhance access to finance for small and medium enterprises across the region.

on Numou will gain faster, more flexible, and transparent access to working capital, bridging the gap between tion strengthens our mission to build invoice issuance and payment. By a more inclusive and resilient SME inclusive. Together, we are paving the

integrating Abhi's digital lending infrastructure, the partnership will enable expedited credit assessment and loan disbursement, empowering local businesses to grow and deliver on opportunities without liquidity constraints.

"Partnering with Abhi allows us to address one of the biggest challenges Through this collaboration, SMEs for SMEs — timely access to financing," said Mohamed Al Binali, General Manager of Numou. "This collabora-

ecosystem across the UAE and beyond." "At ABHI, we believe access to finance should be an enabler, not a barrier to growth. Our partnership with Numou reflects our shared commitment to empowering the SME sector, the backbone of regional economies. By embedding ABHI's digital lending infrastructure into Numou's ecosystem, we are reimagining how businesses access capital, making it faster, more transparent, and more



way for a future where every entrepre- potential into progress." said Omair

neur has the financial freedom to turn Ansari, Co-founder & CEO of Abhi.

# Sports Punjab Minister Khokhar orders officials concerned to ensure the completion of all ongoing sports schemes as per given time frame

**Sports Desk** 

LAHORE: Provincial Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs Malik Faisal Ayub Khokhar has directed the officials concerned to ensure the completion of all ongoing sports schemes as per given time frame. The provincial sports minister issued these directions while presiding over an important meeting at the National Hockey Stadium on Monday.

Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Muzaffar Khan Sial, Director General Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Khizar Afzaal Chaudhry, Director Sports Rana Nadeem Anjum, Director Admin Abid Shaukat and PMU officers participated in the high-profile meeting.

The Annual Development sports



schemes were also reviewed in detail Youth Affairs Minister Malik Faisal during the meeting. Punjab Sports and Ayub Khokhar was told that 12 major Youth Affairs Minister Malik Faisal Ayub Khokhar was given an in-depth briefing about the Annual Development sports schemes and preparations of the upcoming National Games being organized at Karachi from Dec 6 to 13.

In the briefing, Punjab Sports and Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs sports event at Karachi".

the major sports complexes being built across the province will be inaugurated soon. He also directed the officials to complete the International Squash Complex as early as possible. "The improvement of sports infrastructure in the annual development programme is a top priority of Punjab Sports Depart-Punjab Minister for Sports and Youth

Malik Faisal Ayub Khokhar said that

Affairs Malik Faisal Ayub Khokhar has directed the officers concerned to ensure provision of best facilities and training to Punjab's teams at the training camps. "The coaches at the training camps 4 to participate in the 35th National must focus on the game techniques and fitness of Punjab athletes so that Addressing the meeting, Punjab they can earn top position in the mega

## DG Sports forms different management committees for smooth holding of National Games training camps

**Sports Desk** 

LAHORE: Director General Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Khizar Afzaal Chaudhary while presiding over an important meeting has formed different management committees for making best arrangements for National Games training camps at Nishtar Park Sports Complex

The high-profile meeting held at the National Hockey Stadium on Monday was convened to review arrangements of training camps being organised for the preparation of Punjab's selected teams' for upcoming 35th edition of National Games being organized at Karachi from December 6 to 13.

The meeting was attended by Director Sports Rana Nadeem Anjum, Director Admin Abid Shaukat, Divisional Sports



Officer Lahore Tanveer Shah and all

Officer Lahore Tariq Khanzada, Deputy officers including Director Admin Abid & Lodging Committee, Equipment & level training under the supervision of Director Yasmeen Akhtar, Deputy Shaukat, Director Sports Rana Nadeem Scheduling Committee, Dailies Disburse- qualified coaches and trainers".

Director Chand Perveen, District Sports Anjum, Divisional Sports Officer Tariq Khanzada, Deputy Director Chand administrators of Nishtar Park Sports Parveen and Yasmeen Akhtar as heads of different management committees male and female athletes selected to repre-Director General Sports Punjab Khizar such as Camp Management Committee, sent Punjab in various sports disciplines fzaal Chaudhary has appointed senior Mess Management Committee, Boarding

sports development schemes will be

tendered soon and the Punjab contin-

gent will leave for Karachi on December

ment Committee and Medical Committee. Addressing the meeting, Director General Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Khizar Afzaal Chaudhary informed that the training camps of 20 games are being set up at multiple venues of Nishtar Park Sports Complex from November 24 to December 3. "The training camp of baseball will be organized at Multan, handball camp at Faisalabad while wrestling training camp will be established at

Director General Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Khizar Áfzaal Chaudhary further said that best accommodation and cleanliness arrangements are being made for all camp probables during their stay at Nishtar Park Sports Complex. "All at National Games will be imparted top

## Pakistan focused on building strong combination for T20 World Cup: Salman Ali Agha

**Sports Desk** 

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's T20 cricket captain Salman Ali on Monday said the team's primary focus is the upcoming T20 World Cup, and preparations are underway to strengthen both combination and

Speaking at a press conference at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium, he said the team aims to maintain the momentum built over the past few months under a clear strategic approach in T20 cricket.

Salman, was of the view that Pakistan is equipped with excellent all-rounders, who continue to contribute effectively with both bat and ball. He added that a strong combination will be visible in the tri-nation series as well, with the plan being to give every squad member an opportunity to ensure the best possible lineup is identified before the World Cup.

He stressed that performances in the lower order are not a cause for concern. "Mohammad Nawaz, Faheem Ashraf, and Shaheen Shah Afridi have consistently shown improvement with the bat and played crucial roles even during the Asia Cup," he said. The captain confirmed that Abdul

Samad has been included in the squad

would also perform well and meet the team's expectations.

Speaking about his own form, Agha said every player experiences highs and lows. "My performance in the Asia Cup was not satisfactory, but now my form is better and I am determined to continue contributing to the team's victories."

He added that he is always available to bowl when needed, while Saim Ayub, as a batting all-rounder, has also displayed impressive bowling skills.

He emphasized that all-rounders hold great significance in the shorter formats worldwide, and Pakistan must take full advantage of having such players.

Meanwhile, Zimbabwe captain Sikandar Raza said his focus ahead of the upcoming clash with Pakistan is not on the opposition's plans but on maximizing the strengths within his own squad.

"Instead of thinking about what our plan is against Pakistan, my focus is on what I have planned knowing the potential of my teammates," Raza said. "If we bowl and field well, we have the ability to beat any team. We will take it one game at a time, and I believe we have a very good

Raza expressed disappointment with what he described as harsh judgments and expressed confidence that Samad directed at the current Zimbabwe squad.

"This group of players gets judged very harshly because of our history," he said. "These boys went to Australia and beat them for the first time, yet I don't see media talking about it. I feel this current crop of players is often disrespected. We performed well in the 2020 World Cup, and we beat the Asian teams that toured Zimbabwe.

He noted Zimbabwe's limited player pool and said the board has been working to expand its reach. "Zimbabwe has a very small pool of players. We know how tough it is. Zimbabwe Cricket has worked hard, we've gone to remote areas to expand the game," he added.

"We don't have a busy cricketing calendar. When you don't play top nations Hopefully, we will win." regularly, so it becomes tougher. This year we've played all the big teams and still managed to qualify for the World Cup."

Raza expressed confidence that his squad would continue to represent the country with dignity. "These players will take the country forward in a dignified and test ourselves against the best. Instead of seeing it as a challenge, my team and I are excited. If we win, it will not be an upset."

He added that Zimbabwe remains the second-best side in Africa. "I don't care, who is first or second best team in Asia,"

he said. "Pakistan at home is always tough, and Sri Lanka at home also have an excellent record.

Sri Lanka's Dasun Shanaka acknowledged his team's disappointing ODI series loss but emphasized that T20 cricket offers a fresh opportunity.

"We lost the ODI series badly, but T20 cricket is different," Shanaka said. "We need to get the maximum out of our experienced players and, at the same time, tap into the potential of our younger talent."

Reflecting on their recent performances, Shanaka admitted Sri Lanka fell short in the Asia Cup. "We didn't do well in the Asia Cup. We had some good games, but now we're here to make a statement.

He said the team aims to correct its mistakes as it transitions into the T20 series. "In T20s, we will do better. We need to focus on all three disciplines. Bowling execution is key, and our catching wasn't good in the ODI series."

Shanaka praised his opening pair and honorable way," he said. "We play cricket to welcomed the challenge ahead. "The openers were impressive, and I like the direction Pakistan cricket is heading. We're ready for the challenge," he added. "As experienced players, we are prepared for the conditions, and we're confident

#### S.M.AdilZone-IVInter Club Cricket Tournament

KARACHI: Two more matches decided in the S. M. Adil Zone-IV Inter Club Cricket Tournament yesterday at various Grounds

The highlights of the days play was deadly bowling by Medium Pacer Aliyan Saud Capturing 5 wickets for 17 and some good batting by Suleman Ghani 87 and

The Tournament is being organised by Regional Cricket Association Karachi Zone-IV.

**Scores in Brief:** 

Pak Shaheen Cricket Club beat Saudabad Gymkhana by 190 runs at Landhi Gymkhana Ground. Pak Shaheen c.c. 283/9 in 35 overs. Khurram Balouch 54 3x4 5x6, Saifullah Saud 39, Taneem Khan 37, Jibran Sohail 35, Razi Anwar 27, Toqeer Rafiq 27. S M. Mustufa 3/44, Muhammad Abyan Ali 3/45, S. M. Shahnawaz 2/43.

In reply Saudabad Gymkhana 93 allout in 30 overs. Ahsan Khan 28 not out. Aliyan Saud (mf) 5/17, Saud Farooqui 3/21. Later Aliyan Saud of Pak Shaheen c.c received the Player of the

In the 2nd Match Model Cricket Club beat Al-Falah Cricket Club by 184 runs at Pak Star Ground. Model c.c. 278/4 in 35overs. Suleman Ghani 87 12x4 3x6 not out, Hamza Gul 83 10x4 1x6, S. M. Burhan 34 not out, Waqas 26, Khan Sher 20. Arshman

In reply Al-Falah c.c.194 all-out in 30.2 overs. Adeel Gul 636x4, Muhammad Hamdan 53 4x4, Qazi Syed Jasir uddin 25. Abdul Malik (mf) 4/24, Irfan ullah 2/52.

After the end of the Match Suleman Ghani of Model c.c. declared Man of the Match

#### Tri-Series trophy unveiled



Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: The trophy for the upcoming tri-nation T20 cricket series featuring Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe was formally unveiled here on Monday.

According to details, Skippers including Pakistan's Salman Ali Agha, Sri Lanka's Dasun Shanaka and Zimbabwe's Sikandar Raza jointly unveiled the trophy during a special ceremony.

The three captains also posed for commemorative photo-

graphs and expressed their determination ahead of the series. The tri-nation T20 series will begin Tuesday at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium, where Pakistan will face Zimbabwe in

the opening match. As per schedule, each team will feature in four matches, with the top two sides qualifying for the final scheduled on Saturday,

Series schedule (all matches at Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium): November 18 - Pakistan v Zimbabwe; November 20 - Sri Lanka v Zimbabwe; November 22 - Pakistan v Sri Lanka; November 23 -

Pakistan v Zimbabwe; November 25- Sri Lanka v Zimbabwe; November 27- Pakistan v Sri Lanka; November 29- Final.

#### ITBA Masters Tenpin Bowling Cup on Nov 22

**₿** Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: The 2nd ITBA Masters Tenpin Bowling Cup Tournament under the auspices of Islamabad Tenpin Bowling Association (ITBA), will be played on November 22 here at the Leisure City Bowling Club, Safa Gold Mall, F-7



Markaz. According to General Secretary, Islamabad Tenpin Bowling Association, Daniyal Ejaz the President, Pakistan Tenpin Bowling Federation, Ijaz-ur-Rehman will inaugurate the tournament. He said that players from the federal capital will participate in the tournament. Two categories of competitions will be organised in the tournament, including singles and doubles categories.

Prizes will be distributed among the winning players at the end of the tournament.

Ejaz, said the meeting of the organizing committee will be held under the chairmanship of President, Islamabad Tenpin Bowling Association, Agha Muhmmad Ali Shah on November 20, in which all arrangements for the tournament will be finalized.

#### Jannik Sinner beats great rival Carlos Alcaraz to retain ATP Finals title

TURIN: Jannik Sinner retained the ATP Finals title on Sunday after beating Carlos Alcaraz 7-6 (7/4), 7-5 and ending a turbulent season with victory over his great rival. Italian Sinner brought the house down in Turin by winning

the championship match that tennis fans wanted to see, adding the prestigious year-ending tournament to the Australian Open and a landmark triumph at Wimbledon this season.

The 24-year-old also bounced back from a three-month ban, which chopped out a large chunk of his season despite the World Anti-Doping Agency accepting that the Italian was accidentally contaminated with the banned substance clostebol last year.

# Pearl-Continental Hospitality Partners with Grand Shafaat Hospitality to Open PC Legacy Nathia Gali, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

ISLAMABAD: Pearl-Continental Hospitality, the hospitality the twin cities. division of Hashoo Group, has tality to operate PC Legacy Nathia Gali. The signing ceremony took place at Pearl-Continental Hotel Rawalpindi and

Grand Shafaat Hospitality, along to quality service, guest comfort, with notable personalities from

Speaking at the signing ceresigned a management agree- mony, Mr. Shafaat Ahmed, ment with Grand Shafaat Hospi- Chairman, Grand Shafaat Hospitality, said: "Through this management agreement, we are pleased to collaborate with Pc Hospitality to bring a was attended by senior exec- new standard of hospitality to utives of Pearl-Continental Nathia Gali. This partnership

Hospitality, Hashoo Group, and reflects our shared commitment and creating an experience that celebrates the natural beauty and welcoming spirit of the region."

Mr. Bastien Blanc, Chief Executive Officer, Hospitality Division, Hashoo Group, added "This agreement for PC Legacy Nathia Gali reinforces our commitment to expanding quality hospitality offerings across Pakistan's key leisure and tourism destina-

dous potential as a year-round nature retreat, and we are proud to enhance the guest experience through our operational expertise and established hospitality standards.

Pearl-Continental Hospitality, the hospitality division of Hashoo Group, is among Asia's leading hospitality organizations, with a diverse portfolio spanning hotels, restau-

services. With over 60 operating and upcoming hotels, its brands include the luxury PC Signature, Pearl-Continental Hotels & Resorts, and PC Legacy; and midscale to budget offerings such as Hotel One, Hotel One Vogue, and Roomph. The PC Connoisseur 50 acclaimed dining destina-

Sakura, Bukhara, Marco Polo, and Tai Pan. Complementing its hospitality portfolio, Pearl Tours & Travel provides inte-PC Residences; the premium tions and holds the Destination With a presence in Pakistan, the of the World franchise. Through Collection features more than the next generation of hospitality and lasting value through innoprofessionals through diploma vation and excellence.

Hashoo Group, with business interests across hospitality, real estate, technology, and travel, continues to shape and elevate grated travel and car rental solu- Pakistan's hospitality landscape. United Arab Emirates, and the its five campuses, the Hashoo United Kingdom, the Group School of Hospitality Manage- remains committed to delivment is dedicated to developing ering exceptional experiences

# The Spokesman

#### Welcome to Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: H.E. Tim Kane, High Commissioner designate of Australia; H.E. Munsoo Kurrimbaccus, High Commissioner designate of Mauritius; H.E. Maja Mortensen, Ambassador designate of Denmark; and H.E. Mr Salem Mohammed Salem Al Bawab Al Zaabi, Ambassador designate of the United Arab Emirates, presenting their credentials to President Asif Ali Zardari at Aiwan-e-Sadr.



Photo: Online

# Envoys of four countries present credentials to President Asif Ali Zardari

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Four newly designated envoys presented their credentials to President Asif Ali Zardari at a ceremony held today at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Those who presented their credentials included Mr. Tim Kane, High Commissioner-designate of Australia; Mr. Munsoo Kurrimbaccus, High Commissioner-designate of Mauritius; Mrs. Maja Mortensen, Ambassador-designate of Denmark and Mr. Salem Mohammed Salem Al

Arab Emirates.

Upon arrival at the Prespresented Guard of Honour by a smartly turned-out contingent of the Pakistan Armed

The President congratulated them on their appointment and expressed confidence that their tenures would further strengthen Pakistan's bilateral relations with the four

While talking to the High affinity and shared Common-

Bawab Al Zaabi, Ambassa- Commissioner-designate of wealth heritage, as pivotal. dor-designate of the United Australia, President highlighted Pakistan's friendly relations with the country, idency, the envoys were emphasising enhanced trade and investment cooperation, agriculture and particularly in the education sector with a sizeable community of Paki-

stani students in Australia. During his meeting with the High Commissioner-designate of Mauritius, the of the United Arab Emir-President termed the longstanding bonds of friendship, underpinned by deep cultural

In his interaction with the Ambassador-designate of Denmark, the President discussed the fraternal relations with Denmark and appreciated the close coordination between the two countries at the UN Security Council.

In his conversation with the Ambassador-designate ates, the President reaffirmed Pakistan's solidarity with the Government and people of the United Arab Emirates, and prosperity.

with Pakistan being the first country to recognize the UAE in 1971. He said the historic ties anchored in common faith, mutual trust and shared aspirations for regional peace and prosperity are the hall marks of this fraternal rela-

The President extended his best wishes to all four envoys for a productive tenure, expressing hope that their efforts would lead to stronger bilateral and multilateral partnerships for mutual benefit



跨 Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFRABAD: The President of Pakistan Peoples Party motion of no-confidence has supporters of Pakistan Peoples tions to Raja Faisal Mumtaz prayed

Azad Kashmir Chaudhry Muhammad Yasin has said

Paying Heartiest congratthat "Alhamdulillah "— the ulations to all workers and

# PPP AJK President congratulates new PM, vows full support

Party Azad Kashmir. Our dear Rathore, his entire family, brother, Raja Faisal Mumtaz the people of Haveli, and the Rathore, has been elected as the Prime Minister of Azad

Jammu and Kashmir. As the son of the late former Prime Minister of AJK, Raja Mumtaz Hussain Rathore, he will surely carry forward his father's legacy with dignity. offering full cooperation and He is expected to launch a renewed and dynamic strategy for the welfare of the people of Azad Jammu & Kashmir and for the Kashmir freedom

We extend heartfelt felicita-

proud citizens of Azad Jammu & Kashmir. The Parliamentary Party of Pakistan Peoples Party AJK and the entire party leadership will stand shoulder to shoulder with the newly elected Prime Minister, commitment.

He said that A new era of true public representation will begin once again in Azad Kashmir. May Allah Almighty grant all of us the strength and ability to serve the people He

# Pakistan posts \$112m current account deficit in October 2025: SBP

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

KARACHI: Pakistan's current account slipped into a deficit of \$112 million in October 2025. according to data released by the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) on Monday.

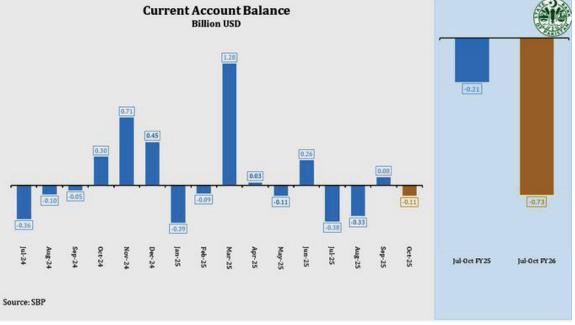
In comparison, the current account had recorded a surplus of \$83 million in September 2025 and a surplus of \$296 million in October 2024.

The deficit came on the back of a significantly higher import bill and lower exports during the month.

The trade deficit in goods and services last month was recorded at \$274 million.

Cumulatively, the current account deficit for the first four months of the ongoing fiscal year (July-October 2025) stood at \$7.33 billion, significantly

previous fiscal year.



recorded in the same period of the amounted to \$3.57 billion, down nearly 4% as compared to \$3.71

higher than the \$2.06 billion deficit total export of goods and services previous year, according to a report 2025, an increase of over 13% on a in Business Recorder.

vearly basis, as compared to \$5.58 Meanwhile, total imports clocked billion in the same month last year,

In October 2025, the country's billion in the same month of the in at \$6.32 billion during October according to SBP data. Published by: Almass Ayoub Sabir from Zero Point Printers Rawalpindi

## **Dar leaves for Moscow** to attend SCO's heads of government summit



**E** City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar left for Moscow on Monday to attend the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation's (SCO) Council of Heads of Government (CHG) meeting.

Ishaq Dar will lead the Pakistani delegation in the meeting being held in Moscow on November 17-18.

According to a Foreign Office statement, "The CHG will be attended by the heads of government of Belarus, China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, the vice president of Iran and foreign ministers of Pakistan and India."

to SCO member States, the Heads of important decisions."

Government of Mongolia, Bahrain, Egypt, Qatar, Kuwait, Turkmenistan and heads of international /regional organizations including Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), Euro Asian Economic Union (EAEU), Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), and Democratic Socialists of America (DSA) will also be attending the meeting."

"The CHG is the second-highest decision-making institution in the SCO. It provides guidance in the areas of economy, finance, trade, connectivity, commerce, socio-economic cooperation, including the budgetary matters of the Organisation. The SCO CHG adopts Joint It further says that, "In addition Communiqué, statements and

# Palestinian Cabinet calls for urgent international action to stop settlers' terrorism



News Desk

RAMALLAH: Government Communications Center — Prime opened the weekly Cabinet session on

During the session, the Cabinet any deterrence

called on the international community to take immediate action to stop Israeli settlers' terrorism in the West Bank, warning of the grave danger Minister Dr. Mohammad Mustafa posed by organized settler militias targeting Palestinian villages and Monday in Ramallah with a briefing towns. These militias continue to on the political efforts led by Presi- carry out systematic crimes against dent Mahmoud Abbas to mobilize civilians—including physical attacks, international support for the inalien- arson, uprooting of trees, and terrorable rights of the Palestinian people. izing the Palestinian people—without

## Raja Faisal Mumtaz **Rathore Takes Helm** of AJK Government After PM Ousted

Sontinued from page 1

Former Prime Minister Raja participating in the debate, expressed reservations regarding members elected on one party's ticket voting in a no-confidence motion, terming it contrary to the spirit of electoral laws. He stressed that the new government must ensure free, fair and impartial elections, along with completing constitutional appointments and updating voter rolls.

Former Prime Minister Abdul Qayyum Niazi stated that the need for change arose due to governance failures of the previous administra-

He highlighted lack of opportunity for opposition to speak during budget sessions and said that unresolved public issues led to widespread protests. He added that during his tenure, development funds were distributed fairly.

Former President and Prime Minister Sardar Muhammad Yaqoob Khan congratulated the new Leader of the House and reaffirmed commitment to continuing the mission of Kashmir's freedom struggle. He urged all members to work collectively to ensure the success of the new government, calling it essential for the state during challenging times.

Former Prime Minister Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan welcomed the new Leader of the House and Muhammad Farooq Haider Khan, advised him to keep consultation channels open, stressing that governance improves through collective wisdom. He clarified that the Muslim Conference did not participate in the change of government and has chosen to remain neutral in this process.

MLA Sardar Muhammad Hussain expressed confidence that Raja Faisal Mumtaz Rathore would prove to be an effective Prime Minister and thanked the PPP leadership for electing a young leader. MLA Syed Bazil Ali Naqvi noted that only two votes were cast against the no-confidence motion, demonstrating broad consensus. He expressed hope that this transition would bring systemic rather than cosmetic change

MLA Abdul Majid Khan congratulated the new Leader of the House and stressed that no discriminatory treatment should be shown toward refugee representatives, who are part of the Assembly under constitutional mandate.

He also sought clarification on agreements reportedly made by federal ministers with the Action Committee, noting that various interpretations were circulating on social media.