انصاری نے بیان کیا کہ رسول الله مَثَاثِلَةِ اَلَّهُ اللهِ اَلَّهُ مَثَاثِلُةً اِللَّهِ اَللَّهُ اللَّهِ اللَّهُ

اصحح بخاری: حدیث نمبر 196 **Barkat Rice Mills**

Shehbaz Sharif felicitates AJK PM-elect; assures federal govt's cooperation

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday telephoned the newly elected Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Raja Faisal Mumtaz Rathore, and congratulated him on his election victory. "We are determined to work with the AJK government for the welfare, economic development and security of the people of Azad Jammu and Kashmir," he said and assured that his government will extend all-out cooperation in this regard.

BISP distributes 5,747 free SIMs in 1st 24 hrs of Social Protection Wallet launch

(BISP) has distributed 5,747 free SIMs to beneficiaries across more than 30 districts nationwide within the first 24 hours of more than 30 districts nationwide within the first 24 hours of the pilot Social Protection Wallet initiative.

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Jamadi-ul-Awwal 27, Wednesday, November 19, 2025

www.dailyspokesman.net

(a) @daily spokesman

Daily Spokesman Vol: 19, Issue: 214 Price Rs. 25.00 Pages 8

Call on

ISLAMABAD: President of Sikhs of America, Mr. Jasdeep Singh calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif; Federal Minister



Photo: PID

23 khwarij killed in two separate intelligence-based operations in KP

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Army has killed twenty three khwarij belonging to Indian Proxy Fitna Al Khwarij in two separate engagements in Khyber Pakhtunkhawa Province. According to ISPR press release, on 16-17 November 2025, twenty three khwarij belonging to Indian Proxy Fitna Al Khwarij were killed in two separate engagements in KP.

On reported presence of khwarij, an intelligence based operation was conducted by the Security Forces in Bajaur District. During the conduct of operation, own troops effectively engaged the khwarij location, resultantly eleven khwarij including kharji ring leader Sajjad @Abuzar were being conducted to eliminate Plan) by Security Forces and Law are achieving significant victo-



In another intelligence based operation conducted in Bannu District, own troops successfully neutralized twelve more khwarij. Sanitization operations are

any other Indian sponsored kharji found in the area as relentless Counter Terrorism campaign under vision "Azm e Istehkam" (as approved by Federal Apex Committee on National Action stan will continue at full pace to wipe out menace of foreign sponsored and supported terrorism from the country.

President Asif Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif have commended security forces for their successful operations against Fitnah al Khwarij in Bajaur and Bannu District.

In a statement, the President said complete elimination of foreign-backed terrorists from homeland will continue with national consensus.

He said the killing of terrorists is a result of the successful strategy of security forces.

The Prime Minister, in his statement, said the security forces

Enforcement Agencies of Paki- ries in the fight against terrorism under vision Azm-e-Istehkam. He said the entire nation stands with armed forces in the war against terrorism. He reaffirmed Pakistan's determination to completely eliminate all forms of terrorism from the country.

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi praised security forces for successful operations against fitna al-Khwarij in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

In a statement, Mohsin Naqvi praised the professionalism of the security forces for killing 15 Indian-sponsored terrorists.

"I pay tribute to the security forces for bringing 15 Indian-sponsored terrorists to an exemplary end", Mohsin Naqvi

Govt. ensuring all possible facilities to members of visiting Sikh community: PM

跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Tuesday, said that the government was committed to providing all possible facilities to the Sikh community visiting Pakistan.

He said Pakistan was home to numerous sacred religious sites for Sikhs, where members of the Sikh community from perform their religious rituals and Pakistan ensured their

with President of Sikhs of America Jasdeep Singh who called on him, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

The meeting was also attended by Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar and Pakistani-American businessman Sajid Tarar.

The prime minister while extending a warm welcome to Jasdeep Singh, said that it was all over the world came to a matter of pride that Pakistan was ensuring the maintenance of Sikh community's sacred sites and Gurdwaras, as well as The prime minister met providing all possible facilities.

Pakistan calls for stronger economic integration, broader partnerships at SCO meeting



跨 Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar on Tuesday urged member states of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) to accelerate economic cooperation, expand engagement with partner countries, and modernise the organisation to meet emerging global and regional challenges.

He made these remarks while addressing the 24th meeting of the SCO Council of Heads of Government (CHG) held in Moscow.

The deputy prime minister said the joint communique and documents adopted at the summit would go a long way in guiding collective efforts toward regional prosperity.

He emphasised that the SCO's agenda, spanning trade, economy, culture, and humanitarian cooperation, forms the foundation of

a "mature, future-oriented' organisation.

Highlighting the outcomes of the recent Tianjin summit, the foreign minister noted that the SCO is shifting towards deeper economic integration.

Dar pointed to expanded trade collaboration, improved infrastructure connectivity, investment partnerships, and the promotion of digital economies as key pillars for sustainable growth across the SCO region.

He also underscored the SCO's potential to enhance humanitarian cooperation and disaster response.

He shared that Pakistan has developed a "technology-driven, proactive" disaster management system and expressed Pakistan's willingness to conduct simulation exercises with member states to strengthen regional preparedness

Continued on Page 7

SJC, Judicial Commission reconstituted after 27th amendment

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court on Tuesday announced the reconstitution of the Supreme Judicial Council (SJC). the Judicial Commission of Pakistan (JCP), and the Practice and Procedure Committee in accordance with the 27th Constitutional Amendment.

According to an official statement issued by the Supreme Court, Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail has been inducted as a member of the Supreme Judicial Council following consultations between the Chief Justice of Pakistan and the Chief Justice of

the Federal Constitutional Court. Justice Aamer Farooq has been nominated as a member of the Judicial Commission, while Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail has also been appointed to the Practice and

Procedure Committee. Chief Justice Yahya Afridi will head the reconstituted Supreme Judicial Council, while Chief Justice Aminuddin Khan will serve as the second senior member.

Other members include Justice Munib Akhtar, Justice Hasan Rizvi, and Justice Jamal Mandokhail.

The statement further clarified that Justice Mandokhail's nomination was made with the consensus of both chief justices to ensure transparency and improve the functioning of judicial institutions.

The Judicial Commission of Pakistan has likewise been reconstituted, with Justice Aamer Faroog nominated as a member through joint consultation. The Practice and Procedure Committee

will be chaired by Chief Justice Yahya Afridi, with Justice Munib Akhtar and Justice Jamal Mandokhail serving as members.

The reconstitution of all three bodies the SJC, JCP, and Practice and Procedure Committee — has been carried out under the provisions of the 27th Constitutional Amendment.

X, Facebook among multiple websites down as Cloudflare faces global outage

Spokesman Report

LAHORE: Multiple websites and internet services were unusable on Tuesday after an outage, according to cloud computing firm Cloudflare. Sites including X, Meta's Facebook and OpenAI's ChatGPT were affected. Even Downdetector - which tracks global outages - was down.

On the company's status dashboard, Cloudflare said it "is aware of, and investigating an issue which impacts multiple customers". The outage caused problems to Cloudflare's online support feature.

"We are seeing services recover, but customers may continue to observe higher-than-normal error rates as we continue remediation efforts," the company posted shortly after the initial problem surfaced.

Cloudflare said that it is looking into a problem causing widespread issues with websites and various apps.

A spokesperson for Cloudflare said: "We saw a spike in unusual traffic to one of Cloudflare's services beginning at 11:20am. That caused some traffic passing through Cloudflare's network to experience errors. While most traffic for most services continued to flow as normal, there were elevated errors across multiple Cloudflare services.

"We do not yet know the cause of the spike in unusual traffic. We are all hands on deck to make sure all traffic is served without errors. After that, we will turn our attention to investigating the cause of the unusual spike in traffic."

In an update on the situation posted at 6:09pm, it said: "We have made changes that have allowed Cloudflare Access and WARP to recover. Error levels for Access and WARP users have returned to pre-incident rates. We have re-enabled WARP access in London. We are continuing to work towards restoring other services."

Pakistan condemns Israeli violations in West Bank and Al-Aqsa Mosque

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Tuesday strongly condemned the ongoing violations by Israeli occupying forces and extremist settlers in the occupied West Bank, including repeated raids on Al-Aqsa Mosque's courtyards and provocations against worshippers.

In a statement, the Foreign Office said the pattern of storming Al-Aqsa and targeting worshippers has become routine, adding that such actions constitute a blatant breach of international law and relevant UN resolutions.

The spokesperson said it is imperative to ensure the sanctity of holy sites in line with international law and the historical status quo.

The statement stressed that ongoing human rights abuses in Palestine underscore the need for urgent international attention. Pakistan called on the global

community to take "urgent and effective measures" to protect holy sites, prevent further settler violence and incursions, and uphold UN resolutions.

Reiterating its longstanding stance, Pakistan reaffirmed support for a just and lasting peace based on the two-state solution.

It said peace must lead to an independent, sovereign, viable and contiguous Palestinian state along pre-June 1967 borders, with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital.

New Era in Azad Kashmir

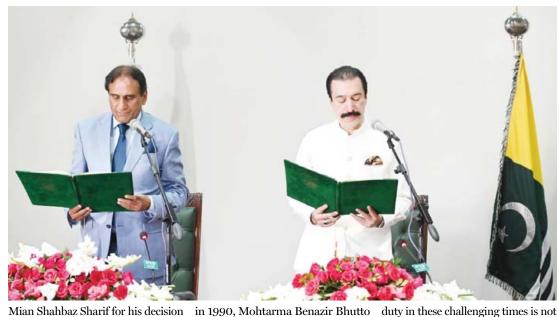
Raja Faisal Mumtaz Rathore sworn in as 16th Prime Minister

👺 Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: The newly elected Prime Minister, Raja Faisal Mumtaz Rathore, took oath as the 16th Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir. Acting President of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Chaudhry Latif Akbar, administered the oath of office to Raja Faisal Mumtaz Rathore.

The swearing-in ceremony held at the presidency was attended by Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, In-charge Political Affairs Pakistan Peoples Party Azad Kashmir Ms. Faryal Talpur, Governor KPK Faisal Karim Kundi, Governor Gilgit-Baltistan Syed Mehdi Shah, President PPP AJK chapter Chaudhry Muhammad Yasin, former President Sardar Muhammad Yaqoob Khan, former PM Sardar Tanveer Īlyas Khan, President PML-N AJK chapter Shah Ghulam Qadir, and several

Speaking on the occasion, Prime PM said. Minister Rathore expressed his gratitude to Allah for His blessings and for bestowing upon him the honour to serve the people of the state. "I also thank Prime Minister of Pakistan Hussain Rathore, the senior ministry,



to support the PPP in Azad Kashmir",

Referring to his family's decades long relationship with the PPP, PM Rathore said, "In 1975, Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto gave my father, Mumtaz

to my father and today, I was elected as the Prime Minister".

"I am grateful to my party for considmaintained. Terming it a huge responsibility, the PM said, "Fulfilling this manner", he remarked.

entrusted the post of Prime Minister easy; but I believe that Allah places as much burden as a person can endure".

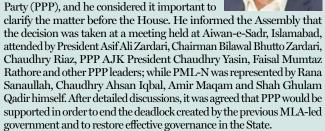
"We will try our best to uphold the trust that the party Chairman has ering me worthy of this position", he placed in us and will run the state's affairs effectively in a transparent

AJK PML-N head clarifies controversial vote for new PPP

Spokesman Report

MUZAFFARABAD: President Pakistan Muslim League (N) Azad Kashmir, Shah Ghulam Qadir, while addressing the session of the Legislative Assembly, extended warm congratulations and best wishes to the newly elected Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir.

He stated that people have been asking why PML-N voted in favour of the Pakistan Peoples



He noted that PPP had only 13 members, and with just 13, a no-confidence move was never possible. These 13 members, he said, still remain the true core of the PPP. He expressed solidarity with PPP's long standing workers who feel sidelined by what he termed an "interest-based group" within PPP AJK, adding that such individuals could shift loyalties any

Azhar Jatoi honored as "Son of Sindh" on death anniversary amid calls for laborer unity

B Qayoom Sarohi

HYDERABAD: Leaders who have long struggled for the rights of Sindh's intellectuals and working class declared Comrade Azhar Jatoi as a "Son of Sindh", stating that laborers and peasants in Sindh are still deprived of basic rights. They stressed that all groups working for their rights must unite and form a strong peasants' committee.

The 5th death anniversary of Comrade Azhar Jatoi, who dedicated his entire life to the struggle for laborers and peasants, was observed yesterday at the Hyderabad Press Club by the Sindh Hari Committee. On this occasion, a book written on his services titled "Farzand-e-Sindh" (Son of Sindh) was also launched. The ceremony was conducted by Comrade Wajood Ali Shar.

Speaking at the event, Comrade Imdad Chandio said that as long as he lived, the Son of Sindh Comrade Azhar Jatoi kept the peasant movement alive by walking in the footsteps of Haider Bux Jatoi. Haider Bux Jatoi was a wise, brave, and learned leader of Sindh. Comrade Azhar played a vital role in the passage of the Tenancy Act for peasants. If the law has been amended today, it must be challenged.

Strict action underway across district to eliminate child labour.ADShahbaz

👺 Zafar Chishti

TOBA TEK SINGH: Assistant Director Labour Welfare Department Toba Tek Singh Muhammad Shahbaz said that strict and continuous action is being taken across the district to eliminate child labor. He emphasized that the Labour Welfare Department is fully committed to protecting the rights of children and ensuring that no child is forced into labour unde any circumstances. He further stated that special inspection teams are actively visiting markets, workshops, hotels,



factories and other workplaces to identify cases of child labour. Legal action is being taken against those found violating child protection laws. Muhammad Shahbaz added that the district administration is working

in close coordination with law enforcement agencies and social welfare institutions to create a child friendly environment.

PPP has a three-generationlong relationship with AJK: Bilawal

Abdul Maieed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, while addressing an event in Muzaffarabad, Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), said that the PPP's relationship with the Kashmiri people spans three generations, and no one can drive a wedge between them.

Chairman Bilawal directed the elected AJK Prime Minister Faisal Mumtaz Rathore to visit every nook and corner of AJK in his capacity as Prime Minister and hold open kachehris, as Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto once did. He emphasised that the Prime Minister must go to the people and address their issues. He added that he would request the federal government to extend all necessary support for the people of Kashmir.

The Chairman said that PPP AJK President Chaudhry Yasin will lead the party's election campaign ahead of the elections scheduled to take place in six months. He instructed the party's ticket holders to coordinate with Faisal Rathore and the AJK government for this purpose. "We will not run the AJK government from behind closed doors; we will work with the people to resolve their problems," he said.

He recalled that people would stand in lines to meet Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto, a fact also documented by Hillary Clinton in her book. There is only one instance where Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto herself stood waiting, and that was for the people of Kashmir. At a meeting of the OIC, the foundation of which was laid by Quaid-e-Awam Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto waited outside the Saudi King's door with a file in hand. When the King asked why she was waiting, she replied that she was there for her brothers in Kashmir."

LHC issues arrest warrants for accused in Azma Bokhari doctored video case

LAHORE: The Lahore High Court (LHC) on Tuesday issued bailable arrest warrants for an accused, Ali Hasan, in a case pertaining to the uploading of a doctored video of Punjab Information Minister Azma

LHC Chief Justice Aalia Neelum conducted the hearing on a petition filed by Azma Bokhari seeking cancellation of the accused's bail. Advocate Azhar Siddique appeared on behalf of Ali Hasan.

The petitioner's counsel informed the court that despite 25 hearings, the accused had repeatedly failed to appear before the trial court, causing unnecessary delays in the proceedings. He requested the court to cancel the bail of the accused. At this stage, the chief justice questioned why the accused had not appeared despite receiving court notices.

summoned immediately if the court desired.

Expressing displeasure, the chief justice remarked that the notice was issued to the accused, not to his lawyer.

In response, the defence counsel said that the accused could be

Meeting

MUZAFFARABAD: Chairperson Political Affairs Member Sindh Assembly Ms. Faryal Talpur Former Advisor Government Chaudhry Riaz Ahmed PPP Candidate Assembly Constituency Seven Shaukat Javed Mir after meeting on Tuesday.



Sardar Attique extends best wishes to Raja Faisal Mumtaz Rathore

跨 Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: President of the Muslim Conference and former Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan, has extended congratulations to Raja Faisal Mumtaz Rathore on his election as the new Leader of the House in the AJK Legislative Assembly.

In his address to the Assembly, Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan noted that a majority of past Leaders of the House had, at some stage, been associated with the Muslim Confer-



ence, reflecting the party's historic role in shaping political leadership. He recalled that Raja Mumtaz Hussain Rathore was first elected on the Muslim Conference ticket, while Raja Faisal Mumtaz Rathore remained affiliated with the party from 2006 to

Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan expressed his best wishes for the newly elected Prime Minister, Raja Faisal Mumtaz Rathore, hoping he will uphold the principles of public welfare, state interest, and parliamentary supremacy he added.

UAJK VC calls for 'Shared Effort' as Varsity Faces Rs1.3bn Deficit

MUZAFFARABAD: In a first-ofits-kind gathering in the University's history, the Vice Chancellor of the University of Azad Jammu & Kashmir (UAJK), Professor Nasir Jamal Khattak, addressed nearly 900 faculty members and staff who assembled under one roof to deliberate on the institution's academic priorities, administrative challenges, and roadmap for future reforms.

The Vice Chancellor opened the session by acknowledging the dedistaff and emphasizing the importance of collective effort, shared responsibility, and a forward-looking vision to strengthen the institution. He urged every member of the UAJK



cation of the University's faculty and to enhancing the quality of higher education and ensuring the institution serves as a pillar of opportunity for the region's youth.

Speaking at the Main Auditorium, the Vice Chancellor then presented a community to actively contribute detailed overview of the University's

financial position, stating that UAJK must secure PKR 1,304.533 million before the close of the 2025-26 financial year to meet its existing deficit. He added that the University pays PKR 590.286 million annually in pensions to retired employees, a recurring obli-

gation that continues to exert significant pressure on its limited financial

Prof. Khattak offered himself for complete accountability, remarking that meaningful governance reform must begin at the top. He thoroughly responded to the questions and concerns raised by faculty and staff from various campuses, addressing administrative, academic and financial issues in detail.

On the occasion, the Vice Chancellor also presented a cash award from his personal funds to Mr. Abid Zamir Hashmi, a Stenographer at UAJK, in recognition of his courteous and commendable assistance to a visiting family during the admission process.



Namaz Timings Maghrib . 5:03 pm .. 6:30 pm

EMEDGENCY

EMERGENCI	
Rescue (Police) 15	5
Bomb Disposal 15	5
Fire Services Rawalpindi/	
Islamabad1122 & 16	б
Emergency Ambulance 1122 8	Ł
& Rescue Services 4451122	2
Motorway Police9266044	4
Motorway Police 9270601-20	0

Women Police

Stations		
Islamabad	922259	
Rawalpindi	9270601-2	
ENOI	IIDV	

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

Prof.Ahsan Iqbal inaugurates the most powerful computing facility of Pakistan at **PIEAS**

E City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Prof. Ahsan Iqbal inaugurated Center for Mathematical Sciences (CMS) along with a state-ofthe-art High-Performance Computing (HPC) facility at Pakistan Institute of Engineering and Applied Sciences (PIEAS) here on Tuesday.

Chairman PAEC Dr. Raja Ali Raza Anwar accompanied the minister during the inauguration and showed him various CMS laboratories.

Talking to media persons on this occasion, Prof. Ahsan Iqbal said, "I am very excited to inaugurate the Center for Mathematical Sciences and HPC facility at PIEAS and I would like to congratulate both PIEAS and PAEC for this achievement. It is high time that we start initiatives which serve to improve the stature of our dear motherland rather than prioritising individual impact factors. Universities should focus on introducing such research programmes which help convert the country's economy into a technology-based economy.

The CMS and HPC facilities were approved in 2017 under the Vision 2025, he added.

Prof. Ahsan Iqbal further said that successful nations are those that gain high levels of knowledge and technology and this advancement adds to the URAAN Pakistan initiative to have the best research and development facilities in Pakistan.

Chairman PAEC thanked the Federal Minister, Prof. Ahsan Iqbal for his vision, support and patronage to help make this dream come

The Center for Mathematical Sciences (CMS) at PIEAS was approved through the Higher Education Commission (HEC) by the special interest of Prof. Ahsan Iqbal back in 2017, during his previous tenure as Federal Minister for Planning and Development.

Inaugural Session of Naval Medicine Seminar 2025 held in Karachi

KARACHI: The two-day maiden Naval Medicine Seminar 2025 commenced in Karachi, marking a significant milestone in advancing regional collaboration in naval healthcare and maritime medical support. The event is being hosted by Pakistan Navy under the auspices of Western Pacific Naval Symposium (WPNS) and is attended by a large number of foreign delegates from 28 WPNS countries.

While addressing the seminar, Director General Medical Services (Navy), Surgeon Rear Admiral Rizwan Sadiq highlighted Pakistan Navy's continued commitment to medical excellence, humanitarian assistance, and the enhancement of international partnerships through knowledge sharing. Later, Commandant PNS SHIFA introduced the seminar's theme while emphasizing the importance of innovation, leadership, and resilience in shaping modern naval medical practices.

The scientific proceedings of the day featured a diverse range of professional presentations and discussions. The first day's activities reflected active participation, constructive dialogue, and profes-



underscoring the importance of collaborative approaches in addressing contem-

sional engagement among all delegates, porary challenges in naval healthcare and for the exchange of ideas, expertise, and sea, thereby promoting mutual underoperational medical support.

The seminar serves as a vital platform tive healthcare, and medical readiness at cooperation among regional navies.

best practices in naval medicine, preven- standing and strengthening professional

Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi in a meeting with Acting US Ambassador



AIOU Hosts International Seminar on Modern Interpretative Trends in Tafseer al-Mizan

ISLAMABAD: An international faculty seminar was held yesterday at Allama Iqbal Open University on the topic "Foundations of Modern Interpretative Trends in al-Mizan fi Tafseer al-Qur'an." The speakers emphasized that in the context of contemporary intellectual challenges, renewed research on interpretative methodologies is indispensable.

The seminar was organized by the Department of Qur'an and Tafseer, Faculty of Arabic and Islamic Studies at Allama Iqbal Open University in collaboration with Jami'at al-Mustafa al-'Aaliyah (Pakistan Chapter). The session was presided over by the Dean Islamic Studies, Prof. Dr. Shag avenues for research. Mohyuddin Hashmi while the program formally began with welcoming remarks by Dr. Muhammad Kazim Saleem



(Head of the Research Department, al-Mustafa International University, Pakistan Chapter).

Mohyuddin Hashmi said that Tafseer al-Mizan not only provides comprehensive hensive and holistic exegesis that and balanced guidance in the provides highly beneficial guidcontext of modern intellectual ance for addressing contempoand academic debates but its of the Faculty of Arabic and scholarly depth also opens new

> ered by Dr. Sana Ullah Hussain Dr. Rab Nawaz (Chairman, (Chairman, Department of Department of Islamic Studies, Qur'an and Tafseer, Faculty of Hi-Tech, Taxila), Dr. Sved Asif

Arabic and Islamic Studies). He presented a detailed discussion on modern interpretative trends In his address, Prof. Dr. and their intellectual foundations in the light of al-Mizan. He stated that al-Mizan is a comprerary economic, social, and intellectual challenges.

Those who delivered special The keynote lecture was deliv- addresses at the event included

Mahmood Bukhari (Former Chairman, Department of Qur'an and its Sciences, International Islamic University), and Dr. Raees Azam Shahid (Faculty Member, Department of Tafseer, al-Mustafa International University).

Photo: PID

Meanwhile, the closing ceremony of the International Conference on Social Sciences was also held in which national and international education papers on contemporary economic and social challenges.



Photojournalist Asif Farooq receives the Best Coverage Award from Parliamentary Secretary for Federal Education and Professional Training, Farah Naz Akbar, during the closing ceremony of the annual Lok Mela at Lok Virsa."

Riaz Hussain Shah stresses core tenets of Islam after special prayer event

B City Desk

RAWALPINDI: Allama Syed Riaz Hussain Shah, Patron-in-Chief of Idara Taleemat-e-Islamiya Pakistan, said: "I pray to Almighty Allah that we never fall into greed, because greed leads to sorrow. When greed settles in a person, it binds him like ropes. When greed awakens within a human being, the very first thing it strikes is certainty (vageen)."



During a special gathering, Sheikh Muhammad Qasim, Deputy Director, performed the duties of host and welcomed the participants. Collective prayers were made for the recovery of the sick and the forgiveness of those who had passed away. Adnan Waheed Fatimi presented a Naat. Afterwards, Syed Riaz Hussain Shah delivered an important address in which he said: "The message given by the Holy Prophet " from Allah Almighty is faith, creed, practice, character — and above all, it is a complete system. This system was practically implemented by the Rightly Guided Caliphs. No one has ever studied humanity as deeply as they did. The system established from Hazrat Abu Bakr to Hazrat Hasan al-Mujtaba (A. S.) is part of the radiant light of prophethood. We teach our children that the guiding principles of Islam begin with the first Kalimah - to believe in the Oneness of Allah, to accept the Holy Prophet≝ as the Seal of the Prophets, to establish prayer. These are not merely acts, but a complete system; and when this system is adopted with sincerity, many knots untie on their own.

Civil Services Academy Trainee Officers Visit UMT

LAHORE: Trainee officers from the 53rd Common Training Program of the Civil Services Academy visited the University of Management and Technology (UMT) for an interactive session. President UMT and former provincial



minister Ibrahim Hassan Murad briefed the officers, focusing on leadership, effective governance, public service delivery and national devel-

During the session, Ibrahim Murad highlighted essential aspects of policy-making, institutional reforms and modern governance practices.

WHO and Pakistan urge efforts to tackle antimicrobial resistance causing 200,000 related deaths annually

跨 Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: On the occasion of World Antimicrobial Awareness Week, Pakistan's National Institute of Health (NIH) and the World Health Organization (WHO) announced the first National Priority Pathogen list for antimicrobial resistance terranean Region. The objective: to combat the global threat of antimicrobial-resistant infections, which are causing every year over 200,000 directly attrib-

misuse of antibiotics in human health, agriculture, and veterinary practices.

The list was announced during an Antimicrobial Resistance Awareness Walk co-organized by NIH and WHO to call for individual and collective action to tackle a global threat that, (AMR) in WHO's Eastern Medi- without urgent measures, could cause 63,000 directly attributable deaths and 262,000 associated deaths in Pakistan by 2050.

"Combating antimicrobial resistance requires a comprehenutable and associated deaths in sive One Health approach that Pakistan. This crisis has been addresses the interconnectedness

mental health. Factors driving resistance in Pakistan include irrational prescribing practices, over-the-counter sales of antibiotics, poor infection prevention and control practices, and the misuse of antimicrobials in agriculture and livestock," said NIH Chief Executive Officer, Dr Muhammad Salman.

Globally, antimicrobial resistance could lead to 10 million deaths annually and a cumulative loss of \$100 trillion globally by 2050 if urgent measures are

Pakistan's National Priority

accelerated by the overuse and of human, animal and environ- Pathogen List is among the first 8 pathogen lists globally and is a milestone achievement to address a global public threat impacting health systems, food security, the environment and economies.

The World Antimicrobial Awareness Week (WAAW) 2025 theme "Act Now: Protect Our Present, Secure Our Future' calls on everyone - policymakers, health workers, farmers, community leaders, the media and the general public - to step up and

"Antimicrobial resistance is not a distant problem. It is



every 5 minutes, 2 people die due to antimicrobial resistance Pakistan, Dr Luo Dapeng. "Today, protecting our present and their

happening now. As we speak, These deaths are preventable," through their art why our daily said WHO Representative in actions can make a difference in or associated reasons in Pakistan. talented children explained to us future. Let us not fail them".

Wednesday, November 19, 2025

Group Chairman/Chief Editor: Almass Ayoub Sabir Vice Chairman:

Asim Nazir Ahmad Naveed Ahmad Khan Editor: Head Editorial Advisory Board: Amjad Mehmood

Bureau Chief Karachi: Khurram Jaffrani (jaffrani@adpluse.pk Bureau Chief Lahore: Syed Afraz Ali Nazish

(afrazalishah@gmail.com) AIMS Building, Street No. 4, H-8/1, Islamabad. Head Office:

spokesmanislamabad@gmail.com Phone: +92 51 2227123,

WhatsApp +92 346 5008408 Karachi office: A111, Block C, Gulsha-e-Jamal, PRECHS, Karachi Phone:021-33399390

Email: spokesmankarachi@gmail.com

Lahore Office: 7-E, Samanberg, Johar Town.

spokesmanlahore@gmail.com

Daily The Spokesman available only on annual subscription

KIIR chief seeks **UNHRC's urgent** attention

hairman of the Kashmir Institute of International Relations, Altaf Hussain Wani, has sought UN Human Rights Council's urgent attention towards the intensifying surveillance mechanisms targeting the local population in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

In a letter addressed to Dr. Ana Brian Nougrères, Special Rapporteur on the right to privacy, Wani noted that GPS-enabled monitors, digital surveillance, and intrusive biometric data collection of under trials in Kashmir have become tools of intrusion, undermining the presumption of innocence and eroding fundamental

He said cases like that of Mukhtar Ahmed reveal a disturbing

Referring to GPS-enabled ankle monitors, mass phone confiscations, digital surveillance, and intrusive biometric data collection in Kashmir, he said, "These practices collectively constitute a systematic erosion of privacy, a fundamental human right enshrined under international law.'

Wani emphasized that the misuse of such instruments transforms legal liberty into a perpetual state of control, further eroding fundamental freedoms.

Calling for an immediate cessation of these practices, he argued that electronic monitoring of undertrial detainees constitutes a grave violation of fundamental rights.

Citing international treaties and covenants, he urged the restoration of fundamental freedoms and rights in accordance with international law.

Terming right to privacy as a cornerstone of international human rights law, he said Article 17 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) guarantees that no individual shall be subjected to arbitrary or unlawful interference with their privacy, family, home, or correspondence.

He also called on the UN Human Rights Council to mandate an independent investigation into digital surveillance practices in occupied Kashmir and to recommend remedial measures that are necessary, proportionate, and respectful of human dignity.

"Privacy is not a privilege; it is a cornerstone of human dignity, civil liberty, and the rule of law," he said, adding that the UN Human Rights Committee has clarified that electronic surveillance constitutes a potential violation of these rights when applied arbitrarily or disproportionately, particularly against individuals not

"Immediate action is essential to prevent further abuse and to reaffirm that no individual should live under constant, state-imposed intrusion," Wani added.

It is worth noting that Mukhtar Ahmed, son of Mohammad Rashid and resident of Karmara, Poonch, was arrested on charges widely reported to be fabricated. On November 15, 2025, following his bail application, the Court of the Principal District & Sessions Judge, Udhampur, granted his release but mandated the installation of a GPS-enabled tracking anklet. This device continuously monitors his movements in real time, effectively restricting his freedom of movement and placing him under perpetual state

'A Region at the Edge' - I

stands at a critical juncture where competing geopolitical ambitions, shifting alliances, and unresolved historical grievances shape the emerging regional order. The heart of this complex landscape is Afghanistan, a country whose internal fragility has consistently echoed across its borders and shaped the policies, insecurities, and diplomatic choices of surrounding states. As relations with Afghanistan become increasingly strained, the consequences stretch far beyond bilateral irritants; they influence the collective posture of the Muslim world, they complicate Russia's attempts to present itself as a stabilizing actor, and they invite intensified strategic maneuvers from India. For states invested in long-term stability, the moment demands clarity, restraint, and principled diplomacy, yet what is unfolding is a mixture of caution, ambition, and unresolved distrust. This column seeks to offer a commanding assessment of regional shifts and outline the implications that policymakers cannot afford to overlook.

Afghanistan's predicament is not a sudden product of recent years, nor is it solely the outcome of foreign intervention. It is the combined result of prolonged war, fragmented governance, inconsistent partnerships, and the persistent presence of militant networks that continue to exploit institutional weaknesses. The current government in Kabul seeks legitimacy and recognition, but the path toward either is obstructed by a combination of internal administrative shortcomings and external skepticism. When regional states observe border tensions, sporadic militant activity, or the absence of inclusive governance mechanisms, their patience thins and their willingness to engage diminishes. This for Afghanistan, and a cycle of anticipa-

prefer predictable partners; Afghanistan remains anything but predictable.

Yet the diplomatic strain is not uniform. Some neighbors maintain pragmatic channels, others adopt a cautious distance, and still others oscillate between cooperation and confrontation. The variance stems from differing national interests. Countries concerned primarily with border security adopt an uncompromising stance. Those seeking ests, Russia participates in multilattrade connectivity advocate engagement.

Those aligning with major power blocs often shape their Afghanistan policy according to broader geopolitical alignments rather than bilateral sentiment alone. The consequence is a disjointed regional posture that deprives Afghanistan

it needs to gradually reintegrate into the international system.

Across the Muslim world, the Afghan question exposes a persistent dilemma: the tension between the desire for unity and the pull of national interest. Many Muslim-majority nations express rhetorical concern for Afghanistan's humanitarian crisis, yet real-world engagement remains limited. Competing priorities dominate: economic restructuring at home, internal security pressures, and cautious foreign policies shaped by longstanding alignments with global powers. Humanitarian sympathy, while sincere, often yields to strategic prudence. And so Afghanistan finds itself without a solid bloc of Muslim support that could meaningfully influence its political or economic trajectory.

This fragmentation within the Muslim erosion of trust creates a cycle of isolation world leaves an opening for other powers to exert influence. Russia, observing

with calculated caution. Its approach to Afghanistan is neither ideological nor moralistic; it is driven by pragmatic considerations rooted in security and regional influence. Moscow's concerns revolve around curbing extremism, carries the weight of fact. preventing instability from spilling into Central Asia, and countering the influence of Western-aligned security networks. To advance these intereral mechanisms, hosts diplomatic

dialogues, and maintains indirect channels with Afghan authorities. But Moscow's ambitions are constrained by its own burdens: economic strain, resource-intensive conflicts elsewhere, and a diplomatic environment that demands attention

of the unified diplomatic environment multiple fronts. While Russia seeks to present itself as a mediator, it lacks the economic leverage and political cohesion needed to enforce or guarantee long-term stability in Afghanistan. Its role remains important, but not decisive.

India, meanwhile, sees Afghanistan through a strategic lens colored by decades of competition, proximity, and regional rivalry. Historically, India invested heavily in Afghanistan through infrastructure projects, soft power initiatives, and developmental aid. These efforts were not merely altruistic: they were intended to counterbalance the influence of rival states and secure strategic depth. The recent political shifts in Kabul, however, forced India to recalibrate. It now engages Afghanistan indirectly, through selective diplomatic channels, intelligence assessments, and cautious outreach. Regional actors perceive India's activities with varying degrees of suspicion, believing that

New Delhi may seek to shape outcomes in ways that advantage its broader strategic posture. Whether these concerns are exaggerated or reality-based is secondary; what matters is the perception. In geopolitics, perception often

India's strategic posture, combined with the growing mistrust between Afghanistan and several of its neighbors, contributes to an atmosphere of uncertainty. This uncertainty is amplified by the broader environment of global power competition. China maintains its own carefully calibrated relationship with Afghanistan, driven largely by economic ambitions and security concerns related to Xinjiang. The United States, though less directly engaged, continues to influence regional calculations through partnerships, sanctions policies, and intelligence assessments. Iran, Pakistan, and Central Asian states each carry their own priorities, rooted in history, ideology, and pragmatic self-interest. In this crowded field, Afghanistan is not merely a country; it is a stage upon which multiple powers attempt to script their preferred regional outcome.

The emerging risks are not theoretical-they are concrete and measurable. Security vulnerabilities persist along nearly all of Afghanistan's borders. Refugee movements, when unmanaged, strain the resources and social fabric of neighboring states. Economic instability, exacerbated by sanctions, low liquidity, and limited trade access, prevents Afghanistan from achieving baseline social stability. When people cannot secure livelihoods, grievances intensify. When grievances intensify, extremist narratives gain traction. This dynamic should alarm every state with a stake in regional peace.

The writer is senior analyst and he can be reached at 1947@gmail.com To be continued



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

Allama Iqbal and the Modern Political System

llama Muhammad Iqbal (1877– 1938) was one of the greatest and reformers in the intellectual and cultural history of the subcontinent. He not only awakened the dormant spirit of Muslims but also laid the foundation of a political and intellectual system ples: (1) revival of spirituality, (2) development compatible with modern realities and deeply of the self (khudi), and (3) establishment of

tics was not a mere struggle for power or governance it was a means of moral and spiritual training and a path toward collective welfare. His concept of politics is based on the development of the self (khudi) and the establishment of a just and ethical social order.

Igbal had studied Western political thought deeply. He

was well aware of democracy, nationalism, capitalism, socialism, and secularism. Yet, the distinction of his thought lies in the fact that while he appreciated the positive aspects of Western systems, he also pointed out their limitations in the light of Islamic teachings. He compared Western democracy to a coin with only one side the side of the capitalist class. For him, Western democracy was merely a numbers game devoid of moral and spiritual values. He said:

In his famous work The Reconstruction of Religious Thought in Islam (1930-34), Iqbal identified ijtihad (independent reasoning) as the intellectual foundation of an Islamic state. He believed that as times change, legal interpretation must also evolve, keeping Islamic thought dynamic and responsive to new challenges. For this reason, he proposed that the Parliament or Majlis-e-Shura should serve as a collective institution of ijtihad ensuring that exploitation and communism for its materi-

deliberation within the bounds of Islamic printhinkers, philosophers, poets, ciples. This concept not only saves Islamic politics from stagnation but also harmonizes it with democratic ideals.

According to Iqbal, reforming the modern political system requires three essential princirooted in Islamic principles. For Iqbal, poli-social justice. He argued that no political system

can endure without moral values. Western civilization, in his view, achieved scientific and economic progress but ignored spiritual development, thereby turning human beings into machines. In contrast, Islam envisions humans as moral and spiritual beings whose true progress lies in both material and ethical excellence.

Muhammad Asif In Iqbal's political thought, khudi occupies a central place. By khudi, he does not mean arrogance or egoism, but the realization of one's inner spiritual potential. When an individual discovers their true self, they refuse to live under oppression or moral weakness. Such awakened individuals form the foundation of a free and just society. As he said:

"The destiny of nations lies in the hands of individuals:

Each individual is a shining star in the nation's fate."

These lines capture Igbal's conviction that collective reform begins with individual reform. For him, if individuals become self-respecting, honest, and morally upright, the political system will naturally transform toward justice and progress.

Iqbal also rejected both capitalism and communism. He criticized capitalism for its

modern issues are resolved through reasoned alism. He envisioned a balanced system based on justice, equality, and the ethical distribution of wealth. His concept of economy was inseparable from his political vision he saw economic justice as an integral part of political morality. In his view, the tragedy of modern states lies in reducing human beings to economic units, whereas Islam elevates them to the rank of God's vicegerents.

The ideological foundation of Pakistan was deeply influenced by Iqbal's political philosophy. In his famous Allahabad Address of 1930, he proposed a separate political entity for the Muslims of the subcontinent a homeland where they could freely develop their faith, culture, and social order. This vision later evolved into the Two-Nation Theory and ultimately the creation of Pakistan. Hence, Iqbal can rightly be called the intellectual architect of the modern Islamic state.

In the contemporary political world, dominated by material power, economic interests, and pragmatic alliances, Iqbal's message stands as a call for humanity, ethics, and spirituality. He reminds us that politics without morality degenerates into tyranny. For him, the purpose of politics is service, justice, and the moral elevation of humankind. If modern states adopt these principles, the world can move toward a more just and peaceful order.

In conclusion, Iqbal's political thought represents a unique synthesis of spirituality and practicality. He did not reject modern political concepts but infused them with Islamic ethics to form a new vision of governance. His message remains timeless: the true purpose of politics is not the pursuit of power but the service of humanity, and human freedom is only possible when grounded in faith, morality, and self-realization.

The writer is senior analyst and he can be reached at sirasif786@gmail.com

Why Is the Registration of Non-Muslims Delayed in **Azad Kashmir?**

Muhammad Magsood

e-Nubuwwat and the transparency sive move. of the electoral system has reached a a century, resolutions have been passed on Leaders say that in several districts—including this matter, yet, regrettably, practical action Kotli-hundreds of Qadianis are still registered

has not moved forward. State institutions, governments, and decision-makers have repeatedly made assurances, but the situation today remains exactly where it stood years ago. Public and religious circles are now raising serious questions.

Since 1974, Pakistan's voter registration form has included a mandatory declaration of

belief in Khatm-e-Nubuwwat. Anyone who identifies as a Muslim on the form must sign coming elections, every candidate will be questhis declaration and affix a thumb impression tioned about their practical steps on this sensibefore being included in the Muslim voter list. This is not a complicated procedure; it is a clear are already members of the Assembly must act and straightforward state mechanism. Surprisingly, despite dozens of resolutions and repeated claims, Azad Kashmir has still not implemented this basic requirement.

This argument is weak, baseless, and crafted only to confuse people.

 The Azad Kashmir Legislative Assembly has been approving resolutions for the separate registration of Qadianis since 1973. On 6 February 2018, through the 12th Constitutional minority. On 2 May 2024, yet another resolution was passed, making their separate voter registration as non-Muslims mandatory. The legislative intent is clear and unequivocal.

Now the responsibility lies with the administration and the Election Commission-who

n Azad Kashmir, the issue of Khatm- either remain silent or avoid making a deci-

• The Tehreek-e-Tahaffuz-e-Khatm-e-Nubupoint where further silence or delay is wwat Azad Kashmir has raised this issue across no longer acceptable. For nearly half the state through large public gatherings.

as Muslim voters, while their actual identity remains unclear in official records. This is not only harmful to electoral transparency but also casts doubt upon state documentation.

Promises alone cannot answer this issue. The state must investigate, enforce the law, and correct the voter records without hesitation.

• -740The public has now decided that in the tive matter—not their statements. Those who first before seeking votes again. New candidates must promise to convert these long-standing resolutions into law and implementation.

Public awareness has risen—people are no

longer willing to trust empty pledges. Azad Kashmir is an aware, sensitive, and politically conscious region. Here, people expect not only religious respect but constitutional clarity and transparent elections. This matter has now moved beyond resolutions, speeches. Amendment, they were declared a non-Muslim and announcements. It has become a test of the state's integrity, public trust, and the fairness of the electoral process.

If decisive action is still not taken, the public will consider it not merely a weakness, but negli-

And history never forgiveness negligence.

PAKISTAN-RUSSIA RELATIONS

ISSI launches book on Pakistan-Russia

relations

Spokesman

ISLAMABAD: The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI), through its Centre for Strategic Perspectives (CSP), hosted the launch ceremony for its new edited book, Pakistan-Russia Relations: A Comprehensive Historical and Strategic Analysis. The event gathered senior diplomats, academics, policymakers and contributors from both countries, reflecting the rising importance of Pakistan-Russia engagement in a rapidly shifting geopolitical landscape. Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed was Chief Guest on the occasion, while Russian Ambassador to Pakistan Albert P. Khorev joined as Guest of Honour.

DG ISSI Ambassador Sohail Mahmood, in his introductory remarks, highlighted that Pakistan-Russia relations have undergone a significant evolution over the past 75 years transitioning from Cold War divergence to growing convergence across diplomatic, economic and strategic domains. He recalled that despite early geopolitical constraints, the relationship never fully broke down, as demonstrated by Soviet support for Pakistan's industrialisation, energy projects, and mediation efforts such as the Tashkent Declaration. He emphasised that recent years have seen a meaningful recalibration.

As a discussant, Dr. Rasul Bakhsh Rais, Professor Emeritus of Political Science at Quaid-i-Azam Univerand clarity, noting that it captures tions shaped by global geopolitical





sity, praised the volume for its depth combating radicalism, Afghanistan's significant challenges. He stressed the the long arc of Pakistan-Russia rela- China-Russia-Pakistan cooperation and renewed cultural diplomacy. while cautioning that sanctions, shifts. He identified emerging areas financial barriers, historical mistrust

stability, energy security, and the need for institutionalised engagement

Offering further reflections, Ambassador Qazi M. Khalilullah, Executive of convergence—counterterrorism, and instability in Afghanistan still pose Director of the Centre for International

Russia, drew on his diplomatic experience in Moscow during both Soviet and modern Russian periods.

In a video message, Ambassador Faisal Niaz Tirmizi, Pakistan's Ambassador to the Russian Federation, underlined the significant progress made over the last 30 years. He noted that bilateral trade had reached USD 1 billion before banking and sanctions-related disruptions, and reaffirmed continued defence cooperation, convergence on Afghanistan, and expanding cultural interest between the two societies.

Delivering the Guest of Honor address, Ambassador Albert P. Khorev commended ISSI for producing a

Strategic Studies Sindh (CISSS) and timely and comprehensive volume to a fairer and more equitable global former Ambassador of Pakistan to at a moment when bilateral ties are steadily strengthening. He described the book as a "landmark achievement." He stated that despite global challenges and 'illegal Western sanctions,' cooperation between Pakistan and Russia has broadened across energy, trade, counterterrorism, security coordination, humanitarian exchanges and parliamentary diplomacy. He appreciated Pakistan's 'balanced and friendly neutrality' on major global issues, including the Ukraine conflict, despite pressure from external powers.

Chief Guest Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed acknowledged Russia's principled position at the UN Security Council on Palestine, noting that it reflects Moscow's broader commitment

order. Offering a historical perspective on Pakistan-Russia relations, he challenged common misconceptions by recalling early Soviet goodwill toward Pakistan, including the 1949 invitation to Prime Minister Liaquat Ali Khan, support for Kashmir's self-determination in 1952, and the Soviet offer to build a steel mill in the 1950s.

Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman BoG, ISSI, in his vote of thanks, noted that while the Cold War created constraints, Pakistan-Russia relations were never severed and have since entered a period of steady, meaningful improvement. He highlighted growing convergence on regional stability, connectivity and energy coop-

Multan Police Intensify Crackdown to Eliminate Crime

跨 Zain Khan Malghani

Multan Police continue vigorous operations across the city to eradicate crime. and Rs. 521,000 in cash. A total of 200 During these efforts, the Cantonment Division arrested 88 members of 34 and motorcycle and vehicle theft. Police Rs. 70.2 million, including 10 cars, 139 motorcycles, 36 mobile phones, and more than Rs. 3.34 million in cash.

charas, 16 kg of heroin, 12 kg of ice, 180 cases. and 3,308 liters of liquor, along with

The Multan Police Cantonment were traced. Circle arrested 37 members of 15 gangs

theft. Stolen property worth over Rs. 14.8 million was recovered, including 5 cars, 66 motorcycles, 20 mobile phones, cases were traced.

The Mumtazabad Circle arrested gangs involved in robbery, street crime, 23 members of 10 gangs, recovering stolen items worth more than Rs. 33.8 recovered stolen property worth over million, including 3 cars, 30 motorcycles, 6 mobile phones, and over Rs. 580,000 in cash. Weapons recovered included 15 pistols, 1 revolver, 1 gun, In addition, police seized 345 kg of and 2 rifles. Police successfully traced

The Muzaffarabad Circle arrested 42 pistols, 2 revolvers, 3 guns, and 4 28 members of 9 gangs, recovering cases. He said that further operations rifles used in criminal activities. The stolen items valued at more than Rs. division also arrested 408 proclaimed 14.5 million, including 2 cars, 43 motor-follow soon. offenders and 138 court absconders, cycles, 3 mobile phones, and over Rs.

wanted for robbery, dacoity, and vehicle Multan Sadiq Ali Dogar, special teams efforts.

were formed under the supervision of SSP Operations Haider Ali and SP Cantt Kainat Azhar. SDPO Cantt Hilar Khan Chandio, DSP Muzaffarabad Bashir Ahmad Harraj, and DSP Mumtazabad Azhar Sangi led the operations. SHOs of Cantt, Muzaffarabad, Mumtazabad, and other police stations used modern technology and police apps to trace the gangs and recover stolen property.

During a press conference, CPO Multan Sadiq Ali Dogar, accompanied by SSP Operations Haider Ali and SP Cantt Kainat Azhar, praised the teams for their hard work in tracing major are underway and more arrests will

The recovered items were handed while 528 cases were successfully traced. 2.2 million in cash. A total of 148 cases back to their rightful owners, who expressed great satisfaction and Under the special directives of CPO thanked the Multan Police for their



Diplomats and Golfers Unite for Poland's Independence Day at The Club at Eighteen

Example 2 Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Embassy of Poland celebrated its Independence Day on the greens at The Club at Eighteen, Islamabad. The event brought together diplomats, dignitaries, and notable members of the business community for an afternoon of sport, cultural connection, and

Over 30 golfers participated, while more than 150 guests attended, including diplomats from various countries. The tournament highlighted the spirit of friendship, unity, and international engagement, making it one of the most prestigious diplomatic sporting events of the year. Players showcased remarkable skill and sportsmanship across various categories.



In the Strokeplay Gross Category, Pham Hong Quang took first place, followed by Ibrar Khan in second place and Trevor Grainger in third.

In the Strokeplay Net Category, Yumiko Akamatsu took first place, Thanakon was runner-up, and Lorraine Marilina Armellin as the runner-up.

Van Der Gracht secured third position. On the course, Atadian Movlamov won the Longest Drive competition, while Imtiaz Zaidi was closest to the pin.

In the Ladies Division, Salza Dure Falak was awarded Best Lady, with

Iqbal Conference Recognises Student Volunteers at BZU Multan

跨 Special Correspondent

MULTAN: Dean Faculty of Food Science and Nutrition at Bahauddin Zakariya University (BZU) Prof Dr Muhammad Riaz, social activist and President of Young Pakistanis Organisation Naeem Igbal Naeem, and Chairman Department of Human Nutrition Dr Khurram Afzal have said that participation in co-curricular activities not only enhances students' creative abilities but also builds their confidence, enabling them to serve the nation as آساہین ."Iqbal's "Shaheens

They expressed these views while addressing a certificate distribution ceremony organised to appreciate the Zakariya Food and Nutrition Society (ZFNS) members who managed administrative affairs during the Allama Iobal Conference 2025. jointly arranged by the Young Paki-



stanis Organisation and the Faculty of

During the ceremony, certificates were awarded by Prof Dr Muhammad Riaz, Dr Khurram Afzal, Naeem Iqbal Naeem, social activist and Chairman Multan Adabi Sangat Rasheed Abbas Khan, Prof Dr Aneela Hameed, Dr Akram, Zainab and Jamal Mujtaba, Adnan Amjad and Dr Ahsan Sameer. received certificates for their efforts.

ZFNS Convener Naeem Sarwai Chohan, along with office-bearers and volunteers including Waqas Hashmi, Sarah Syed, Sabeen Zehra, Aleena Anwar, Hasnain Mohsin, Maryam Awan, Aiman Abbasi, Maryam Ali, Amaaz Javaid, Hafsa Sohail, Ayesha

KORT's Mirpur Hospital: A 'Ray of Hope' for 80% underprivileged population, says Chairman

Sommerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of Kashmir Orphan Relief Trust (KORT), Chaudhry Akhtar, has said that a 250-bed hospital is being constructed in Mirpur at a cost of 12 billion, and the MoU for its construction has already been signed. He stated that this project will be a ray of hope for 80% of the underprivileged and deserving population, and that all medical treatment there will be provided free of cost. He was addressing the MoU signing ceremony held

the hospital.

The ceremony was attended by former UK Minister Baroness Sayeeda Warsi, Secretary General UBG Zafar Bakhtawari, Lt Gen (R) Dr. Nigar Johar, and several distinguished personalities from various fields.

During his speech, Chaudhry Akhtar described this project as a revolutionary step for the people of Mirpur and surrounding areas. He further said that financial support $is\,required\,to\,complete\,the\,hospital$ within three years, for which they yesterday under KORT, between will reach out to people across the the Trust and the construction globe. He also shared that the burn

Former UK Minister Baroness Sayeeda Warsi said that Pakistanis living abroad are not "foreigners" but "return-nationals" whose hearts remain connected with Pakistan, and who constantly think about the country's progress, welfare, and strong future. She described this mega project as a new milestone and a vital development in Pakistan's healthcare sector. She added that every achievement seems impossible until it is completed, and praised

Chaudhry Akhtar as a coura-

geous and compassionate indi-

vidual, expressing strong hope

centre in Kotli is near completion. for the successful completion of the project. She also said that Dr. Nigar Johar is an icon, and shared that her own daughter serves in the Royal Air Force.

UBG Secretary General Zafar Bakhtawari, in his speech, said that Chaudhry Akhtar and his organization are a true role model whose efforts can change the destiny of the nation. He added that Baroness Warsi and Dr. Nigar Johar are icons and major identities for Pakistan. Referring to past defence achievements, he said that the Pakistan Army defeated a much stronger enemy with honor, elevating the country's prestige at

the international level. He stated that military-run hospitals and educational institutions set the highest standards of discipline and quality, and even civilians prefer them for treatment and education.

He expressed disappointment that despite a government allocation of 3,200 billion rupees for health and education, facilities in public institutions remain insufficient. He stressed the need to elevate public education and health facilities to the standards of military institutions, so that all citizens receive equal and highquality services. He added that the KORT hospital project in Mirpur



is a ray of hope at a time when Altaf Bhatt, Chaudhry Rizwan, hopelessness is being promoted Chaudhry Saeed, and others about Pakistan. He said the project assured their full support for this proves that Pakistan is progressing and moving forward, and that tribute to Chaudhry Akhtar for the Pakistani nation is talented, resilient, and optimistic about its bright future.

Addressing the ceremony, the project.

humanitarian mission and paid his dedicated service to humanity. They expressed best wishes for the success and timely completion of



IIIUEX Fluctualio			
Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index			
Current	Prev. Close		
160,935.13	161,687.18		
Day's High	Day's Low		
162,344.65	160,583.89		
Index Value	Change		
26,321,988,161	-752.05		
Percentage	Time		
-0.47%	18 Nov, 2025 4:30 pm		
Europe: FTS	E 100 Index		
Index Value	Change		
9,552.30	-123.13		

Index Value	Change	
9,552.30	-123.13	
Percentage	Time	
-1.27%	18 Nov, 4:35 pm GMT	
USA: Dow Jones I	ndustrial Average	

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Averag		
Index Value	Change	
46,101.58	-488.66	
Percentage	Time	
-1.05%	18 Nov, 12:08 pm GMT-5	
Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average		

Index Value	Change	
48,702.98	-1,620.93	
Percentage	Time	
-1,620.93	18 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

CCP Clears Acquisition of Total System Services LLC by Fidelity Information Services Inc.



Example 2 Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) has approved the acquisition of Total System Services LLC (TSYS) by Fidelity National Information Services Inc. (FIS) from Global Payments Inc.

The CCP noted that FIS currently provides core banking software solutions in Pakistan, supporting the digital infrastructure of financial institutions. TSYS, meanwhile, offers card-processing systems and is engaged with only two banks in the local market.

Since both entities operate in separate segments of the financial technology services sector and do not directly compete, the Commission concluded that the proposed acquisition does not raise any competition concerns. The transaction is not expected to create or strengthen a dominant position, nor is it likely to substantially lessen competition in the relevant markets.

Accordingly, the CCP has cleared the merger under Section 31(1)(d)(i) of the Competition Act, 2010, which permits approval where no competition issues

The approval facilitates continued growth and innovation in Pakistan's digital payments and banking technology ecosystem, while ensuring compliance with national competition

Lucky Investments Partners with 5th Pillar Family Takaful to Offer Free Takaful Coverage for Lucky Islamic Pension Fund Participants

Example 2 Commerce Desk

KARACHI, NOVEMBER 18: Lucky Investments Limited, a full-fledged Islamic Asset Management Company, and 5th Pillar Family Takaful, a leading provider of Shariah-compliant family protection, today announced a landmark partnership following a formal signing ceremony.

The agreement ensures that free-of-cost Takaful coverage will be extended to all participants of the recently launched Lucky Islamic Pension Fund (LIPF). This strategic move significantly enhances the overall value and financial security offered to individuals saving for their post-retirement years through the ethical and professionally managed pension

The signing ceremony, attended by senior management from both institutions, marks a joint commitment to promoting financial inclusion and delivering comprehensive, Shariah-compliant solutions to the Pakistani market.



Speaking at the ceremony, Mohammad Shoaib, CFA, Chief Executive Officer of Lucky

Investments Limited, emphasized the importance of this value-added service.

We launched the Lucky Islamic Pension Fund to create a pathway for dignity and independence in retirement," said Mr. Shoaib. "This partnership with 5th Pillar Family Takaful allows us to go a step further. By providing free-of-cost Takaful coverage, we are not only protecting our participants' investments but also their families' future, fully upholding our commitment to connecting capital with conscience and ethical stewardship."

Nasar us Samad Qureshi, Chief Executive Officer of 5th Pillar Family Takaful Limited commented on the collaboration: "Collaborating with Lucky Investments Limited reinforces our mission to expand the reach of ethical, faith-based financial protection across Pakistan. We are proud to secure the future of LIPF participants through this Takaful arrangement, ensuring comprehensive financial security in a manner that is fully Shariah-compliant and aligned with their values."

Called on

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Petroleum, Ali Pervaiz Malik, was called on by H.E. Ms. Ina Lepel, the German Ambassador to Pakistan on Tuesday.



Customs Enforcement Panjgur seizes 30 Kg of ICE (Crystal Methamphetamine) Worth Rs. 450 Million

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Customs successfully seized 30 kilograms of Ice (Crystal Methamphetamine) during an intelligence-based operation conducted along the N-85 market value of Rs. 450 near Panjgur. The narcotics were recovered from 30 individually wrapped plastic bags concealed within a Both the narcotics and the vehicle.

Acting on credible intelligence indicating that a silver cepted the vehicle near the society.

bordering area of Panjgur and Washuk District. A thorough search of the vehicle led Enforcement Panjgur has to the recovery of narcotics concealed in different hidden compartments

The seized Ice carries an estimated international million, while the Non-Customs Paid (NCP) Toyota Vitz is valued at Rs. 2.5 million. vehicle have been taken into custody.

FBR reiterates its firm Toyota Vitz was transporting resolve to combating narcotics from Basima narcotics smuggling and toward the coastal belt, remains fully dedicated to enforcement teams inter- eliminating this threat to

Tribunal Remands Al-Ghazi Case to CCP for Fresh Proceedings

Example 2 Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Competition Appellate Tribunal, Islamabad has remanded the Al-Ghazi Tractors Limited case back to the Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) for fresh proceedings from the stage of the show cause notice.

During the hearing, the appellant relied on a report of the Agricultural Mechanization Research Institute (AMRI), Punjab, which had been cited in its defence. The Tribunal directed that before proceeding further, CCP shall issue a notice to AMRI and confront the institute with the report placed on record, along with the conclusions drawn by the appellant regarding

The Tribunal also allowed CCP, if it by Al-Ghazi be discharged in favour of the considers appropriate, to seek input from other tractor manufacturers whose products were compared in the AMRI docu-

The Tribunal instructed that the proceedings be completed within 90 days. It further ordered that the security amount of Rs 10 million earlier deposited report, could mislead farmers, and that



appellant.

The case concerns CCP's earlier order imposing a Rs 40 million penalty on Al-Ghazi Tractors for advertising a misleading claim of "up to 30% extra diesel savings." CCP had found that the claim, wrongly attributed to an AMRI

AMRI had neither certified nor endorsed such a comparison. It had tested only limited models and had even cautioned

the company against misusing its name. CCP will now resume the proceedings as directed by the Tribunal, reaffirming its resolve to protect consumers from deceptive marketing in the agricultural machinery sector.

OGRA notifies revised RLNG prices for November 2025

S Commerce Desk

Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA) has announced the new regasified liquefied Natural Gas (RLNG) prices for November 2025, determined in line with the federal government's policy guidelines.

According to the notification, the RLNG price for SNGPL consumers has been set at \$11.4305 per MMBtu for transmission for distribution.

For SSGCL, the transwhile the distribution price is \$11.4520 per MMBtu.

A comparison with October 2025 shows

a marginal decrease of \$0.0076 (-0.07%) in ISLAMABAD: The Oil and SNGPL's transmission price, although its distribution price increased by \$0.1696 (1.39%). For SSGCL, the transmission price rose by \$0.0067 (0.07%), and the distribution price increased by \$0.2216 (1.97%).

OGRA stated that the

slight rise in overall RLNG

prices is mainly due to an increase in the Unaccounted for Gas (UFG) and \$12.3996 per MMBtu percentage. However, the reduction in SNGPL's transmission

mission price stands at tariff reflects a decline in \$10.0652 per MMBtu, UFG on the company's transmission network.

The detailed notification is available on the OGRA

Procurement fraud and bribery emerge as Asia-Pacific's top risks as AI-driven deception accelerates

Example 2 Commerce Desk

LAHORE: According to ACCA's new report, Combatting fraud in a perfect storm, organisations across Asia-Pacific are contending with a diverse and fast-evolving fraud landscape, shaped by procurement fraud (34%), bribery and corruption (20%), and growing blind spots in crypto fraud and ESG misrepresentation. Rapid innovation in digital payments and super-app platforms has expanded attack surfaces, with AI-enabled deception accelerating the speed

Cultural dynamics remain a defining factor. In many Asia-Pafraud is still perceived as disloyalty, and hierarchical norms discourage whistleblowing. Independence of investigators and clear protections against retaliation are therefore critical, particularly for junior staff, who reported the highest levels of concern.

Drawing on responses from over 2,000 professionals and 31 roundtable discussions around the world, the study - launched during Interand sophistication of fraud across national Fraud Awareness Week

underscores the need to embed behavioural risk assessments and align fraud-prevention efforts with cific markets, openly discussing local cultural realities. Conventional controls alone are no longer sufficient in a region where technological change is reshaping financial, commercial and consumer ecosystems at speed.

> Regional survey results show reporting ease averaging 3.82/5, with junior staff the most concerned about retaliation, highlighting a persistent imbalance in power dynamics that restricts upward reporting. Respondents emphasised the importance

transparency of process, and leadership-led accountability to build trust.

In collaboration with ACFE, IIA, CISI, ISC2, Airmic and ACi, the report introduces a new Prevalence vs Materiality matrix lens to help organisations make better decisions about allocating resources before fraud diminishes them. Through its companion Calls to Action and Thematic Typology, the report also provides new guidance on assessing what works and doesn't - and crucially how to incorporate behavioural insights into risk governance,

of culturally attuned governance, moving fraud prevention from compliance theatre to operational

'Asia-Pacific's fraud risks are shaped as much by culture as by technology, said Rachael Johnson, head of risk management and corporate governance in ACCA's policy and insights team. 'Digital innovation brings enormous opportunity, but it also accelerates misinformation and deception. Organisations must recognise how hierarchical norms and fear of retaliation limit visibility, creating cultural barriers to governance that supports safe, trusted reporting?

Media Briefing of 11th Vice Admiral H. M. S. Chaudhry Amateur Golf Cup 2025 held in Lahore

Sports Desk

LAHORE: The media briefing for the 11th Vice Admiral H. M. S. Chaudhry Amateur Golf Cup 2025 was held at Pakistan Navy War College, Lahore. Commander Central Punjab, Rear Admiral Sohail Ahmad Azmie briefed the media on the details of the tournament, scheduled to be played from 20 to 23 November 2025 at Defence Raya Golf & Country Club, Lahore.

While addressing the media, Rear Admiral Sohail Ahmad Azmie stated that Pakistan Navy has been playing a vital role in promoting sports in the

This golf cup holds significant importance, and the golf champion-



ships organized by Pakistan Navy in Lahore since 2011 are a testament to this fact. Players who took part in previous championships displayed commendable performances, and a tough competition is expected this year as well.

The tournament features three major categories: Amateurs, Seniors, and Ladies. The Amateur category includes players with a handicap of 10 or below, who will play 18 holes daily, competing a total of 54 holes over three days. In the Ladies category, golfers with a handicap of 24 or below will compete over 18 holes. Senior Amateurs, with a handicap of 12 or below, will participate in a two-day competition featuring 36 holes

Centurion Sidra (107), pacer Zaib-un-Nisa (5-25), all-round Umm-e-Hani (44 & 2-36) star in third round

👺 Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: The third round of the National Women's One-Day Tournament saw a match-winning century from Stars' Sidra Amin, a five-wicket haul from Strikers' pacer Zaibun-Nisa Niaz in losing cause and a handy all-round show from Conquerors' Umm-e-Hani in Faisalabad on Tuesday.

The fourth round of the tournament will take place on Thursday, 20 November at the HPC Ground and Iqbal

Sidra Amin's brilliant century and combined figures of 7-10 for Stars' spin trio Anam Amin (3-4), Anosha Nasir (2-0) and Syeda Aroob Shah (2-6) helped of 7-0-25-5 helped her their team hand a thumping team restrict Stars to 233-9. 171-run defeat to Strikers after Right-arm leg-spinner Ghulam abad. posting 233-9 in 50 Overs at the Fatima picked up two wickets in HPC Ground Faisalahad

(107, 125b, 10x4s) and Omaim after they were 21-2 at one stage Sohail (53, 92b, 1x4) put on a before losing 9-41. 145-run stand for the second wicket before Strikers' pacer Zaib-un-Nisa Niaz got in the act for her brilliant five-wicket haul. No Stars other batter apart from Omaima, Sidra and no.4 Kaynat Hafeez (34, 47b, 2x4s) crossed double figures.



Zaib's impressive figures to 180 all out in 42.4 overs after her 10 overs. In turn, Strikers

Stars' pacers Haniah Ahmer, her 10 overs. Diana Baig and Syeda Masooma Jafri dismissed one batter each before the spinners wrapped up the innings.

Conquerors completed their as they restricted Challengers Amber Kainat remained

posting 234-9 in their 50 overs at the Iqbal Stadium, Faisal-

the match Umm-e-Hani's Opting to bat first, Stars' Sidra lost wickets at regular intervals all-round effort which included 44 off 41 balls including six fours at no.7 and 2-36 with the ball in

> Opting to bat first, Conquerors lost half their side on 129 with Gull Feroza (32, 47b, 3x4s), Maham Anees (31, 61b, 1x4) and Fatima Sana (20, second win of the tournament 27b, 1x4, 1x6) getting starts.

hitting two fours.

For Challengers, Tayyaba Hani (Conquerors) Imdad picked up three dismissed two batters

In reply, Lubna Behram (3-42) and Fatima Sana's (1-24) early strikes reduced Challengers to 36-4 before thirties from no.9 Waheeda (34, 48b, 5x4s), skipper Rameen Shamim (33, 42b, 3x4s) at no.7 and no.4 batter Yusra Amir (33. 74b, 4x4s) stalled an imminent

collapse. With 44 balls still left in the

bag, Challengers ran out of batters falling 54 runs short as Conquerors' Saira Jabeen, Zunash Abdul Sattar, Amber Kainat and Ayesha Bilal also chipped in with one wicket each.

Round 3 - Scores in brief Match 5 – Conquerors beat Challengers by 54 runs at Iqbal Stadium, Faisalabad

Conquerors 234-9, 50 overs (Umm-e-Hani 44, Gull Feroza 32, Maham Anees 31, Amber Kainat 25; Tayyaba Imdad 3-22, Waheeda Akhtar 2-48)

Challengers 180 all out, 42.4 overs (Waheeda Akhtar 34, Rameen Shamim 33, Yusra Amir 33, Sadaf Shamas 24; Lubna Behram 3-42, Umm-e-Hani 2-36)

Player of the match - Umm-e-

Match 6 - Stars beat Strikers Conquerors rode on player wickets, while Waheeda Akhtar by 171 runs at HPC Ground, Faisalahad

Stars 233-9, 50 overs (Sidra Amin 107, Omaima Sohail 53, Kaynat Hafeez 34; Zaib-un-Nisa Niaz 5-25, Ghulam Fatima

Strikers 62 all out, 23.2 overs (Noreen Yaqoob 25; Anam Amin 3-4, Anosha Nasir 2-0, Syeda Aroob Shah 2-6)

Player of the match - Sidra Amin (Stars).

S. M. Adil Zone-IV Inter Club Cricket Tournament.

Brilliant Century 130 by Ahsan ullah Khan. Ahsan ullah and Ahad Ali declared Man of the Match



Sports Desk

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

The highlights of the days play was brilliant Century 130 by Ahsan ullah and some good bowling by Ahad Ali 4/27, Bilal

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

Gulzar Cricket Club beat Eleven Star Cricket Club by 7 Wickets at Pak Star Ground. Eleven Star cricket Club 202 all-out in 37.3 overs. Ayaz ur Rehman 65 4x4 5x6, Anas Faheem 26, Obaid ur Rehman 23, Sajid Kalyar 22, Muhammad Islam 21. Bilal Mirza 4/42, Fahad Tariq 3/41, Khizar 2/47.

In reply Gulzar Cricket Club 203/3 in 23.2 overs. Ahsan ullah Khan 130 15x4 6x6, Hamza 29. Zeeshan 2/25. Later Ahsan ullah Khan of Gulzar CC declared Player of the Match.

In the 2nd Match Young Star Cricket Club beat Quaidabad Gymkhana by 8 Wickets at Landhi Gymkhana Ground. Quaidabad Gymkhana 169 allout in 34 overs. Imdad Hussain 57 7x4 1x6, Abdul Qadir 56 9x4 1x6. Ahad Ali 4/27, Huzaifa Sajid 3/29.

In reply Young Star Cricket Club 173/2 in 27.1 overs. Abdul Rehman 59 9x4 1x6, Salah Khan 58 6x4 1x6. After the end of the Match Ahad Ali of Young Star CC declared Man of the

Pakistan calls for stronger economic integration, broader partnerships at **SCO** meeting

Continued From Page 1

Calling for stronger engagement with SCO observer and partner states, Ishaq Dar urged the organisation to move beyond "passive observation" and bring these countries into project-based initiatives aligned with their expertise.

He also welcomed the introfluction of English as a working establishment of translation units to broaden the SCO's global outreach.

The deputy prime minister outlined several proposals for practical cooperation, including activating financial tools such as the SCO Interbank Consortium and advancing plans for an SCO Development Bank to support

connectivity and technical collaboration projects.

Stressing the importance of human capital development, Ishaq Dar advocated an expansion of the SCO University Network into a consortium focused on applied knowledge.

He said such an initiative would promote student exchanges and ioint research in critical fields language and proposed the including information technology, artificial intelligence, agriculture, water resource management, and telemedicine.

> Reaffirming Pakistan's commitment to strengthening regional ties, Dar called for an SCO that serves as a "launch pad for shared success," fostering greater innovation, interconnectedness, and integration among its member states.

KCNA Commentary on Confrontational Declaration of U. S.-ROK Alliance

PYONGYANG,: Recently the U. S. and the ROK made public the "joint fact sheet" of the Kyongju U. S.-ROK summit agreement and the "joint statement" of the 57th U. S.-ROK annual security

consultative meeting. The joint agreement documents, published for the first time after the regime change in the U.S. and the ROK, reveal the true colors of the confrontational will of the U.S. and the ROK to remain hostile towards the DPRK to the end and predicts the future of the U. S.-ROK alliance that will get more dangerous and warns in advance the regional security situation that will become more unstable owing

1. Hostility towards the DPRK and the confrontational ideal become policy again

The announcement of the agreement on the recent U. S.-ROK summit was the most vivid manifestation of the keynote of the policy toward the DPRK of the present U.S. administration which is nearing one year in

The U. S. positively promised to achieve the "complete denuclearization of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea" together with the ROK at the summit level and this is an intensive expression of their confrontational will to deny the constitution of the DPRK to the last. It proves that their only option is confrontation with the DPRK.

This put an end to the burning question among media and experts about the true nature and orientation of the present U.S.

administration's policy toward the DPRK, and the whole international community, as well as the DPRK, further confirmed their view on the U. S. stand towards the DPRK.

The U.S. and the ROK rulers have replaced the words of the "complete denuclearization on the Korean peninsula" which they touted for mere form's sake in the past with the ones of the "complete denuclearization of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea". It is the unanimous assessment of the international community that it is neither more or less than denying the entity and the existence of the DPRK.

This being a fact, the U. S. is talking about the implementation of the past DPRK-U. S. agreement which has been scrapped and nullified by the U. S. itself. This is the height of shamelessness and the way of thinking of Yankees that has made self-conceit their invet-

What we are faced with is not the past reminding us of disillusionment with the U. S. but the reality in which the U.S. reaffirmed its offer of "extended deterrence" to the ROK by mobilizing all means including nuclear weapons, pledged to strengthen cooperation through the Nuclear Consultative Group and affirmed that the primary target of the U. S. forces in the ROK is the DPRK.

The U. S. allowed the ROK's possession of nuclear submarine, disregarding the danger of the global nuclear arms race to be incurred by the nuclear proliferation to a non-nuclear state, and gave green light for the enrichment of uranium and the repro-

cessing of nuclear waste fuel, thus laying a springboard for its development into the "quasi-nuclear weapons state". This is an intuitive view of the U.S. dangerous attempt at confrontation.

The results of the U. S.-ROK collusion based on the hostile view on the DPRK and the confrontational ideal are a microcosm of the anti-DPRK confrontational moves and escalation of tensions of the U.S. and the ROK which became more blatant since the emergence of the present U. S. administration.

This year alone, under the pretext of "demonstrating the ROK-U. S. alliance and increasing inter-operability", dozens of joint military exercises have been staged without any gap of time and the U.S. strategic means made frequent trip to the Korean peninsula (nuclear carrier for two times and strategic bomber for three times) started with the nuclear submarine Alexandria's entry into Pusan port in February last. This proves that the U. S. intention to be hostile towards the DPRK remains unchanged with consistency irrespective of regime change.

Days ago, the George Washington nuclear carrier taskforce, which had entered Pusan Port under the pretext of "supply of materials" and "rest of sailors". staged large-scale joint naval drills with the ROK navy. This reaffirmed the purpose of frequent deployment of strategic means which is to master the ability to fight a war against

the DPRK. Various bilateral and multilateral alliances, coalitions and consultation groups exist in

the world under freewheeling field. pretexts, but there will be no such nexus of conspiracy as the U. S.-ROK alliance which directly targets a sovereign state and openly stipulated the confrontation with it as the line of the alliance.

2. Master and servant relations thoroughly serving realization of "America First" become Intensified

The ROK economy and national defence have been thoroughly subordinated to the realization of the self-righteous and hegemony-oriented "America-first". This is the most tangible "success" of the U. S.-ROK confabs.

The U.S. forced the ROK to pay tribute with astronomical amount of money that can completely drain the already vulnerable national economy in return for "slashing" the general tariff rate on the ROK to 15 percent, thus thoroughly turning the ROK economy into the colonial contract economy for the U. S. "economic prosperity".

On the other hand, the ROK decided to lift import restrictions on U.S. surplus goods including automobiles, foodstuffs and agricultural products and remove non-tariff barriers and thus opened its domestic market to

This reminds the people of the humiliating and unequal Treaty of Jemulpo which granted the U. S. many economic privileges and restricted the Korean feudal government to provide the U.S. with privileges more than 140

The tragedy of Jemulpo has clearly repeated in the military

The U.S. has more positively induced businesses of the ROK to participate in the "MASGA" plan for restoring the U.S. shipbuilding industry and reduced shipyards and harbors in the ROK into the repair, supply and maintenance bases for U. S.

Meanwhile, the ROK pledged to increase the defense cost by 3.5 percent of its GDP for the first time as a non-NATO member among the U.S. treaty allied nations and thus was awarded the title of "exemplary ally" by

In particular, the ROK decided to purchase U. S.-made weapons worth 25 billion US dollars and offer 33 billion US dollars for the upkeep of the U.S. forces in the ROK, coming under a yoke of the U.S. munitions industries by offering a brisk market for them by itself. This illuminates the master and servant relations between the U. S. and the ROK what they call the "best blood alli-

The reality goes to prove that the alliance between the U.S. and the ROK is by no means the reciprocal and equal relations between states, but the relations between master and servant and that it serves as the straight road for realizing "America first" which seeks only the interests of the U. S. but totally ignores those of the

3. Dangerous nexus between the U.S. and the ROK extending to the globe beyond the regional

The U.S. strategic scenario to use the ROK as a shock troop for realizing its Indo-Pacific strategy

Asia and the rest of the Asia-Pacific region has been fully revealed through the present occasion.

The U.S. and the ROK agreed to boost the conventional deterof coping with all regional threats to their allies and talked about the importance of ensuring "freedom of navigation" and peace and stability in the Taiwan Channel, revealing their sinister intention to deny territorial integrity and in the region and openly interfere in the affairs in the international conflict areas.

They also decided to further intensify the tripartite drills, information sharing and military exchange for strengthening the U. S.-Japan-ROK tripartite military cooperation and thus shaped as their policy the course of military action to promote the U. S.-ROK alliance to an entity of global military alliance, not a mere regional bloc.

In particular, the U.S. approval to the ROK's possession of nuclear submarine is a serious development that destabilizes the military security situation in the Asia-Pacific region beyond the Korean peninsula and causes the situation of impossible nuclear control in the global sphere.

The fact that the plan for building a nuclear submarine to possess nuclear submarines is neither a "reflective measure" to cope with the DPRK's access to nuclear weapons nor a matter "regional threat" but the most

for holding the hegemony over dangerous step to open up the the Korean peninsula, Northeast gate of realizing its long-cherished ambition to possess nuclear weapons.

The ROK's possession of nuclear submarine is a strategic move for "its own nuclear weaprence posture under the pretext onization" and this is bound to cause a "nuclear domino phenomenon" in the region and spark a hot arms race.

The U.S. hegemonic scenario to encircle and contain rivals by forming a U. S.-led NATO-style security structure in the Asia-Pacore interests of sovereign states cific region by putting the U. S.-ROK alliance on a regional and modern basis is being translated into reality in detail. Such reality requires a more awakened way of looking at the regional and international security situation that will get more unstable and redoubled efforts to cope with it.

> The U.S. and the ROK are openly ignoring the DPRK's legitimate security concern and aggravating the regional tension. Their provocative acts prove the correctness of the option of the DPRK which has indomitably covered the road of defending peace and security with practical acts, not words, properly informing the world community where the root of the instability on the Korean peninsula is.

The DPRK will take more justified and realistic countermeasures to defend the soverwas secretly promoted in 2003 eignty and security interests of proves that the ROK's ambition the state and regional peace, corresponding to the fact that the confrontational intention of the U.S. and the ROK to remain hostile towards the DPRK was of defensive nature to cope with formulated as their policy once

THE SPIKES IN Wednesday, November 19, 2025

ECC Meeting ISLAMABAD: Finance Minister Aurangzeb chairs a meeting of the Economic Coordination Committee.

ECC approves key grants for Security, defence Projects, Structural reforms

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet met today at the Finance Division under the chairmanship of Senator Muhammad Finance here on Tuesday. Aurangzeb, Federal Minister petroleum sector reforms.

The ECC approved a Tech-

the request of the Ministry of Civil Armed Forces. Interior & Narcotics Control issued by the Ministry of

On another summary for Finance and Revenue, to submitted by the Ministry of consider a range of summaries Interior & Narcotics Control, control operations, internal nical Supplementary Grant security, and maintenance of

for the maintenance and considered and approved a 1,000,000 and reducing the repair of defence equipment summary from the Defence utilized by the Federal Civil Division, granting a TSG Armed Forces, said a release of Rs 50 billion for a range of approved projects of the Defence Services.

The ECC also deliberated upon a summary presented by the Ministry of National pertaining to national securithe Committee approved an Food Security & Research ty, defence, food security, and additional Rs 841.56 million regarding the winding up of as TSG to support border PASSCO and the establishment of a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV). The Committee (TSG) of Rs 100.3 million on law and order by the Federal approved the formation the set of proposals aimed

authorized capital in line with requirements for the structured winding down of the organization.

In addition, the ECC discussed a summary submitted by the Petroleum Division concerning the extension of licence periods and assignment of working interest for offshore oil and gas exploration blocks.

The Committee approved

of the SPV, allowing an at incentivizing and facili-The Committee further initial paid-up capital of Rs tating greater participation of foreign companies in Pakistan's petroleum exploration

> The meeting was attended by Federal Minister for Petroleum Ali Pervaiz Malik, Federal Minister for Planning & Development Ahsan Iqbal, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister Haroon Akhtar Khan, along with federal secretaries and senior officials from the concerned ministries, divisions, and

Pakistan, Malaysia agree to deepen digital cooperation

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunications Shaza Fatima Khawaja met Malaysia's Minister of Communications, Ahmad Fahmi bin Mohamed Fadzil, on the sidelines of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC).

She reaffirmed Pakistan's digital cooperation with partner countries.

strong bilateral ties and the longstanding strategic partnership between Pakistan and

Shaza Fatima said Paki- and its pool of more than a Pakistan-Malaysia Digital Shaza Fatima also gave an pilot project in Islamabad.



closely with Malaysia's MyDigital Blueprint, noting asset. Both sides appreciated the that both countries share

She highlighted Pakistan's in ICT exports. rapidly growing IT industry

commitment to expanding stan's digital vision aligns 600,000 tech professionals, calling it a major national

> The two ministers also reafgoals for building a modern, firmed their commitment to technology-driven economy. strengthening collaboration

She proposed launching

mobility and skills development in fields such as artificial intelligence, data science and the Internet of Things.

She also discussed joint initiatives in cybersecurity and digital content develop-

Separately, Shaza Fatima visited Azerbaijan's Asan Xidmet Centre, praising its citizen service model as an excellent example of digital governance.

The Pakistani delegation received a detailed briefing on e-governance frameworks, citizen service delivery and digital integration systems.

Policy Dialogue and empha- interview to Asan Xidmet sised cooperation in talent Media, noting that Pakistan– Azerbaijan relations have grown stronger following Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's recent visit to Baku.

> She said both countries are entering a new phase of digital cooperation, technological partnership and exchange of public-service expertise.

The minister stressed that citizen-focused digital services remain central to Pakistan's digital reform agenda.

She added that Pakistan plans to establish Asan Xidmet-style citizen service centres nationwide following the successful launch of the

Punjab government lauded for cracking down on extremism, violence

👺 Bureau Report

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif on Tuesday praised the provincial government's efforts to curb extremism and incitement to violence, directing law enforcement agencies to remain on high alert to maintain peace and security.

In a high-level law-and-order meeting, authorities briefed the chief minister that networks of terrorists, extremists, and hate-based groups, including Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP), have been effectively dismantled.

Officials reported recovering advanced weapons, thousands of bullets, bulletproof jackets, and other combat equipment from TLP hideouts.

The briefing also highlighted that funding streams used to incite unrest under the guise of protests have been

Assets worth Rs23.40 billion group, including 92 bank accounts and digital wallets such as JazzCash, have been frozen. Cases have been registered against nine key financiers of the proscribed organization.

The meeting decided that the Punjab uninterrupted. Authorities added



government to implement uniform action against extremist groups across all provinces.

CM Maryam emphasised that combing operations must continue

sharing social media content harmful tion rate.

Five major Wifaq-ul-Madaris boards Officials further briefed that more have expressed support for the initithan 61,000 forms have been distribative, strengthening collaboration uted for the registration of mosques between religious leadership and the and imams, with over 50,000 imams government to promote peace.

Published by: Almass Ayoub Sabir from Zero Point Printers Rawalpindi

DPM, Chinese Premier discuss bilateral, global issues



News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar met Chinese Premier Li Qiang in Moscow today on the sidelines Government meeting.

They reaffirmed the "all-weather" engagement moving forward.

Pakistan-China strategic partnership, reviewed bilateral and multilateral cooperation—especially within the SCO—and praised the Shanghai Spirit principles guiding regional collaboration.

They also exchanged views on of the SCO Council of Heads of bilateral and global issues and agreed to maintain real-time

Three-member LHC bench to hear plea against 27th amendment

👺 Bureau Report

LAHORE: The Lahore High petition challenging the 27th Constitutional Amendment.

formed the bench to ensure compre- of Law as respondents.

hensive consideration of the matter. Justice Sadaqat Ali Khan has been appointed as the head of the full Court on Tuesday constituted a bench, while Justice Jawad Hassan three-member full bench to hear a and Justice Sultan Tanveer will serve as members. The petition names the prime minister, the National Chief Justice Aaliya Neelum Assembly Speaker, and the Ministry

Shah Mahmood Qureshi undergoes successful gallbladder surgery in Lahore

👺 Bureau Report

LAHORE: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Shah Mahmood observation for the next few days. Qureshi underwent successful gallbladder surgery at the Pakistan public for prayers for his early Kidney and Liver Institute (PKLI) on Tuesday, his lawyer said.

completed without complications. He said the former foreign minister will remain under medical

Qureshi has appealed to the

The PTI leader is currently jailed Advocate Rana Mudassar Umar in Kot Lakhpat in connection with said doctors removed Qureshi's the May 9 trial. He was moved to gallbladder and the procedure was PKLI from prison for the surgery.

Pakistan, Finland hold sixth round of bilateral political consultations in **İslamabad**

Spokesman Report

Tuesday held the sixth round of GSP+ status.

bilateral political consultations in Islamabad, where both sides reviewed the full spectrum of their bilateral relationship, according to Foreign Office Spokesperson Tahir

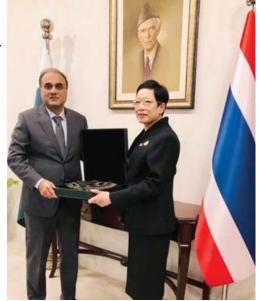
Hussain Andrabi. The Pakistani delegation was led by Additional Secretary (Europe) Muhammad Khalid Jamali, while Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Otti Holopainen headed the Finnish side.

During the talks, officials discussed cooperation

trade, investment, education, science and technology, and climate change, Andrabi said. Global and regional developments also came under uled for April 2026, the spokesdetailed review.

Jamali expressed satisfaction over the positive trajectory of Paki-Pakistan's commitment to further Finland.

deepen collaboration in diverse sectors. He also thanked Finland ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Finland for its support in securing Pakistan's



Pakistan invited Finnish companies to participate in the Pakistan-EU Business Forum sched-

Both sides agreed to continue regular engagement, with the next stan-Finland ties and reaffirmed round of consultations to be held in