(مصح بخاری: مدیث نمبر 6844) **Barkat Rice Mills** (Pvt) Limited



### Sindh CM calls on PM

Chief Minister Sindh Syed Murad Ali Shah, Wednesday, called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif. During the meeting, overall political situation and provincial affairs were discussed.



Pakistan says aspirants for permanent Security Council seats holding up restructuring of UN body

A senior Pakistani diplomat told the United Nations General ng to accommodate the interests of wider UN membe

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Jamadi-ul-Awwal 28, Thursday, November 20, 2025



www.dailyspokesman.net 🔰 @daily\_spokesman 📑





Daily Spokesman Vol: 19, Issue: 215 Price Rs. 25.00 Pages 8

# Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting regarding climate change induced losses and mitigation plan for the next year's Monsoon on Wednesday.



# PM directs early preparedness for next monsoon, implementation of short-term plan

**Spokesman Report** 

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday directed authorities concerned to begin early preparations to prevent any loss of life or property during next year's monsoon implementation of the shortterm plan presented by the Ministry of Climate Change.

**Spokesman Report** 

day conflict in May this year.

Chinese technology.

ISLAMABAD: A report submitted to the

US Congress has acknowledged that Pakistan clearly defeated India during the four-

The report, submitted by the US-China Economic and Security Review Commis-

The report, which examined the Paki-

Pakistan not only demonstrated superior

strategy but also maximised the advantage

of cutting-edge Chinese defence systems.

sions was that India's Rafale fighter jets -

long touted as a game-changer — proved

ineffective against Pakistan's air defences

According to the document, despite

India's public claims, Pakistan shot down

at least six Indian fighter jets in the early

phase of the conflict, including Rafales.

and Chinese-assisted technologies.

One of the report's most striking conclu-

sion, credited Islamabad's strategic planning and its effective use of advanced

a meeting to review measures to prevent monsoon-related damages, approved the ministry's short-term plan on the subject and stressed its urgent

He asked the Ministry of season and ordered immediate Climate Change, the Ministry of Planning, and the National Disaster Management Authority

Pakistan's military success over India

acknowledged in US congressional report

integrated planning on climate

He also called for preparations to convene a meeting of the National Water Council to carry out national-level planning on water management.

Prime Minister Shehbaz said that, as a developing country, a substantial portion of its GDP to work in close coordination was repeatedly diverted to on international forecasts and relevant senior officials.

The prime minister, chairing with provincial governments for counter the adverse effects of and indicators regarding next climate change — resources that could otherwise be utilised for development projects.

He said that unfortunately, Pakistan continued to bear severe consequences of climate change despite contributing almost negligibly to global

carbon emissions. The meeting was briefed

year's monsoon. The Ministry of Climate Change also briefed on short, medium, and longterm plans to prevent the monsoon-related losses.

The meeting was attended by federal ministers Ahsan Iqbal, Ahad Khan Cheema. Muhammad Aurangzeb, Dr. Musadik Malik, Ataullah Tarar,

### Air India lobbies China after Pakistan blocks airspace



### Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Air India is lobbying the Indian government to convince China to let it use a sensitive military airspace zone in Xinjiang to shorten routes as the financial toll from a ban on Indian carriers flying over Pakistan mounts, a company document shows.

The unusual request comes just weeks after direct India-China flights resumed after a five-year hiatus following a Himalayan border clash between the nations.

Air India has been seeking to rebuild its reputation and international network after a Londonbound Boeing 787 Dreamliner crashed in Gujarat in June, killing 260 people and forcing it to briefly cut flights for safety checks.

But that effort is being complicated by the closure of Pakistan's airspace to Indian carriers since their diplomatic tensions erupted in late April.

# Dar attends Strategic Dialogue and Indo-Pacific Forum



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar is scheduled to undertake an official visit to Brussels from November 19-21, at the invitation of the EU High Representative and Vice President for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

During the visit, the deputy prime minister will co-chair the 7th session of Pakistan-EU Strategic Dialogue, which is the highest level of institutionalised interaction between the two sides.

The Dialogue will review cooperation between Pakistan and EU in all sectors under the Pakistan-EU Strategic Engagement Plan 2019.

During the visit, Deputy

Prime Minister Dar will also participate in the 4th **EU Indo-Pacific Ministerial** A number of bilateral

meetings and engagements with the senior EU officials are also planned on the sidelines of the Forum.

Pakistan committed to developing a comprehensive and mutually beneficial partnership with the European Union.

# Govt to integrate early-warning systems at district, tehsil levels: Dr Musadik Malik

#### 👺 City Desk

floods.

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination Dr Musadik Malik said on Wednesday that the federal government, in collaboration with provincial authorities, will integrate all disaster early-warning systems at the district and tehsil levels under a 250-day short-term plan, enabling the timely evacuation of people and movement of assets ahead of

The unified system will allow local administrations to respond "within a critical window of time" and significantly reduce losses during next year's monsoon, said the minister while addressing a press conference here.



a high-level meeting chaired by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Dr Malik said the Prime Minister reviewed all categories of climate-related threats — from riverine floods and hill torrents to urban flooding and coastal impacts — and approved a national resilience roadmap covering short, medium and long-term measures.

The minister said Pakistan currently has multiple fragmented early-warning systems scattered across different agencies, resulting in delays and confusion.

respective secretaries.

amendment

They maintain that the

strips the Supreme Court

of its original jurisdiction

and reduces it to a "federal

constitutional court," a move

they argue weakens the insti-

tution and compromises

According to the petitions,

the amendment also runs

contrary to Islamic provi-

sions, judicial independence,

It is further argued that

the constitutional framework

has been disturbed because

the amendment was passed

without proper consultation

and fundamental rights.

judicial autonomy.

effectively

# LHC sets Dec 5 hearing on petitions challenging

A three-member bench headed by Justice Sadaqat Ali Khan will take up the

Justice Jawad Hassan and Justice Sultan Tanveer will

also sit on the bench. The cases have been fixed

administrative order. The petitioners have made

The petitioners have urged the court to strike down the 27th Amendment and issue an interim order suspending its implementation until a

with the provinces.

# 27th Constitutional **Amendment**

#### 跨 Bureau Report

LAHORE: The Lahore High Court (LHC) has scheduled for December 5 the hearing of multiple petitions filed against the 27th Constitutional Amendment, which critics argue undermines the authority of the Supreme Court and threatens the independence of the judiciary.

petitions

for hearing following an

the prime minister and the National Assembly speaker respondents through their final judgment is delivered.

to avoid discussing openly.

#### While New Delhi did not fully acknowledge the losses, senior Indian military officials admitted off the record that the Indian Air Force suffered significant damage.

The report further stated that Pakistan, using Chinese intelligence support and advanced weaponry, struck 109 Indian military targets, exposing breaches in India's defensive lines that New Delhi continues

The commission noted that China played a critical role in Pakistan's success, with Chinese technology assisting in downing



Indian jets and enhancing Pakistan's battle-

The report said China viewed the conflict as an opportunity to test its modern weaponry in real-time conditions.

Pakistan used the Chinese HQ-9 missile system, PL-15 air-to-air missiles, and J-10C fighter jets operationally for the first time systems that, according to the report, "completely outmatched" the Indian Air

The commission said the war proved embarrassing for India, as the Rafale jets, projected as a symbol of India's military superiority, "could not withstand Pakistan's air defence for even a moment."

India, the report noted, attempted to

involvement, while Pakistan insisted it had acted solely in self-defence.

Following the conflict, China capitalised on the performance of its weapons by promoting them internationally. Several countries, the report said, paused

Rafale procurement and expressed interest in China's J-35 fighter jets. The four-day war ended after US media-

tion, but the congressional report stated that the outcome was unambiguous: Pakistan emerged as the clear winner, while India continued to present "false narratives" to mask its military setbacks. The report concluded that the conflict

demonstrated Pakistan's robust defence capabilities and its central role in maindeflect blame by accusing China of direct taining the regional balance of power.

# AJK PM vows to restore public trust in government by removing sense of deprivation

👺 Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) Prime Minister Raja Faisal Mumtaz Rathore has reaffirmed his commitment to restore people's trust in the government by removing deprivations.

Speaking to media and people gathered at his office on Wednesday, PM Rathore said, "We have to restore the people's trust and confidence in the government as well as the state institutions by improving service delivery". Since the announcement of the new government, he said, jubilant workers right from Bhimber to Taubat are celebrating the change.

"Politics and political activities have been restored across the liberated territory", he said, adding that while there was a time when the people took to people's government, he said serving the streets but today the same people



This six-month government, he said.

is a trailer of the next government to

come. While speaking to a delegation

from his home constituency of Haveli,

carrying flags of political parties in their hands vividly reflects their trust in the system.

Describing his government as a common masses without any sense of to make history, do not limit me to appointments and transfers".

"My father Raja Mumtaz Hussain Rathore ruled for nine months, but he is still remembered for his selfless services to the people", he added. He assured the visiting delegations that his government will play its full role to remove a sense of deprivation amongst the people and raise their standard of living."We have little time but we will not waste a single moment", he remarked.

Speaking on this occasion, Senior Minister Mian Abdul Waheed said that although Raja Mumtaz Hussain Rathore's term as the prime minister was short, he would always be remembered

as the prime minister of hearts."In these six months, we have to lay a solid foundation for the government that will come after 2026", he said, adding that next coming government is also the Prime Minister said." If you wish of the PPP.

# PM Rathore expresses grief over demise of Lal Muhammad

**₿** Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: Prime Minister of the Azad Government of the State of Jammu and Kashmir, Faisal Mumtaz Rathore, has expressed deep sorrow and grief over the passing of Pakistan Peoples Party's founding leader and former Member of the Legislative Assembly, Maulana Lal Muhammad Baniyan.

The Prime Minister said that Maulana Lal Muhammad Banivan was among the close companions of his late father, Mumtaz Hussain Rathore. He extended heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family, stating that he shares their grief. He prayed that Almighty Allah grants complete forgiveness to the departed soul and bestows patience upon the bereaved family.

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

### Two-day International Advanced STEAM Education Conference kickoff at Faisalabad University

Majid Majid

FAISALABAD: The third two-day International Advanced STEAM Education Conference on the theme of Science, Technology, Education, Arts and Math (STEAM) began at the Salem Campus of the University of Faisalabad. The chief guest of the inaugural ceremony was Professor Dr. Muhammad Iqbal Chaudhry, Coordinator General of COMSTECH. The guests of honor were Mr. Mehmet Ayman Semsik, Consul General of Turkey, Mr. Dr. Iqrar Ahmed Khan, Chairman Punjab Higher Education Commission, Mr. Ruslan Ismail, Deputy Registrar of Sains University, Malaysia, Mr. Yasin Mayer Mahmood, Deputy of Mission of the Somali Embassy in Pakistan, and Professor Dr. Asad Khattak from Zayed University, United Arab Emirates.

In addition to them, Deputy Vice Chancellor of Sains University Malaysia, Professor Dr. Dato' Narima Samat, Chairman of the Board of Governors of the University of Faisalabad, Muhammad Haider Amin, Vice Chairman Dr. Muhammad Hamza Amin, Rector Professor Dr. Amanullah Malik were present. Speaking on the occasion, Professor Dr. Muhammad Iqbal Chaudhry said that mutual cooperation between the country's higher education institutions, joint research in subjects like science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics, and in this regard, promoting international educational links, especially between Islamic countries, is the need of the hour. Organizing the STEAM conference is a commendable initiative of the University of Faisalabad.

Professor Dr. Igrar Hamad Khan said that the Punjab Higher Education Commission is paying special attention to the promotion of higher professional education, especially research and development.

Mr. Mehmet Ayman Semsik said in his address that international cooperation is essential for the promotion of modern education and in this regard, the organization of the University of Faisalabad's STEM Conference is commendable. Muhammad Haider Amin, in his address, thanked all the participants and reiterated his commitment that the University of Faisalabad's STEM Conference will open new doors for international educational cooperation, research and innovation and the series will continue in the future.

### VC University of Kamalia Calls on Commissioner Faisalabad Division



Zafar Chishti

TOBA TEK SINGH: Prof. Dr. Yasir Nawab Vice Chancellor University of Kamalia, paid a visit to the office of Raja Jahangeer Anwar Commissioner Faisalabad Division, today. The Vice Chancellor shared that the University of Kamalia is now fully operational with its first student intake, envisioned as a technology driven, skills focused institution. Dr. Yasir Nawab briefed the Commissioner on the university's key flagship initiatives, including community funded scholarships for deserving students, the International Expert Advisory Board, a structured Mentorship Program, and entrepreneurship training from the very first semester. He highlighted that these efforts aim to produce industry-ready graduates and establish the University of Kamalia as a catalyst for regional development.

The Vice Chancellor also invited the Commissioner to visit the university and hold an interactive session with students under the "Future Forge Forum" series, an invitation the Commissioner graciously

Both dignitaries agreed to work collaboratively to create awareness and encourage the implementation of circular economy practices across the region, strengthening the link between education, sustainability and community uplift.

### Round Table Discussion

PESHAWAR: Press Information Department, Peshawar holds round table discussion on "Youth and Social Media: Vulnerabilities and Safeguards" chaied by Director General PID Peshawar, Ms. Tahira Saeeda on Wednesday.



Photo: Online

## Hyderabad Division Announces Major Crackdown on Illegal Firecracker Factories and LPG Businesses

👺 Qayoom Sarohi

HYDERABAD: Commissioner Hyderabad Fayaz Hussain Abbasi chaired an important meeting at his office where a decisive plan was finalized to launch a large-scale crackdown against illegal firecracker factories and LPG businesses operating across Hyderabad Division. The meeting was attended by DIG Hyderabad Tariq Razzaq Dharejo, Deputy Commissioner Hyderabad Zain-ul-Abedin Memon, SSP Special Branch, Civil Defence officials, DIB Incharge, Rescue 1122 Incharge, while Deputy Commissioners and police officers of all districts joined via video

The session reviewed the tragic explo-



10 fatalities, and discussed the rising pattern of hazardous illegal activities in various parts of the division.

Commissioner, expressing deep

sion at a licensed firecracker factory in concern, said that the incident was "a Latifabad No. 10, which resulted in painful reminder that strict enforcement cannot be delayed any further." He emphasized that with the LPG season beginning, immediate coordinated action was essential to ensure future tragedies.

public safety.

The Commissioner instructed all Deputy Commissioners to submit updated survey reports immediately after field inspections.

DIG Hyderabad Tariq Razzaq Dharejo ordered all departments to seal every illegal firecracker unit without delay and shift all licensed setups out of populated areas. He also instructed that illegal LPG decanting be stopped immediately, operators booked in strict criminal cases, and LPG cylinder shops operating in residential areas be relocated.

The meeting concluded with a strong resolve to eliminate all illegal and hazardous activities from Hyderabad Division to safeguard lives and prevent

## Azad Kashmir Gets 20-Member Cabinet: 18 Ministers and 2 **Advisers Take Oath**

👺 Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: The 20-member cabinet of the Azad Government of the State of Jammu and Kashmir took oath of office. The cabinet includes 18 ministers and 2 advisers. The oath-taking ceremony was held on Wednesday at the Aiwan-e-Sadr. Acting President of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Chaudhry Latif Akbar, administered the oath to the ministers, while Prime Minister Raja Faisal Mumtaz Rathore administered the oath to the advisers.

The ceremony was attended by former President and Prime Minister Sardar Muhammad Yaqoob Khan, former Prime Minister Sardar Tanveer Ilyas General of Police, government secretaries, and a large number of Pakistan

Peoples Party workers. The Acting President administered the



Khan, the Chief Secretary, Inspector oath of office to the following members of the Legislative Assembly as Ministers: Mian Abdul Waheed, Sardar Javed Ayub, Javed Iqbal Budhanvi, Chaudhry Arshad Hussain, Chaudhry Muhammad

Rasheed, Ali Shan Soni, Syed Bazil Ali Naqvi, Sardar Muhammad Hussain Khan, Chaudhry Yasar Sultan, Chaudhry Ikhlaq Ahmed, Chaudhry Aamir Yasin, Sardar Zia-ul-Qamar, Zafar Iqbal Malik,

Diwan Ali Khan Chughtai, Chaudhry Muhammad Rafiq Nayar, Chaudhry Qasim Majeed, Sardar Faheem Akhtar Rabbani and Ms. Nabeela Ayub.

The Prime Minister administered the oath to Sardar Ahmed Sagheer and Sardar Fahad Yaqoob as Advisers to the

Secretary Services and General Administration Zafar Mehmood Khan read out the notification of the appointment of ministers and advisers.



## **Namaz Timings** Maghrib

### **EMERGENCY**

LIVIEROEIV	
Rescue (Police)	15
Bomb Disposal	15
Fire Services Rawalpind	i/
Islamabad	1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance.	1122 &
& Rescue Services	4451122
Motorway Police	9266044
Motorway Police9	270601-20

### **Women Police**

115
9222596
9270601-20

### **ENOUIRY**

Edhi Ambulance	115
PIA Flight Info	
PIA Cargo	9280979
Railway Inquiry	117
Railway Exchange	.9270831-5

### DC Mela visits industrial units to check pollution

#### 跨 zafar Chishti

TOBATEK SINGH: Under the environmental vision of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, the district administration of Toba Tek Singh is taking proactive measures to monitor industrial units and curb air pollution. Following the directives of Deputy Commissioner Umar Abbas Mela, Deputy Director Environment Shamim Ahmad Khan along with Inspector Irfan Khetran, inspected various industrial units across the city and surrounding areas.

During the inspection, one unit was found violating the Smog Rules 2023 and was sealed, while an FIR was lodged against another unit, which was also fined one lakh rupees for non-compliance. Deputy Commissioner Umar Abbas Mela stated that violations of environmental laws will not be tolerated. He emphasized that inspections will continue to ensure industrial compliance and to reduce air pollution and other environmen hazards in the district.

# Federal Minister inaugurates landmark Paediatric Dentistry Facility at Riphah **Dental Hospital**

#### 跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: In a landmark development for child healthcare in Pakistan, Riphah's Islamic International Dental Hospital (IIDH) has officially inaugurated its state-of-the-art Paediatric Dentistry Department, establishing one of the largest and most advanced facilities of its kind in the country. The launch underscores Riphah's unwavering commitment to world-class dental care, patient safety, and innovation, positioning the hospital as a national leader in specialized pediatric dental services.

The inauguration ceremony was graced by Sardar Muhammad Yousaf, Honorable Federal Minister for Religious Affairs, who formally cut the ribbon. Mr. Hassan Muhammad Khan, Chancellor and Managing Trustee of Islamic International Medical Khan, Executive Director Riphah, of quality and patient safety.

senior leadership, department heads, and other distinguished guests. In his address, Honorable Minister Sardar Muhammad Yousaf lauded IIDH's pioneering initiatives, stating: "The services provided by Riphah Dental Hospital are exemplary, and this new Paediatric Dentistry Department will be transformative for child dental care across Pakistan."

Mr. Hassan Muhammad Khan highlighted the strategic significance of the launch "Riphah Dental Hospital has long been a pioneer among private dental institutions in Pakistan. This Paediatric Dentistry Department represents a unique step forward, designed to cater to the evolving needs of our youngest patients with both compassion and clinical precision." He further shared that IIDH is the only dental hospital in Pakistan accredited to Canadian service College Trust, served as the Guest standards, a distinction that underscores of Honor, alongside Mr. Asadullah its commitment to global benchmarks



### Convocation

ISLAMABAD: Executive Director COMSATS, Ambassador Dr Mohammad Nafees Zakaria posing for a group photo after conferring Gold Medal to a Girl student, on her extra ordinary academic performance, during a Convocation 2025 at Jinnah Convention Center, in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

# Street Racing Tragedy: Two Brothers Killed in Multan Bypass Crash

### 👺 Zain Khan Malghani

MULTAN: A horrific accident at Multan Syedan wala Bypass Chowk has sparked widespread anger after two brothers were killed when a speeding car—allegedly part of an illegal street race-rammed their motorcycle. Police have arrested the secued driver, identified as Shamir Khan, son of Alamgir Khan, and initiated legal proceedings.

According to police and eyewitness accounts, Muhammad Muneeb Arshad and his brother Naveed from behind. One of the Arshad, accompanied by cars violently struck their identity of one of the racers as their friend Syed Ubaid motorcycle, sending all three Shamir Khan, who has been bles," one resident said. "Poor Shah of Tariqabad, Khan- students crashing onto the taken into custody. Further riders are fined daily, while the



ewal, were riding from BZU towards Sayedanwala Bypass. As they approached the MPS Road turn, two cars racing at reckless speed approached



Muneeb and Naveed died instantly from severe head injuries, while Ubaid Shah sustained critical wounds.

Police later confirmed the

investigation is underway.

The victims, both students, belonged to Khanewal. Residents say this was not an unavoidable accident but the direct result of reckless street racing and a complete lack of enforcement. They note that a similar fatal collision occurred on the same stretch just two months ago, yet authorities took no meaningful action

beyond removing a U-turn. Citizens accuse traffic wardens of disproportionately targeting motorcyclists while turning a blind eye to expensive cars. "Wardens treat luxury vehicles like untoucha-

rich speed away freely." People have also questioned the competence of the Multan Safe City system, claiming that high-speed races occur on this road every day without police intervention. When asked, a police officer responded that no complaints had been filed. Residents retorted that no one dares lodge complaints against powerful individuals, and ensuring road safety is the duty of the police not the

public. Residents warn that unless reckless drivers with strong connections are punished without exception, more young lives will continue to be lost on

# 39-day World Culture Festival 2025 entered its 20th day

### 👺 Bureau Report

KARACHI: The 39-day World Culture Festival 2025 entered its 20th day with a series of vibrant cultural activities, including a film screening, a music workshop, and a theatre performance. The romantic-comedy Pakistani film "Ready Steady No" was screened, a music workshop was conducted by Argentine artist Diana, and the theatre play "Running for My Life" captivated the audience. The day began with the film Ready Steady No. written and directed by Hisham Bin Munawar. The cast featured Faisal Saif, Amna Ilyas, Salman Shahid, Zain Afzal, Ismail Tara, Nargis Rasheed, Nayyar Ejaz, Marhom Ahmed Bilal, and Muneer Ahmed. The film's story revolves around Pakistan's social structure, traditional family mindsets, and the challenges faced by couples





artist Diana introduced students to of South African artists, young musi- into musical techniques. Diana also music composition, rhythm, and tech- cians, and students participated in the A music workshop led by Argentine niques of Latin music. A large number workshop, gaining valuable insight Music Academy.

performed alongside students of the

### NCSW Welcomes Passage of Balochistan Child Marriage Restraint Bill 2025

#### 👺 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW) warmly welcomes the passage of the Child Marriage Restraint Bill 2025 by the Balochistan Assembly a vital, long-awaited milestone for child protection, women's rights, and gender equality in Pakistan.

Chairperson NCSW, Ms. Ume Laila Azhar, stated, "This achievement reflects the cumulative outcome of NCSW's extensive nationwide consultations, during which political leaders, bureaucrats, religious scholars, civil society organisations, and members of the judiciary unanimously recognised the need to set 18 years as the minimum age of marriage. Importantly, religious scholars and the Council of Islamic Ideology have also acknowledged 18 as a just and reasonable age benchmark in the best interest of children. Their consensus reinforces one truth: safeguarding our children is a collective national responsibility."

Reiterating the urgency of uniformity across all provinces, Ms. Ume Laila Azhar added, "Standardizing 18 as the minimum age of marriage across Pakistan is not simply a legislative commitment, it is a moral, constitutional, and humanitarian responsibility. We must ensure consistent implementation, strengthened community vigilance, and a united resolve to secure safer and brighter futures

NCSW, in collaboration with national and international partner organisations, reaffirms its unwavering commitment to supporting provincial governments in enacting, harmonizing, and enforcing strong legal protections to end child marriage and promote the rights of every child in Pakistan.

### Aga Khan Maternal and Child Care Centre Hyderabad Empowers Children on World Children's Day 2025

### Kamran Khamiso Khowaia

HYDERABAD: The Aga Khan Maternal and Child Care Centre (AKMCCC) Hyderabad celebrated World Children's Day 2025 with a dynamic event focused on children's rights, preventive health, and empowerment. The programme, aligned with the global theme "Strong Voices. Equal Rights. Bright Futures," brought together school children, physicians, educators, and parents for a morning of learning, creativity, and celebration.

Students from Beaconhouse School Qasimabad, SOS Village Jamshoro, The City School Qasimabad, Piggott Memorial Girls High School Hyderabad, and Aga Khan Higher Secondary School Hyderabad showcased powerful role plays highlighting children's rights, equality, protection, education, and a safe environment.

Leading paediatric consultants Dr Heeramani Lohana and Dr Muhammad Hussain Shah delivered informative sessions on acute diarrhoea and children's rights, respectively. The nursing team promoted hand hygiene and healthy habits through interactive

Dr Syed Mairajuddin Shah, Chief Operating Officer, Off-Campus Hospitals at Aga Khan University Hospital, Pakistan, said, "We believe that when children are heard, supported, and empowered, they grow into confident, compassionate, and capable adults."

### Free SIM Distribution Begins Under BISP to Facilitate Women Across Attock District

#### 👺 Raza Nagvi

ATTOCK: The Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) has commenced the distribution of free SIM cards to eligible women across Attock district, with the process underway at the tehsil level. In Tehsil Attock, the distribution is being carried out at the District Council Stadium. More than 70,000 women across the district will receive these SIMs.

Speaking to journalists, Deputy Director Muhammad Hashim said that the purpose of issuing SIMs is to spare women from standing in long queues for payments. He added that representatives of the mobile company are present on site, ensuring that each SIM is issued and activated immediately.

According to the district plan, 7,000 SIMs are being distributed in Attock, 7,500 in Jand, 7,000 in Pindigheb, 11,000 in Fateh Jang, 13,000 in Hassanabdal, and 24,000 in Hazro. Hashim Chhina stated that the process will continue until December 31, and an extension may be considered if required to ensure full coverage.

Director General (OM), BISP Headquarters Islamabad, Fawad Kayani also visited Attock to review the arrangements. He said that one million women across the country will receive SIMs, describing the initiative as a major step toward strengthening the digital economy. He added that the measure will help empower women financially and reduce exploitation by enabling secure mobile-based cash transfers.

Asim Nazir Ahmad

Khurram Jaffrani (jaffrani@adpluse.pk

Naveed Ahmad Khan

Syed Afraz Ali Nazish

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

Editor:

Head Editorial Advisory Board: Amjad Mehmood

Bureau Chief Karachi:

Bureau Chief Lahore:

(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

# CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif to Develop Signal-Free Corridor in Rawalpindi

hief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif announced major development initiatives worth hundreds of billions of rupees while addressing inauguration ceremony of Phase -2 Electric Bus project in Rawalpindi. She directed to establish new bus station soon. She announced to launch a signal-free corridor worth Rs 30 billion in Rawalpindi, development of Thal Expressway from Rajanpur to Bhakkar and establishment of new cancer hospitals in Rawalpindi and DG Khan, following completion of Lahore Cancer Hospital. She stated that Nawaz Sharif Fly Over Adiala Road project is in its final stage of completion and citizens of Rawalpindi will be provided time saving travel facilities. She disclosed that the Punjab government is building a 25 km long signal -free corridor project comprising 09 underpasses and stretching from Islamabad Expressway up to Peshawar Road. She further announced a Rs100 billion rural drainage and sewerage system, along with a new anti-harassment law to ensure safer public spaces, especially for women. She noted, "80 green buses are a humble gift for Rawalpindi citizens." She said that Rawalpindi regained its beauty, cleanliness, and vibrancy due to rapid development projects. She added that 80 new green electric buses were now operational for the public, equipped with wi-fi, mobile charging ports, wheelchair access and a separate women's compartment monitored through CCTV cameras.

Chief Minister Punjab reiterated that women's safety remained her foremost priority. She vowed, "Until every mother and daughter feels safe in Punjab, I will not rest." She disclosed that fare for electric bus is set at Rs 20, while women, senior citizens, persons with disabilities and students will travel free of cost. She said that under the Punjab government's accelerated development agenda, 20,000 km of roads have been built in one year, 1,000 inter-village roads will be completed this year, no city in Punjab will have broken or dilapidated roads and The 14 km Wagah-Lahore Heritage Green Corridor transformed the area for tourists. She said Punjab is witnessing unprecedented progress. She highlighted, "Whatever development citizens of Rawalpindi witnessed in the past or today, it is either by Nawaz Sharif, Shehbaz Sharif or the present government." She credited PML-N for developing major national infrastructure. She outlined, "No one other than PML-N had ever laid even a

Highlighting progress in social sectors, Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif stated that 100,000 houses are under construction in just 10 months, adding that 350-400 houses are being built per day under 'Apni Chhat Apna Ghar' program. She maintained that Pakistan's first cancer hospital will begin treatment in January, adding that 20 cancer patients already received treatment with the advanced Co -Ablation Machine. She emphasized that Sargodha Institute of Cardiology after being completed will become operational soon.

# Trump-MBS Pact: F-35s, \$600 Billion and the End of Israel's Monopoly

**Qamar Bashir** 

Mohammed bin Salman stepped House lawn on 18 November 2025, it was not just a long-delayed rehabilitation of a controversial leader. It was the opening scene of a transactional revolution: a Saudi-American bargain that combines hundreds of billions of dollars in investment with the transfer of the United States' most advanced stealth fighter to a second power in the Middle East. According to a White House fact sheet, Saudi Arabia has already committed to invest some \$600 billion in the United States over coming years, spanning energy, critical minerals, technology and infrastructure. As part of this week's visit, officials say at least \$20 billion of that will be channelled specifically into U.S. artificial-intelligence data centres and digital infrastructure, locking Saudi capital into the next engine of American power.

That hardware has been used with devastating effect in Gaza since October 2023. After Hamas's attack that killed some 1.200 people in Israel, the subsequent war has, according to the Gaza Health Ministry and UN-cited tallies, killed more than 69,000 Palestinians by early November 2025, with total fatalities across Gaza and Israel now exceeding 71,000. Entire neighbourhoods were levelled, famine conditions took hold, and the word "genocide" moved from activist slogans into the vocabulary of UN officials, human-rights bodies and international courts. In much of the Arab and Muslim world, this confirmed a longheld belief: that American bases in Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait and elsewhere existed less to protect host countries than to guarantee Israel's ability to fight, occupy

nen Crown Prince and—when it chose—annex.

In that climate, the Trump-MBS summit is startling because it punctures the aura of untouchability around Israel's military monopoly. By opening the F-35 club to Saudi Arabia, Washington is no longer treating Israel as the only trusted

in the region. Instead, the United States is consciously elevating Riyadh into a nearpeer, even at the cost of re-arguing Israel's "qualitative military edge" in Congress and within its own law. The Council on Foreign Relations notes that maintaining that

edge has, for years, meant giving Israel the region's first access to new platforms and then compensating it when others received high-end kit. This time, it is Israel that must watch while another capital is courted with the crown jewels.

The strategic implications are far wider than one procurement line. Saudi Arabia is already deepening security ties with Pakistan, the Muslim world's only declared nuclear power, and has the financial capacity to buy nearly any conventional system it desires. The F-35 fleet would sit atop an ecosystem of imported missiles, air-defence networks and cyber capabilities, manned by Saudi officers but designed, trained and patched by a rotating cadre of American and allied technicians. In parallel, tens of billions in Saudi AI and tech investments will intertwine its fortunes with U.S. semiconductor fabs, data farms and software platforms. Economic leverage begins to flow in both directions: Washington sells arms and regulatory shelter; Riyadh deploys capital, energy coordination and polit-

ical cover in a turbulent region.

S. assets stand aside—or assist—during the destruction of Gaza, this shift carries another message. If the same American system that armed Israel can now empower a Saudi-led axis to sav "no" steward of fifth-generation air power to future adventures, the old equations

begin to crack. Arab governments, burned by the realisation that U. S. bases were used primarily to shield Israel rather than their own cities, will be under pressure to tether any future U.S. operations tightly to their national interest. If Israel again

contemplates annexation or large-scale attacks on neighbours from whose soil U. S. forces operate, they will not only face resistance from their populations but also from Gulf rulers who can now point to their own F-35 inventories and ask why they need foreign tripwires at all.

This changing geometry does not mean Israel is abandoned. Its cumulative \$300-plus-billion aid record, the active \$38-billion MOU and fresh wartime top-ups—at least \$16.3 billion in extra military support authorised since October 2023—ensure it remains embedded in the American security machine for years to come. But it does mean that the story of a Middle East entirely scripted by Israeli preferences and enforced by American power is fraying. The Trump-MBS handshake, buttressed by the promise of \$600 billion in Saudi investment and a prospective \$10-plus-billion F-35 package, says plainly that Washington now prices Saudi Arabia not just as a client but as a co-author of regional order.

Critics will rightly point to the moral For the Gulf publics who watched U. abyss: the Khashoggi assassination unresolved, political prisoners in Saudi jails, and an American weapons pipeline implicated in tens of thousands of Palestinian deaths. Supporters will counter that arming Saudi Arabia and tying its fortunes to advanced U.S. technology is the surest way to pull it permanently into a U. S.-led orbit and restrain more adventurist actors, from Tehran to non-state militias. Both readings may prove partly true. What is beyond dispute is that the Trump-MBS summit has fused money and metal on an unprecedented scale, producing a relationship where petrodollars, AI clusters and stealth fighters are all strands of the same rope.

> For decades, Middle Eastern observers have complained that Washington was effectively "run by Israel," its regional policy captured by a single small state with a huge lobby. This week's choreography at the White House does not magically dissolve that perception, but it does crack it. A United States willing to put F-35s in Saudi hands, welcome \$600 billion in Saudi investment, and accept some erosion of Israel's exclusive privileges is no longer acting as a wholly owned subsidiary of anyone. It is, for better or worse, reverting to something more dangerous and more interesting: a great power juggling multiple clients, playing off rival ambitions, and gambling that this time its bet-on Mohammed bin Salman, on Saudi capital, and on a re-armed Gulf-will produce stability rather than another cycle of catastrophe.

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



## Modi's Post-Bihar Victory and the Resurgent War Fever

and its allies' victory in the Bihar Assembly elections has once again bolstered Prime Minister Narendra Modi's political confidence. Achieved amidst record unemployment, escalating rural protests, and internal fissures within his own party, the triumph is less a testament to governance than to Modi's mastery of political theatrics. As domestic chala familiar strategy: projecting external threats, particularly Pakistan, to divert attention and

consolidate public support. The old narrative of India besieged by an adversary across the border has been revived with renewed intensity.

India's economic indicators tell a story of strain. Rising food inflation, stagnant rural incomes, and a near-record unemployment rate among youth have left many citizens disillusioned with Modi's

promises of transformation. Yet, in times of history. Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif's measdomestic vulnerability, Modi consistently turns outward. Pakistan becomes the convenient scapegoat—a focus for nationalist rhetoric and a distraction from growing domestic discontent. The timing is never coincidental.

**Khaliq Wasi** 

In this heightened environment, the recent blast in New Delhi became a perfect vehicle for political leverage. Without waiting for preliminary investigations or forensic evidence. Indian media and political leaders hastily suggested Pakistan's involvement. Yet early assessments by Indian investigators, combined with technical details from the site, pointed toward an internal cause with no cross-border link. Attempts to internationalize the incident were largely dismissed abroad, highlighting the limi-

he Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) tations of propaganda divorced from facts. Pakistan, by contrast, condemned the blast, called for transparent investigation, and reminded the world that it has long been a primary victim of terrorism. The contrast in conduct is stark: India weaponized the incident for domestic gain, while Pakistan responded responsibly, projecting restraint and credibility.

Despite rising rhetoric from New Delhi, Pakistan has chosen a posture of strategic calm lenges mount, the Prime Minister has reverted to combined with full readiness. Under the leadership of Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, the armed forces remain alert, capable, and prepared

to respond decisively to any provocation. The lessons of May 2025, when India's limited military adventurism was effectively countered, continue to inform Pakistan's posture. Any misadventure on India's part will now be met with timely and

overwhelming response. This preparedness is underpinned by political cohesion rarely seen in Pakistan's recent

ured leadership, Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar's diplomatic and economic management, and Field Marshal Munir's strategic direction have produced a unified national response. Civilian and military coordination has strengthened Pakistan's deterrent posture and enhanced its international credibility.

Global powers, while seeing India as a strategic counterweight to China, are acutely aware of the catastrophic consequences of conflict between two nuclear-armed neighbors. Consequently, Modi no longer enjoys the diplomatic latitude he once did. Western capitals are increasingly cautious about providing cover for Indian adventurism. Pakistan's consistent and transparent diplomatic messaging has exposed

Indian propaganda and positioned Islamabad as a responsible actor committed to regional

This evolving reality has created a new strategic equilibrium. Pakistan's improved command and control, rapid response capability, and institutional confidence demonstrated during the 2025 standoff send an unmistakable signal: India cannot escalate without consequence. Any future provocations will be met with measured yet decisive action. There is no emergency hotline waiting to shield New Delhi from the consequences of its own choices. No foreign power is prepared to intervene on India's behalf. Pakistan has demonstrated that it can protect its sovereignty through diplomacy when possible and through strength when necessary.

Modi and his government must come to terms with this new strategic landscape. War rhetoric may still excite elements of the Indian electorate, but it no longer alters the balance of power in South Asia. The region's stability now depends less on India's theatrics and more on Pakistan's disciplined, confident, and responsible approach.

Sooner or later, New Delhi will have to confront this reality. Pakistan's enhanced defensive capabilities, strategic clarity, and coherent national leadership leave no room for miscalculation. The message is clear: Pakistan will defend its territory, its sovereignty, and its national dignity-through wisdom, strength, and decisive collective action. South Asia has entered a phase where irresponsible adventurism will no longer be tolerated, and the strategic balance is firmly in Pakistan's hands.

The writer is a Former Member & Chairman Standing Committee of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Council. Islamabad, seasoned columnist, policy analyst, and advocate for Pakistani diaspora engagement. He can be reached at khaliqwasi786@gmail.com

### "A Region at the Edge" II

conomic vulnerabilities are equally ment, and economic corridors. The Muslim world concerning. South-Central Asia sits at the intersection of potential cannot flourish in an environment of diplomatic routes, and transit agreements will remain theoretical aspirations rather than operational realities. Afghanistan's geography is not just a location; indispensable. No state can demand trust while

it is an economic artery. When that artery is blocked by instability, the entire region experiences diminished economic

The humanitarian dimension adds a further layer of urgency. Millions of Afghans face food insecurity, limited employment opportunities, and restricted access to services. Interna-

a prolonged economic freeze risks creating a generational crisis. When a society's youth see no future, they become vulnerable to exploitation. This vulnerability poses a long-term security challenge not just for Afghanistan, but for every state within the region. Humanitarian crises are not isolated events; they are catalysts for migration, internal unrest, and cross-border tension. A responsible international posture must therefore prioritize humanitarian support not as charity but as strategic stabilization.

What, then, is required? The region needs vision rooted in realism, not idealism. Policymakers must acknowledge that Afghanistan's stability is not a favor to Kabul; it is a strategic necessity for the entire region. Engagement does not imply endorsement. Communication does not signify recognition. But silence and isola-

tion guarantee one outcome: deeper instability. Russia's role, though limited, can yield benefits if supported by regional partners willing to collaborate on counterterrorism, border manage-

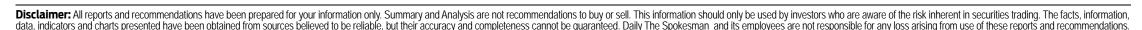
must move beyond rhetorical solidarity and establish practical frameworks for humanitarian and energy corridors, trade routes, and economic engagement. India must recognize that connectivity projects. These projects sustainable influence is built not through covert maneuvering but through transparent, confistrain and security unpredictability. States with dence-building diplomatic channels. Afghanambitions for regional connectivity know that istan's neighbors must realize that pressure without Afghan stability, pipeline projects, trade without dialogue leads to dead ends. Dialogue without realism leads to disappointment.

For Afghanistan itself, internal reform is

offering unpredictability. No government can seek legitimacy without demonstrating administrative competence and inclusive governance. Regional actors will engage more meaningfully when Kabul demonstrates stability, discipline, and a clear roadmap for governance. Until then, external skep-

Muhammad Akram Choudhry ticism will persist. The future of tional humanitarian organizations warn that South-Central Asia depends on choices made today. The region can pursue confrontation or coordination. It can adopt policies shaped by fear or policies guided by strategic maturity. It can allow external powers to dictate terms, or it can craft collective frameworks anchored in regional interests. The stakes are high: security, economic development, humanitarian well-being, and the

geopolitical future of an entire region. A commanding view of regional affairs demands candor: instability in Afghanistan is not an Afghan problem alone. It is a regional challenge with global implications. The path to stability requires sustained diplomacy, principled engagement, and a shared recognition that peace is not a passive condition; it is the outcome of deliberate and cooperative choices. The region stands at a pivotal crossroads. The direction it chooses will determine whether the coming decade is marked by progress or by prolonged uncertainty. The time to act responsibly is now, before the currents of instability become irre-



# Algeria hosts International Conference on the Crimes of Colonialism in Africa (30 November-1 December 2025)

跨 Spokesman Report

**ISLAMABAD:** Algeria will host, on 30 November and 1 December 2025. the **International Conference on** the Crimes of Colonialism in Africa, a major continental event organized in line with Union Assembly 903(XXXVIII), adopted in February 2025, which endorsed the offer made by the President of the Republic, Mr. Abdelmadjid Tebboune to convene in Algeria a conference dedicated to the celebration and implementation of the African Union Theme of the Year 2025: "Justice for Africans and People of African Descent world with the objective of through Reparations."

nation that has paid a heavy cultural heritage, and the presprice for colonialism and remains deeply committed to defending the dignity, memory, and rights of African peoples.

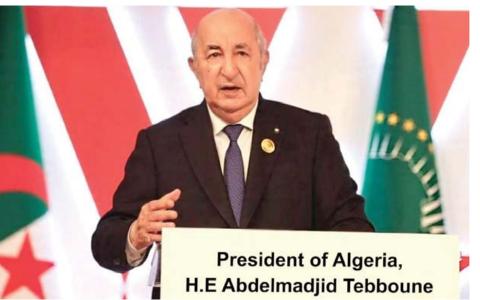
Under the leadership of President Abdelmadjid Tebboune, Algeria is working to strengthen collective reflection and action aimed at criminalizing colonialism, slavery, racial segregation and apartheid as crimes against humanity, in line with the relevant recommendations of the African

The Conference will bring together ministers, jurists, historians, academics and experts from Africa, the Caribbean, and other regions of the consolidating a unified African This initiative is rooted in position on historical justice, Algeria's historic legacy as a reparations, the restitution of

ervation of collective memory. The deliberations will

address the human, cultural, economic, environmental, and legal dimensions of colonial crimes, with a focus on intergenerational trauma, the spoliation and destruction of African cultural heritage, the exploitation of resources and the inequitable economic models inherited from colonialism.

The environmental impacts including nuclear testing conducted on African populations, as well as the legal pathways enabling the strengthening of the criminalization of colonialism and the establishment of a permanent African mechanism for reparations and restitution.



As host and initiator, strengthening Africa's archi- providing a high-level platform nition of colonial crimes and Algeria aims to contribute to tecture for historical justice, by to advance international recog- promote concrete mechanisms

for reparative action.

One of the key expected outcomes is the adoption of the "Algiers Declaration", which is intended to serve as a continental reference for the codification of colonial crimes. The recognition of their impacts, and the development of an African strategy for justice and reparations. This declaration will be submitted to the African Union Summit of February 2026 for consideration and endorsement.

Through this initiative, Algeria reaffirms its driving role and decisive contribution within the continent, by supporting African aspirations for justice, reparations, the preservation of historical memory, and the consolidation of a shared identity founded on dignity and the values of justice.

## Pakistan champions people-centred climate partnerships at COP30, urges new policy architecture for resilience

#### Spokesman Report

BELEM, BRAZIL: Paki- are rooted in the exclusion building a policy ecosystem stan made a strong pitch for of local communities from that unlocks private investa new global climate policy architecture at COP30, climate-vulnerable coungovernments, businesses, and communities.

At a high-profile panel jointly held by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) and Overseas Investors Chamber of (OICCI) titled Publicpeople-centred approach.

warned that climate risks "move faster than our insti-

to succeed. He stressed that Pakistan's climate priorities planning processes.

Abdul Aleem Ahmad, arguing that resilience in Secretary General, OICCI, reminded delegates that tries can only be achieved Pakistan remains one of the through a transformative world's most climate-vulmodel that brings together nerable countries amid recalling the catastrophic floods of 2022 and 2025. He said these disasters "did at the Pakistan Pavilion not just wash away infrastructure; they washed away lives, livelihoods, and years of progress."

He argued that Pakistan Commerce and Industry cannot afford to depend solely on public budgets or Private-People Partnerships international aid, noting that added that Pakistan's high stani officials, development - regulatory incentives, and a - IMF - commitments, - has finance experts and global new ecosystem that encour- made resilience increasingly corporate leaders called for ages private sector invest- unaffordable for vulnerable a decisive shift from tradi- ment at scale. According populations. Public-Privatetional public-private part- to Ahmad, the Publicnerships toward an inclusive, Private-People Partnership model offers a way forward In his welcome note, by combining public policy Dr. Abid Qaiyum Suleri, support, private innovation Executive Director, SDPI, and capital, and community ownership.

In her remarks, Aisha tutions," arguing that the Humera Chaudhry, Secrestate, market and commu- tary, Ministry of Climate Pakistan's industrial trannities must work together Change and Environ- sition will require long- driven and insurtech-driven

many adaptation failures at COP30 revolve around ment, embeds communities in decision-making, and strengthens legal, financial and monitoring frameworks. Pakistan, he said, sees PPPPs as the architecture through which adaptation can be scaled, financed and

> **Energy Economy Expert** from SDPI, Dr. Khalid Waleed argued that the era of climate disruption requires the expansion of traditional Public-Private Partnerships to incorporate communities as equal partners. He People Partnerships, he said, offer a shared financing structure that blends concessional public capital with private sector efficiency and community-level steward-

Dr. Urs Ruth of Robert Bosch GmbH warned that if resilience measures are mental Coordination said term policy stability, strong climate finance.

investment in hydrogen as a future industrial fuel. He stressed that grid stabilization and flexible industrial systems are central to community resilience and cautioned that weak incentive structures risk accelerating carbon leakage under evolving global carbon market rules.

IFC's climate finance chief Aurelien Boyer encouraged Pakistan to climate-proof all future projects, arguing that commercial banks are increasingly interested in green investments if risks are well-managed. He highlighted IFC's partnerships in Pakistan and pointed to for Climate Resilience and adaptation demands innova- cost of capital, combined blended finance, carbon Adaptive Frameworks, Pakitive financing models, clear with fiscal tightening under markets, insurance innovations and digital technologies as promising tools, urging governments to strengthen existing frameworks rather than reinventing them. SECP legal adviser Syed

Bulent Sohail emphasized the need for strong climate governance, credible carbon market rules, legally sound benefit-sharing systems that protect indigenous communities, and regulatory coherence to support fintech-

### Death Sentence for Husband in Sania Zahra Murder Case as Multan Court Delivers Major Verdict

#### 跨 Zain Khan Malghani

MULTAN: The long-running and high-profile Sania Zahra murder case reached its decisive conclusion on Monday when the Sessions Court Multan delivered a major verdict, bringing an intense chapter of legal battle to a close.

Additional Sessions Judge Mohsin Ali Khan announced the judgment, sentencing the prime accused Ali Raza the husband of the deceased to death. Ali Raza, handcuffed and flanked by police officers, was brought to the courtroom under tight security as the verdict was read out.

The court also handed life imprisonment to two other key accused: Haider Raza the victim's brother-in-law Azra Parveen the victim's mother-in-law. At the same time, the court acquitted three co-accused due to lack of evidence:

death shook the city last year. On 9 July 2024, her body was discovered hanging inside a room of her in-laws' house. Suspicion immediately fell upon members of the household, prompting



the registration of a case at New Multan Police Station. A total of six individuals. including the husband, brother-in-law, mother-in-law, and others, were nominated in the FIR No. 1634/24 PS New Multan under Sections 302, 148, 149."

The case was filed by the victim's Jeevan Shah father-in-law, Dua father, Asad Abbas Shah, who insisted ahra — sister-in-law. Madiha Ali - that his daughter had been murdered

challan submitted to court on 25 April shocking discovery in a quiet Multan 2025. Initially filed in the magistrate's home an ordeal that finally ended in court, the case was transferred to the the solemn atmosphere of a crowded District and Sessions Judge, who then

forwarded it to Additional Sessions Judge Saifullah for trial.

Judge Saifullah conducted 28 hearings, during which the accused were summoned, charges were framed, and witness testimonies were recorded. Later, on 29 September, the case was reassigned to Judge Mohsin Ali Khan, who oversaw 19 additional hearings before delivering the final judgment on 18 November.

Throughout the proceedings, the prosecution, represented by Deputy Prosecutor Mian Bilal Naeem, and the complainant's counsels, Shehryar Ahsan and Mian Rizwan Sattar, argued the case vigorously. Meanwhile, the accused were defended by lawyer Zia-ur-Rehman Randhawa, who presented the final arguments for the defense.

With 49 total hearings, dozens of witnesses, and months of intense courtroom deliberations, the Sessions Court's verdict marks a pivotal moment in the quest for justice for Sania Zahra. For Raza's former wife Sania Zahra's tragic rather than having taken her own life. her grieving family, it brings closure to The investigation culminated in a a harrowing ordeal that began with a

# "SALAM": A Landmark Musical Tribute Honouring the Vision and Legacy of H. H. Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan

#### **Spokesman Report**

DUBAI, UAE: Marking the 54th anniversary of the United Arab Emirates, a historic artistic moment has emerged from the region's multicultural landscape. For the first time in the history of the UAE, a Pakistani vocalist has released a dedicated musical tribute to the Founding Father of the Nation, H. H. Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan a figure whose leadership reshaped the destiny of an entire nation.

The song, appropriately titled "SALAM", is not merely a musical piece but a deeply reverent cultural offering. It reflects the profound admiration held by millions for Sheikh Zayed's humanitarian spirit, his transformative governance, and his unwavering commitment to unity, generosity, and national progress.

Performed by internationally acclaimed singer Sonia Majeed, the composition brings together the creative craftsmanship of Imrana Majeed (lyrics, concept, and production) and the musical sophistication of Samran Warsi, who directs the arrangement with cinematic grandeur.

"SALAM" stands as a symbolic gesture from the Pakistani and broader Asian community — a heartfelt message of gratitude to the UAE, its leadership, and its people. It pays homage to the deep historical ties between the two nations and acknowledges the UAE as a land of opportunity, coexistence, and

Released in conjunction with Eid Al he helped raise in 1971.



Ittihad, the song echoes themes of hope, loyalty, respect, and remembrance. It serves as a reminder that Sheikh Zaved's vision continues to resonate through every generation living under the flag

With eloquent verses that celebrate his legacy and a powerful chorus that elevates his memory, "SALAM" captures both emotion and national pride offering a timeless tribute befitting the stature of the revered Founding Father.

# The UK Sets Out the Toughest Asylum Reforms in Decades What the Public **Needs to Know**

跨 Barrister Gul Nawaz Khan

he Government has announced wide changes to the asylum system. The reforms aim to reduce irregular arrivals, increase removals of people with no right to stay and reshape the support given to those who are granted protection. Ministers say the current model encourages small boat crossings and creates pressure on public services.

Below is a clear summary for readers. It captures the main points without legal jargon and highlights what may matter most to families communities and migrants already in the system. Key changes at a glance. Refugee status becomes temporary, Settlement only after around twenty years unless moved to a work or study route, No automatic family reunion under temporary protection, End of hotel accommodation, Tighter asylum support rules and behaviour based conditions, One faster appeal instead of repeated claims, Increase in removals including families who can safely return, Visa penalties for countries that refuse to take back their nationals, Digital ID for right to work checks, Capped safe and legal routes with more community sponsorship. Temporary protection replaces the old

Refugees will no longer receive five years of leave which normally leads straight to settlement. Instead, successful applicants will receive 30 months of leave, which can be renewed only if protection is still needed. The Government says this mirrors systems in countries like Denmark.

Settlement will not be automatic. A person on temporary protection will need around twenty years of residence before applying. A faster route will exist only for those who move into a new work or study visa, pay the required fee



Family reunion will not be automatic. It will only be possible once a refugee transfers to the work or study route and meets similar requirements as other migrants. Changes to asylum

support The current duty to house destitute asylum seekers will change to a discretionary power. Support will depend on compliance with the rules. This means support can stop if a person: has the right to work and can support themselves, breaks UK laws or support conditions, refuses relocation, deliberately makes themselves destitute. A contribution system will apply to those who have some level of assets. The Government also wants to end the use of hotels and move people into larger sites including military bases. Faster removals for people with no

The Government wants more removals and fewer delays. A new appeals body will handle cases in a single faster process. People will have one appeal only, unless exceptional reasons exist. Other steps include: Resuming returns to countries where conditions have changed, Removing families where it is safe to do so, Using visa penalties for countries that refuse cooperation, Limiting late claims that are used to block removal, Tougher rules around modern slavery referrals that arrive at the last minute. Illegal working and right to work checks

There will be a stronger crackdown on illegal working. The Government plans a mandatory digital ID for right to work checks and more enforcement in sectors like hospitality delivery work and construction. Safe and legal routes will continue with limits

The Government says the UK will remain open to genuine refugees but only through controlled safe and legal routes. There will be an annual cap based on what communities can support. More focus will be placed on community sponsorship and new capped routes for refugee students and skilled refugees. Will current asylum seekers be affected

This is important. These changes are not yet law. They will require new legislation likely through 2026. People with: pending asylum claims, pending appeals, existing refugee status, indefi-

nite leave to remain will continue under the current rules until the new law takes effect. There will be no retroactive impact on those who

already have status. The wider picture The Government argues that the UK has become an attractive destination because of generous protection long appeals and slow removals. These reforms aim to bring control reduce irregular arrivals and maintain public confidence while keeping protection for those who genuinely need it.

Supporters say the changes are overdue. Critics warn that temporary protection may create instability for refugees and increase pressure on communities. As the legislation moves forward the focus will be on whether the reforms strike the balance between fairness firmness and compassion.

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

'``' Index Fluctuatior				
Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index				
Current	Prev. Close			
162,226.27	160,935.13			
Day's High	Day's Low			
162,741.73	161,279.02			
Index Value	Change			
31,581,812,257	+1291.14			
Percentage	Time			
+0.8%	19 Nov, 2025 4:30 pm			
Europe: FTSE 100 Index				
Index Value	Change			
9,507.41	-44.89			
Percentage	Time			
-0.47%	19 Nov, 4:35 pm GMT			
<b>USA: Dow Jones I</b>	ndustrial Average			
Index Value	Change			
45,999.35	-92.39			
Percentage	Time			
-0.20%	19 Nov, 12:10 pm GMT-5			

	GIVI 1-5			
Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average				
Index Value	Change			
48,537.70	-165.28			
Percentage	Time			
-0.34%	19 Nov, 3:45 pm GMT+9			

Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	185.6	190.6
Bahrain Dinar	747.15	754.65
Canadian Dollar	205.85	212.85
China Yuan	39.25	39.65
Danish Krone	43.2	43.6
Euro	332.35	335.85
Hong Kong Dollar	35.8	36.15
Indian Rupee	3.10	3.19
Japanese Yen	1.8773	1.9773
Kuwaiti Dinar	914.25	923.25
Malaysian Ringgit	66.65	67.25
NewZealand \$	156.25	158.25
Norwegians Krone	27.4	27.7
Omani Riyal	731.75	739.25
Qatari Riyal	76.55	77.25
Saudi Riyal	75.75	76.35
Singapore Dollar	217.25	222.05
Swedish Korona	29.2	29.5
Swiss Franc	346.2	348.95
Thai Bhat	8.55	8.7
U.A.E Dirham	76.9	77.9
UK Pound Sterling	381.2	384.2
US Dollar	281.65	281.9

# IHC Dismisses Kingdom Valley's Petition in favor of CCP

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court has dismissed the writ petition filed by Kingdom Valley (Pvt.) Limited against the PKR 150 million penalty imposed by the Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP). The Court ruled that the petition was not maintainable because the Competition Appellate Tribunal (CAT) is now functional.

The petition was filed when CAT was not operational due to the absence of its chairman. At that time, the Court had granted an interim stay on recovery. During Wednesday's hearing, the petitioner argued the case in detail. The Court, however, noted that the Tribunal is now available as the proper forum for appeal.

CCP's counsel informed the Court that CAT has already taken up Kingdom Valley's appeal. He also stated that CAT has not granted any stay. After hearing both sides, the Court dismissed the writ petition for being not maintainable. This has cleared the way for the appeal proceedings before CAT.

Earlier, CCP had fined Kingdom Valley PKR 150 million for misleading advertising. The Commission found that the company marketed its project as "Kingdom Valley Islamabad," although the project is located in Mouza Choora, Rawalpindi.

The company also misrepresented links with the Naya Pakistan Housing Program and NAPHDA. It advertised the project as "NOC approved" without proper disclosure.

A two-member CCP bench held that the company violated Sections 10(2) (a) and 10(2)(b) of the Competition Act, 2010. The Commission also noted further non-compliance related to

financial disclosures. With the High Court's decision, the matter will now proceed before the Competition Appellate Tribunal. The appeal is pending there, and no stay exists on CCP's order.

# Qaiser Sheikh inaugurates Pakistan Energy & Exhibition Conference

**Spokesman Report** 

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Board of Investment, Mr. Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh, inaugurated the Pakistan Energy & Exhibition Conference 2025 (PEEC-2025) today in Islamabad, formally opening the exhibition with a ribbon-cutting ceremony. During the event, the Minister addressed the media and emphasized the government's commitment to strengthening Pakistan's energy sector and promoting investment.

In his address, Federal Minister Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh highlighted that modern technology and strategic investment are key to ensuring energy security in Pakistan. He stated that Pakistan is entering a new era in energy policy, refining, and exploration, which positions the country as an attractive destination for national and international investors.

The Minister underscored that strong partnerships with global energy companies are central to the government's strategy and that Pakistan possesses immense potential in the energy sector, including opportunities in exploration,



refining, and downstream industries. He described PEEC-2025 as an ideal platform for fostering new partnerships, innovative solutions, and actionable strategies for sustainable energy development.

Federal Minister Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh also highlighted the broader economic vision under the leadership of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, stating that the government is taking proactive measures to enhance industrial competitiveness, upgrade refining capacity, improve energy infrastructure, and create a more conducive environment for investors

The minister noted that Pakistan offers investment opportunities in the minerals sector, is strengthening the foundations for export growth, is addressing investor security concerns, and is providing tax-free Special Economic Zones.

The Board of Investment, under the leadership of Federal Minister Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh, remains fully committed to promoting investment and supporting both domestic and foreign investors for a prosperous and energy-secure Pakistan.

### Woman Entrepreneurship Day

ISLAMABAD: SMEDA & FPCCI mark Women's Entrepreneurship Day with national participation of businesswomen and invited SAPM on Industries and Production Haroon Akhtar Khan on Wednes-



# **BusCaro Surpasses 20 Million Bookings**

**Example 2** Commerce Desk

LAHORE: Pakistan-based mobility platform BusCaro has surpassed 20 million bookings, marking a significant milestone for a service that began in 2022 with a single bus operating out of the founder's living room. The company's growth reflects rising demand for safer and more reliable daily transport options across the country's largest urban centres.

Launched to address longstanding gaps in Pakistan's urban transit ecosystem, BusCaro operates in Karachi, Lahore, Islamabad, and Rawalpindi through B2B and B2B2C partnerships. It currently serves employees and students from more than 80 corporate, educational, and institutional clients.

Limited public transport infrastructure, safety concerns, and rising mobility costs continue to affect millions of daily commuters, with women and children particularly impacted.



current ridership comprises women and

"Safety is a central issue for commuters According to the company, 70% of its in Pakistan," Founder and CEO Maha zero safety incidents across its network.

Shahzad said, pointing to the high rates of harassment faced by women using public transport. Since its launch, BusCaro reports

### Allama Hisham Ellahi Zaheer visits ICCI, delivers inspiring address Commerce Desk with honesty, fairness, and responsibility.

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) hosted an enlightening session with renowned Islamic scholar Allama Hisham Ellahi Zaheer, who delivered a captivating address on the importance of ethical business practices, purity of of avoiding interest-based transactions in Islam.

Zaheer deeply engaged the audience with his insightful remarks, noting that Islam not only encourages business worship when conducted the session.

In his welcome address, ICCI President Sardar Tahir Mehmood expressed gratitude to the distinguished scholar for honouring ICCI with his presence.

Senior Vice President Tahir Ayub, Vice President Mohammad Irfan Chaudhry, executive members Zulgurincome, and the imperative nain Abbasi, Attique ur Rehman, former Senior Vice Presidents Naveed Allama Hisham Ellahi Malik and Ashfaq Chattah, along with ICCI members Chaudhry Zahid Rafique, Nawaz Basra, Israr ul Haq Mishwani, and a large but elevates it to the level of number of traders attended

### **Container Backlog at KICT Resolved: KCAA Notes Operational Improvement**

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Sheikh Waqas Anjum, General Secretary of the Karachi Customs Agents Association (KCAA), has stated that the recent container backlog at Karachi International Container Terminal (KICT), which had been causing delays and operational difficulties, has now been

improvement was made possible through effective coordination between KCAA, Pakistan Customs KICT Management. KCAA remained in constant contact with all stakeholders to ensure

a timely resolution of the

KCAA acknowledged the efforts made by the Customs Department and the management of KICT in restoring the normal workflow. At the same time, KCAA emphasized the importance of maintaining such efficiency consistently to prevent similar backlogs from occurring in the future.

The Association reaf-He stated that this firmed its commitment to closely monitoring port operational matters and staying in constant communication with Customs authorities Appraisement (West), and and Terminal Operators to safeguard the interests of its members and ensure smooth trade facilitation.

### Mr. Altaf Hussain Assumes Charge as Managing Director of National Grid Company of Pakistan Limited faculty salaries ISLAMABAD: The Senate

**Example 2** Commerce Desk

LAHORE: Mr. Altaf Hussain has assumed charge as Managing Director of the National Grid Company of Pakistan Limited

Mr. Hussain brings over three decades of international experience in the power transmission and distribution sector. He began his career with the Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA) in 1987, where he served for more than ten years. He later relocated to Canada, where he spent 27 years working in the power sector, most recently as the Director of Asset Strategy and Planning at BC Hydro, one of the major Canadian electric utility. In this role, electrification, and the energy transition.



he led major initiatives in grid resilience,

Throughout his international career, Mr. Hussain remained committed to returning to Pakistan to contribute to the country's energy sector.

His appointment comes at a crucial time as NGC transitions from the former National Transmission and Despatch Company (NTDC) under the government's restructuring program. This reform has established NGC as the national transmission service company, alongside two newly created entities: the Independent System and Market Operator (ISMO) and the Energy Infrastructure Development and Management Company (EIDMC). The restructuring aims to enhance transparency, efficiency, and sectoral performance.

# **Senate body reviews** key finance issues including Islamic bank, The Committee examined

Standing Committee on Finance and Revenue, chaired by Senator Saleem Mandviwalla, held a comprehensive review of multiple matters at Parliament house Wednesday.

The Committee discussed a point raised by Senator Zarqa Suharwardy regarding reports that some Islamic banks are compelling female employees to wear abayas. State Bank officials clarified that dress code policies vary across banks, and the Committee members emphasized for a regulatory notification by the State Bank of Pakistan requiring only modest, professional dress.

the discussion on Starred Question, raised by Senator Kamran Murtaza and referred from the House on 9th October 2025, regarding the reported Rs. 375 trillion financial irregularities.

It was noted that this figure resulted from a typographical error in the consolidated executive summary, which was verified and corrected by the Attorney General. confirming that no statutory report contained the error, while a fact-finding inquiry is also underway. The Auditor General will provide a full briefing on the Rs. 9 trillion figures in a separate session.

# Regular cricket events, an evidence of Pakistan's positive image, peace: PM





ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Wednesday, said that the continuous host-Pakistan was evidence of the country's positive image, peace, and stability.

demonstrated by three teams, particable, adding the players were repre- Basutu.

senting their respective countries in an exemplary manner.

He urged the players to keep on displaying sportsmanship and mutual respect in the matches, setting ing of international cricket events in a guiding example for the younger

The luncheon was also attended The prime minister hosted a by Chief Minister Sindh Syed Murad luncheon at the PM's House in the Ali Shah, Interior Minister and PCB honour of the cricket teams of Paki- Chairman Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi, stan, Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe, Minister for Information and Broadparticipating in the Tri-Nation Series. casting Attaullah Tarar, Minister for The prime minister observed that Railways Muhammad Hanif Abbasi, the passion, skill, and dedication Sri Lankan High Commissioner Rear Admiral Fred Seniviratne and Zimbaipating in the series were commend- bwean High Commissioner Titus Abu

The prime minister also lauded Pakistan Cricket Board Chairman Mohsin Naqvi, under whose leadership, he said the PCB was successfully conducting all matches of the series with excellent arrangements, effective strategy and high professional

The ongoing Tri-Nation Series was providing cricket buffs with top-quality cricket, he further opined.

He expressed the hope that cricket would further strengthen the bonds of friendship and cooperation among the three nations and reiterated that Pakistan would continue to host international teams in the same spirit in





# Colony Gymkhana, Pak Star and Millat CC Triumphs in S. M. Adil Zone-IV Inter Club Cricket Tournament

Sports Desk

KARACHI: Three more matches were decided in the S. M. Adil Zone-IV Inter Club Cricket Tournament at various Grounds of the City. The tournament is Being organized by Region al Cricket Association Karachi Zone IV.

The highlights of the days play was good bowling by Ushab Iqbal 4/23 and some good batting by Faisal Awan 75, Saad Murtaza 61 and Waseem Ahmed 52.

Scores in Brief: 125 all-out in 28 overs. Muhammad Zahid 20.



Siddique 3/20, Jawwad Ali

Colony reply Gymkhana 128/3 in 18 Colony Gymkhana beat overs. Muhammad Sajid Al-Mumtaz Cricket Club 27 not out, Jawwad Ali 23, 7 Wickets. Al-Mumtaz CC Abdul Saeed 20, Zain Arif 19 not out. Later Ushab Muhammad Ishaq 41 Iqbal of Colony Gymkhana 176 all-out 35 overs. Faisal 4x4, Nabeel Ahmed 23, declared Man of the Match.

Ushab Iqbal 4/23, Ahmed Star Cricket Club beat Union Sports by 50 runs. Pak Star CC 226 all-out in 35 overs. Saad Murtaza 61 5x4, Masood Ali 39, Rehan Khan 22, Muhammad

Bilal 4/27, Maiid Ali 3/50. In reply Union Sports Awan 75 6x4 1x6, S. M. In the 2nd Match Pak Mehdi 33, Khalid Abbasi

Masoom 22. Muhammad

31 not out. Huzaifa Saud 2/25, Abdullah Zaki 2/29, Muhammad Masoom 2/36, Raja Aftab 2/40. After the end of the Match Saad Murtaza of Pak Star CC declared Man of the Match.

In the 3rd Match Millat ricket Club beat Bright Cricket Club by 2 runs. Millat CC 199 all-out in 34.5 overs. Waseem Ahmed 52 5x4, Arfat Jameel 25. Abdul Rehman 3/47, Umair Ali 2/11, Asad Mughal 2/41.

In reply Bright CC 197 all-out in 34.1 overs. Umair Ali 50 4x4, Abbas Naqvi 44, Asad Mughal 29, Arsalan Khan 25, Aqeel Khan 22. Shahid Hussain 3/4, Junaid Khan 3/23. Later Waseem Ahmed received the Man of the Match.

## AJGL dedicate it's first-ever WAGR event to Taimur Hassan Amin

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Ace Junior Golf League (AJGL) has dedicated it's first-ever World Amateur Golf Rank-

22, will be played at Pakistan's finest golfing masterpiece, the Signature Nick Faldo-designed Rumanza Golf Course, Multan, said a press release.

Few names command the respect, admiration, and enduring legacy that Taimur Hassan Amin holds in the world of golf. His illustrious career spans unmatched national dominance, remarkable international victories, and decades

His key playing achievements include Youngest National Champion, winning in 1971 at the age ing (WAGR) event to one of of 18; Holder of an unprece-Champion in 1974, 1976,

> international Amateur Triumphs are Sri Lanka Amateur Champion in 1975, 1986, and 1987; Multiple-time Victoria Cup Winner in Sri Lanka; Best Amateur Honors at the German Open, Malaysian Open, Singapore Open, and Indonesian Open; Cham-

Asia-Pacific Amateur Team Championship (Nomura Cup), Kuala Lumpur.

He is the only Pakistani golfer to receive the President's Pride of Performance Pakistan's greatest golfing dented 16 National Amateur Award (1993) a distin- alism and expertise have icons, Taimur Hassan Amin. Titles, including 11 consec- guished mark of national ensured the event's smooth The championship, sched- utive from 1970 to 1981, a excellence. He was elected and world-class execution. led from November 21 to — national record that remains — Secretary in 2005; re-elected — Ms. Iffat Zahra, the Tourna unbroken; Pakistan Open in 2009 and later served as Vice President of the Pakistan Golf Federation (PGF).

The WAGR event stands as a powerful testament to Pakistan's rising footprint on the global golfing map. It is being organised under the guidance of Gen. Hilal Hussain (R), Patron-in-Chief AJGL, Ex President tion. His journey continues Pakistan and through the to pave the way for young unwavering commitment Pakistani golfers triving for pion of the Bahrain Open, of Dr. Asma Afzal Shami, national and international UAE Amateur, and Thomas Chairperson AJGL. As she of leadership, dedicated to Cook Open (India); Indistates, "AJGL is a Cause!" A

advancing the sport across vidual Champion, 1977 philosophy that continues to drive the league's vision.

Supporting her in this endeavour is Ms. Munazza Shaheen, the Tournament Director and Chief Referee, whose professionment Coordinator, has also proven indispensable to the successful conduct of the championship.

Dedicating this inaugural WAGR event to Taimur Hassan Amin is more than a tribute, it is a recognition of a lifetime devoted to excellence, service, and inspira-

# From Screens to Strength-Pakistan's Physical Literacy Awakening

between mind and body. It encompasses more than just fitness; it includes moti- In Pakistan, with already uneven access vation, confidence, competence, and to healthcare, such preventable health knowledge for appreciating and maintaining active living: instilling a lifelong love for movement and well-being.

For Pakistan, with a growing youth population facing unemployment, drug abuse, stress, and excessive screen exposure, promoting physical literacy offers a powerful path to healthier citizens and stronger human resources-essential for sustainable national development.

Defined by Margaret Whitehead as "the motivation, confidence, physical competence, knowledge, and understanding to value and take responsibility for engagement in physical activities for life," physical literacy is a lifelong and inclusive concept open to all, regardless of age or ability. For children, it means joyful movement and skill development; for youth, meaningful engagement in sports or recreation; and for adults, sustained activity that preserves health and independence.

However, the digital revolution has brought about a change in lifestyles. In Pakistan, increased access to smartphones, online gaming, and social media have resulted in children spending more than six hours a day in front of screens -a trend accelerated by the COVID-19 pandemic. The less children play outdoors, the higher the rate of physical inactivity, a growing public health

The effects of reduced physical

n today's technology-driven an increase in obesity, diabetes, cardiworld of screens and seden- ovascular diseases, and postural probtary routines, physical literacy lems among children and adolescents. has emerged as one of the most According to the WHO, physical inacvital means to restore balance tivity is one of the major risk factors contributing to mortality in the world. problems put a great burden on families and the economy.

It is also closely related to psychological problems such as anxiety, depression, low self-esteem, and social isolation. Young people who grow up in virtual realities often lose the capability of interacting meaningfully in real life. They may experience diminished empathy, poor communication skills, and emotional instability-all challenges that weaken the social fabric.

Idle youth detached from physical activity are also cut off from community life and more susceptible to drug abuse and extremist ideologies. Energy and creativity have nowhere to go, leading often to frustration, aggression, and a sense of hopelessness. On the contrary, physical literacy programs channel the youth's potential into positive, goal-oriented, and community-driven actions.

Physical literacy offers a holistic solution to many of these interrelated issues. Promoting movement, play, and physical engagement, it consequently supports health, education, social cohesion, and economic productivity.

Physical literacy enables an individual to take part consistently in lots of different physical activities, which will develop their endurance, strength, coordination, and flexibility. Regular physical activity releases endorphins, which in turn reduce stress, anxiety, and activity are staggering. There has been depression-natural remedies for mental

health challenges. Per Boot, physically active people also have stronger immune systems, better sleep patterns, and higher energy levels that can enhance overall well-being.

Discipline, teamwork, goal-setting, and perseverance are learned through physical activity. Sports and active play give youth important life lessons on how to handle success and failure, thereby developing emotional intelligence and resiliency-important attributes for navigating life's challenges and life's successes personally and professionally.

Community-based physical activities, from impromptu neighborhood cricket games to school sports days and family

strengthen social bonds and foster inclusion. Physical literacy creates experiences shared across socio-economic divisions, ethnic backgrounds, and gender lines. It fosters an environment of empathy, cooperation, and

belonging-important components of peaceful, cohesive societies Healthy, confident, and physically

capable people are more productive at work and in life. For Pakistan, with more than a 60% share of the population under age 30, investing in physical literacy means an investment in its greatest asset: its young people. Young people who are active and motivated are more likely to seek out education, adopt skills, and become significant contributors to the economy.

Besides, sports, fitness, and recreation industries can open up new avenues for employment-from coaches and trainers

to physiotherapists, event organizers, and entrepreneurs. This thus falls in line with the country's goals of empowering youth and ensuring sustainable devel-

Education provides the most effective platform for promoting physical literacy. Schools are where children spend most of their formative years and where lifelong habits, values, and attitudes toward health and activity will be established.

Traditional physical education classes in many schools in Pakistan have emphasized mainly competitive sports, often sidelining the less athletic students in those processes. Contrasted with that, physical literacy shifts the focus from

performance to participation. Every child, regardless of ability, will be encouraged to explore movement in a style that's both enjoyable and rewarding to them. This inclusive approach ensures that all students develop

**Abu Zafar Sadiq** confidence in their bodies and a lifelong love for physical

Physical activity should not be confined to PE classes alone. Movement-based learning might be integrated into such subjects as science. language, and social studies in order to increase engagement and cognitive performance. For example, teaching geometry with body shapes or environmental science with outdoor exploration links learning with physical experience.

Teachers hold a critical role in the development of physical literacy. Adequate training courses should provide teachers with theoretical and

practical knowledge on active play, active role. Encouraging children to play learning, inclusive games, and health promotion. Physical literacy should be an integral part of university and teacher education institute curricula, ensuring that future generations of teachers are prepared accordingly.

Adequate playgrounds, sports facilities, and safe outdoor spaces are highly important for the implementation of the programs on physical literacy. Government policy should make sure that every urban and rural educational institution provides opportunities both for structured and unstructured physical activity. Resource gaps can be bridged through partnerships with private sectors, NGOs, and community organizations.

Beyond schools, physical literacy has to become a community value. Pakistan enjoys a very strong tradition of outdoor play and traditional sports and gamesfrom hide and seek and gilli danda, burf pani, kokla chahpati, rope skipping, kushti etc.. Reviving traditional sports and games through community events can reawaken the joy of movement.

Local governments, NGOs, and youth organizations can develop periodic sports festivals, walking clubs, fitness challenges, and other campaigns for creating awareness about active lifestyles. Media campaigns touting the benefits of physical literacy will help change societal attitudes away from passive screen-based entertainment toward active recreation. Pakistan Council for Traditional Sports & Games, under the umbrella of UNESCO, is working for the revival of traditional sports and games in Pakistan, but they need support of the stakeholders to revive the sport with required pace.

Parents also play a very important

outdoors, participate in household chores, or go for evening walks fosters a family culture of movement. When children see adults enjoying physical activity, they are more likely to adopt the same behaviors.

For Pakistan, where human capital needs to be healthy, skilled, and socially cohesive for sustainable development, physical literacy can act as a foundational driver of progress.

But in a world increasingly dominated by screens and virtual engagement, physical literacy, especially for children and youth, is a lifeline. Amongst the most important connections it restores are between body and mind, through health, confidence, and resilience. The love of movement can instill among young people in Pakistan ways to counter apathy, stress, and vulnerability due to digital addiction, unemployment, and social pressures that may even lead

to drug abuse or extremism. The embedding of physical literacy in schools, universities, and communities has the power to transform the future of the nation. Active children become healthier learners; engaged youth grow into motivated, skilled, and productive citizens. Such change not only upgrades quality of life but strengthens Pakistan's greatest resource for growth: its human

Advocating and implementing physical literacy is therefore not only a health initiative but a national development strategy. By empowering our younger generations to move, connect, and thrive, Pakistan can build a future that is healthier and more hopeful.

The writer is visiting faculty of Riphah Intl. University, Islamabad

# The Spokesman

# Corporate Philanthropy Report ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb addressing the Launch and Award Ceremony of the Corporate Philanthropy Report 2024 on Wednesday.

# PM Shehbaz calls for revival of tolerance as Pakistan's foundational value on World **Tolerance Day**

跨 Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday led the World Tolerance Day celebrations here at the Prime Minister's Office, reaffirming that the very philosophy behind the creation of Pakistan was rooted in tolerance, patience, and peaceful coexistence. Addressing the

ering, the prime minister said that Pakistan emerged after immense sacrifices under the leadership of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, who brought together people from different walks of life, beliefs, and backgrounds.

ISLAMABAD: Four terror-

Fitna Al Khawarij were killed

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

in multiple engagements in exchange of fire.

On a tip off, an intelli- neutralized in intelligence

News Desk



During the operation, District.

Two more khawarij were kharji.

troops effectively tracked the

a terrorist after an intense

ists belonging to Indian proxy khawarij location and killed took place in Dera Ismail

light "till the Day of Judg- Prophet's example is "a great ment," reminding the nation treasure" teaching patience, that all faiths in Pakistan were tolerance, and compassion. to enjoy liberty and live together Citing the Treaty of Hudaybi-He said Quaid-e-Azam's in harmony. Recalling the life yyah, he said the Holy Prophet stan's society will once again historic August 11, 1947 of the Holy Prophet (PBUH), (PBUH) chose peace and standstrong and dignified," he speech will remain a guiding the prime minister said the restraint despite the compan-

Four more Indian-sponsored terrorists killed in KP

In another encounter that

Khan District, troops success-

fully neutralized one more

Weapons and ammunition

gence based operation was based operations conducted were recovered from Indian relentless Counter Terrorism supported terrorism from

forces in Bajaur District. Zakir Khel, North Waziristan killed in the operation. He e Istehkam" (as approved

ions' desire to complete Hajj in the face of opposition.

PM Shehbaz Sharif said that World Tolerance Day invites Pakistanis to relearn the greatest lessons of forgiveness and moral courage. Referring to the conquest of Makkah, in peace and dignity. He urged and recognized the truth of his actions. message of compassion and brotherhood.

He stressed that tolerance and patience are shared values across all revealed religions, including the teachings of Prophet Isa (AS). "If we revive these values of tolerance, compassion, and unity, Paki-

remained actively involved

Sanitization operations are

being conducted to eliminate Pakistan will continue at

any other Indian sponsored full pace to wipe out menace

kharji found in the area as of foreign sponsored and

in numerous terrorist activi-

ties in these areas.

The PM appreciated the soulful presentation of South Punjab Sufi poet's verses by Areeb Azhar during the ceremony and prayed for Pakistan where all schools of thought and all faith communities live

he said that even the fiercest citizens to pledge not only opponents of the Holy Prophet to speak of tolerance but to BUH)admitted their mistake demonstrate it through their "Pakistan Paindabad," he

concluded.

Minister for Law and Justice. Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar, Former Senator Kamran Michael, NCSW Chairperson Umme Laila Azhar and Dr Samuel Rizk, UNDP Resident Representative highlighted Quaid-e-Azam's vision for a tolerant and harmonious

by Federal Apex Committee

on National Action Plan)

by Security Forces and Law

Enforcement Agencies of

### **National Assembly Secretariat Responds** to MNA Dogar on **Leader of Opposition Appointment Rules**

👺 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The spokesperson of the National Assembly Secretariat has stated that National Assembly Secretariat has formally issued a written response to MNA Malik Muhammad Amir Dogar (NA-149) regarding his letter dated 6th October 2025 regarding the appointment of tion. the Leader of the Opposition.

According to the spokesperson, the response letter draws attention to Rules 39 and 39-B of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the National Assembly, 2007,

which outline the procedure for the submission of names and the declaration of the Leader of the Opposition. As stipulated under Rule 39(2), the Honourable Speaker announce the date, time, and place for Members of the National Assembly to submit their duly signed proposals for the appointment of Leader of Opposi-

The response further conveys that, in line with parliamentary practice, such announcements are made on the floor of the House, allowing all Members an equal opportunity to propose a candidate for the position.

## DPM/FM's Meeting with President of the U Council



**Spokesman Report** 

BRUSSELS: Deputy Prime Minister/ Foreign Minister, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, called on the President of the EU Council, Antonio Costa on 19 November 2025 in Brussels, Kingdom of Belgium.

noted with satisfaction the posi- steadfast commitment to multilattive trajectory of the Pakistan-EU eralism. relationship and agreed to further strengthen the mutually beneficial working together to advance partnership across various domains. common priorities and deepen coop-

appreciated the EU's support to Pakistan both bilaterally and on multilateral platforms.

The delegations exchanged views on various areas of mutual interest, including GSP Plus, trade and economic cooperation expansion, and regional and global security devel-During the meeting, both sides opments. They also reaffirmed their

The DPM/FM acknowledged and eration across key sectors.

### Pakistan, Indonesia conclude Shaheen Strike-II joint military exercise

**Spokesman Report** 

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan-Indonesia joint military exercise Shaheen Strike-II concluded successfully on November 18, highlighting the combat readiness and counter-terrorism capabilities of both nations' armed forces.

Conducted from November 8-19, 2025, the exercise focused on the Counter Terrorism (CT) domain. with combat teams from the Pakistan Army and the Indonesian Army

Training included operations in military relationship.

built-up areas and counter-improvised explosive device (IED) measures, with all objectives achieved.

The closing ceremony was attended by a Pakistani General Officer as Chief Guest, alongside senior Indonesian military officials. Troops from both countries

demonstrated operational excellence and high standards of professionalism throughout the drills. Officials said Shaheen Strike-II

strengthened defence cooperation between Pakistan and Indonesia and added a new chapter to the bilateral

## Federal Minister Qaiser Sheikh Meets MAERSK Delegation

conducted by the security in general areas Spinwam and sponsored terrorist who was campaign under vision "Azm the country.

**Example 2** Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: A high-level delegation from MAERSK, led by the Senior Director of APM Terminals, called on Federal Minister for Board of Investment, Mr. Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh, and briefed him on the company's proposed USD 2 billion investment in Pakistan.

The delegation shared details regarding MAERSK's plans to establish a new port, a modern shipping terminal, and expanded supply chain and warehousing infrastructure in Pakistan in the future. The investment was termed mutually beneficial for both Pakistan and the company.

The Federal Minister welcomed the delegation and reaffirmed that the Government of Pakistan is fully committed to providing maximum facilitation to international investors. He added that Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and the an enabling business environment. Finance Ministry are fully aligned on promoting foreign investment.



He stated that the Board of Investment (BOI) is working vigorously to enhance investor facilitation, strengthen policy support, and build

Both sides agreed that Pakistan and MAERSK share a common vision of

signed, marking a key milestone towards future collaboration.

Federal Minister stated that this is a peak time for investment in Paki-The Minister assured the delegastan. BOI remains fully committed tion that Board of Investment will to providing full facilitation to major extend complete support at every stage global companies for investment in

to ensure ease of doing business and Pakistan. Published by: Almass Ayoub Sabir from Zero Point Printers Rawalpindi

# Pakistan Navy Scores a Massive Drug Bust Worth 130 Million USD in Arabian Sea

跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Navy Ship TABUK, while operating on Regional Maritime Security Patrol (RMSP) and in support of Saudi-led CTF-150 under HQ Combined Maritime Forces (CMF), intercepted a suspicious dhow operating in the Arabian Sea.

Subsequently, the ship successfully conducted a major counter-narcotics operation onboard stateless dhow resulting in the seizure of over 2000 Kg of methamphetamine (ICE). The estimated regional wholesale value of apprehend narcotics is 130 million US dollars.

conducted in last 2 months by PN demonstrate PN's enduring resolve through maritime security efforts.



and unwavering commitment against illicit trafficking at sea. The scale of the operation, coupled with its flawless execution, underscores not only Pakistan Navy's professionalism but also the effectiveness of multinational coordination under CMF.

Pakistan Navy remains steadfast in The current apprehension of its resolve to safeguard national marinarcotics by PNS TABUK is the third time interests and uphold principles consecutive successful interdiction of the United Nations Convention on the Law of Sea (UNCLOS) while ships. These successful operations contributing to the global commons