(صحيح بخاری: مدیث نمبر 5972) **Barkat Rice Mills** 

Chaudhry Shujaat directs workers to engage in Quetta local elections fully

Pakistan Muslim League (PML) chief Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain has directed party workers to fully engage in the upcoming local body elections in Quetta, urging them to take an active role in campaigning and grassroots



**Federal Constitutional Court to set up** registries in all four provinces

Justice Aamer Faroog stated that the court was currently in a

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## Calls on

ISLAMABAD: H.E. General Fayyad bin Hamed Al-Ruwaili, Chief of General Staff of the Armed Forces of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia



## PM Shehbaz, Saudi CGS vow to deepen defence partnership

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ter Shehbaz Sharif met Chief to further strengthen the of General Staff of the Armed historic fraternal ties between Forces of Saudi Arabia, General Pakistan and Saudi Arabia in tionship between Pakistan and Fayyad bin Hamed Al Ruwaili, all domains, including defence, who called on him at the Prime security and economic cooper-Minister's House on Monday.

While conveying his warm wishes to the Custodian of Salman bin Abdulaziz, as well

bin Salman, the prime minister ISLAMABAD: Prime Minis- reaffirmed his steadfast resolve by the brotherly Kingdom of sides, Shehbaz expressed Paki-

ation, according to an official statement.

The prime minister the Two Holy Mosques, King welcomed General Al Ruwaili and conveyed Pakistan's deep the historic Strategic Mutual

support and solidarity extended Saudi Arabia at all times.

He underlined that the rela-Saudi Arabia was rooted in shared faith, common values, and mutual trust.

Recalling his highly successful visits to Riyadh in the last two months, during which

stan's unwavering commitment to further deepening of bilateral defence collaboration, including joint training, exer-

cises, and exchange of expertise. General Al Ruwaili conveyed the warm greetings of the Saudi leadership to the prime minister and the people of Paki-

as to Crown Prince Mohammed appreciation for the unwavering Defence Agreement (SMDA) He reiterated the kingdom's was signed between the two strong desire to elevate the existing excellent defence and strategic partnership with Pakistan to new heights.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Prime Minister & Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, Chief of Army Staff Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, Defence Minister Khawaja Asif, SAPM Tariq Fatemi and other senior officials from both sides.

## Islamabad placed on high alert after Peshawar FC headquarters attack

👺 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Security tightened buildings and Red Zone; passenger checks intensified.

The federal capital was placed on high alert on Monday after

Peshawar, prompting sweeping security checks across the city.

Police launched strict screening at all entry points, government at all entry points into Islamabad, while security around key government buildings and the Red Zone was further reinforced.

Officials said the measures were tier Corps (FC) headquarters in prevent any potential follow-up to law enforcement agencies.

Special teams have been deployed to inspect passengers travelling on public transport. At Faizabad bus terminal, authorities began recording the identity card details of travellers. Transport operators have been instructed to a deadly attack on the Fron- taken as precautionary steps to provide complete passenger data militants in a swift response.

was raised to minimise risks in the wake of the Peshawar incident, where FC personnel foiled an attack on their headquarters earlier on Monday.

A suicide bomber targeted the main gate, but FC forces killed two

Security officials said the alert martyred, and eight people, including four officials, were

> Authorities said the slain attackers were Afghan nationals and had planned to strike a parade underway inside the compound.

Islamabad police said the heightened security will continue Three FC personnel were until the threat level subsides.

## Saudi military chief discuss regional security and defence cooperation with Gen Sahir Shamshad

**E** City Desk

ISLAMABAD: General Fayyadh Bin Hamed Al-Ruwaili, Chief of General Staff, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia called on General Sahir Shamshad Mirza, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJCSC) at Joint Staff Headquarters, Rawalpindi.

During the meeting, both sides discussed evolving global and regional security environment. The dignitaries also explored concrete measures to deepen engagements between the Armed Forces of both countries and reaffirmed their commitment to strengthen defence and security ties.

The CJCSC reiterated Pakistan's unwavering commitment to safeguarding the territorial integrity of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and ensuring the protection of Harmain al-Sharifain. The visiting dignitary praised the professionalism of the Pakistan Armed Forces and acknowledged their sacrifices in the fight against



terrorism. General Fayyadh Bin Hamed Al-Ruwaili also commended the invaluable contributions of the CJCSC in strengthening and deepening the Paki-

stan-KSA strategic relationship. Earlier, upon arrival at Joint Staff Headquarters, a smartly turned-out tri-services contingent presented 'Guard of Honour' to the visiting dignitary.

ECP halts victory notification of Talal Chaudhry's brother over violations

跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Monday halted the victory notification of Bilal Chaudhry, winner of the NA-96 by-election, after taking up a case alleging violations of the election code of conduct by his brother, Minister of State Talal Chaudhry.

A four-member bench headed by Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sikandar Sultan Raja heard the case. Talal's lawyer appeared before the bench, informing the commission that the minister could not attend due to official engagements. The ECP accepted his request for exemption from personal appearance.

## **Outgoing CJCSC** calls on President



跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJCSC) General Sahir Shamshad Mirza called on President Asif Ali Zardari for his farewell meeting at Aiwane-Sadr on Monday.

The President appreciated General Sahir Shamshad Mirza's professional competence and his service to the country.

He thanked him for his contributions to national defence and wished him well for the future.

## Three martyred as suicide attacker targets FC headquarters



👺 Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: Three Federal Constabulary (FC) officials were martyred in a suicide attack near the FC Headquarters in the Saddar area, Peshawar, confirmed by IG Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Zulfiqar Hameed.

The suicide attack occurred on Monday at 8:10pm.

According to the IG Police, three terrorists in total attacked the FC Headquarters, out of them, one blew himself up at the entrance, while the Police eliminated the other two.

At least five other people, including two FC officials, were injured and shifted to the Lady Reading Hospital.

teams were dispatched to the site to determine the nature of the blast. Ambulances and emergency personnel were also moving into the area to assist anyone affected.

According to police, the blast shattered the windowpanes of nearby buildings, while gunfire was also reported from the vicinity. The Saddar Road had been closed to traffic as security teams cordoned off the area.

CCPO Peshawar said that the operation was initiated, and the entire locality has been taken into a security perimeter. He added that the exact nature of the explosion is still being determined.

## President, PM vow to wipe out terrorism after FC HQ attack in **Peshawar**

👺 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday strongly condemned the terrorist attack carried out by Fitna al Khawarij targeting Federal Constabulary Headquarters in Peshawar.

The president and prime minister, in their separately issued statements, appreciated the timely response by the police and security forces which averted a major loss.

Calling the attack a cowardly act of foreign backed antistate elements, they reiterated the government's resolve to completely wipe out the terrorism from the country.

The attack is a cowardly act by foreign-backed terrorists who are enemies of our beloved country. The complete elimination of foreign-sponsored Khawarij terrorism from Paki-



stan is our top priority," Presi dent Zardari said and expressed sympathies with the bereaved families of the martyrs and prayed for the swift recovery of the injured. Prime Minister Shehbaz

said that those responsible for the incident should be identified at the earliest and brought to justice. He directed to extend immediate medical assistance to the injured and prayed for their swift recovery. "We will thwart the evil designs of the terrorists who attack Pakistan's security. The Government of Pakistan is fully determined to completely eradicate terrorism from the country," he reiterated.

## AJK PM vows to restore state dignity, distributes keys to new homes

MUZAFFARABAD: Reaffirming his commitment to public welfare, the Prime Minister Azad Jammu and Kashmir Faisal Mumtaz Rathore has said that his government was determined to restore the dignity of the state by tackling its pressing challenges head-on.

The PM said this while addressing a ceremony organized by Kashmir Orphan Relief Trust (KORT) here today. During the ceremony keys of newly constructed houses, built under the KORT's Housing Project for widows, orphans and deserving persons, were distributed amongst the needy.

Speaking on the occasion, the prime minister Rathore said, "With honest intent and firm resolve a lot could be achieved in just six months". He added that the PPP government will spare no efforts in addressing masses' problems and restoring their confidence in politics.

government's pledge to serve the state to the noble cause, he said, "Those and its people without any prejudice who serve Allah's creation are Allah's



or discrimination.

He appreciated the KORT chairman for establishing a state of the art boarding school for orphans in the lakeside city of Mirpur. Paying rich tributes to the KORT chairman The prime minister reiterated his Chaudhry Akhtar for his commitment

friends".

On this occasion, Prime Minister Rathore, Senior Minister Mian Azad Kashmir Syed Bazil Ali Naqvi, Abdul Waheed, Syed Bazal Naqvi, Ms. Nabila Ayub, Chairman KORT Chaudhry Akhtar distributed the keys of newly constructed houses amongst

The function was also attended cate Zulgarnain Naqvi and others.

by Senior Minister Mian Abdul Waheed, Minister for Public Health Minister for Kashmir Cause Arts and Literature Ms. Nabila Ayub, Founder of Kashmir Orphan Welfare Trust Chaudhry Akhtar, Mayor Muzaffarabad Syed Sikandar Gilani, Advo-

#### People facing problems

LAHORE: Bikers are facing trouble to the closure of Faisal Chowk because of the protest of Blind people, in Provincial



Photo: Online

## Azad Kashmir PM Chairs Key Meeting on Health Cards and Bank Status Push

#### 👺 Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: A high-level meeting, held under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Faisal Mumtaz Rathore. deliberated on key matters relating to issuance of health cards and securing a scheduled bank status for the Bank of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (BAJK).

Addressing the meeting, Prime Minister Rathore emphasized on timely accomplishment of ongoing public interest projects in the state. Describing the health card as a flagship welfare project, he stressed on the need to instant finalization of the program so that relief to ordinary citizens could be provided without any further delay.

He directed the government officials



people. Referring to the attainment the Bank. of scheduled status for the BAJK, he

government are clearly visible to the accelerate the scheduling process of The PPP government, he said, to ensure that measures taken by the directed the authorities concerned to believes in service adding that the ment.

present government will provide all possible relief to the people with dedication and hard work. The meeting was attended by government ministers Chaudhry Qasim Majeed, Sardar Zia Al-Qamar, Secretary Finance Islam Zeb, Principal Secretary Zafar Mahmood Khan, Secretary Information Sardar Adnan Khurshid, Secretary Forests Ansar Yaqub Khan, Director IT Idrees Abbasi. During the meeting, Secretary Finance Azad Kashmir Islam Zeb gave a detailed briefing to Prime Minister about the mechanism for issuing health cards, phased completion of the process of scheduling the BAJK.

The Finance Secretary also informed the Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir about the steps taken by the govern-

#### Malik Rayasat Ali visited 1122 Offices Attock

ATTOCK: Former provincial assembly candidate from PP-4, MalikRaysat Ali Sadharial, has said that Rescue 1122 is the institution that always reaches the scene first in every emergency and performs the vital duty of protecting precious lives. Whether it is an accident, a fire, a medical emergency, or a natural disaster, the trained personnel of Rescue 1122 remain alert, active, and ready to serve the public

He said that modern equipment, professional skills, and timely response are the qualities that make this institution a symbol of trust and safety throughout the district. The services of Rescue 1122 are not only commendable but also an example for society, reminding us that true service is the one offered without expecting any reward and delivered promptly when needed.

He expressed these views during his visit to the Rescue 1122 Attock Headquarters, where he met District Emergency Officer Dr. Mian Muhammad Ashfaq. Dr. Ashfaq briefed him in detail about the rescue services, emergency response system, modern equipment, operational activities, and community safety programs.

Malik Rayasat Sadharial appreciated the overall performance, teamwork, and public service spirit of Rescue 1122. Praising their excellent services, he said that the presence of this institution provides people with a sense of trust and security.

#### Key PPP leaders convene meeting in Rawalakot, pledge support for new AJK Leadership

#### 👺 Bureau Report

RAWALAKOT: Pakistan Peoples Party Azad Kashmir, Union Council Singola, held an important meeting yesterday at a local hotel. The session was presided over by President PPP UC Singola, Muhammad Saleem Khan, while former Minister for Government and central PPP leader Abid Hussain Abid attended as the chief guest. Party workers and notables from Union Council Singola participated in large numbers, turning the meeting into a significant political gathering.

Participants expressed happiness, confidence, and full satisfaction over the election of Prime Minister Azad Kashmir, Faisal Mumtaz Rathore, extending heartfelt congratulations to him. Speakers said that Faisal Mumtaz Rathore's leadership would not only strengthen the party but also create new hope for the resolution of public issues.

During the meeting, senior leaders held a detailed discussion on the longstanding and fundamental issues of Union Council Singola. Senior figures Muhammad Nazir Awan, Muhammad Saleem Khan, Akhtar Awan, Saleem Awan, and Altaf Hussain highlighted that despite being an urban constituency, UC Singola has consistently remained neglected by successive governments.

Among the participants were Abid Hussain Abid, Muhammad Saleem Khan, Altaf Hussain, Parvez Muhammad Saleem Awan, Akhtar Awan, Seth Siddique Awan, Muhammad Saleem, Abdul Qayyum, Ameer Azam, Muhammad Khurshid, Muhammad Younis Mughal, Muhammad Altaf, Muhammad Ilyas, Muhammad Khalim, Muhammad Fareed Baig, Ghalib Hussain, along with many other leaders and workers. The meeting is being termed an important development in the political activities of Union Council Singola.

#### "Jalsa Dastar-e-Fazeelat"



👺 Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: The renowned religious institution Jamia Sikandaria organized its annual and grand "Jalsa Dastar-e-Fazeelat" with great dignity and splendor. The ceremony was presided over by the Mutawalli and Chief Administrator of Jamia Sikandaria, Sajjada Nasheen Darbar Aliya Sikandaria, Sahibzada Pir Syed Fayaz Hussain

The distinguished guest of the event was Fakhr-e-Ahl-e-Sunnat, Sajjada Nasheen Darbar Aliya Neerian Sharif, Pir Tariqat Sahibzada Pir Shams-ul-Arifeen Siddiqui. Among the notable guests were Khateeb-e-Kashmir & President Markazi Seerat Committee Jhelum Valley, Allama Prof. Qazi Muhammad Ibrahim Chishti, renowned scholar Allama Pir Syed Muhammad Ishaq Naqvi, founder and chief organizer Markazi Seerat Committee Jhelum Valley & Chairman Tanzeem-ul-Sadaat AJK and Migrants Welfare Pir Syed Ehsan-ul-Hassan Gilani, and Sajjada Nasheen Astana Aliya Nadol Sharif Pir Syed Mukhtar Gilani.

Principal Jamia Sikandaria Sahibzada Pir Syed Mohsin Ali Kazmi, along with the faculty, efficiently undertook the responsibilities of hosting the ceremony.

Representatives of several organizations including Markazi Seerat Committee Jhelum Valley, Anjuman Ghulaman Syeda Zahra (S. A.), Al-Karam Friends, Jamaat Ahl-e-Sunnat Jhelum Valley, Ahl-e-Sunnat Supreme Council, and Minhaj-ul-Quran participated in the event.

The ceremony commenced with a melodious recitation of the Holy Qur'an by the students of Jamia, followed by Na'at presentations in the honor of the Holy Prophet Fig. Upon the arrival of the chief guest Pir Shams-ul-Arifeen Siddiqui, the teachers, students, and participants accorded him a warm reception with passionate slogans of Takbeer,

A large number of scholars, Mashayikh, social personalities, traders, and local residents attended the event, including Sahibzada Ashraf Ali Qadoosi, Pir Syed Ghulam Murtaza Shah Al-Mashhadi, Syed Faisal Gilani, Fareed Khan, Syed Israr-ul-Hassan Gilani, Allama Qari Arif Abbasi, Syed Riaz Hamdani, Allama Ashfaq Awan, Allama Zahoor-ur-Rehman Faizi, Mufti Sarveed Abbasi, Allama Safeer Abbasi, Syed Akram Hamdani, Allama Ghazanfar Ali Qadri, Allama Aqib Abbasi, Allama Syed Asad Kazmi, Javad Shafiq Qadri, Faisal Abbasi, and many more.

## Educational Reforms or Elite Favouritism?

#### 跨 Zain Khan Malghani

MULTAN: Today, a press release and a letter from Aitchison College have surfaced, stating that "under the direct guidance and special interest of Commissioner Multan, Amir Kareem Khan, significant measures have been initiated to elevate the academic standards of Multan Public School to institutions. international benchmarks. As part of this initiative, principals Girls' and Boys' branches are being sent to Aitchison College, Lahore, for a specialised professional development program."

instructions, a modern training program has been designed to enhance teachers' capacity, with expert support from Aitchison College's Teaching & Learning Centre. The primary aim of the training is to implement in Multan Public School the best teaching practices currently used in world-class educational

The training sessions will include specialised workand selected teachers from the shops on the use of modern technology, effective classroom management, advanced learning systems, and highquality instructional methods.

Under the commissioner's Principals from both branches an Aitchison team will conduct tution. will also participate in a follow-up visit to Multan Aitchison College's modules to strengthen their administrative and academic insight. Commissioner Amir Kareem

Khan stated that upgrading public and semi-public institutions according to global educational models is the vision of the Chief Minister of Punjab, and this vision is now being translated into action across Multan Division. The delegation will conduct an in-depth review of Aitchison College's teaching environment, administrative framework. After the training, and enhancements at the insti-

Public School within the next few days, and it has been decided that this collaboration will continue on a long-term basis. Additional follow-up sessions and review visits are also part of the plan.

This long-term cooperation from Aitchison College is expected to bring significant improvements to the academic and administrative structure of Multan Public School, while Aitchison College's comprehensive report will provide an effecsystems, and modern training tive roadmap for future reforms

However, the commissioner's decision to nominate only the teachers of Multan Public School & College for training at Aitchison College's Teaching & Learning Centre raises several serious concerns. When an entire division falls under vour supervision, excluding teachers from government schools and colleges from such professional also incomprehensible.

Children studying in public institutions mostly belong to middle- and lower-income

educational system running sises that learning opportunianyone truly needs modern improved teaching methodologies, and upgraded learning modules, it is these governalready enjoys better facilities, resources, and opportunities.

There is no doubt that this clear double standard:

teachers from elite institufamilies. Their teachers are the where they are. Aitchison a necessity for the entire educavery force that keeps the entire College's TLC itself emphation system.

despite limited resources. If ties should be accessible to all. Yet by restricting this opportraining, new technology, tunity to a single institution, the Multan administration has undermined the spirit of that vision. If the true objecment teachers—not the tive was educational improveteachers of a public school that ment, the selection should have been broad-based, transparent, and inclusive. At the very least, principals and senior teachers training is not only unfair but decision appears to reflect a from government schools should have been made part of the program. This is the time tions continue to advance, while to correct the course. Training government teachers remain is not a privilege for a few—it is



SERVICES		
<b>Namaz Timings</b>		
Fajr	5:21 am	
Zohr	11:54 am	
Asr	3:23 pm	
Maghrib	5:01 pm	
Isha	6:28 pm	

EMERGENCY
Rescue (Police) 15
Bomb Disposal 15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/
Islamabad1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance 1122 &
& Rescue Services 4451122
Motorway Police9266044
Motorway Police9270601-20
Woman Police

#### **Women Police Stations**

Julions		
Islamabad	9222596	
Rawalpindi	9270601-20	

ıwaıpınaı	92/0601
ENQ	UIRY
lhi Ambulance	
A =1: 1	

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

#### **HOSPITALS**

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

#### **DEDARTMENTS**

DEPARI	VIEIT I 3
CDA	9221334-43
CDA	9208301-04
Met Office	9250360-6
RDA	5555864
TMA	5770886
Cantonment Board	9270151-3
Islamabad Metropo	olitan
Corporation	9209224
Potohar Town	9209224
Rawal Town	5773343

#### **COMPLAINTS**

Water Tanker Service G-5, G-6, G-7, G-8, G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, H-8 ..9266316 Wapda Islamabad......9217579-80 Sui Gas Complaint..... 119, 9272249 ...0331-5022125

#### **Various** public delegations from across the state called on PM AJK Rathore

#### 👺 Bureau Report

**MUZAFFARABAD:** Various public delegations from across the state called on Prime Minister Faisal Mumtaz Rathore here today. The visiting delegations extended their heartfelt congratulations to the Prime Minister on assuming the highest office. During the meeting, the Prime Minister listened to their grievances and assured them of his full support and cooperation in addressing the challenges they face. He also issued directives for the immediate redressal of the people's problems. Prime Minister Rathore further assured the delegations that his government would work tirelessly to resolve the pressing issues confronting the region. "Restoring the trust of the people is our top priority," he said, adding that special focus has been placed on improving road infrastructure, health, education, and other key sectors. Among those who met the Prime Minister were delegations from Haveli, Ghari Dupatta, Dhani, Nousiri, Neelum, and Bagh.

## Gillani Links National Development to Political Stability, Constitutional **Supremacy**

#### 👺 Kiran Asim

MULTAN: The Acting President of Pakistan and Chairman Senate, Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani, has stated that lasting political stability, constitutional supremacy, and democratic continuity in the country are the foundation of national development.

He made these remarks while speaking to newly elected members of the Punjab Bar Council from Multan and the High Court and District Bar Associations during a late-night meeting on Sunday.

Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani said that when he became the Prime Minister, he restored the judiciary through an executive order in his initial speech, which was part of the struggle for democracy and the supremacy of the constitution. He mentioned that, according to the points agreed upon in the Charter of Democracy, there was also an agree-27th Constitutional Amendment will were also present.

play a vital role in closing the doors to the unconstitutional removal of the President or Prime Minister.

Speaking about terrorism, Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani said that security challenges exist on our Eastern and Western borders. India's proxy war and the activities of terrorists in Afghanistan have increased instability in the region, while Pakistan has always played a responsible role against terrorism.

On this occasion, the newly elected members of the Punjab Bar Council, including Khawaja Qaisar Butt, Chaudhary Muhammad Saeed, Malik Khan Langa, along with the President of the High Court Bar Association Multan, Muhammad Azhar Khan Mughal, General Secretary Safdar Hussain Sarsana, President of the District Bar Association Multan, Javed Ali Dogar, General Secretary Malik Adnan Ahmad, and Chaudhary Dawood Ahmad, and ment on the establishment of a consti- other executive members of the High tutional court. In this continuation, the Court and District Bar Associations



#### Safety

ISLAMABAD: A view of the plants covers with dry grass on green belt along the Express Way by the gardeners of CDA, to protect from frost, which destroys greenery during winters.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

## New book launch honors Sindhi writer Doulat Ram Khatri's Tribute to Thar Heritage

#### 👺 Qayoom Sarohi

HYDERABAD: The Karoonjhar Arts Council Mithi organized a literary sitting with the renowned Sindhi-language writer and columnist Doulat Ram Khatri, during which the launch of his new book "Karoonjhar" was also held. The event took place at Sindhi language Authority and was presided over by prominent writer Taj Joyo, while Amar Sindhu, Professor Fayaz Lateef, Naseer Mirza, Abbas Khoso and Hemanchand attended as special guests. The proceedings were conducted by General Secretary Imtiaz Noor Kumbhar, while the President of the Arts Council Mithi, Barkat Jan Bajir, welcomed the guests.



Ram's intellectual journey, the Sindhi language. Professor creative commitment, social Mushtaq Dal and Professor awareness, and literary honesty, Bhem Raj said that Daulat stating that his writings vividly Ram is enriched not with matereflect the pain, love, history, rial wealth, fame, or power, but geography, and cultural soul of with the treasure of knowl-

Speakers praised Daulat Thar along with the beauty of

edge, humanity, and literature. Young writer Kabir Bheel said that the sorrow, drought, love, dreams, and struggle of Tharparkar come alive in Doulat Ram's words, making them an intellectual asset for society.

The program was attended by Idrees Jatoi, Iqbal Baloch, Afroz Shoro, Mehrunisa Baloch, Arbab Ibrahim, along with a large number of writers, poets, teachers, and citizens. Guests were presented with traditional Ajraks and books as gifts, while Doulat Ram Khatri also received Ajraks and flower tokens from friends. The event concluded with a musical performance, where Faqir Ahmed Faraz received great appreciation for his soulful

## ABHI partners with Bayut to provide EWA in Saudi Arabia

#### Commerce Desk

KARACHI: ABHI, powered by Alraedah Digital Solutions, has announced a new partnership with Bayut KSA, one of the Kingdom's leading real estate platforms, to enable Bayut KSA employees to instantly access a portion of their earned wages through Abhi's Earned Wage Access (EWA) solution.

"At ABHI, our mission is to improve financial inclusion across the region. Partnering with a dynamic company like Bayut allows us to extend the benefits of Earned Wage Access to more professionals in Saudi Arabia, supporting their financial well-being



and ultimately boosting productivity and retention," said Omair Ansari, Co-Founder and CEO of ABHI.

Nouf Alqahtani, HR Operations Manager at Bayut KSA, added: "At Bayut KSA, we are dedicated to creating

a supportive workplace for our team. Providing instant access to earned wages through ABHI Saudi offers our employees more convenience, flexibility, and control over their financial needs."

This partnership underscores the commitment of both companies to financial empowerment and digital innovation in alignment with Saudi Vision 2030.

## Historic visit of Chairman PEC Engr Waseem Nazir to Gilgit-Baltistan

#### **№** News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Chairman Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) Engr Waseem Nazir paid the first-ever official visit to Gilgit-Baltistan and presided over a significant interactive workshop at Karakoram International University (KIU), Gilgit, on the theme of "Professional Ethics and Accountability in Engineering Practice." The Chairman PEC Engr Waseem Nazir himself participated as the resource person, adding immense value to the workshop.

A large number of engineers, young professionals, freelancers, and engineering experts from various districts of Gilgit-Baltistan attended the workshop, while Prof. Dr. Attaullah Shah (Vice Chancellor, KIU), Prof. Dr. Khan Gul Jadoon (Department of Mining Engineering), and faculty members of the engineering departments were also present.

Following the workshop, an award ceremony for the PEC Plantation Drive 2025 (Gilgit-Baltistan Region) was held to honor the engineers who excelled in PEC's first national plantation and photography campaign (14-31 August 2025). The Chairman PEC Engr Waseem Nazir awarded certificates of appreciation and cash prizes to the top  ${\it five engineers from Gilgit-Baltistan-Engineer Ghulam\,Nasir, Engineer\,Ghulam\,Nasir, Engineer\,Ghulam\,Ohar, Engineer$ neer Intisar-ul-Haq, Engineer Abdul Hakeem, Engineer Afaq Ahmad Dar, and Engineer Asif Ullah.

#### SECP Approves Amendments to PSX Regulations

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

ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has approved amendments to the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) Regulations. These changes are aimed at promoting greater market transparency, enhancing investor protection, and developing a robust Shariah-compliant capital market ecosystem.

The approved changes require PSX to publicly disclose all disciplinary actions taken against listed companies on its website. This will enable investors to make better-informed decisions and enhance overall disclosure to market participants.

Furthermore, listed companies must now provide Shariah-related disclosures on income, loans, and investments directly to PSX. This will give the exchange access to this information, allowing for accurate and timely Shariah screening for inclusion in the KMI All Share Index, thereby improving the reliability and credibility of Islamic indices. To further enhance transparency, PSX has been advised to develop and maintain Shariah Indices (KMI Indices) either itself or through an independent third party within 12 months from the date

The amendments also facilitate the offering of Shariah-compliant brokerage services and introduce dedicated Shariah-compliant account opening forms (Customer Relationship Forms and Sahulat Account Opening Forms). This will make it easier for investors to open Islamic trading accounts. These reforms reflect the SECP's continued efforts to build a more transparent, efficient, and inclusive capital market that effectively meets the growing investor demand for trustworthy Shariah-compliant investment opportunities in Pakistan.

#### Major Contamination Concerns: 26 Bottled Water Brands Failed PSQCA Standards in 23 2025

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

ISLAMABAD: The Government of Pakistan has directed PCRWR for quarterly monitoring of bottled/mineral water brands and publicize the results for awareness of public health. For the 3rd quarter of year 2025 (July to September), 205 samples of mineral/bottled water brands were collected from 21 major cities. Comparison of test results with the bottled water quality standards of Pakistan Standards & Quality Control Authority (PSQCA) has revealed that 26 brands were unsafe for human consumption due to microbiological or chemical contamination. Four brands (Pure drinking water, Premium drinking water, Eltsen, Purifa) were found to be unsafe due to presence of higher levels of sodium, five brands (Natural Pure Life, Aqua Nest, Premium Safa Purified Water, Piyo Pani Bottled Drinking Water, Wolga) were found to be unsafe due to presence of higher levels of arsenic, two brands (Pure drinking water, Purifa) were found unsafe due to presence of high level of TDS than the permissible limit, while, two brands (My Pure Water, Smart Pure Life) were found unsafe due to presence of high level of potassium than the permissible limit. Seventeen brands (A2Z Pure Drinking Water, New Mehran, Zalmi, Pure Life, Deer Drinking Water, Dream Pure, Gulf, Crystal Aqua, Ruha Water, Pure Drinking Water, Premium Drinking Water, Fresh Aqua, Asia Healthy Drinking Water, Isberg, Lasani, Wolga, Maya Premium Drinking Water) were found contaminated with bacteria and thus were unsafe for drinking purpose. General public is encouraged to look at the detailed report to know about the status of water quality

of bottled water brands they consume.

Asim Nazir Ahmad

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#### Malaria vaccine price cut set to protect 7 million more children by 2030

accine alliance Gavi and UN children's agency UNICEF have struck a new pricing deal that will sharply cut the cost of a key malaria vaccine and make it possible to protect nearly seven million additional children by 2030, the agencies announced on Sunday.

Under the agreement, the price of the R21/Matrix-M vaccine will fall to \$2.99 per dose within a year – a reduction expected to save up to \$90 million. Those savings should allow countries to secure more than 30 million extra doses over the next five years.

"Today's announcement is a powerful example of what our Vaccine Alliance does best," said An Vermeersch, Gavi's Chief Vaccine Programmes & Markets Officer.

"We are leveraging innovative financing and partnerships to secure affordable vaccines that can better protect children against one of Africa's biggest killers.'

Malaria remains one of the world's deadliest infectious diseases. In 2023, it caused an estimated 597,000 deaths, the vast majority among young children in Africa. A child dies from the disease roughly every minute.

"A devastating death toll like this demands action," said Leila Pakkala, Director of UNICEF's Supply Division.

"At a time of declining international aid, UNICEF is determined to work with partners to deliver enough vaccines at the best possible price to protect children.'

The new pricing arrangement was enabled by an advance payment through the International Finance Facility for Immunisation (IFFIm), which converts long-term donor pledges into upfront funds. This gives Gavi the ability to act quickly when major market-shaping opportunities emerge.

Ken Lay, Chair of the IFFIm Board, said, "This agreement shows how financial innovation can unlock opportunities that save lives.

More than 40 million malaria vaccine doses have already been delivered through Gavi-supported programmes, with 24 African countries now integrating malaria vaccination into routine immunization.

Demand is strong: 14 countries introduced the vaccine for the first time last year, and another seven have done so in 2025.

The lower price is expected to help Gavi move closer to its target of fully vaccinating 50 million additional children against malaria by the end of the decade.

Both WHO-recommended malaria vaccines, R21/Matrix-M and RTS, S, have been shown to reduce malaria cases by more than half in the first year after vaccination, with further protection following a booster dose.

For families and health systems already under strain from the disease, the expanded rollout could be transformative. "This is about giving every child a fair chance at protection," Lay said. "It's about saving lives now, not years from now."

## Can Eastern and Western Canada Ever Bridge the Divide?

as one of the most diverse, modern, and tolerant nations in the world, a country that welcomes millions of immigrants from South Asia, China, Korea. Vietnam, the Middle East, and Africa. These communities have enriched Canada's social fabric, strengthened its workforce, and reshaped its major cities into multicultural hubs that symbolize coexistence and opportunity. Yet beneath this impressive surface lies a deep structural tension that has existed for decades but rarely receives global attention: the simmering animosity between Eastern and Western Canada. This divide is not merely a matter of geography. It touches politics, economics, identity, federal power, culture, and the question of who controls the future of the Canadian federation.

The tension often surprises new immigrants who see Canada as unified, peaceful, and predictable. But historically, the East-West divide has been one of the most persistent challenges to national cohesion. Eastern Canada—primarily Ontario and Quebec—has long been the political, financial, and demographic center of the country. Western Canada-Alberta, Saskatchewan, British Columbia, and Manitoba—has developed a parallel identity built on natural resources, self-reliance, and a deep suspicion that federal policies are shaped by Eastern priorities at the West's expense.

At the center of this animosity is the sense of exploitation felt strongly in Alberta and Saskatchewan. These provinces have powered Canada's economy for decades through oil and gas revenues, yet they argue that federal decisions consistently limit their growth while forcing them provinces challenge the federal govern-

anada is often celebrated to shoulder financial burdens through ment. When the East demands quicker overreach. Such sentiment does not disapequalization payments. Many Western Canadians believe that they "pay into a system run by the East that redistributes money back to the East," and this sentiment has fueled movements like the Alberta independence campaign and the Exit movement, which at one point gained significant public traction. Culturally, Eastern and Western

Canada have grown in different directions as well. The East has experienced waves of immigration since the 1960s, reshaping Toronto, Montreal, and Ottawa into diverse global cities. Western

cities like Calgary and

Vancouver are also highly

multicultural but main-

tain a stronger frontier-style identity-independent, pragmatic, entrepreneurial, and often skeptical of federal narratives. French-English linguistic duality heavily influences Eastern political attitudes, while Western provinces tend to view national identity through an economic and practical lens rather than a historical or linguistic one.

Attempts by federal leadership to bridge the divide have been well-intentioned but largely unsuccessful. Ottawa has tried to modify equalization formulas, negotiate pipeline deals, expand interprovincial trade, or offer climate subsidies to resource provinces. But each attempt has run into structural limitations. When the federal government approves pipelines, environmental groups and Eastern provinces challenge them in courts. When Ottawa imposes carbon taxes, Western

climate action, the West accuses Ottawa of destroying the resource economy. The federal government sits between two visions of the country—one built on global environmental commitments and another built on natural resource prosperity—and any attempt to satisfy one fuels resentment from the other.

Moreover, the constitutional framework itself contributes to the problem. Natural

resources belong to provinces, but environmental regulation belongs to Ottawa. Immigration belongs to Ottawa, but settlement services rely on provinces. Infrastructure crossing provincial borders must be approved federally, but land control remains

local. The overlapping jurisdictions create an ongoing tug-of-war that keeps East and West locked in conflict, each side claiming to defend its constitutional rights.

The consequences of these unresolved tensions could shape Canada's future in serious and unpredictable ways. If and cultural institutions of the East. Intethe divide continues to widen, Canada may face increasing regional polarization, weakened national unity, and growing separatist sentiment-not only from Quebec, but also from Alberta and Saskatchewan. A prolonged economic downturn in the West, combined with continued political dominance by Eastern provinces, could reignite separatist movements that previously seemed improbable in a country known for harmony. Already, polling in Alberta has shown surprisingly strong support for independence during moments of economic crisis or federal

pear; it lies dormant, waiting for another

On the other hand, if federal leadership acts decisively and creatively, there is still room to heal the divide. Canada could redesign equalization to better reflect resource revenue volatility, treat interprovincial pipelines as strategic national infrastructure, decentralize certain federal powers, and build a more transparent framework for climate transition that does not punish resource provinces. A balanced approach could demonstrate that Canada's unity is not based on uniformity but on partnership. A federation as geographically huge and economically diverse as Canada cannot function on a "one-size-fits-all" model; it must recognize the legitimacy of regional priorities and build national policy that respects

Canada's future will depend on whether it sees its internal differences as threats or as sources of strength. The East and West each bring something vital to the national project—the economic engines of the West and the financial, educational, gration, cooperation, and mutual respect will determine whether Canada remains a stable, prosperous federation or drifts toward fragmentation in slow motion. The divide is real, the grievances are deep, but the potential for unity still exists—if leaders choose to build bridges instead of boundaries.

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

## Universal Children's Day: From Homes to Nations

celebrated worldwide as a reaffirmation of the belief that children are not just individuals but the future. strength, and hope of any nation's bright tomorrow. Human history testifies that the progress, stability, and prosperity of any society depend on how lovingly, respon-

sibly, and consciously its children are nurtured. The home is a child's first school, where they learn the basic principles of life, moral values, and social behavior. Parents' love lays the foundation of their personality, upbringing strengthens that foundation, and knowledge

teaches them how to make their place in the world. In today's modern era, where the world is changing at an extraordinary pace, children's education, mental development, moral upbringing, and emotional security have become more important than ever before. This is why Universal Children's Day reminds parents, teachers, governments, and every member of society to make sincere efforts for the rights, needs, and abilities of children.

Upbringing is the aspect of a child's life that transforms the sentiments of love into practical behavior. Love alone is not enough: it must be connected to discipline, manners, morality, and character-building principles. Good upbringing means not only teaching children to differentiate between right and wrong but also helping them understand and control their emotions and guiding them to play a positive role in society. A vital part of

niversal Children's Day is upbringing is teaching children values such as respect for others, fulfilling responsibilities, keeping promises, forgiving, helping others, and speaking the truth. Unfortunately, due to the demands of modern life. parents are becoming distant from their children, and as a result, much of their upbringing is influenced by social media. smartphones, and unrealistic characters.

To instill patience, respect, and responsibility in children, parents must spend time with them, talk to them, listen to them, and understand their concerns. Teachers also play an essential role in upbringing. Their responsibility extends beyond teaching books; they also shape the students' character, values, and

personality.

**Muhammad Asif** 

Knowledge is the power that brings humans out of darkness and into light. Quality education is not only a source of individual growth for children but also the foundation of national development. Today's world is driven by knowledge, technology, research, and innovation, and only those nations progress that provide their younger generations with the best education. In Pakistan and many other countries, issues such as poor educational standards, inequality, lack of resources, and insufficient facilities hinder children's academic journeys. Universal Children's Day reminds us that every child has the right to quality education, good schools, trained teachers, and a safe learning environment. Education is not merely the teaching of textbooks, but also the cultivation of thinking, questioning, understanding, and research skills.

For this, it is essential for governments to increase the education budget, improve school conditions, focus on teacher training, and incorporate modern requirements into educational planning.

Protecting children's rights is an equally important part of this effort. Shielding children from exploitation, abuse, forced labor, sexual harassment, malnutrition, and psychological stress is a shared responsibility of both the state and society. Millions of children worldwide still suffer from poverty, war, insecurity, displacement, and lack of education. Universal Children's Day forces us to reflect on how long children will continue to suffer circumstances beyond their control, and when the day will come when every child grows up with love, safety, education, happiness, and freedom. We must not only accept that children are our future but also recognize that their protection and development require constant and practical efforts.

In conclusion, it must be acknowledged that strong nations are those that give love to their children, focus on their upbringing, provide them with quality education, and protect their rights. Universal Children's Day reminds us that from households to the state level, policies and environments must be created where children are safe, happy, educated, and confident. If we provide children with the best combination of love, upbringing, and knowledge, the coming generations will not only become better human beings but will also lay the foundation of a peaceful, developed, and harmonious society. This is the true investment on which the real future of nations

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### Impact of Hindutva Ideology on India's Military Structure

Hammad Asghar Ali

the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) have deeply transformed the institutional character of India's Army, Air Force, and Navy. Analysts now argue that the Indian military is rapidly evolving into what critics call "Modi's Sena." Under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the armed forces have embraced saffron symbolism and ideological alignment at a pace unprecedented in India's history. This shift poses a direct challenge to India's constitutional secularism and threatens long-standing norms of military neutrality and professionalism.

Over the past few years, the military leadership has aggressively promoted religious symbols and

Hindu rituals within military spaces. In January 2025, the Indian Army removed a historic 1971 war painting from the Army Chief's lounge in South Block and replaced it with an artwork titled Karm Kshetra, depicting Krishna and Chanakya alongside modern tanks and missiles. Experts note that this was not a routine decor change but a deliberate attempt to redefine India's military doctrine through a religious and

ideological lens. A similar pattern emerged in December 2024 when the Fire and Fury Corps installed a statue of the Hindu ruler Shivaji near Pangong Tso in the sensitive Ladakh sector, along with a saffron flag. Analysts believe this move reflected ideological messaging rather than professional military conduct, especially in a strategically volatile border region.

The Modi government has also begun naming major military operations after Hindu religious symbols. "Operation Sindoor" and "Operation Mahadev" reflect an effort to integrate the BJP's political narrative into military structures. This threatens the neutrality expected from any professional military and aligns the armed forces with Hindu nationalist political goals.

Hindutva influence has penetrated recruitment and training as well. The Agnipath Scheme has brought thousands of recruits affiliated with the Rashtriya Sway-

amsevak Sangh (RSS) and other Hindu nationalist

indutva-driven policies introduced by groups into the military pipeline. Sainik Schools—institutions responsible for producing India's future military officers—are increasingly influenced by Hindutva-linked networks such as Vidya Bharati and the Ram Mandir movement. This trend is shaping a new military culture rooted in ideological loyalty rather than constitutional values.

Discrimination against minority officers has also intensified. Reports indicate that Muslim, Sikh, and Christian officers are being pressured to participate in Hindu rituals. In 2025, Christian officer Lieutenant Samuel Kamalisen was dismissed from service after resisting religious instructions. The Delhi High Court upheld the dismissal, further reflecting the changing

ideological character of India's armed

International human rights organizations have raised alarm as well. Human Rights Watch, in its 2025 report, documented more than 520 extra-judicial killings and multiple cases of custodial torture, linking these abuses to rising ideological militarism and anti-minority sentiment within the Indian security apparatus.

Experts argue that these developments mark a turning point in India's military identity. Professional neutrality is being replaced by political allegiance, religious symbolism, and the BJP's nationalist narrative. As a result, India's armed forces are increasingly perceived as "Modi's Sena," posing new challenges to regional strategic stability. In a country where the military is expected to uphold constitutional secularism and remain politically neutral, this ideological shift threatens institutional integrity, internal cohesion, and public trust. Analysts caution that continued saffronisation of the armed forces will not only undermine India's internal unity but also

destabilize the broader South Asian region. If the international community fails to take timely notice, the region may face severe consequences in the

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## The Millennium Education hosts Pakistan's Largest Teacher Development **Conference 2025**

**E** City Desk

Group & MIPD organized Pakistan's of educators, the 2-day Annual Teacher Development Conference TDC 2025 — Chapter XV, at Pakistan China Friendship Centre, Islamabad, says a press

The conference, themed "#Future-Ready - Cultivating Learner Agency", drew more than 2000 delegates, and over 6000 participants from across Pakistan. The theme emphasized the need to prepare learners with autonomy, curiosity, digital fluency, and confidence to navigate an evolving global landscape, while reaffirming the teacher's role as mentor and enabler of learner agency.

The conference gathered national and international experts including Ambassador Farukh Amil, Dr. Samuel Rizk, Abbas Husain, Muhammad Umer, Uzma Yousaf Country Director Taimur Khalid Bandey, Mahboob

Space Systems, and the IB.

Federal Minister for Planning, ISLAMABAD: Continuing its 15 year Development & Special Initiatives, legacy, The Millennium Education Professor Ahsan Iqbal, graced the conference as Chief Guest. Emphalargest and most influential gathering sizing the role of AI, robotics, and IT in transforming education, he remarked that "the currency of the future is innovation," and praised TME for its commitment to teacher development and youth empowerment. Patricia McKellar, Dean UG Laws, University of London, spoke on transnationalisation and the importance of cross-cultural knowledge exchange in futureready education.

> The conference featured an engaging Knowledge, STEM & EdTech Exhibition, showcasing robotics and AI-powered tools, STEM solutions, digital learning platforms, assistive technologies, and classroom innovations aligned with future-ready vision.

Across two days, sessions explored learner agency, course correction, the enterprise of learning, teaching and learning between the lines, compas-Cambridge, Professor Dr. Yasir Ayaz, sion and connection, financial inclusion through digital equity, rethinking Mahmood, Umair Jaliawala, Nigar assessments beyond grades, and Nazar, and Shireen Naqvi, alongside teaching the self before the subject; experts from UNDP, ACCA, Cosmic equipping educators to meet the

demands of a rapidly advancing world.

A highlight of the conference was The Great Debate: "Digital Citizenship — Are We Future Ready?", moderated by Chairman & CEO The Millennium Education Group Dr. Faisal Mushtaq, featuring Professor Dr. Yasir Ayaz and Parvez Abbasi. The debate on AI readiness, ethical use of technology, workforce skills, and global digital responsibility, energized the audience and became one of TDC 2025's most talkedabout sessions.

Continuing its tradition, TME honoured its educators through the prestigious Millennium Impact Awards AY 2024-2025, Long Service Awards, Cambridge Awards, Microsoft MIEE Awards, and Service Gratitude Awards. These recognitions celebrated extraordinary commitment, classroom innovation, digital leadership, and decades of service to education.

The closing ceremony was graced by the legendary Mrs. Riffat Mushtaq (Aizaz-e-Fazeelat), Founder Chairperson, Roots School System, who shared her pioneering four-decade journey of Roots School system. Dr. Faisal Mushtaq TI, honoured her legacy, stating that, "it takes one woman to do the right thing at the right time



with a purpose, to change the course of Pakistan's largest, most respected platgenerations". He also paid tribute to the form for educational dialogue, teacher late Dr. Khadija Mushtaq, honouring her life-long service to quality education in Pakistan.

Dr. Faisal Mushtaq TI, reaffirmed the legacy of TDC, noting that for 15 years, this annual conference has remained development, and pedagogical innovation. He thanked the speakers, delegates, sponsors, exhibition partners, and organizers, emphasizing that the future of Pakistan depends on empow-

osity, and confidence in every learner.

TDC 2025 fulfilled its promise of empowering teachers so they can empower the future of Pakistan. Participants left the conference with fresh inspiration, strengthened professional identity, and a collective commitment ered teachers who cultivate agency, curito shaping future-ready classrooms.

#### Bestway Group - UBL Donate Rs 550 million to LUMS

**Example 2** Commerce Desk

LAHORE: The Lahore while UBL and Bestway University of Management Foundation have actively Sciences (LUMS) hosted The supported the National Lord Choudrey CBE SI Pk, Outreach Programme at LUMS; Dr. Parvez Hassan, Chairman Bestway Group and Muhammad Jawaid Iqbal President & CEO Unit- LUMS by the country's ed Bank Limited (UBL).

member of the United King- a testament to their enduring dom's House of Lords and the Chairman of Bestway Group presented a cheque progress and that LUMS is Foundation Pakistan. of Rs 275 million on behalf of Bestway Group. Likewise, progress. Muhammad Jawaid Iqbal, million on behalf of UBL.

Restway Group Compa UK establishing an endow- service to society.

ment at the Suleman Dawood LUMS.

This generous gift to largest business group and His Lordship, who is also a the country's largest bank is belief that education is the cornerstone of national best qualified to deliver this

The donation President and CEO of UBL, strengthen LUMS' mission unique environment for its thropy help sustain institupresented a cheque of Rs. 275 to make world-class learning students. At LUMS students tions like LUMS and deliver Foundation stands as a testanies and Trusts have a long cial background and to learning resources and inspiassociation with LUMS, nurture leadership grounded ration. with Bestway Foundation in innovation, integrity, and

ceremony School of Business in 1991, attended by senior leaders from LUMS and the Bestway Group, including Syed Babar Ali, Founding Pro Chancellor, Chair, Board of Trustees, LUMS: Mr. Dawood Pervez. Managing Director, Bestway Wholesale and Trustee, Bestway Foundation UK; and Mr. Irfan Sheikh, Managing Director, Bestway Cement Ltd and Treasurer, Bestway

Speaking at the event, The Lord Choudrey said will that LUMS provides a students regardless of finan- leading academics, the best



partnership with LUMS and talent and innovation through education.

Pro Chancellor of LUMS, expressed heartfelt appreciation for this contribution. He noted that such acts of philangenerations to come

Mr. Muhammad Jawaid Vice Chancellor, LUMS, can learn, lead, and create Iqbal, President and CEO, expressed his deep grati- lasting impact.

firmed UBL's long-standing the University. He emphasized that LUMS remains its commitment to nurturing steadfast in its commitment to transform this generosity into meaningful impact by Syed Babar Ali, Founding nurturing a cohort of leaders who will contribute to the social and economic trans-

The partnership between LUMS and the Bestway accessible to exceptional have access to the country's returns that benefit society for ment to the transformative power of education, ensuring Reflecting on this enduring that the next generation of partnership, Dr. Ali Cheema, Pakistan's brightest minds

formation of Pakistan.

#### **UAJK to Provide Free Hostel Accommodation for Students** under Disabled Quota

跨 Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: The University of Azad Jammu & Kashmir (UAJK) has announced that students admitted under the disabled quota will now be provided free hostel accommodation, a move aimed at promoting inclusivity and equal access to education. The members of civil society. initiative has been approved by Vice Chancellor Prof. Nasir Jamal Khattak and will be formally ratified by the Academic Council and Syndicate.

According to UAJK officials, the measure is part of the University's ongoing efforts to create a supportive and enabling academic environment but also strengthens the University's for differently-abled students. Priority commitment to social responsibility this year will be given to students and human compassion. admitted under the disabled quota. UAJK has reiterated its dedication ensuring they can fully benefit from to fostering an inclusive learning envithe University's educational and residential facilities.

of every student, regardless of background or ability, remain our foremost priority," said a UAJK spokesperson. "Providing accessible and supportive facilities is central to our mission of inclusive education.

The decision has been widely welcomed by students, parents, and

Students described it as a progressive and positive step, while parents praised the University for addressing the specific needs of differently-abled students

Educational observers noted that the move not only promotes equality

ronment, ensuring equal opportunities, and supporting the overall growth "The welfare and academic progress and development of all its students.

## South-South Exchange at COP30 Opens with Strong Calls for Climate Finance, Equity & Fossil Fuel pledges

News Desk

BELÉM/ISLAMABAD: Parliamentarians, policy experts, civil society leaders and private-sector representatives from Asia on Monday voiced deep concern over weak texts, slow negotiations and inadequate climate finance commitments at the South-South Exchange held on the margins of COP30.

Qamar, Chair of the National Assembly Standing Committee on Finance and former Federal Minister for Finance, warned that Pakistan and other climate-vulnerable countries are facing another appeal after the 2025 floods existential threats due to recurring floods, droughts and rapid glacial melt.

He said that after attending more than 10 COPs, the negotiations continued to deliver the same debate



Opening the session, Syed Naveed and the same disappointing outcomes. He noted that while Pakistan received pledges after the 2022 floods, actual disbursements remained low, and the country is refrained from launching due to concerns over accumulating

Mr Qamar said Pakistan's rapid solarization demonstrated people's willingness to transition to clean energy

without external financing. "With proper climate finance, the pace would be far stronger," he added.

Dr Abid Qaiyum Suleri, Executive Director of Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), said President Lula's declaration of COP30 as the "COP of truth" had highlighted the widening gap between ambition and delivery. He observed that the summit still lacked clarity on climate finance, adding that many Asian communities "cannot wait while finance stalls and key emitters delay their NDCs."

He said unresolved issues now placed additional pressure on the Brazilian presidency, which had positioned COP30 as the "COP of Action."

Ma Jun, Environmental Policy Researcher based in Beijing, China called for retaining earlier transition commitments and strengthening renewable-energy cooperation with developing countries. She cited Pakistan's distributed solar expansion as a successful model and emphasized improving financial risk assessments and green-bond mobilisation.

Representing Germanwatch, the UNFCCC system continued to

fossil fuel phase-out and just transition, weaken, urging developing countries be addressed through private-sector to strengthen cooperation and pursue practical, trust-building steps.

Private-sector concerns were highlighted by Dr Ayaz, Chairperson of the Pakistan Readymade Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (PRGMEA), who said EU Green Deal regulations were placing increasing pressure on local industries. He outlined PRGMEA's initiatives on biochar, renewable energy, biodiesel and partnerships with universities and international agencies.

From Bangladesh, Sharif Jamil, Coordinator, Waterkeepers Bangladesh, said fossil fuel phase-out commitments without parallel finance risked becoming a trap for developing econ-Giovani said multilateralism within omies. He said that unpredictable monsoons and cloudbursts could not

interventions alone Providing a regional perspective, Harjeet Singh, Global Expert at the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty Initiative, said the latest draft text released early morning contained no reference to fossil fuels, and its finance section remained extremely weak. He termed the Colombia-led coalition of 80 governments supporting a fossil fuel phase-out roadmap a positive development outside the Paris Agreement.

A representative of the Alliance for Climate Justice and Clean Energy (ACJCE) read a statement urging structural reforms in the UNFCCC process, including transparent negotiations, curbs on fossil-fuel lobbyists and enhanced support for vulnerable

## 'A New Era of GSP Plus: A Deep Evolution in Pakistan-EU Relations'

Dr. Muhammad Tayyab

Khan Singhanvi

n the intricate and rapidly evolving landscape of intera significant new phase. The seventh Pakistan-EU Strategic Dialogue held in Brussels was not merely a routine diplomatic engagement; rather, it was a comprehensive framework outlining future bilateral economic and political priorities whose implications extend to Pakistan's trade, investment climate, human rights policies, and regional diplomacy. The dialogue was co-chaired by Pakistan's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Senator Ishaq Dar, and the EU High Representative and Vice President, Kaja Kallas. The Pakistani delegation included Foreign Secretary Amina Baloch and several senior diplomats. The progress achieved in this session has injected fresh momentum into the high-level engagements established in recent years.

Both sides unanimously concluded that future Pakistan-EU relations will national diplomacy, relations be anchored in deeper cooperation in between Pakistan and the trade, investment, export diversifi-European Union are entering cation, and industrial advancement. The European Union remains Pakistan's largest trading partner, and the preferential trade benefits extended under the GSP Plus framework over the past decade have revitalized Pakistan's exports particularly the textile and garments sector. The session underscored the need to enhance the scope, stability, and sustainability of the GSP Plus arrangements. Mutual willingness was expressed to reinforce economic linkages during an era marked by global economic volatility, as such partnerships hold vital significance for economic growth and employment generation. The European Union indicated that

the GSP Plus Monitoring Mission is expected to visit Pakistan in the final quarter of the current year. This mission will meticulously assess Pakiconventions concerning human rights, protection of minorities, women's rights. enforced disappearances, child labour and forced labour, the implementation of capital punishment, and laws pertaining to blasphemy. It is important

to note that securing GSP Plus status is not merely an economic undertaking, but a multidimensional process profoundly tied to diplomatic, legal, and societal reforms. Pakistan must demonstrate tangible progress in these areas to sustain its preferential access

to global markets.

If Pakistan successfully retains its GSP Plus status, it will benefit from duty-free or significantly reduced-duty market access, enhanced competitiveness within European markets, substan-

stan's compliance with 27 international tial improvement in export volumes, opportunities to expand its industrial and agricultural sectors, and the potential for greater inflows of direct European investment. For these reasons, diplomatic and commercial circles in Pakistan view this dialogue as a mile-

stone with far-reaching implications.

Another crucial dimension of the dialogue was the candid and extensive discussion on global developments. Representatives from Pakistan and the European Union exchanged perspectives on the

geopolitical situation in South Asia, the evolving dynamics in Afghanistan, the crises in the Middle East, and broader geopolitical tensions. In the context of climate change, border conflicts, economic uncertainty, and emerging reforms, safeguard civil liberties, protect

global alliances, both parties affirmed minority rights, strengthen the judicial that addressing global challenges necessitates a coordinated, coherent, and mutually reinforcing policy approach.

Under the Strategic Engagement Plan, Pakistan and the European Union reiterated their commitment to strengthening cooperation in political and security matters, trade relations, development programs, climate change, energy, education, and technology. This progression reflects the mutual intent to evolve beyond conventional diplomacy toward a more comprehensive and longterm partnership.

While these developments present significant opportunities for Pakistan, they also entail substantial responsibilities. Relations with the European Union are not limited to economic or political dimensions; they are equally anchored in clear benchmarks related to human rights and legal reforms. Pakistan must pursue parliamentary system, and meet global human rights obligations through swift and practical measures. Such steps are indispensable for fostering trust within international partnerships. The seventh Strategic Dialogue in

Brussels appears to signal the beginning of a new chapter in Pakistan-EU relations. The session has opened fresh avenues of economic cooperation and reshaped Pakistan's diplomatic, commercial, and geopolitical posture amid shifting international realities. If Pakistan proceeds with seriousness, consistency, and strategic foresight, the attainment of GSP Plus status, enhanced market access in Europe, greater employment generation, increased exports, and an improved global standing are all within reach. This moment represents both an opportunity and a test for Pakistan one whose outcome will ultimately depend on the nation's actions.

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

Index Fluctuation		
00-Share Index		
Prev. Close		
162,102.92		
Day's Low		
161,241.46		
Change		
-118.84		
Time		
24 Nov, 2025 4:30 pm		
Europe: FTSE 100 Index		
Change		
-4.80		
Time		
24 Nov, 4:40 pm GMT		
ndustrial Average		
Change		
+209.12		
Time		
24 Nov, 12:27 pm GMT-5		
Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average		
ei Stucks Average		
Change		

0	Marka	Farav	Detec
open	Manka	Forex	Kares

Time

21 Nov, 3:45 pm

GMT+9

**Percentage** 

-2.40%

Currency	Duving	Selling
Currency	Buying	
Australian Dollar	180.5	185.5
Bahrain Dinar	745.5	753
Canadian Dollar	199	204
China Yuan	39.25	39.65
Danish Krone	43.15	43.55
Euro	324.5	328
Hong Kong Dollar	35.85	36.1
Indian Rupee	3.10	3.19
Japanese Yen	1.7725	1.8725
Kuwaiti Dinar	911.4	920.4
Malaysian Ringgit	66.5	67.1
NewZealand \$	156.15	158.15
Norwegians Krone	27.3	27.6
Omani Riyal	730	737.5
Qatari Riyal	76.55	77.25
Saudi Riyal	75.05	75.5
Singapore Dollar	213.75	218.75
Swedish Korona	29.1	29.4
Swiss Franc	346.1	348.85
Thai Bhat	8.45	8.6
U.A.E Dirham	76.7	77.5
UK Pound Sterling	368.5	372.5
US Dollar	281.5	281.65

#### Wheat yield competition launched

MULTAN: The Punjab Agriculture Department has announced the launch of the Wheat Yield Competition 2025-26 across the province. According to a department spokesperson, the competition aims to promote higher wheat productivity, with top-performing farmers set to receive tractors and cash prizes totaling millions of

At the provincial level, the first prize will include an 85-horsepower tractor, followed by a 75-horsepower tractor for second place, and a 60-horsepower tractor for third place. At the district level, cash prizes of Rs. 1,000,000, Rs. 800,000, and Rs. 500,000 will be awarded to the first, second, and third place winners, respectively.

Farmers owning five acres or more are eligible to apply. Application forms can be obtained at the offices of Assistant Director Agriculture (Extension) and Agriculture Officer (Extension) in all tehsils, or downloaded from the department's official website. Photocopies of the forms will also be accepted.

## Beko reaffirms its confidence in Pakistan's home-appliances sector

KARACHI: Türkiye's leading investment holding company, Koç Holding, reaffirmed its longterm commitment to Pakistan and Dawlance's growth trajectory through a high-profile visit from senior executives of Koç Holding and Beko, flagship of Koç Group in consumer durables industry.

The delegation included Dr. Fatih Kemal Ebiçlio lu, President of the Consumer Durables Group at Koç Holding; Can Dinçer, Chief Commercial Officer for Türkiye and South Asia at Beko; Nihat Bayız, Chief Production and Technology Officer at Beko; and Handan Abdurrahmano lu, Director of Regional Marketing, Business Transformation, and Growth at Beko.

Hosted by Umar Ahsan Khan, Managing Director at Dawlance, a subsidiary of Beko, the visit reflects Beko's long-term vision for Pakistan and its commitment to further deepening business ties, industrial development and sustainable growth in the region.

Dawlance's state-of-the-art manufacturing

facilities in Karachi and Hyderabad, continuously enhanced by investments in product innovation, R&D, and production modernisation. The delegation also visited key retail markets across Karachi and held an interactive session with Dawlance's nationwide dealer network, discussing consumer trends, market dynamics, distribution strategies and future growth

opportunities to further strengthen collabo-

During the visit, the delegation toured dealer channel.

Following the visit, Umar Ahsan Khan, Managing Director at Dawlance, stated: "This visit underscores the confidence our global leadership has in Dawlance and the immense potential of Pakistan's market. We remain committed to accelerating innovation, strengthening our dealer network, and delivering reliable technologies that genuinely meet the needs of Pakistani consumers.'

Koç Holding and Beko remain committed ration and commercial partnerships across the to supporting Pakistan's economic and indus-

trial progress through continued innovation, strengthened local manufacturing and reliable technologies designed to improve everyday life for Pakistani households. Koç Group's oper-Pakistan, two countries connected by shared values and strategic partnership. Bilateral trade between the two nations reached approximately USD 1.4 billion in 2024. Both Türkiye and Pakistan are fully committed to further and deliver a superior product experience. enhancing this collaboration, with the ambi-

tious goal of increasing bilateral trade to USD 5 billion in the near future.

About Dawlance: Dawlance, a leading home appliances brand of Pakistan part of Beko, Türkiye, was established in 1980 with the vision of making Dawlance a global brand by practicing reliability and making Pakistan Proud. Dawlance was acquired by Arçelik in 2016 after which Dawlance became a wholly owned subsidiary of the largest white goods manufacturer in Europe. Arcelik renamed all its global operations under one international corporate brand "Beko" in 2024. Dawlance serves its customers in 3 functions involving Food Care, Fabric Care, and Home Care with its wide range of appliances including refrigerators, freezers, micro-wave ovens, water dispensers, small kitchen appliances, hoods &hobs, washing machines, dishwashers, and air conditioners. Dawlance promises reliability in every way for its consumers and stakeholders alike; Reliability is the key characteristic of Dawlance and is exercised within all functions of the company; it is in fact embedded in the organization's culture. Aside from its reliability, Dawlance's major ations play a pivotal role in strengthening strengths are differentiation and relevance- it the economic relations between Türkive and makes products that are relevant to the needs of Pakistani households but with an element of differentiation; Dawlance takes pride in introducing innovative products for the Pakistani market to enhance the lifestyle of its consumers

#### Honesty

LAHORE: Pakistan Railways staff return PKR 40,000 to a passenger, setting an example of honesty and integrity. Train Manager Mansoor Masood Alam and STE Ijaz were rewarded by CEO Railways on the directions of Federal Minister Muhammad Hanif Abbasi on Monday.



#### inDrive Launches **Delivery by Rickshaw** in Lahore and Karachi

inDrive, a global mobility and services platform, has officially launched deliveries by rickshaw in Lahore and Karachi, offering customers and small businesses a cost-effective, fast, and reliable solution for parcel deliveries. The service is available as a dedicated option within the app.

The service creates tangible value for both drivers and small businesses. Larger and higher-value deliveries translate into better earnings, while businesses benefit from greater flexibility, increased delivery frequency, and reduced customer turnover.

that the most active users of day-to-day operations. rickshaw services are business customers, with around 40% preferring rickshaws for ability, rickshaw delivery delivery. Among ride-hailing customers, about 30% have for businesses to transport used rickshaws to send items. goods, helping them serve Approximately 48% of all customers better and opticustomers prefer rickshaws mise daily operations."



while the remaining 52% use them for business purposes. Awais Saeed, Country

Head of inDrive Pakihighlighted the service's impact: "Our goal is to provide solutions that directly address customer needs, particularly for small businesses that rely Internal data suggests on inDrive to run their

> With its affordability, higher capacity, and reli provides a more efficient way

## PC Hospitality Enters Strategic Partnership with Shiji Group to Strengthen Technology and Distribution Capabilities

Group, a global provider of hospitality technology solutions. This collaboration supports PC Hospitality's longterm technology roadmap, aimed at creating stronger value for investors, partners, and property owners.

Hospitality will implement Shiji's Distribution, and Infrasys POS, to that supports smarter distribution, centralize property data, enhance stronger revenue performance, and decision-making, more efficient operations." and enable support future port-

PC Hospitality is pleased to announce ecosystem supports the compaa new strategic partnership with Shiji ny's strategic vision of staying agile, competitive, and operationally efficient in an evolving hospitality land-

scape.
"This partnership represents improving operational performance, an important step in our growth enhancing distribution strategy, and journey," said Bastien Blanc, CEO of PC Hospitality. "Strengthening our technology foundation allows Through this partnership, PC us to provide better tools to our partners and ensures we are prepared for suite of cloud-based solutions, the next phase of expansion. With including Daylight PMS, Horizon Shiji, we are building a framework

folio expansion. This move toward PC Hospitality in building a futurea modern, scalable technology ready digital infrastructure," said



Anson Lau, Managing Director Shiji. 'Our shared focus on efficiency and "We look forward to supporting value creation gives this partnership strong alignment and long-term

adopting solutions that deliver measvalue while supporting sustained business growth.

PC Hospitality, Hashoo Group's hospitality division, is one of Asia's leading conglomerates, with a diverse portfolio spanning hotels, restaurants, education, and travel services. With over 60 operating and upcoming hotels, its brands include the luxury PC Signature, Pearl-Continental Hotels & Resorts, and PC Residences; the premium PC Legacy; and midscale to budget options such as Hotel One, Hotel One Vogue, and

Roomph. The PC Connoisseur Collection

This partnership reflects PC features over 50 renowned dining Hospitality's commitment to destinations, including DumPukht, Sakura, Bukhara, Marco Polo, urable performance and operational and Tai Pan. Complementing its hospitality offerings, Pearl Tours & Travel delivers seamless car rental and travel solutions, and holds the Destination of the World franchise. With its five campuses, the Hashoo School of Hospitality is dedicated to nurturing future industry leaders through comprehensive graduate and diploma programs.

Shiji Group is a global technology company serving the hospitality, travel, and retail industries. Shiji provides modern, cloud-based solutions to improve operations and enhance guest experience across thousands of properties worldwide.

## RUA AlHaram AlMakki Company Signs 6 Strategic MoUs, Concluding Its Cityscape Global Debut

MAKKAH, SAUDI ARABIA: opment. By welcoming invest- AlHaram AlMakki Co. — one ny (RUA AlHaram AlMakki Co. or the company), the PIF-owned master developer and Foundation Partner of Cityscape Global 2025, announces the signing of six landmark Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with partners from Saudi, Indonesia, Malaysia, Brunei and the United States, advancing international investment and global collaboration for its inaugural King Salman Gate project in the Holy City of Makkah.

These strategic agreements reflect RUA AlHaram AlMakki Co.'s commitment to bring together the global Muslim the future of Makkah's devel-

RUA AlHaram AlMakki Compament and collaboration from to assess strategic investment partners across diverse markets, the company aims to create inclusive destinations in Makkah that serve pilgrims, visitors and businesses from around the world.

During Cityscape Global, held in Riyadh from 17-20 November 2025, RUA AlHaram AlMakki Co. formalized the following

\* Osool, a real estate investment and asset management firm in Saudi Arabia, signed an MoU with RUA AlHaram AlMakki Co. to explore investment opportunities within King Salman Gate.

\* Badan Pengelola Keuangan Haji (BPKH), Indonesia's Hajj community in contributing to financial management agency,

opportunities in the project and another to evaluate partnership opportunities in the urban dining components of the company's future developments.

\* Malaysian Resources Corporation Berhad (MRCB), a leading Malaysian property and infrastructure developer, signed a Joint Venture MoU with RUA AlHaram AlMakki Co. to explore collaborative opportunities within the King Salman Gate project.

\* Perbadanan Tabung Amanah Islam Brunei (TAIB ), Brunei's Islamic trust fund, signed a General Investment MoU with RUA AlHaram AlMakki Co. to signed two MoUs with RUA evaluate investment in one of the The project is poised to set new

company's plots in Makkah.

\* Forbes Global Properties, the exclusive real estate partner of Forbes, signed a MoU with RUA AlHaram AlMakki Co. to explore strategic collaboration. RUA AlHaram AlMakki Co. is the first real estate developer globally to join Forbes Global Properties. The MoU will support the company's efforts, enhancing international visibility and access to ultra-high-net-worth audiences through Forbes' global network.

The signing of these MoUs marks a pivotal milestone in the development of King Salman Gate, the company's transformative mixed-use development adjacent to AlMasjid AlĤaram.



benchmarks in urban living, hospitality and cultural preservation, supporting Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030 and strengthening welcomes ongoing collabora-

destination.

RUA AlHaram AlMakki Co.

Makkah's position as a global tion with partners and investors from around the world as King Salman Gate enters its next phase of development.

## Quetta Gladiators extend partnership for another 10 years

**➣** Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: The HBL PSL is delighted to confirm that Quetta Gladiators will continue under the stewardship of their current owners for the next decade, as the franchise has formally renewed its long-term agreement. The ownership of Quetta Gladiators has renewed the franchise agreement at the newly assessed valuation, which was set following a comprehensive evaluation led by Ernst & Young, a globally renowned audit and advisory organ-

PCB Chairman Mohsin Naqvi said, "I am delighted that Quetta Gladiators will continue their journey with their current owners for another decade.

Nadeem Omar and his team have played a vital role in building a loyal fan base and elevating the franchise's stature both locally and internationally.

"Nadeem Omar is a thorough gentleman, professional, and a cricket

His renewed commitment speaks volumes about their faith in the HBL PSL's upward trajectory and the league's deepening this partnership and working over the years.



together to achieve even greater milestones for Pakistan cricket."

**HBL PSL Chief Executive Officer** Salman Naseer said that the Gladiators' dedication, competitive spirit, and unwavering belief in the HBL PSL have global standing. We look forward to helped shape the identity of the league

collaboration with Nadeem Omar and iators' partnership." his management for the next decade.

"We are thrilled to continue our this next chapter of HBL PSL and Glad-

Quetta Gladiators remain one of the "Mr. Nadeem Omar's contributions most popular teams in the HBL PSL, go way beyond the HBL PSL. His true carrying a strong legacy built through passion has always been Cricket and consistent performances, star-studded its development in Pakistan. We are lineups, and an enduring connection excited to have them on board and for with fans across Pakistan.

## 3rd Qamar Zaman All Pakistan National Junior Squash Championship in Peshawar

Sports Desk

PESHAWAR: The 3rd Qamar Zaman All Pakistan National Junior Squash Championship, sponsored by the BARD and Markhor Squash Foundations, concluded with great enthusiasm at the Qamar Zaman Squash Complex, Qayyum Stadium, Peshawar, on the 24th of November. This was one of the largest national junior tournaments, with close to 40 lacs in prize money, and featured Girls' Under-15 and Under-19 categories, along with Boys' Under-11, Under-13, Under-15, Under-17, and Under-19 categories, attracting more than 400 young players from across the country.

1-Boys Under-11 Final (Anas Rafay 3-2 Abdur Rehman Riaz (PAF) 11/6,9/11,11/8,10/12,13/11

2-Boys Under-13 Final (M. Mustafa Ahmad (PB) 3-0 Fahad Khan (PAF).11/7,11/1,13/15,11/5

11/6,11/5,11/7

4-Boys Under-Asad (PAF) 3-0 Mustafa Irfan(PAF)

5-Boys Under-19 Final (Abdullah Nawaz (Wapda) 3-1 Sakhiullah Tareen

(PB) 7/11,11/9,11/5,11/8 6-Girls Under-15 Final(Damia Khan (Sindh) 3-2 Sehrish Ali (Sindh).11/9,8/ 11,7/11,11/7,11/9



7-Girls Under-19 Final (Mahnoor Ali (KP) 3-0 Amna (Wapda).11/2/,11/4,11/5 The event was graced by former World

3-Boys Under-15 Final (Sohail Adnan Champion and Chairman of the KP (SNGPL) 3-0 Danish Sikandar (KP) Squash Association, Mr. Qamar Zaman, who attended as Chief Guest. Also Mehreen Dawood said, present were Mr. Dawood Khan, Pres-Secretary Public Health; squash legend Wazir Muhammad, Finance Secretary of the KP Squash Association.

At the closing ceremony, Ms. Mehreen Dawood, Member of the Board of Gover-

behalf of the Bilquis and Abdul Razak Dawood Foundation (BARD), along with Mr. Hussain T. Hasan on behalf of the for displaying the true spirit of the game." Markhor Squash Foundation.

"It's always inspiring to improving the sports landscape of Paki- youth deserve."

nors, BARD Foundation, attended on stan at a national level. I congratulate the KP Squash Association and all the winners for a successful tournament and

Mr. Hussain T. Hasan, CEO of Speaking on the occasion, Ms. Markhor Squash Foundation, shared,

"We are not just sponsoring a tourament: we are building a pathway for ident of the KP Squash Association and players gather on one platform and show-Pakistan's next generation of champions. case their talent, especially the girls. The The talent and energy here are undeni-Mr. Mohibullah Khan; Mr. Mansoor strong participation of female athletes able, especially with the historic rise in Zaman, General Secretary; and Mr. is truly encouraging. Tournaments female participation. We are committed like these provide invaluable learning to bridging the gap between local talent experiences for emerging players. and international success by providing We are committed to supporting and the elite coaching and resources our

## A Journey of Courage and Inclusion: APHA at Abilympics Moscow 2025

Honored to part of APHA The Association of Physically Handicapped Adults (A. P. H. A) has been rehabilitating and empowering persons with disabilities since 1975, transforming exceptional individuals into champions. As a registered organization, our members have represented Pakistan in several countries including Thailand and Sri Lanka and even secured a silver medal in wheelchair racing. This year, A. P. H. A received a prestigious invitation to participate in Abilympics Moscow 2025, an international celebration of skill, talent and determination.

Our delegation consisted of four extraordinary participants: Syed Adil Hussain (Vocal Arts), Syeda Kaniz Iqbal and Syed Zain-ul-Abidin Ansari (Sewing & Cutting), and Sajjad Khan (Floral Art). Although the preparation time was short, our hopes were high. It was also the team's first international flight, and despite apprehension about the Russian cold, everyone was filled with excitement and courage.

After 9-10 hour connecting flight from Dubai, the team landed in Moscow, where three staff members waited with wheelchairs.



Our guide, Ms. Yulia, welcomed us warmly and accompanied us to a vehicle equipped with a ramp. A gentle drizzle freshened the air as we drove toward the Azimut Hotel, our home for the next ten days. The stunning views of Moscow the organized roads, beautiful trees and graceful architecture instantly won our hearts. The hospitality began at the airport and continued throughout our stay.

Upon arrival, a halal dinner awaited us and for the next several days, the hotel served a rich variety of delicious meals.

On the second day, we attended the grand opening ceremony an unforgettable experience with spectacular performances and a massive stage where Syed Adil later competed in Vocal Arts. We presented a commemorative shield to Ms. Natalia, capturing  $\,$ beautiful memories through photographs.

Evenings were spent strolling through nearby markets with Mufti Abu Talha, who became a close friend, along with Mr. Zahoor and Mr. Ashraf Tai (Yoga Acharya). The team enjoyed Turkish shawarma one of the most delightful culinary discoveries of the trip. The next morning marked the day of the Vocal Arts competition. Ms. Fidan, a remarkable woman who supported and guided Syed Adil, stood by his side while the rest of the team visited a museum. Performing on such a massive stage, receiving standing applause it was a defining moment of pride and achievement. The following day, it was time for the Floristry and Sewing  $\,$ & Cutting competitions, in which the rest of our team performed exceptionally well. Acting as their interpreter was an honor. Their skill and confidence made it clear that Pakistan was capable of

In the days that followed, Yulia guided us through Moscow's iconic landmarks, including the breathtaking Red Square. The museums, monuments and history of Russia left a lasting impact. Moscow's warmth, hospitality, and inclusiveness made us fall in love with the city and its people.

At the closing ceremony, Syed Adil was invited to deliver a lecture on entrepreneurship for persons with disabilities an honor in itself. Then came the moment that brought tears to all eyes: Pakistan's name was announced!

Syed Zain-ul-Abidin Ansari won the Bronze Medal. The hall erupted with chants of "Pakistan Zindabad!" It was history in the making our flag rising proudly, our hearts filled with joy. Without formal preparation, our team succeeded beyond expectations.

The next day, the Ambassador of Pakistan graciously hosted and congratulated the team. As we returned home, our hearts were full of gratitude. We extend special thanks to the volunteers and organizers of Abilympics Moscow 2025 for an unforgettable, warm, and inspiring experience. This journey was not just a competition it was a celebration of resilience, dignity and the limitless potential of persons with disabilit.

The writer is Defender and International researcher

## Islamabad's Rohail hits maiden first-class double ton; All-round Hamza keeps Sialkot afloat

#### **Sports Desk**

ISLAMABAD: The day two of the last Quaid-e-Azam Trophy round saw Rohail Nazir complete his double century, while FATA's Salman Khan Jnr struck a century as action unfolded across five venues.

On the bowling front left-arm spin-Ahmed Safi Abdullah and Noman Ali picked up five-fors.

Islamabad's Rohail Nazir struck his 181-run sixth-wicket stand with Arsal Sheikh (91, 209b, 6x4s) took Islamabad to 563 all out in 148.2 overs against havoc with the ball taking 6-65 in his 20 Peshawar at the Diamond Cricket Ground, Islamabad,

Resuming from 346-5 in 86 overs on day two, Islamabad added 217 runs to their total for five wickets as Rohail was dismissed for 207 off 269 balls hitting to their overnight score of 360-5 as 26 fours and six sixes. For Peshawar Mohammad Irfan and Sajid Khan picked up three wickets each.

In turn, Peshawar 81-4 in 20 overs at sumps and 482 runs behind Islamabad as they look for valuable points to stake a claim for the tournament-final berth.

Sialkot's Hamza Nazar kept his team in the table-toppers clash against Karachi Blues with a second first-class five-for in first innings and a second innings 59 not out at the Shoaib Akhtar Cricket Stadium, Rawalpindi.

At stumps on day two, Sialkot were leading Karachi by 168 runs in the mark. second innings with three wickets remaining as Hamza (59 not out, 70b, 8x4s) and Afzaal Manzoor (23 not out, 60b, 3x4s) had pulled them out of trouble from 145-7. The duo had put on unbeaten 72 runs taking their team to 217-7 in 67 overs.

Earlier, Karachi Blues had taken a 49-run first innings lead after they were dismissed for 225 in 57.5 overs innings lead over Lahore Whites with

after resuming day two from 144-3 in the help of Salman Khan Jnr's fourth (Mohammad Ammar 33.3 overs. Shan Masood top-scored with 70 off 123 balls hitting five fours and one six. Mehran Mumtaz and Mohammad Waleed picked up two

Abbottabad were made to follow-on against Multan as they folded for 159-9 with skipper Kamran Ghulam absent ners had a memorable day as Ali Usman, hurt - in reply to 542-8 declared at the Abbottabad Cricket Stadium. In turn, they faced one over before stumps and scored eight runs leaving another 375 maiden first-class double-century as his to get as they look to avoid an innings defeat and relegation. Left-arm spinner Ali Usman wreaked

> overs and also registered his fifth consecutive, sixth in the tournament and ninth first-class five-wicket haul. Faisal Akram backed him up with 3-37 in 11.1 overs. Earlier, Multan added 182 runs

> Zeeshan Ashraf (94, 103b, 11x4s, 3x6s) and no.8 Aamer Yamin (75, 66b, 9x4s, 3x6s) as they added 78 runs for the seventh-wicket. For Abbottabad. Mansoor Ali picked up four wickets.

> Bahawalpur conceded a 124-run first innings deficit as they were bundled out for 188 in 82.3 overs responding to Faisalabad's 312 all out.

> Faisalabad's left-arm spinner Ahmed Safi Abdullah – playing his 50th firstclass game - returned impressive figures of 5-36 in 31 overs including 17 maidens as he also crossed the 150 wickets land-

For Bahawalpur, no.3 Mohammad Ammar stuck around for 214 balls scoring 66 runs with the help of four fours and one six. Faisalabad will begin their second innings at the start of day three as the joint-third placed team on points table looks for a spot in the tournament final.

FATA gained a slim 34-run first

first-class century at the Imran Khan Cricket Stadium in Peshawar.

Test spinner Noman Ali bagged his 34th first-class five-wicket haul as his 5-53 in 23 overs helped Lahore Whites dismiss FATA for 239 in 63.5 overs after they had continued from overnight score of 86-3 in 23 overs.

FATA's skipper Asif Afridi first hung around for a crucial 39-run ninth-wicket stand with Mohammad Sarwar Afridi (46, 52b, 4x4s, 4x6s) before taking 4-49 in his 15 overs in the second innings.

Lahore Whites were 144-4 in 41 overs in their second dig leading FATA by 110 runs with night watchers Mohammad Rameez Jnr and (4 not out, 19b, 1x4) and Noman Ali (10 not out, 12b, 1x4, 1x6) on the crease after Ali Zaryab (54, 90b, 6x4s), Imran Dogar (44, 58b, 4x4s, 3x6s) and Tayyab Tahir fell in a quick succession.

#### Scores in brief – Ninth Round – Day 2 Stumps

Multan v Abbottabad at Abbottabad Cricket Stadium

Abbottabad trail by 375 runs with ten wickets remaining following-on

Multan 542-8, 119 overs (Imamul-Haq 181, Zeeshan Ashraf 94, Sharoon Siraj 83, Aamer Yamin 75, Imran Butt 40; Mansoor Ali 4-133, Adil Naz 2-94, Khalid Usman 2-166)

Abbottabad 159-9, 40.1 overs (Mohammad Arif 61, Shahab Khan 31; Ali Usman 6-65, Faisal Akram 3-37) f/o 8-0, 1 over Faisalabad v Bahawalpur at Marghzar

Cricket Ground, Islamabad Faisalabad lead by 124 runs with ten

wickets remaining in second innings Faisalabad 312 all out, 85.2 overs (Muhammad Awais Zafar 148, Hasan Raza 53, Raees Ahmed 53; Muhammad Imran 4-57, Mohammad Sudais 2-29, Mohammad Azab 2-61)

Bahawalpur 188 all out, 82.3 overs

Muhammad Imran 27, Mohammad Alamgir 26, Saifullah Bangash 26; Ahmed Safi Abdullah 5-36, Hasan Raza 3-53, Shahzad Khurram 2 - 33)

Lahore Whites v FATA at Imran Khan Cricket Stadium. Peshawar

Lahore Whites lead by 110 runs with six wickets remaining in

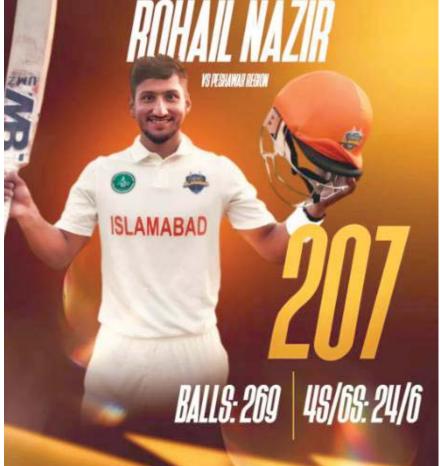
second innings Whites Lahore 205 all out, 53.4 overs (Qasim Akram 54, Aamir Jamal 32, Hussain Talat 30, Mohib Bhatti 28, Ali Zaryab 26; Hayatullah 7-78, Asif Afridi 2-55) and 144-4, 41 overs (Ali Zaryab 54, Imran Dogar 44, Mohib Bhatti 24; Asif Afridi 4-49)

FATA 239 all out, 63.5 overs (Salman Khan Jnr Mohammad Sarwar Afridi 46, Mohammad Farooq 28; Noman Ali 5-52, Aamir Jamal 2-38) Islamabad

Peshawar at Diamond Cricket Ground,

Peshawar trail by 482 runs with six

wickets remaining in first innings Islamabad 563 all out, 148.2 overs (Rohail Nazir 207, Arsla Sheikh 91, Shamyl Hussain 76, Naseerullah Khan 73, Abdul Faseeh 31; Sajid Khan 3-112, Mohammad Irfan 3-125, Razaullah



Peshawar 81-4, 20 overs (Abbas Ali 217-7, 67 overs (Hamza Nazar 59 not 35 not out; Naqeebullah 3-32) Sialkot v Karachi Blues at Shoaib

Akhtar Cricket Stadium, Rawalpindi Sialkot lead by 168 runs with three

wickets remaining in second innings Sialkot 176 all out, 46.2 overs (Mehran Mumtaz 70, Azan Awais 23, Mohammad Waleed 23; Muhammad Umar 5-40, Kashif Bhatti 4-67) and

out, Abdullah Shafique 37, Abdul Rehman 36, Afzaal Manzoor 23 not out, Mohammad Huraira 21; Mohammad Asghar 2-71)

Karachi Blues 225 all out, 57.5 overs (Shan Masood 70, Saad Baig 29, Saud Shakeel 29, Abdullah Fazal 21; Hamza Nazar 5-49, Mohammad Waleed 2-45, Mehran Mumtaz 2-48)

# The Spokesman

# Called on RAWALPINDI: General Fayyadh bin Hameed Al Rowaili, Chief of General Staff (CGS) of Saudi Armed Forces, called on Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir at General Headquarters (GHQ) on Monday.

## **General Sahir Shamshad** Mirza meets PM in farewell call as historic role ends

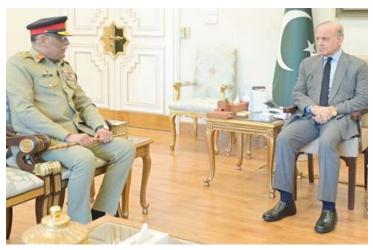
Maveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee General Sahir Shamshad Mirza on Monday paid a farewell call on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

During the meeting, the prime minister praised the professionalism of the outgoing Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee and his services to the country and the nation, says a press statement issued by the PM House Media Wing.

The prime minister said that General Sahir Shamshad Mirza had demonstrated exemplary vision, leadership and professionalism during his tenure — qualities that would always be remembered.

completion of his tenure.



He will be the 18th and final General Sahir Shamshad Mirza will Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff retire on November 27, 2025, upon Committee, as the post has been abolished following the 27th Constitutional

Amendment. No new chairman will be appointed in the future.

General Sahir Shamshad Mirza tary leadership structure.

completes three years in the position.

The longest-serving chairman was the late General Iqbal Khan, who held the office for three years and 344 days. Pakistan's first Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee was General Muhammad Sharif, who was appointed by then-prime minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto on March 1, 1976.

Admiral Muhammad Sharif and Admiral Iftikhar Ahmed Sirohey were the only chairmen from the Navy, while Air Chief Marshal Farooq Feroze Khan was the only officer from the Pakistan Air Force to have served in the role.

Following the abolition of the chairman's post under the 27th Constitutional Amendment, Field Marshal General Asim Munir will assume the newly created position of "Chief of Defence Forces," considered a significant new chapter in the country's mili-

## Pakistan, Bangladesh move toward stronger maritime partnership

**Example 2** Commerce Desk

Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Junaid Anwar Chaudhry held a meeting with Bangladesh's Shipping Advisor in London, during which both countries agreed to expand maritime cooperation and strengthen economic ties in the region. The minister proposed establishing a Pakistan-Bangladesh Shipping Framework aimed at enhancing joint shipping services, technical training exchanges and maritime safety mechanisms.

He said both nations have the capacity to play a meaningful role in shaping global maritime policy.

Chaudhry shared that agriculture sectors. consultations were held on a for bilateral maritime cooperation, including collaboration at key international forums.

Pakistan has also sought Bangladesh's support in the upcoming International Maritime Organization (IMO) Category C elections.

The minister emphasized the importance of boosting cooperation between Islamabad and Dhaka at the IMO and other regional platforms. Sindh CM, Qatari royal

agree to boost investment Bureau Report

Karachi: Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah and Sheikh Ahmed bin Thani, a member of the Qatari Royal family, agreed to enhance highlevel engagement to significantly increase investment especially in Sindh's water and

At a meeting at the Chief Murad Ali Shah invited Sheikh management technologies. Ahmed bin Thani, empha-



prospects and investor-friendly policies, according to a state-

nied by his aides, expressed a strong interest in opportunicomprehensive long-term plan Minister's House in Karachi, ties in agriculture and water

> The meeting focused on sising Sindh's strong economic strengthening bilateral ties and

fostering future cooperation. Provincial ministers Nasir Shah and Ziaul Hassan Lanjar, Sheikh Ahmed, accompa- along with Chief Secretary Asif Hyder Shah and Principal Secretary Agha Wasif, were also present, according to the statement issued by the

Chief Minister Murad Shah

briefed the delegation on key projects, noting, "We have major desalination and water distribution projects planned

for Karachi. He added that significant agricultural initiatives are underway.

"Large-scale agriculture projects from Thatta to Kashmore can yield substantial

Shah also highlighted the province's investment potential in renewable energy, agro-processing, dairy, and tourism.

Both sides agreed to continue high-level engagement and scheduled follow-up meetings between their technical teams.

Sheikh Ahmed bin Thani announced that a delegation of Qatari investors will soon visit Sindh to advance discussions and finalise investment

# GB government de-notifies ministers, advisers ahead of caretaker setup

跨 Saif ur Rehman

GILGIT: The Gilgit-Baltistan government has officially de-notified all ministers, advisers, coordinators, and special assistants to the chief minister, effective from midnight, the Law and Prosecution Department announced on Monday.

The notification, signed by Secretary Law and Prosecution Sajjad Haider, cites a directive from the Gilgit-Baltistan Assembly Secretariat and Section 56(5) of the Gilgit-Baltistan Governance Reforms Act 2019, enforced in the region under the Gilgit-Baltistan (Elections and Caretaker Government) Amendment Order 2020.

Under these provisions, the positions of all ministers, advisers, coordinators,



special assistants, and parliamentary secretaries to the chief minister are now formally terminated. The move clears the path for a caretaker administration to manage the region until the next assembly elections.

The Gilgit-Baltistan Assembly has completed its five-year term and will be formally dissolved at midnight, with its final session currently in progress.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif will appoint a caretaker chief minister to oversee the administration and ensure a smooth election process.

Officials said all incumbents are countries. considered relieved of their duties following the notification, paving the way for an interim setup to govern the territory until the electoral process

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## Field Marshal Asim Munir, Saudi CGS discuss steps to bolster Pak-Saudi military cooperation

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: General Fayyadh bin Hameed Al Rowaili, Chief of General Staff (CGS) of Saudi Armed Forces, called on Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir at General Headquarters (GHQ) on Monday.

During the meeting, both leaders discussed matters of mutual interest, with a particular focus on strengthening the longstanding and strategic military cooperation between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, says a statement issued by the ISPR.

of further enhancing defence collab-stan Army.

oration, security cooperation, and counter-terrorism efforts, which continue to be pillars of the deeprooted bilateral relationship.

The visiting dignitary appreciated Pakistan's cooperation in multiple fields with the Saudi Armed Forces and reaffirmed his commitment to furthering the strong bonds of cooperation.

Upon arrival at GHQ, General Fayyadh bin Hameed Al Rowaili laid a floral wreath at Yadgare-Shuhada and was presented a Guard of Honour by a smartly They emphasised the importance turned-out contingent of the Paki-

## PM orders abolition of export development surcharge



👺 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday ordered the immediate removal of the export development surcharge imposed on exporters, stating that any irrelevant or illogical use of the Export Development Fund (EDF) is unacceptable.

recommendations of a sub-working group on increasing the country's exports, the prime minister emphasised the need for reforms and accountability in managing the EDF.

He instructed that a third-party  $audit\, of\, the\, fund\, for\, the\, past\, five\, years$ be conducted in line with international standards.

optimal utilisation of the fund, and its resources should be deployed to increase Pakistan's exports.

Shehbaz Sharif further directed that the fund be used for training export sector manpower and providing world-class facilities.

"The EDF must only be used for hancing the country's exports Presiding over a meeting to review relevant research and development, skill development of the export sector workforce, training, and the provision of modern facilities of international standards," the prime minister emphasised.

He also called for a third-party audit of all programmes and schemes under the EDF, along with a reform-oriented review and restruc-A suitable private sector chairman turing of TDAP's role to enhance should be appointed to ensure exports.

## Iran, Pakistan set to enter 'new strategic phase', says Ambassador Reza Amiri



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Relations between Iran and Pakistan are set to enter to Iranian Ambassador Reza Amiri Moghadam, who hailed the Islamabad visit of Dr Ali Larijani, Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, as a historic moment for both nations.

In a message shared on the social platform X, Ambassador Moghadam described Dr. Larijani's trip as an "extraordinary visit" that marks "an important turning point" in the longstanding friendship between the neighbouring

This historical milestone marks that the strong and time-tested relations between Iran and Pakistan are has increased more than ever."

poised to deepen further. He added that the visit reflects the readiness of both sides to elevate their partnership: "A milestone where the strong a "new strategic phase," according and tested relations between our two brotherly countries are going to enter a new strategic phase."

Moghadam highlighted that rapidly shifting global dynamics and evolving regional challenges have created a pressing need for more coordinated strategies between Tehran and Islamabad. "In view of the rapidly changing global situation and the new dimensions emerging in our regional environment, there is a need to formulate more strategies between the two countries," he said.

He stressed that the demand for closer cooperation is now greater an important turning point," the than ever. "In these circumstances, ambassador noted, emphasizing the need to further expand bilateral relations between the two countries