Barkat Rice Mills (Pvt) Limited



President Xi extends congratulations on Intl Day of Solidarity with Palestinian People

In his message, Xi said that the Palestinian issue lies at the heart of the Middle East conflict, affecting international fairness, justice and regional stability.



Govt moves to replace Sindh governor as PM seeks Kamran Tessori's resignation

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Munir vows no

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Field Marshal

Asim Munir has said that

Pakistan will not compro-

mise on its territorial integri-

ty or the safety of its citizens,

noting that the regional secu-

rity environment is changing

Addressing participants of

the National Security Work-

shop, he said growing geopo-

litical competition, cross-

border terrorism and hybrid

warfare tactics were reshaping

lenges — including externally

supported militancy and infor-

mation-centric warfare — the

armed forces remained fully

committed to safeguarding

Field Marshal Munir said

national security, he added.

the security landscape. Despite complex chal-

rapidly.

Field Marshal Asim

compromise on Pak

territorial integrity



Pakistan, Bahrain pledge to boost trade and defence ties

Spokesman Report

Shehbaz Sharif met with King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa of

Bahraini monarch highlighted that Pakistan's founding father, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali gratitude for Bahrain's support itation Council. Jinnah, had represented Bahrain legally, citing historical records. University for Nursing and in Manama, Bahrain's Crown high-level meetings

Bahrain's leadership BAHRAIN: Prime Minister promoting peace, tolerance, and coexistence in the region.

Bahrain on Wednesday, where encouraging pace of bilateral ment opportunities, inviting Khalid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, Khalid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa. he was awarded the prestigious relations and agreed to enhance Bahraini investors to explore Foreign Minister Dr Abdullatif During the meeting, the economic, defence, and cultural construction, mining, tourism, senior Bahraini officials warmly Dar, Interior Minister Syed

in establishing the King Hamad

'who brought Imran to power'

for other collaborative initiatives.

cooperation across political, sectors such as food security, IT. The prime minister expressed stan's Special Investment Facil- led by PM Shehbaz.

跨 Chaudhry TabraizAurah

the PTI founder.

posted on social media.

rigging in parliament.`

LONDON: Former prime minister and

Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-

N) president Nawaz Sharif on Wednes-

day called for accountability of those he

said "brought Imran Khan" into power,

terming them "bigger criminals" than

He made the remarks in an address

Nawaz said the 2018 elections

derailed Pakistan's economic progress.

He recalled that the PML-N had chal-

lenged the poll results at the time, with

Shehbaz Sharif raising allegations of

Nawaz demands accountability for those

PM Shehbaz Sharif praised Allied Medical Sciences and Prince and Prime Minister, Bahrain's King Hamad bin Isa Prince Salman bin Hamad PM Shehbaz Sharif also Al Khalifa, Deputy Supreme emphasised Pakistan's interest Commander of the Bahraini The two leaders reviewed the in expanding trade and invest- Forces, Deputy Prime Minister Deputy Prime Minister Sheikh bin Rashid Al Zayani, and other and healthcare through Paki- received the Pakistani delegation

Earlier, upon their arrival November 26 to 27, includes State Bilal Azhar Kiyani, and

Al Khalifa, Crown Prince and Prime Minister Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, and

The Pakistani delegation ncludes Federal Ministers Ishaq Mohsin Raza Naqvi, Information and Broadcasting Minister The visit, scheduled from Atta Ullah Tarar, Minister of

recovery of ballot papers from streets

He said Pakistan had been recording

Referring to currency depreciation,

he noted that the Saudi riyal was worth

Rs11 when Pervez Musharraf imposed

martial law in 1999. An audience

member highlighted that the riyal now

Nawaz criticised Pakistan's reliance

on the IMF, saying the country "cannot

make decisions independently" due to

Had the earlier pace of progress

continued, he argued, Pakistan would

higher growth and lower inflation

and gutters.

before 2018.

trades around Rs78

external conditionalities.

General Mirza given ceremonial farewell after 40 years of service

跨 City Desk

commitment.

ISLAMABAD: A special farewell ceremony was held at the Joint Staff Headquarters on Wednesday to honour General Sahir Shamshad Mirza as he stepped down after completing 40 years of military service marked by professionalism, leadership and national

According to the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the event was attended by former Chairmen Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee and senior officers from all three services, who paid tribute to the outgoing CJCSC's career and contributions to national defence.

In his address, General Mirza thanked Allah Almighty for enabling him to serve the country with dedication and integrity over four decades.

He lauded the sacrifices of paid homage to the martyrs and their families, calling them the nation's "pride and honour." forces.



intelligence and law-enforcement agencies were also

demonstrating strong profes-

sionalism and resolve in the

an important country and is

destined to reach its rightful

place in the comity of nations.

resolve and commitment

of the armed forces in the

"Marka-e-Haq" had enhanced

the country's stature globally.

will foil all malicious designs

of our enemies," he remarked.

that the Pakistan Army's fore-

most priority was the protec-

tion of national borders,

overall security and the safety

Continued on Page 7

of every Pakistani citizen.

The army chief reiterated

"Our greatest strength is national unity. God willing, we

He said the professionalism,

Pakistan, he stressed, was

national security effort.

ment underscored the need for a strong national defence, which he described as a key pillar of national security. He reaffirmed that Pakistan's defence remains "impregnable"

and said the country's officers

and soldiers stand ready to

further strengthen the defence of the motherland. Earlier, upon his arrival, a smartly turned-out tri-services contingent presented him with a guard of honour, followed by warm farewell greetings and

former military leaders. ISPR noted that General Pakistan's armed forces and Mirza's four decades of service will remain a source of pride for the nation and the armed

best wishes from serving and

Pakistan, Saudi Arabia

discuss major sports cooperation in high-level Riyadh meeting

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Saudi Arabia will turn sports, especially cricket, nto a strong bridge of friendship and regional harmony, Federal Minister for Interior, Narcotics Control and Chairman PCB, Mohsin Naqvi emphasized during an important meeting with Saudi Arabia's Minister of Sports, Prince Abdulaziz bin Turki Al-Faisal, in Riyadh on Wednesday.

plans to enhance sports cooperation naments.

between the two countries. The meeting focused on the promotion of cricket in Saudi Arabia, encouraging youth participation in healthy activities, and strengthening bilateral collaboration in the sports Naqvi praised Prince Abdulaziz bin

Turki Al-Faisal's dynamic leadership in advancing the Kingdom's sports landscape under Vision 2030.

He noted that Saudi Arabia, under its leadership, has made history by securing Mohsin Naqvi, discussed wide-ranging the hosting rights for major global tour-



The party had questioned the not be facing concerns over reserves or

rejection of 1.6 million votes and the IMF restrictions today.

During the meeting, Naqvi congrat- Cup 2027, Asian Winter Games 2029, ulated the Saudi minister on Saudi Asian Games 2034, and the FIFA World Arabia's successful bids for the AFC Asian Cup 2034.

Two killed, one critically injured in old explosives blast in Bajaur

Correspondent

BAJAUR: Two locals were killed and another critically injured on Wednesday when old explosives detonated in the Jannat Shah area of Tehsil Khar, under the jurisdiction of Loisum police station in Bajaur.

The deceased have been identified as 18-year-old Shamshad, son of Wisal Khan, and 22-year-old Usman, son of Niaz Ali.

The injured, 25-year-old Qayam, son of Inayat-ur-Rahman, was rushed to Khar Hospital, where officials said his condition remains critical.

Rescue Officer Amjad Khan

confirmed the fatalities and the hospitalisation of the injured. District Police Officer (DPO)

Waqas Rafiq said an investigation into the incident has been launched. Police bomb disposal squads

are working in the area to defuse additional grenades and explo-Authorities are also main-

taining contact with residents and have urged them to keep children away from the site for The DPO emphasised that

bomb disposal operations are ongoing daily in the region to prevent such accidents and ensure public safety.

APHC delegation meets AJK PM to forge joint Kashmir strategy

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: A delegation of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC), led by its Convener Ghulam Muhammad Safi, called on AJK Prime Minister Faisal Mumtaz Rathore on Wednesday and congratulated him on assuming office.

During the meeting, the two sides held detailed discussions on highlighting the Kashmir issue at the global level, the latest situation in occupied Jammu and Kashmir, and the ongoing struggle for Kashmiris' right to self-determination.

Prime Minister Rathore reaffirmed that presenting the Kashmir issue in its true context remains the PPP government's top priority. To advance the cause more effectively, he said a joint strategy would be formulated in collaboration with the Hurriyat leadership. Recalling the PPP's historic commitment to the Kashmir cause, the AJK premier noted that Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto had founded the party on the basis of the Kashmir question.



Hurriyat leaders to the world but also vigorously highlighted the Kashmir issue at international forums during her tenure as Pakistan's prime minister. He also acknowledged President

He added that Shaheed Mohtarma Asif Ali Zardari and Chairman Bilawal Benazir Bhutto not only introduced Bhutto Zardari for consistently championing Kashmiris' right to self-determination at global platforms. The Hurriyat delegation thanked the Prime Minister and assured him of its full

Members of the delegation included Syed Faiz Naqshbandi, Mahmood Ahmed Sagar, Advocate Pervez Shah, Mushtaq Ahmed Butt, Sheikh Abdul Mateen, Ijaz Rehmani, Imtiaz Ahmed Wani, Haji Muhammad Sultan, Sheikh Abdul Majid, and Raja Shaheen.

Protest

LAHORE: Residents of a private housing society hold placards and shouting slogans during protest in favor of their de-



AJK Health Minister chairs high-level meeting to tackle sector challenges

跨 Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: A high-level and comprehensive meeting of the Public Health Department was held under the chairmanship of the Minister for Public Health and Population Welfare, Azad Government of the State of Jammu & Kashmir, Syed Bazil Ali Naqvi. The meeting reviewed the challenges facing the health sector, progress on ongoing development projects, and the future strategy for strengthening healthcare services across the state.

The session was attended by Secretary Health Brigadier Aamir Raza Tipu, Director General Health Dr. Farooq care delivery system, performance of



detailed briefing on the current health- schemes underway.

Awan, and all senior officials of the Basic Health Units, available resources, department. The Minister received a and the status of various development

Speaking on the occasion, the Health

Minister reaffirmed that the improvement of AIMS (AIMS Hospital) remains the government's foremost priority. He directed the immediate enhancement of modern medical facilities, upgrading of equipment, and capacity building of staff. He also reiterated the government's commitment to upgrading the Cardiac Hospital and ensuring international-standard treatment facilities for cardiac patients.

Minister Syed Bazil Ali Naqvi reiterated the government's firm resolve to utilize all available resources to reform and strengthen the health department, ensuring timely, reliable, and highquality medical services to the people.

Deliberate delays alleged in official construction of Masooma-e-Sindh shrine

Qayoom Sarohi

HYDERABAD: A member of the Central Advisory Council of the Azadar Rabita Committee Hyderabad, Mir Ghulamullah Khan Talpur, has alleged that deliberate delaying tactics are being employed in the official construction of the shrine of Masooma-e-Sindh located in Agham Kot, reportedly as part of a planned conspiracy to serve the interests of a select group.

Addressing a meeting of the committee, he claimed that certain officials within the Sindh Augaf Department themselves have become involved in these deliberate delays, despite the fact that the project was initiated by the department.



He said that construction work on inconvenience to the thousands of the shrine has remained suspended devotees who visit the site daily from for several months, causing serious across the country. "What is most

shocking," he added, "is that the very officials responsible for the government's construction work are the ones obstructing it. There is solid evidence of their involvement."

Mir Ghulamullah Khan Talpur varned that if these officials do not immediately stop their deliberate obstruction, the committee will hold a big press conference at the Karachi Press Club and reveal all evidence of the delaying tactics and misconduct of the relevant Sindh Augaf officials before the national and international

He said that the committee will not remain silent over the inconvenience caused to devotees and the misuse of authority by those responsible for the project's progress

UNDSS delegation praises security measures in Multan during meeting with CPO



👺 🛮 Zain Khan Malghani

MULTAN: City Police Officer (CPO) Multan, Sadiq Ali Dogar, held a meeting with a delegation from the United Nations Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS). The delegation was led by Area Security Advisor Ms. Nicole Gabriella Boudassou, accompanied by Ms. Rabia Mazhar and Ms. Rida Kayani.

During their visit, the UNDSS representatives expressed satisfaction with the cooperation extended by government institutions particularly the Punjab Police and praised the overall security arrangements in the region.

The meeting featured detailed discussions on the regional security environment, support provided to United Nations initiatives, and opportunities to further strengthen mutual cooperation.

CPO Sadiq Ali Dogar assured the UNDSS delegation of continued assistance in all matters related to security. He emphasized that Multan Police prioritizes comprehensive and foolproof security for all UN representatives and projects operating in the region.

He added that modern methods, improved coordination, and sustained efforts are being utilized to ensure high-quality security measures at all

Empowering Ability: Vocational center brings new hope for Umerkot's disabled youth

Qayoom Sarohi

UMERKOT: rehabilitate and empower persons with disabilities in district Umerkot, a vocational training center has been launched through collaboration



between the Sindh Government's Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities and the Save the Lives Foundation (STLF). The project aims to equip disabled youth with professional skills, enabling them to become self-reliant and economically stable.

According to the Kanyalal Bajeer CEO STLF Umerkot, 100 differently-abled boys and girls are being trained in various vocational fields under this program, so they can stand on their own feet and secure dignified employment. The STLF team is not only conducting awareness campaigns by visiting remote villages but is also using social media to reach more young people.

One inspiring aspect of the program is the story of a courageous young girl who was selected for training at the center. The team visited her home, encouraged her, and brought her to the center. Upon seeing the facilities, her face lit up with joy and confidence. She chose to learn sewing, a skill that will help her achieve financial independence in the future. STLF has also announced daily pick-and-drop service to facilitate her training journey.

Ensuring justice is my top priority: ASP Ali Ahmed

Zafar Chishti

TOBA TEK SINGH: Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) Kamalia Ali Ahmed talking to our Correspondent in his office, stated that the provision of justice is his foremost priority. He said that as a public servant, it is his responsibility to listen to citizens' issues and resolve them without delay. ASP Ali



Ahmed further said that police personnel remain active in the field on a daily basis, keeping a close watch on suspicious individuals and taking immediate action when needed. He added that operations against street crime, gambling mafias, drug dealers and other criminal elements are being carried out continuously across the area. He said that the doors of his office are open for the public at all times and citizens are welcome to approach him regarding any problem or complaint. ASP Ali Ahmed said that my mission is to maintain peace, ensure justice and serve the people of Kamalia with full dedication.

AJK Women's Commission chair demands strict action against violence, citing religious mandates

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: Chairperson of the Women Commission, Azad Jammu & Kashmir, Ms. Rehana Khan, has emphasized that eliminating violence against women requires strong public awareness, proper education, and strict enforcement of laws. She stated that no society can achieve sustainable progress without ensuring the social and economic protection of women.

In her special message on the occasion of International Women's Day, Ms. Rehana Khan said that the dignity of



She added that the Qur'an and Sunnah strictly prohibit raising a hand against women. "Those who commit violence against women are cowards and criminals, and must be dealt with an iron hand," she asserted.

The Chairperson further stated that the Women Commission is actively working to provide economic, educational, and social protection to women. She urged women facing any form of violence to contact the Commission's help desk for immediate legal and social assistance.

Ms. Rehana Khan appealed to the government and relevant institutions to intensify awareness campaigns and ensure effective implementation of laws aimed at eradicating violence from society. She said that \boldsymbol{a} safe, violence-free, and equitable society is essential for true and lasting development.



Namaz Timings

EMERGEN(CY
Rescue (Police)	15
Bomb Disposal	15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/	
Islamabad	1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance	
& Rescue Services	
Motorway Police	
Motorway Police92	70601-20

ENOUIRY

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

HOSPITALS

CMH	561111
MH	561116
MH	561116
Cantt Hospital	9270907-11
DHQ	5556311-4
RGH	9290301-7
Holy Family	9290322-7
PIMS	9261170-79
Polyclinic	9218300-09
Shifa International .	4603666

DEPARTMENTS

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

COMPLAINTS

E-7, F-10 & F-11 .. G-5, G-6, G-7, G-8,9203883 G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, H-8 ..9266316 Wapda Islamabad......9217579-80 Sui Gas Complaint..... 119, 9272249

Dutch Deputy Ambassador calls on Sindh irrigation minister

KARACHI: The Netherlands Envoy expressed keen interest in increasing investment and cooperation in the sectors of modern agriculture, irrigation, flood management and livestock in Sindh.

The Deputy Head of Mission of the Embassy of the Netherlands in Pakistan Haio Provo Kluit Wednesday, met Sindh Irrigation Minister Jam Khan Shoro and Secretary Irrigation Zarif Kherro in Karachi.

According to a statement issued here, discussed in detail issues related to Sindh's irrigation system, sea water intrusion, and overall water management while matters relating to livestock, semen and embryo technology, food processing, and modern agricultural technology were also discussed in the meeting.

The meeting also agreed to prepare a joint report on rehabilitation of the Indus Delta and environmental impact assessment of the irrigation system and establishing business

working groups. The Sindh minister highlighted the cooperation and investment oppor tunities in the livestock sector particularly setting up pasteurizing plants and seamen processing plants.

'The round-table underscored the need for good governance as the basis for effective diplomacy'

E City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Centre for Aerospace & Security Studies (CASS), Islamabad, convened a Roundtable Conference on Emerging Geopolitical Alliances and Implications for Pakistan' on 26th November 2025. The discussion highlighted the emerging geopolitical alignments reshaping Pakistan's regional environment and the policy responses that could best serve its national interest amid this uncertainty.

The moderator of the conference, Air Marshal Zahid Mehmood (Retd), Senior Director at CASS Islamabad, set the tone by underscoring that the year 2025 reshaped the geopolitical landscape, with conflicts from the India-Pakistan war to the Iran-Israel confrontation revealing deeper structural shifts in the international system. Strains in India-US relations and shifting Middle Eastern dynamics had created limited diplomatic openings for Pakistan while pressures along the Afghanistan border intensified. In this fluid environment, Pakistan must

pursue a balanced strategy that protected its interests amid rapidly evolving alignments and emerging opportunities.

Former High Commissioner of Pakistan to India and keynote Speaker, Ambassador Abdul Basit (Retd) noted that Pakistan was navigating an increasingly complex global environment marked by simultaneous integration and fragmentation, with multiple crises unfolding in parallel as part of a broader global polycrisis. He stressed that no country could fully achieve its foreign policy objectives and cautioned that excessive rhetoric was counterpro-

The speaker recommended strategic patience, a sustained diplomatic approach to crisis management, and clarity on Pakistan's long-term foreign policy goals. He underscored the importance of engaging Afghanistan either directly or through a trilateral framework involving China, and stressed that effective diplomacy abroad required strong governance at home.



In his concluding remarks, Air Marshal commended the speaker's clarity in artictives and challenges, while reiterating for their effective pursuit.

Javaid Ahmed (Retd), President CASS, ulating Pakistan's foreign policy objecthat good governance remained essential

7th Global Ambassador Award ceremony

ISLAMABAD: The Chargé d'Affaires of Tunisia in Pakistan H. E Dorsaf Maaroufi and Honorary Consul General of Tunisia for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ammad Rasheed during 7Th Global Ambassador



Purify Hearts from Greed and Pride to Attain Divine Mercy, Advises Riaz Hussain Shah

RAWALPINDI: Allama Syed Riaz Hussain Shah, Patron-in-Chief of Idara Taleemat-e-Islamiya Pakistan, said that true love for Allah requires readiness for every trial. Hearts must be purified from greed, envy, pride, and ostentation, as forgiveness comes only through Allah's mercy. He emphasized that the Quran makes it clear: after faith, tests are inevitable. Respect for the Companions of the Prophet # is obligatory, and spreading the teachings of the Quran is a need of the time.

He expressed these views during a



special gathering attended by a large Muhammad Qasim. Addressing the concluded with a collective prayer.

audience, he said the root cause of the Ummah's problems lies in the corruption of the self, greed, and selfmade standards. We must recognize the truth and revive a sincere longing

for the straight path. Highlighting the status of Hazrat Khadija (RA) and Hazrat Fatima (RA), he said the true honour of women is reflected in the life of the Holy Prophet . He urged everyone to remove grudges from their hearts, engage in abundant repentance, and remain mindful that Allah is present

number of participants. The session everywhere. A person draws nearer to was hosted by Deputy Director Sheikh Allah through righteous deeds. The session

Gillani vows modernization for PTV Multan to boost South Punjab culture globally

👺 Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Chairman Senate Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani. while addressing a graceful ceremony held at PTV Multan on the occasion of Pakistan Television's 61st anniversary, said that PTV is not only a national institution of information and entertainment but also a true representative of the diverse cultural, linguistic, musical and literary heritage of Pakistan. He announced that PTV Multan Centre will be upgraded in line with modern requirements to more effectively project the cultural identity of South Punjab at the global level.

The ceremony was attended by Director Programmes Saif-ud-Din, General Manager PTV Multan Shafqat Abbas Malik, renowned singer Suraiya Multanekar Malik



Haider Usman Advocate, Shakir Hussain Shakir, and a large number of distinguished citizens, poets, writers,

journalists and people from various

Recalling his long association with PTV, Chairman Senate Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani said that the golden-era dramas of Pakistan Television were widely admired not only across Pakistan but also in India and other coun-

He shared that prisoners in jails eagerly waited for PTV dramas, which served as a source of hope and encouragement for them. This sentiment. he added, motivated him during his tenure as Prime Minister to establish the PTV Centre in Multan.

Chairman Senate emphasized that institutions like PTV play a pivotal role in shaping national narrative, cultural identity and soft power. Therefore, it is imperative to take all necessary measures for their development and progress.

Education Conference to be held in Lahore on December 10

跨 City Desk

RAWALPINDI: Punjab Minister for Education Rana Sikandar Hayat Khan has said that thousands of students across the province will soon have access to improved and high-quality educational facilities.

Speaking about the upcoming initiatives, he announced that Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif has approved several major educational projects. These include the distribution of 110,000 laptops, the Hunhar



The minister made these remarks during a meeting with APSMA Lahore and Kasur President and Coordinator, District Education Committee Lahore, Chaudhry Muhammad Abbas. The meeting was held at the minister's residence where an invitation to attend the APSMA Education Conference and Adeeb Jawadani Excellence Awards Ceremony was formally extended.

The conference, organized by the All Pakistan Private Schools Management Association (APSAMA), will take place on December 10 in Lahore. Rana Sikandar Hayat Khan has accepted the invitation and confirmed his participation as the chief guest.

DC Reviews Flood Relief, Parks ಟೆ Sanitation Measures in **Pirmahal**

👺 Zafar Chishti

TOBA TEK SINGH: Under the good governance and public service vision of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz, Deputy Commissioner Umar Abbas Mela, accompanied by Assistant Commissioner Wagas Zafar, undertook an important and comprehensive visit to Tehsil Pirmahal to review administrative performance, sanitation operations and ongoing relief activities. The DC inspected the flood-relief camp "Aap Ka Haq, Aap Tak", reviewing the registration system, aid distribution process and biometric verification setup. He directed the staff to ensure that assistance reaches only genuine beneficiaries with complete transparency, warning that negligence or malpractice would not be tolerated.

Later, Umar Abbas Mela visited Benazir Park and Iqbal Park, inspecting cleanliness, pruning, lighting arrangements, swings, benches and track conditions. He ordered immediate improvements, stating that providing citizens a safe and quality recreational environment is among the administration's top priorities. The DC also inspected the central graveyard and monitored the performance of the Suthra Punjab teams, directing authorities to improve sanitation across all graveyards in the tehsil. He reiterated that there will be zero tolerance regarding cleanliness standards, and strict action will be taken if negligence is detected. According to the Deputy Commissioner, the visit aimed to directly assess the quality of public facilities and the performance of local administrative bodies.

Flair International hosts Investment Seminar in *Islamabad*

跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Flair International held its Portugal Immigration & Investment Seminar in Islamabad, convening leading Portuguese legal, investment, and real estate experts to brief Pakistani investors on secure



pathways to European residency and long-term mobility.

Founding partners of Legal Legacy Law Firm, Adriana Spanholi and Mariana Vaz Marques, provided insights into Portugal's Golden Visa (fund route), the D7 Passive Income Visa, and the D2 Entrepreneur Visa. They highlighted Portugal's ranking as the 7th safest country globally, minimal stay requirements, and a clear five-year pathway to citizenship. Representatives from Lince Capital, a CMVM-regulated fund manager

with over €600 million AUM, shared Golden Visa-eligible investment funds offering stable returns between 5% and 20%. Kastelo Capital presented high-yield, land-backed and asset-backed real estate opportunities in Lisbon and Almada, structured through secure, regulated vehicles.

Speaking at the event, Warda Nasir, Senior Consultant at Flair International Pvt. Limited, noted: "These residency programs offer Pakistani families access to global education, healthcare, and professional opportunities, creating long-term financial security and a future that extends Asim Nazir Ahmad

(jaffrani@adpluse.pk

Syed Afraz Ali Nazish

(afrazalishah@gmail.com)

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

Editor:

Naveed Ahmad Khan Head Editorial Advisory Board: Amjad Mehmood Khurram Jaffrani

Bureau Chief Karachi:

Bureau Chief Lahore:

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

Phone: +92 51 2227123, WhatsApp +92 346 5008408

Karachi office: A111, Block C, Gulsha-e-Jamal, PRECHS,

Karachi Phone:021-33399390 Email: spokesmankarachi@gmail.com

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

spokesmanlahore@gmail.com

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Pakistan Launches Historic Public-Private Genomics Venture for Agri-Tech Future

n a historic step toward advancing Pakistan's scientific and technological capabilities, the Federal Minister for National Food Security & Research, Rana Tanveer Hussain, has announced the launch of the country's first-ever public-private genomics joint venture. This pioneering initiative aims to strengthen national research institutions, promote agricultural innovation, and improve healthcare through indigenous genomic research and diagnostics. The venture is a collaboration between the National Institute for Genomics and Advanced Biotechnology (NIGAB), PARC-Agro Tech Company (PATCO), under the umbrella of the Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC), and Blazon Diagnostics. The inauguration ceremony was held at NIGAB, NARC, Islamabad, with a distinguished gathering of national and international experts.

In attendance at the ceremony were Dr. Syed Murtaza Hassan Andrabi, Chairman of PARC, Lt. Gen. (R) Abdul Qayyum, Chairman of the Pak China Business Forum, Dr. Khalid Mehmood, Director General of NARC, Brig. Ali Raza, Commandant SIBGE, Dr. Shaukat Ali, Director of NIGAB, Dr. Taj Naseeb Khan, CEO of PATCO, and other senior officials, researchers, and stakeholders. A delegation of Chinese researchers also participated in the event, extending their support for the

Speaking at the event, Federal Minister Rana Tanveer Hussain emphasized that this joint venture marks a key milestone in Pakistan's efforts to ensure food security and strengthen national research institutions. "This initiative is a testament to our commitment to transforming Pakistan's scientific landscape. By developing indigenous genomic capabilities, we are empowering our researchers, farmers, and healthcare professionals with cutting-edge tools for innovation. This venture will not only help us become self-reliant in advanced research and diagnostics but will also contribute to the country's economic growth by reducing dependence on foreign genomic services," said Minister Rana Tanveer Hussain.

The venture will provide local DNA sequencing services for both agricultural research and clinical diagnostics, significantly reducing Pakistan's reliance on foreign services. It is expected to play a critical role in saving foreign exchange while fostering innovation and scientific advancement. This move aligns with the vision of Prime Minister Mian Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and the government's broader goal of utilizing advanced technologies to improve the lives of citizens and ensure long-term food security.

Minister Hussain further stressed that the success of this initiative would bolster Pakistan's national research capacity, foster commercialization of modern genomic technologies, and lead to new avenues for biotechnology-driven development. By enabling researchers to conduct groundbreaking studies locally, this collaboration will put Pakistan on the map as a leader in genomic research and biotechnology in the region.

Pakistan's Rise as a Military Power

ingly confident in its military rise, with the event known as Marqa Huq serving as a powerful symbol of operational unity, strategic skill, and perceived superiority over India. International reactions—especially statements attributed to Donald Trump—are interpreted as confirmation that global powers now regard Pakistan as a capable military actor. This sense of recognition is reinforced by expanding defense ties with Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Gulf states, Azerbaijan, and improved relations with Bangladesh, all seen as signs of trust in Pakistan's professionalism and regional value. High-profile engagements, such as the visit of the King of Jordan, further strengthen the belief that Pakistan's reliability and strategic clarity are earning it deeper respect across the Muslim world and beyond.

Growing interest from foreign countries in Pakistan's domestically produced defense technology adds another layer to this narrative of national ascent. Advances in aircraft, drones, armored systems, and precision weapons are celebrated as evidence of a strengthening defense industry and increasing international credibility. Leadership under Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir is portrayed as bringing stability, moral strength, and diplomatic effectiveness, contributing to Pakistan's rising profile. Throughout this narrative runs a belief that Pakistan's military strength is paired with principled commitment to peace and justice—particularly regarding issues like Kashmir and Palestine—leading to the conviction that the world is now listening to Pakistan with greater seriousness and respect.

The Pakistan Army's relentless, grueling, and ultimately successful opera-

in rugged, geographically complex social environments, and under conditions of extreme combat pressure—have been absolutely fundamental in shaping tures but are instead wisely viewed as an Pakistan's contemporary international integral, essential part of a holistic, longimage as a country that is uniquely

capable of managing and ultimately defeating the most serious and complex modern asymmetric threats. The immense and immeasurable sacrifices made by tens of thousands of soldiers, highly professional officers, dedicated law enforce-

ment personnel, and innocent civilians have collaboratively forged a powerful, unifying narrative of national determination and shared resolve, powerfully reinforcing the belief that Pakistan's armed forces are now definitively counted among the world's most tested, operationally experienced, and specialized military forces in the demanding field of counterterrorism operations.

This internal, hard-won military strength is viewed as deeply and fundamentally intertwined with the absolutely core national belief that sustained national prosperity and genuine, lasting well-being depend first and foremost on an unassailable security posture. Pakistanis hold the unshakeable view that long-term, meaningful economic development and social progress are fundamentally impossible without demonstrably stable and secured borders, consistently protected and safe citizens, and a strong, technologically capable defense system acting as a national shield. Because of this powerful conviction, Pakistan's sustained and signifitional campaigns—conducted under cant investments in comprehensive mili-

advanced weaponry, the development of of robust strategic alliances are not perceived as isolated military expenditerm approach to guaranteed national

progress and human development. Pakistanis believe, with profound certainty, that by actively ensuring a robust defense and comprehensive security, the country is safeguarding and protecting the very foundation upon which all future critical educa-

tion, cutting-edge innovation, vital international trade, and necessary industrial development can not only survive but actively thrive. Strength, in this complex and holistic sense, is not seen as an ultimate end in itself, but rather as an indispensable means to actively support and preserve national dignity, ensure territorial integrity, and guarantee essential economic stability for future generations.

For Pakistanis, it is a great source of pride that a recent U.S. Congressional report stated Pakistan held military superiority during the Pakistan-India conflict in May of this year. The people of Pakistan derive a profound and deeply internalized sense of pride from the proven strength, resilience, and unwavering resolve of their highly professional armed forces. They maintain the powerful conviction that Pakistan's consistent and undeniable rise—despite the decades of immense internal and external challenges, geopolitical pressures, and economic constraints—is an undeniable testimony to the unbroken, formidable spirit and profound tenacity of the nation itself. They perceive the Pakistan Army,

tary modernization, the acquisition of the Pakistan Air Force, and the Pakistan Navy not merely as military institutions terrain, within intricate and sensitive indigenous technology, and the forging fulfilling a basic defense mandate, but fundamentally as the ultimate, reliable protectors of national unity, sovereignty, and sacred dignity. Every single, demonstrable exhibition of military competence, every successful and high-profile diplomatic engagement, and every sincerely expressed indication of international respect is interpreted domestically as a powerful, necessary validation of Pakistan's enduring determination to stand tall, self-reliant, and respected among the global community of nations. Pakistan, in this determined national self-assessment, is not merely reacting to events or simply defending its established borders; it is purposefully and aggressively shaping its own destiny. It is asserting itself onto the world stage as a responsible, strategically powerful, and morally principled nation. Whether this assertion is demonstrated through its undeniable military achievements, its deep and enduring global strategic partnerships, or its consistently moral positions on contentious international issues, Pakistanis believe they are irrefutably proving that their country is decisively emerging as one of the world's genuinely significant and indispensable military forces-a nation respected by its committed allies, thoughtfully acknowledged by neutral observers, and admired by all those who truly understand the immense depth of its sacrifices and the ultimate, unshakeable strength of its national resolve. This significant and ongoing rise is fundamentally not a matter of geopolitical chance or accidental fortune: it is the inevitable. determined result of courage, national unity, collective sacrifice, and an absolutely unshakeable national belief that Pakistan's pivotal time on the world stage is arriving with undeniable clarity and

absolute confidence.



'2025: Emerging Equation of Power for Pakistan'

towards peace and collaboration. It has been proved by the annals of history. As to constructivism, survival to alliances, disordered society to social contracts, and rivalries destiny. Pakistan, since its birth, is evolving into a socially cohesive society. Despite facing democonflicts, and extremist ideologies, it has stabi-

lized through one effort or the other and the sun of 2025 has risen amidst multiple eclipses. Pakistan's geopolitical environment is favoring its destiny, not by luck, but by structural reforms and

institutional synergy. Hannah Arendt quotes "The aim of human activity is not the satisfaction of needs but the increase of the human capacity to act". Likewise, these to eradicate differences and collide in the form

of collaborating society. Economically, there is a noticeable stability in Pakistan. GDP crossed the mark of 400B\$ and has reached around 411B\$ in this year. The inflation rate has also come down to multidecade lows (In April, 2025 it was low as 0.3%). Number of remittances from overseas Pakistani's has seen a massive surge, Foreign Direct Investment and investor sentiment has seen improvement, reforms in tax system has started to showcase evident results, number of frauds to be caught have increased, new support from institutions have been shown globally whether through IMF or recent agreement on Panda

an is inherently inclined cial prosperity. Correspondingly, it will yield tranquility, affluence and cooperation, not just nationally but internationally as well.

Environmentally, Pakistan is 8th most vulnerwitnessed, from realism able to climate change according to the 2022 Environmental Performance Index but current undertakings in 2025 are reducing the levels to interdependence in order to seek a shared of vulnerabilities. Pakistan has launched the Clean Air Program which is backed by the World Bank with a loan of 300 USD to improve public cratic upheavals, economic crunch, cultural health and improve smog. These loans are being job market has massively shifted the relations effectively used in programs such as SUTHRA

PUNJAB and Smog Guns. Moreover, Pakistan has launched in Punjab, the very first Provincial Environmental Protection Force to undertake a resilient action plan in regards to climate. Likewise, Pakistan has reaffirmed its commitment towards initiatives to protect coastal ecosystems and in 2025, It is also soon hosting a Water-week, a platform that has offered collabo-

Farah Haq Chishti civic engagements are motivating the cultures ration between the stakeholders to build water security and prevent climate degradation. The funding and support for recent flood victims and rebuilding infrastructures provides a vision of

collaboration and national welfare. Educationally, the horizon for progressive approaches is getting broadened. Programs such as Honahar scholarships, Laptop distributions, Digital education roll out in Punjab, inclusion of internet safety, cultural education by newly formed Lahore Authority for Heritage Revival, cultural exchange agreements are equipping citizens with inclusive mindsets who progress to flourish and aim to nourish their state. It resultantly lowers the risks of societal unrest, crime, terror and illiteracy, thus finally promoting a Bonds. The mentioned structural reforms are progressive image of Pakistan in the global positively anchoring the path towards finan- market.

Geopolitically, Pakistan is shining in the spotlight of the world. It has signed around 189 International treaties which includes states such as Turkey, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, Saudi Arabia, Russia and UN. The most recent interest of USA in Pakistan has shifted for the first time from security alliance to economic partnership and strategic Mutual Defense Pact between Saudi-Arabia to commit collective security, starting of CPEC2.0 with green finances, 5G, flourished of Pakistan with emerging and current super powers of the world. Pakistan has also keenly participated in climate as well as environment treaties like Bahamas Fossil-Fuel Pact. These agreements provoke mutual interests above the conflicts and lowers the likelihood of violent confrontation, rather creates interdependence,

harmony and strategic stability. $However, there \, are \, some \, loop holes \, on \, which \,$ the state should work at earliest. These include improving security concerns like Taliban's violent tactics, India's led propaganda to fuel regional divides so that future prospects of programs as CPEC 2.0 can not face any hindrances. Moreover, rural education, women rights, health issues and implementation of laws should also be taken into consideration while making a channel for accountability. Similarly, the economy needs to be stabilized even more for self-reliance and a stable governance with a positive environment should be promoted where opposition should not be a threat but pursuit of freedom for every ideology. In essence, the recent course portravs human instinct which desires for stability and association. Pakistan in 2025 stands at a point where reliance on self and joint effort does not mean to oppose each other but to hope for a peaceful co-existence.

Writer is an Mphil scholar in political science at Kinnaird college and her graduation was in English language and literature.

Silence, and Resistance: The Unfinished Story of the Kashmiri Woman

Mushtag Ahmad Butt

or more than three decades, Kashmiri women have endured one of the most prolonged and heavily militarized occupations in the world. Their daily lives unfold against a backdrop of fear, violence, human rights crises in the region. and unrelenting uncertainty. Yet despite the depth of their suffering, the world has not fully confronted the scale of the abuses committed

against them. Since the armed conflict escalated in 1989. over two thousand Kashmiri women have been killed, and more than twenty-two thousand widowed. These numbers, often cited in reports and debates, conceal far greater tragedies $-\,$ each statistic representing a devastated family, a lost future, and a grief that generations inherit. Behind these figures lies an operational pattern of violence where women's bodies have been human rights bodies, and global media plat-

turned into instruments of punishment. The most harrowing dimension of this violence is the systematic use of sexual assault by Indian forces. In Kashmir, rape has not been an incidental outcome of conflict; it has been deployed as a weapon to terrorize communities, break the will of the population, and punish collective resistance. Over the past thirty-six years, more than eleven thousand cases of rape and sexual harassment have been documented. Not a single perpetrator has faced meaningful accountability.

Military impunity — written into law and entrenched through decades of practice — has invisible. carried out without consequence.

Yet, the violence most rarely discussed — and And their pursuit of justice cannot be delayed arguably the most emotionally crippling — is any further.

the agony of enforced disappearances. Thousands of Kashmiri women continue to search for husbands, sons, and brothers taken by Indian forces, never to return. They inhabit a perpetual state of limbo, suspended between hope and mourning, uncertain whether to grieve or wait. This psychological torture, sustained over decades, remains among the most unaddressed

It is no longer acceptable for the international community to respond with silence or diplomatic caution. If global institutions and governments claim to uphold women's rights and human dignity, then Kashmir must become an urgent point of moral and political concern. Independent investigations into sexual violence, accountability for war crimes, and security mechanisms for vulnerable communities are not optional — they are responsibilities the world can no longer defer.

International women's rights organizations, forms must give space to the stories Kashmiri women have been telling for decades. Their testimonies are not only accounts of victimhood but of extraordinary resilience. Despite every assault, every disappearance, every threat, Kashmiri women have preserved their sense of identity, community, and resistance. Their

Today, the world owes Kashmiri women more than sympathy. It owes them justice. It owes them recognition. And it owes them

endurance itself stands as a form of defiance.

Because their suffering can no longer remain

enabled a culture where such violations can be Their voices can no longer be pushed to the

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Diplomats & Business Community Honored in 7th Global Ambassador Awards

ISLAMABAD: Ambassadors, international dignitaries, business leaders, and members of civil society gathered at a high-profile ceremony in Islamabad on Wednesday as Diplomatic Insight Group (DIG) hosted the 7th edition of the Global Ambassador Awards.

The event recognized the exceptional contributions of foreign envoys, heads of international organizations, and leading figures from the private and public sectors in fostering Pakistan's bilateral and multilateral ties.

Established in 2014, the Global Ambassador Awards aim to acknowledge the efforts of those who have significantly contributed to enhancing Pakistan's diplomatic, economic, and cultural relations worldwide.

Uniquely, these awards are presented on behalf of the people of Pakistan, serving as a symbol of national gratitude to individuals whose work has advanced dialogue, cooperation, and goodwill with the international community.

State/Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on National Heritage and Culture-Huzaifa Rehman, and Spokesperson to the President of Pakistan-Murtaza Solangi.

In his remarks, SAPM Huzaifa Rehman said that Pakistan's diplomatic engagements are rooted in a spirit of cooperation, peace, a vision of interconnected world, and respect for sovereignty. He also said that through inter- Pakistan's bilateral and multilateral ties national cooperation, Pakistan seeks to unlock its youth potential, and is



strengthening its relations with world through public diplomacy.

Spokesperson to the President of Pakistan, Murtaza Solangi, congratulated all award recipients and acknowledged their role in diplomacy and international cooperation. He lauded Diplo-The event was graced by Minister of matic Insight Group for successfully organizing the Awards.

Chairperson of the Diplomatic Insight Group, Dr. Farhat Asif, shared reflections on the group's journey and its ongoing commitment to promoting international engagement through media, research, and dialogue. She emphasized that these awards represent a shared aspiration for peace, connectivity, development, and promotion of though building a soft image globally.

The award recipients include Kamal

of Brunei to Pakistan; Hannu Ripatti, Ambassador of Finland; Moamer Abdalmotlab, Ambassador of Libva: Harerimana Fatou, High Commissioner of Rwanda; Yusuf Sharifzoda, Ambassador of Tajikistan; Yerzhan Kistafin, the Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Pakistan who was also the "Ambassador of the Year;" Dorsaf Maaroufi, Chargé d'Affaires of the Embassy of Tunisia; Malick Ceesay, Head of the UNAMA Liaison Office in Islamabad; Sardar Masood Khan, who has represented Pakistan in China, the United States, and at the United Nations; Dr. Ahmed Ali Sirohey, Director General at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and former ambassador to Niger, Chad, and Burkina Faso; Prof. Dr. Muhammad Iqbal Choudhary, Coordinator General

Bashah Ahmad, High Commissioner of COMSTECH; Dr. Mirza Ikhtiar Baig, Honorary Consul General of Yemen in Karachi; Saliha Tuna, Country Coordinator of the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TİKA); Ahmad Ikram Lone, Chairman of the Gujranwala Business Centre; Engr. Umer Mehmood, Director of Mehson Industries Gujranwala; Raja Najabat Hussain, Chairman of the Jammu Kashmir Self Determination Movement International (JKSDMI); and Azeem Iqbal, an internationally renowned calligrapher known for promoting Pakistan's cultural heritage across borders.

The Global Ambassador Awards have become a hallmark event in Islamabad's diplomatic calendar, showcasing Pakistan's commitment to international





number of ambassadors, senior governcooperation and mutual respect. This ment officials, representatives of interpersonnel.

year's ceremony was attended by a large national organizations, development

Ambassador of the Year

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Pakistan H. E. Mr. Yerzhan Kistafin and Naveed Ahmad Khan, Editor Daily The Spokesman, President, Tourism Association of Pakistan during seventh edition of the Global Ambassador Awards, organized by Diplomatic Insight Group. The Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Pakistan Yerzhan Kistafin received the title of "Ambassador of the Year."The ambassador was honored with this title for his role in advancing trade and economic cooperation between Pakistan and Kazakhstan.



Mobilink Bank and IMARAT Group partner to accelerate housing finance in Pakistan

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's leading digital microfinance bank, Mobilink Bank has entered into a strategic partnership with IMARAT Group, one of the country's premier real estate conglomerates, to enhance access to housing finance, and drive economic empowerment through technology-driven banking solutions.

Pakistan currently faces a housing crisis, with World Bank estimates placing the housing shortage at around ation is further aggravated by declining affordability, rising property prices, and banking suite. higher mortgage rates. Mobilink Bank simplifies access to housing finance by offering inclusive, customer-centric solutions that enable low-income and underserved households to secure affordable and dignified homes. The bank's part-



digitizing the entire mort- customers to assess affordagage journey, expanding bility and access real-time banking access across home financing options. developments Mobilink Bank will exten IMARAT 12 million units. The situ- and onboarding IMARAT its Employee Banking Suite IMARAT malls, brands, and employees into Mobilink to IMARAT employees to Bank's comprehensive digital

The housing finance customers will experience and exclusive financial benea fully digital onboarding process through IMARAT's Propmex.ai platform, supported by API integration between IMARAT and Mobilink Bank for seamless property verification. nership with IMARAT will IMARAT will also feature revolutionize the home loan Mobilink Bank's Mort- IMARAT Group will recip-

customers and employees by digital platforms, allowing

provide them with salary accounts, digital banking supporting MSME growth. services, insurance coverage, fits. Additionally, IMARAT employees will gain access to preferential loan products, including House Finance, Personal Loans, and Solar/ promote financial well-

rocate by opening corporate banking accounts with Mobilink Bank and maintaining substantial current account balances to support mutual business growth.

To foster digital access and enablement, Mobilink Bank will also install ATMs and Cash Deposit Machines (CDMs) at IMARAT's commercial projects to encourage cashless transactions. The partnership will also expand Mobilink Bank's merchant ecosystem by deploying Point-of-Sale (POS) machines across retail outlets, driving digital payment adoption and

Speaking on the occasion, Atta-ur-Rehman, Chief Business Officer, Mobilink Bank, said, "Mobilink Bank is deeply committed to empowering individual and institutional clients through EV Loans, designed to customized financial solutions, digital banking tools, being and sustainable living. and technology-driven integrations. Pakistan's housing

Telenor Pakistan and Data Vault launch nation's first AI-ready sovereign cloud

Example 2 Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Telenor Pakistan has entered into a strategic alliance with Data Vault Pakistan to launch the country's first AI-Ready Sovereign Cloud, enabling enterprises to securely access advanced GPU-accelerated computing and locally hosted AI infrastructure for the first time.

This landmark partnership is poised to accelerate Pakistan's AI adoption across sectors such as finance, healthcare, manufacturing, public safety, logistics, agriculture, and government services by providing the high-performance compute power and compliance-ready environment needed for modern AI applications.

For years, Pakistani enterprises and public institutions relied on offshore concerns around data sovereignty and compliance. This alliance resolves those challenges by offering AI training, infer-Pakistan's borders, hosted inside Data Vault's high-density AI data center.

This guarantees full regulatory compliance and eliminates the need for sensitive datasets, including financial transactions, healthcare imaging, telecom data, and government records, to leave the country.

The new cloud platform enables pipelines, large language models (LLMs), video analytics, generative AI costs, and complete national jurisdic-

Global GPU shortages and high



import costs have previously limited Pakistan's ability to adopt enterprise-grade AI. Through this partnership, Telenor customers will now gain on-demand access to GPU-as-a-Service (GPUaaS) powered by NVIDIA-grade cloud regions for AI workloads, raising accelerators. This empowers organizations to train and deploy advanced AI/ ML models, run real-time computer vision and video analytics, build Urdu ence, and data processing entirely within and regional-language AI models, and enable fintech fraud detection and AML automation.

The alliance positions Pakistan alongside global markets investing in sovereign AI clouds to power next-generation digital transformation.

The partnership marks a major shift from Pakistan consuming global AI technologies to producing indigenous, enterprises to deploy machine learning mission-critical AI solutions. With sovereign GPU infrastructure now accessible locally, Pakistani researchers, systems, and industrial automation startups, enterprises, and universities with low latency, reduced bandwidth can develop national LLMs for Urdu and regional languages, sector-specific AI for fintech, health diagnostics, agritech, and smart cities, and AI-driven

logistics and manufacturing automation

Today we are turning sovereign, high performance computer into a national capability," said Mehwish Salman Ali, Chief Executive Officer, Data Vault Pakistan. "By weaving Data Vault Cloud into Telenor Pakistan's enterprise portfolio, we are giving every organisation a secure, local path from idea to inference-without sending data abroad. This is how Pakistan moves from consuming AI to producing it."

The initiative aligns with regulatory frameworks from the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA), healthcare data laws, and emerging national AI safety guidelines. By keeping all data within Pakistan,

the sovereign cloud strengthens cybersecurity defense, auditability and transparency, access control and identity management, privacy and digital trust, and national data protection With AI increasingly used in

banking, telemedicine, e-governance, and national infrastructure, sovereign hosting has become essential. "This alliance positions Pakistan

among the nations building their own sovereign AI future," a Telenor Pakistan spokesperson stated. "Enterprises can now innovate knowing their data and AI systems remain secure, local, and compliant."

Industry Leaders Behind the Initiative are Mansoor Ahmed, Hasrat Mehmood, Ahmed Jahangir Chohan, Muhammad Ali Khan, Amna Ayub, Muhammad Umer Hayat, Syed Zeeshan Ali, Muhammad Adeel, and Fahad Alam, whose leadership and technical input shaped the alliance.

GRASP project concludes at Food Ag Expo with showcasing of 60 rural enterprises

👺 City Desk

KARACHI: The European Union funded Growth for Rural Advancement and Sustainable Progress (GRASP) project marked its official closing ceremony today at the Food Ag Expo, where more than 60 small and medium enterprises (SMEs) from Sindh and Balochistan showcased their products and innovations at a dedicated GRASP

Implemented by the International Trade Centre (ITC) over six years, GRASP has worked to transform the competitiveness and profitability of horticulture and livestock SMEs across 22 districts of Sindh and Balochistan. The project focused on improving the business environment, strengthening value chains, and supporting climate smart and gender inclusive enterprise development. GRASP was carried out in partnership with FAO, SMEDA, and PPAF, with funding from the European Union.

Over the course of its implementation, GRASP supported SMEs have participated in major national and international trade fairs, collectively generating more



confirmed business transactions. These results demonstrate the strong commercial potential of rural enterprises when connected to

The closing ceremony was graced by Jam Khan Shoro, Sindh Minister for Planning and Development, who commended the project's contribution to rural development and SME growth in the province.

EU Ambassador to Pakistan Raimundas Karoblis attended the ceremony and reaffirmed the EU's commitment to inclusive and climate resilient economic development across Pakistan.

"The EU funded GRASP project has enhanced the profitability and sustainability of over 45,000

than USD 25 million in Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises throughout 22 districts of Balochistan and Sindh provinces. The project stands as a model of how coordinated EU Pakistan partnerships can build sustainable growth and support green investments, preparing also for future investments that could be supported under the EU's Global Gateway strategy, the EU's largest investment program outside of the EU that aims to leverage 400

> in the period 2021 to 2027." From the International Trade Centre, Robert Skidmore, Chief of Sector, Enterprise and Competitiveness, highlighted the collaborative effort behind GRASP's achievements.

billion EUR of investments

"GRASP demonstrates what is possible when Pakistan.

strong partnerships come together across government, development partners, and rural communities. The SMEs showcased today are proof that with the right support, rural enterprises can innovate, compete, and

grow sustainably." The GRASP Pavilion at the Food Ag Expo featured enterprises working in dates, onions, tomatoes, dairy, olives, honey, processed foods, herbal products, and a range of value added rural goods. Many of these businesses benefitted from GRASP support in product development, certification, packaging, market linkages, and climate smart upgrading.

As the project concludes, GRASP leaves behind a strong legacy including strengthened institutions, improved policy frameworks, upgraded laboratories, trained government officials, and thousands of SMEs equipped with the skills, tools, and confidence to grow. Its integrated model of policy reform, enterprise competitiveness, women's economic empowerment, and green technology adoption stands as a blueprint for future rural development initiatives in

Thursday, November 27, 2025

Bull & Bears PSX 100-Share

ınaex	index Fluctuation		
Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index			
Current	Prev. Close		
163,188.53	161,692.49		
Day's High	Day's Low		
163,397.24	160,564.85		
Index Value	Change		
21,634,216,986	+1496.04		
Percentage	Time		
+0.93%	26 Nov, 2025 4:30 pm		
Europe: FTSE 100 Index			
Index Value	Change		
9,691.58	+82.05		
Percentage	Time		
+0.85%	26 Nov, 4:35 pm GMT		
USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average			
Index Value	Change		
47,517.35	+404.90		
Percentage	Time		
+0.86%	26 Nov, 12:09 pm GMT-5		

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average			
Index Value	Change		
49,559.07	+899.55		
Percentage	Time		
+1.85%	26 Nov, 3:45 pm GMT+9		

Open Market Forex Rates

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	180.50	184.50
Bahrain Dinar	745.5	753
Canadian Dollar	199	204
China Yuan	39.25	39.65
Danish Krone	43.15	43.55
Euro	324	327
Hong Kong Dollar	35.85	36.1
Indian Rupee	3.10	3.19
Japanese Yen	1.7805	1.8805
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	214.5	219.5
Swedish Korona	29.1	29.4
Swiss Franc	346.1	348.85
Thai Bhat	8.45	8.6
U.A.E Dirham	76.7	77.45
UK Pound Sterling	368.5	372
US Dollar	281.45	281.6

CCP Issues First-Ever Comprehensive Report on Pakistan's Gold Market

Example 2 Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) has released its maiden Competition Assessment Study of the Gold Market in Pakistan, providing the first evidence-based analysis of the sector's structure, regulatory landscape, and competitiveness challenges. The study, conducted by CCP's Center of Excellence in Competition Law (CECL), maps a market historically dominated by informality, fragmented oversight, and pricing opacity.

According to the report, Pakistan's annual gold consumption ranges between 60 to 90 tonnes, driven largely by cultural demand, while over 90% of gold trading occurs outside formal channels. The market relies almost entirely on imports, with USD 17 million worth of gold imported in FY 2023-24. The study highlights the transformative potential of the Reko Diq copper-gold project, expected to generate up to USD 74 billion over its 37-year of useful life and significantly reshape domestic supply chains.

Bangladesh to launch 24-hour e-visa system soon: HC

Spokesman Report

MULTAN: Bangladesh's High Commissioner to Pakistan Igbal Hussain Khan has announced that his country will soon launch a fast-track e-visa system enabling applicants to obtain visas within 24 hours — a move he described as "a significant step toward easing travel and boosting bilateral trade".

He made the remarks during a visit to the Multan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI), where he met Chamber President Mian Bakhtawar Tanveer Sheikh and senior office-bearers.

Khan underscored the "historic and brotherly relations" between Pakistan and Bangladesh, highlighting cultural affinity and longstanding commercial cooperation between the two nations. He said Bangladesh, a major exporter of rice, is keen to supply fresh pineapples to Pakistan, while strong consumer interest persists in Multan's renowned mango varieties, especially Chaunsa and Anwar Ratol. He also discussed prospects for mango imports with local growers.

The envoy noted that Bangladesh sees



strong potential for Pakistani industrial goods, agricultural products and textiles in its market, and expressed interest in expanding joint ventures, industrial cooperation and

strengthened over the past year, with visible Multan's premium mangoes could secure a tion. He pointed out that Bangladesh's exports trade facilitation.

MCCI President Mian Bakhtawar Tanveer have crossed USD 50 billion, driven primarily Sheikh said bilateral engagement had by its thriving textile sector. He added that progress in trade and economic collabora- strong international presence with improved

Inauguration

LONDON: Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Muhammad Junaid Anwar Chaudhry and the Secretary General of the IMO, Arsenio Dominguez jointly inaugurating the model of the PNSC Ship "KA-



SMEDA Board OKs Landmark 'Made-in-**Pakistan MSME Clusters** 2025' Exhibition

S Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The 35th board meeting of the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority (Smeda) was held on Tuesday, chaired by Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Industries & Production Haroon attended by Federal Secretary Saif Anjum, Acting CEO SMEDA Nadia J. Seth, Mashood Ali Khan and other senior officials.

In line with the vision of Prime Minister Shehbaz local experts would be Sharif, the board announced that "Made-in-Pakistan MSME Clusters 2025" a landmark national exhibition - would be held in January 2026. The PM Sharif would inauguevent will feature product displays, exhibition stalls,

MSME awards, and multiple panel discussions featuring national and international experts.

SAPM Haroon Akhtar Khan emphasised that Pakistan's SME clusters hold "immense untapped potential," and highlighted that deliberations are underway for the selection of the top Akhtar Khan. Meeting 100 MSMEs for national awards.

> The board informed meeting participants that, in collaboration with D-8 member countries, a highlevel panel of global and constituted for the exhibition. Invitations will also be extended to international partners and stakeholders. Khan shared that rate the national SME exhibition.

Clean Energy Giant KPCL partners with MUST to fund higher education in AJK

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: MUST, Mirpur AJ&K building on its synergistic & forward-looking initiative has inked a MoU with Karot Power Company Limited (KPCL) to empower Students with transformative Educational opportunities; initiative is poised to cast a profound & far-reaching influence on the provision of quality higher learning, supporting community uplift & regional capacity building while being fueled through a sustained, coordinated & equitable selection design so as to maximizes opportunities for deserving students both from the project vicinity as well as for the wider region. This landmark collaboration signifies broadened academic opportunities, deepened institutional connections & visionary mission of Mirpur University to advance Knowledge, Research & Societal well-being as a pivotal common goal

Brig (R) Prof. Dr. Muhammad Younus Javed SI(M), Vice Chancellor Mirpur University of Science and Technology MUST, Mirpur AJ&K & Mr. Liu Yonggang, CEO of Karot Power Company Limited (KPCL) signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) at KPCL Office, Serena Business Complex, Islamabad to establish the company would continue to support Mr. Rehan Haider,



a comprehensive scholarship program for underprivileged and deserving undergraduate and postgraduate students. The 720 MW Karot Hydropower Project is a key energy project under the China Pakistan Economic Corridor dedicated to the generation of clean energy in Pakistan.

talented young people so they can achieve their dreams. He added that this scholarship partnership with MUST will help ensure that financial challenges do not stop bright students from getting education. The ceremony was attended by Dr. Mohsin Zafar, Director Students Assis-Mr. Liu Yonggang, CEO of KPCL said tance Centre (SAC) of Mirpur University,

Pakistan Customs foiled a major smuggling attempt worth rs157.7 million at Sost Dry Port

Commerce Desk

Customs has foiled a major attempt to smuggle mobile phones, weapon parts, alcohol and pork meat valued worth approximately Rs157.727 million at the Sost Dry Port and Baggage

Section in Gilgit-Baltistan. Acting on credible information the Customs' officials under the Customs Act, thoroughly examine

two consignments imported from China. During inspection at the Dry Port, Customs recovered 59,000 units of Nokia 105 mobile phones with batteries, 5,200 pieces of medicine weighing 318

kg, 3,000 Sildenafil Citrate tablets, and assorted weapon

In a separate operation at the Baggage Section, cepted an attempt to country.

smuggle 80 bottles (20 litres) of liquor and 40 kg ISLAMABAD: Pakistan of pork meat brought from China through the Khunjerab Pass, in violation of Pakistan's import prohibi-

> The estimated duty and taxes the seized items amounted to Rs78.547 million. Seized items have been taken into custody



1969. Further legal proceedings are also underway.

Such operations reflect FBR's resolve to curb smuggling, protect national revenue and prevent prohib-Customs personnel interited goods from entering the

Sindh Govt Approves ADM Group China's Plan to Install 600+ EV Charging Stations Across the Province

Example 2 Commerce Desk

formally approved the for Strategic Partnership submitted by ADM Group China to Establish 600 plus Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Stations across Sindh, marking a major step toward clean mobility and sustainable infrastructure development.

The approval was very kindly granted by the

Honourable Minister Syed Nasir Hussain Shah, in a meeting held today with Mr. Malik KARACHI: The Sindh Government has Khuda Baksh (CEO/Chairman, Malik Group

of Companies), and Mr. Naeem Qureshi (CEO Energy Update & Advisor to the Malik Group). During the meeting, Mr. Malik Khuda Baksh presented the strategic partnership proposal for the establishment of EV charging infrastructure throughout the province.

The Minister not only approved the initi-

forwarded to Syed Muhammad Ali Shah, Special Secretary (Local Government & HTP Department), for immediate processing, identification of suitable locations, and commencement of implementation. The Honourable Minister had already discussed the terms and conditions of the collaboration with the CEO

Furthermore, the Honourable Minister



has invited Mr. Yasir Bhambhani, CEO ADM week of December to finalize the operational Group, for a follow-up meeting in the first framework.

Int'l Boxing Championship explodes into action

Sports Desk

LAHORE: The 2nd International Boxing Championship exploded into action here on Wednesday.

Punjab Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs Malik Faisal Ayub Khokhar participated in the opening ceremony. The 2nd International Boxing Championship is being organized with the collaboration of Punjab Government, Fauji Foundation and Lahore Corps.

A total of 44 professional boxers (6 Pakistani and 38 international boxers) from 15 countries, including USA, UK, Germany, Korea, Australia,



Ireland, Philippines, Netherlands, Morocco, Benin, Ghana and France are competing for the title in the Inter-

national Boxing Championship.

Talking on this occasion, Punjab Minister for Sports Malik Faisal Ayub Khokhar said that Pakistani boxers are making their mark on the world stage and the 'Fight for Glory' championship will prove to be a major milestone for the promotion of boxing in the country.

He said that several national heroes and other eminent personalities will also grace the event.

"The International Boxing Championship will continue from November 26 to 29 and we are quite hopeful that the boxing fans will be able to watch exciting encounters in the provincial

Pakistan secures Semi-Final berth in IMC Over-40s T20 World Cup with fourth straight victory

Sports Desk

KARACHI: Pakistan's over-40s side booked their place in the semi-finals of the IMC Over-40s T20 World Cup after defeating West Indies by 124 runs in their fourth match.

Batting first at the National Bank Stadium, Pakistan powered by aggressive knocks from captain Abdul Razzaq and vice-captain Fawad Alam set a formidable target of 225 runs for West Indies. Captain Abdul Razzaq was dismissed on 99, falling victim to nervous nineties after striking 10 fours and 6 sixes in just 56 deliveries. Fawad Alam contributed a quick-fire 53 off 35 balls.

In pursuit of the target, the West Indian batting line-up faltered against tight Pakistani bowling. The entire side was bowled out for just 100 runs. Zulfiqar Babar grabbed two wickets for 15 runs in four overs, while Mohammad Ali and Mohammad Suleman also took two wickets each. Owing to his outstanding innings, Abdul Razzaq was named Player and Youth Affairs Department of Sindh, are currently tied at six points after four the 17th over to claim a six-wicket victory.



of the Match.

With this comprehensive win, the 'Green Shirts' have amassed eight points and secured a Semi-Final slot from Group A. At the end of the match, Secretary-Sports

Munawar Ali Mahesar, presented awards to the players.

The second Semi-Finalist from Group A will be determined based on result from South Africa and UAE match. Both teams chased down 151 for 6 against the USA in

run rate.

Meanwhile, the Group B where Australia and USA are currently leading the charts, Semi-Finalists will be decided after Round 5 matches. Earlier today, in a match at the National Stadium, Rest of the Gulf defeated Rest of the World by three wickets. Rest of the World had posted 152 for 9 in their innings, Rest of the Gulf reached the target in the 17th over with seven wickets down.

At Southend Club, South Africa defeated Hong Kong by $25 \, \mathrm{runs}$ — posting $130 \, \mathrm{for}$ 8 and restricting Hong Kong to 105 for 9. In another match at the same venue, Sri Lanka defeated Zimbabwe by ten wickets. Zimbabwe managed 138 for 9 in their innings, which Sri Lanka chased

At NBP Sports Complex, UAE edged out Canada by 7 runs — scoring 186 for 8, with Canada falling short at 179 for 5. In the second match at Southend Club, Australia

Aisam, Muzammil moves in ATP Challngeer Cup quarterfinals

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani duo of A total of 25 international players Aisam-ul-Hag Qureshi and Muzam- from Romania Turkey Ukraine mil Murtaza booked their place in the USA, Czech Republic, Kazakhstan, men's doubles quarterfinals of the Pakistan ATP Challenger Cup here at PTF Tennis Complex on Wednesday.

The Pakistani duo defeated Russia's Timofei Derepasko and Ivan Gretskiy prestigious event. This marks a historic Clarke of Great Britain, ranked 213, 67(5) 75 10-6 to secure their place in the quarterfinals. In the second set, the Pakistani duo showcased remarkable resilience by saving three match points, breaking a crucial game to level the rankings, is the top seed, while Jay

score at 5-all, and eventually clinching the set 7-5.

Australia, Italy, Bulgaria, Austria, Sweden, Georgia, Great Britain, and Switzerland, along with 10 top Pakistani players, are participating in this moment, as the tournament is being held in Pakistan for the very first time.

Elias Ymer of Sweden, currently ranked 169 in the ATP World/PIF



is the second seed of the tournament. In Men's Singles-Round of 16,

Vadym Ursu (UKR) beat Timofei 6-3; Zach Stephens (GBR), Gian Luca Derepasko 6-2, 6-1; Jay Clarke (GBR) beat Dinko Dinev (BUL) 6-2, 6-7(1), Adrian Arcon (AUS) 6-2, 6-4.

6-2; Dominik Palan (CZE) beat Leonardo Borrelli (ITA) 7-6(6), 6-4; Zach Stephens (GBR) beat Nikita Bilozertsev (UKR.) 4-6, 7-6(2), 5-0 (Retired).

In Men's Doubles-Round of 16, Muzammil Murtaza (PAK), Aisam-Ul-Haq Qureshi (PAK) beat Timofei Derepasko, Ivan Gretskiy 6-7(5), 7-5, 10-6; Dominik Palan (CZE), Denis Yevseyev (KAZ) beat Lawrence Bataljin (AUS), Leonardo Borrelli (ITA) 7-5. Tanner (SUI) beat Alexey Aleshchev,

Defending champions Sialkot to face Karachi Blues in Quaid Trophy final

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: The league stage of the Quaid-e-Azam Trophy 2025-26 concluded with Faisalabad losing to Bahawalpur and Peshawar falling short against Islamabad, while the other three games of the ninth round ended on day three.

The final of the tournament – to be played between Karachi Blues and Sialkot will return to Gaddafi Stadium, Lahore and is slated to take place from December 1 to 5 after the venue played host to the 2022-23 and 2023-24 finals earlier.

Bahawalpur spoiled Faisalabad's bid to join Karachi in the Quaid-e-Azam Trophy 2025-26 final as they beat them by four wickets chasing the 310-run target in 85.1 Sheharyar (92, 141b, 10x4s, 2x6s) and

overs at the Marghzar Cricket Ground, Islamabad.

Faisalabad would have pipped Sialkot by at least two points on the table had they collected the winning points as well against Bahawalpur, who dug deep late on day three and then on day four to eke out their second win of the tournament. Despite the triumph, Bahawalpur finished ninth and will be relegated to the Hanif Mohammad Trophy in the next season along with Abbottabad, who finished tenth with a solitary win.

Resuming the day four from overnight score of 124-2 in 28 overs and requiring 186 more runs to win, Bahawalpur slipped to 142-5. No.7 batter Mohammad

skipper Saifullah Bangash (76 not out, 136b, 9x4s, 1×6) stitched a 157-run stand to outfox Faisalabad.

For Faisalabad, Khurram Shahzad, Afaq Afridi, Ali Asfand and Ahmed Safi Abdullah picked up one wicket each.

Musa Khan - who became the seventh bowler in the history of Pakistan's firstclass cricket and first in ten years to take four wickets in as many balls – bagged his ninth first-class five-wicket haul (5-70) (10-149) to hand Islamabad a thumping innings and 77-run win over Peshawar at the Diamond Cricket Ground, Islamabad.

Resuming the day from 183-2 in 41 255 in 52.2 overs as Musa (11-0-70-5) and

Naqeebullah (8.2-1-39-4) ran through their batting lineup with only three batters entering double figures.

Waqar Ahmed (83, 102b, 10x4s, 1×6) and third match haul of 10 or more wickets and Israrullah (41, 58b, 8x4s) added 62 runs for the third wicket before Musa's hat-trick sent back Zubair Khan, Abbas Ali and Mohammad Haris for golden ducks. Peshawar finished fourth with five wins overs following-on, Peshawar folded for and three losses, while Islamabad ended seventh with two wins and five losses.

Pak team trains at Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium



Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan T20 squad held a rigorous training session at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium, focusing on batting, bowling, and fielding drills under the guidance of the

Prior to the net session, the players participated in physical drills, emphasizing fitness and conditioning.

Pakistan will face Sri Lanka on Thursday as part of the Tri-Na-

Pak-China Josh Games tennis match ends in symbolic tie

Sports Desk

LAHORE: Pakistan China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI), in collaboration with the Aga Khan Youth &



Sports Board for Lahore under the umbrella of the Ismaili Council for Lahore, successfully organized the Pak-China G. B Sports Event (Josh Games - Lawn Tennis) in Lahore.

The event featured enthusiastic participation from both Pakistani and Chinese players, who demonstrated remarkable sportsmanship, mutual respect, and an inspiring sense of harmony. Throughout the matches, players exchanged techniques, supported each other's performance, and celebrated every point with equal joy. The match ultimately concluded in a tie, which stood as a powerful and symbolic example of unity reflecting that the true victory belonged not to one side, but to the friendship between the two nations

On this occasion, the PCJCCI President Nazir Hussain stated here Wednesday that the joint chamber has always believed in strengthening Pak-China friendship through meaningful and people-centered initiatives. Sports provide a universal platform for unity and mutual respect. "The Josh Games showcased how deeply connected our two nations are, as Pakistani and Chinese players embraced each other's strengths and displayed exemplary harmony," he said and added that the match ending in a tie beautifully represents the balance, equality, and shared values that define Pak-China relations.

Vice President PCJCCI added that this event was more than a competition it was a celebration of bilateral friendship. "Seeing Chinese and Pakistani athletes enjoy the game together, share smiles, and conclude with a tied match was a heartwarming reminder of our longstanding bond. Their unity on the court reflects the unity between our countries. PCJCCI remains committed to promoting sports and cultural initiatives that bring our youth closer and reinforce this everlasting partnership," he said.

Salahuddin Hanif, Secretary General PCJCCI, expressed sincere appreciation for the support and cooperation received from partner organizations and acknowledges the contributions that made this Pak-China sports initiative a memorable success. The event stands as a reaffirmation of goodwill, cooperation, and the unbreakable ties between Pakistan and China showcasing that when the youth of both nations unite, they create not only strong athletes but ambassadors of peace and friendship.

Field Marshal Asim Munir vows no compromise on Pakistan's territorial integrity

Continued from Page 1

"There will be no compromise on territorial integrity, security or the protection of our people," he said. Reaffirming full coopera-

tion with federal and provincial governments, he said durable peace, stability and prosperity required coordinated national efforts and institutional synergy.

According to the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), participants of National Security Workshop-27 visited the GHQ, where they were briefed on Pakistan's regional and internal security environment and the current national security outlook.

They were also briefed on

national efforts against illegal activities, including anti-smuggling operations, narcotics trafficking and efforts targeting organised criminal networks.

The delegation took part in an interactive session with Field Marshal Munir.

The ISPR added that participants were also informed about progress on improved border controls and the repatriation of illegal foreigners.

The National Security Workshop, the flagship programme of the National Defence University, brings together parliamentarians, senior civil and military officers, and representatives from academic and social sectors.

AIOU's Fourth Annual Arabic Conference: Experts Stress Revival of Andalusian Heritage

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Fourth Annual Arabic Conference concluded at Allama Iqbal Open University with distinguished professors, researchers, and literary scholars participating from various Arab countries, including Jordan, Algeria, Oman, Iraq, Morocco and Egypt.

National and international speakers at the closing cere-ture: Cultural and Artistic Rela-

mony emphasized that Anda- tions and Influences Between lusian literature is an enduring symbol of the cultural and artistic connection between the Arab world and the West. They noted that for centuries it has enriched linguistic, intellectual, and literary domains with its deep and lasting influence. They added that the two-day

international conference held

at Allama Iqbal Open Univer-

sity, titled "Andalusian Litera-

provided an opportunity to understand this invaluable heritage from new perspectives. Prof. Dr. Qadam I'ish

Mehrath from the College of Islamic Literature, University of Education, Iraq, was the chief guest at the closing session, which was presided over by the Dean of the Faculty of Arabic and Islamic Studies, Prof. Dr. Shah Mohiuddin Hashmi.

the Arab World and the West,"

Speakers stated that the Andalusian heritage is not only a shining example of Islamic civilization but also a remarkable model of intellectual harmony and cultural dialogue in world literature.

During the two-day conference, 92 research papers were presented across various academic sessions, shedding detailed light on the historical background of Andalusian literature, its artistic styles,

role in fostering cultural inter- the Arab world. action between the Arab world and the West.

Participants also emphasized that such international academic engagements further strengthen Pakistan's scholarly

linguistic dimensions, and its and research collaboration with Open University has become a

of Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. ence was another link in that Nasir Mahmood, Allama Iqbal chain.

hub of research, educational. In his address, Chairman and cultural activities. Semiof the Department of Arabic, nars, conferences, and intellec-Dr. Abdul Majeed Baghdadi, tual events are being organized said that under the leadership consistently, and this confer-



Pakistan alarmed by UN report on rights abuses in occupied Kashmir

👺 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Wednesday expressed grave concern over the latest findings by a United Nations Special Procedures experts report regarding India's illegal measures in the Indian Ille- 2,800 individuals, including ring communication blackgally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

The report, issued on November 24, 2025, once

Indian occupation, says a unjustifiable detentions. Foreign Office statement.

the experts' observations that journalists, students, and human rights advocates.

of draconian legislation, such again underscored the as the Public Safety Act (PSA) as the rise in hate speech, severe and systematic human and the Unlawful Activities lynching, and harassment rights violations endured by (Prevention) Act (UAPA), directed at Kashmiris and all those arbitrarily detained

the Kashmiri people under has facilitated indefinite and Muslim communities across

Instances of torture, Pakistan noted with alarm custodial deaths, incommunicado detention, denial of India's actions have resulted due legal process and family in the extensive, arbitrary contact, punitive demolitions arrest and detention of nearly and forced evictions, recurouts, and suppression of press freedom — including minorities across India, the The persistent application the blocking of 8,000 social media accounts — as well

statement added. These findings Pakistan's longstanding concerns regarding

India, are equally deplorable

and deeply troubling, the

state-sponsored persecution of Kashmiri Muslims as well as discrimination against Foreign Office stated.

Pakistan called upon India to cease its coercive measures and to unconditionally release

in HOJK.

"We further urge India to take concrete steps to end the persecution of all religious minorities, particularly Muslims and Christians," the statement said.

Pakistan reiterated its commitment to a peaceful, just, and enduring resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute, in accordance with the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions and the aspirations of the Kashmiri people.

Justice (R) Yar Mohammad sworn in as caretaker CM of Gilgit-Baltistan

跨 Saif ur Rehman

GILGIT: Retired Justice Yar Mohammad will lead the interim administration until elections to the Gilgit-Baltistan Assembly are held.

Retired Justice Mohammad took oath as the Caretaker Chief Minister of Gilgit-Baltistan on Wednesday in a simple but dignified ceremony held at the Governor House in Gilgit.

Governor Syed Mehdi Shah administered the oath. Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan Engineer Amir Muqam attended the ceremony as a special guest, along with senior judges, polit-



ical leaders, top civil administration officials and representatives of security agencies.

Participants congratulated the newly sworn-in caretaker chief minister and expressed hope that he would perform his duties with integrity and transparency during the interim period.

Retired Justice Yar Mohammad, who hails from District Astore, will lead the interim administration until elections to the Gilgit-Baltistan Assembly are held.

The transition follows Monday's de-notification of all ministers, advisers, coordinators and special assistants to the chief minister.

CM Maryam orders zero-delay policy for Punjab hospitals

👺 Bureau Report

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif directed health authorities on Wednesday to eliminate delays in medical services across the province, especially in cardiac care, calling timely treatment "non-negotiable."

She issued the orders while chairing a review meeting in Lahore, where the performance of the cardiology centres in Murree, Sahiwal and Sargodha came under detailed scrutiny.

Officials also presented a performance report of all 57 specialised hospitals in Punjab.

Maryam said even a moment's delay in treating heart patients was unacceptable, and expressed strong displeasure over delays in installing cardiology equipment.

She instructed that all hospitals be completed without further hold-ups and that machinery and medical tools

be installed immediately. The chief minister directed authorities to make the Nawaz Sharif Institute of Cardiology in Murree fully func-



tional by April. She also ordered the swift comple-

tion of the cardiac surgery theatre in doctors and installation of remaining Murree, along with the rapid hiring of equipment.

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COAS, Iran's Larijani take up regional security dynamics

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Secretary of Supreme National Security Council of Iran (NSA) Ali Ardeshir Larijani called on Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), HJ, Chief of Army Staff (COAS), at General Headquarters (GHQ) in Rawalpindi on Wednesday. According to a statement issued by the ISPR, the meeting focused on bilateral cooperation, regional security issues, and the importance of strengthening ties between Pakistan and Iran.

During the meeting, both dignisecurity dynamics in the region.

The COAS reiterated Pakistan's commitment to regional peace and stability, emphasizing the need for closer collaboration with Iran to combat terrorism.

The Field Marshal also highlighted the growing importance of strategic cooperation in light of the evolving geopolitical situation.

Ali Larijani acknowledged Pakistan's vital role in ensuring peace and security in the region and expressed his commitment to furthering Iran-Pakistan ties.

He underlined the significance of dialogue and partnership between the two nations to tackle taries discussed the prevailing regional challenges and ensure long-term stability.

Another petition filed in LHC against 27th Constitutional Amendment

👺 Bureau Report

LAHORE: Another petition challenging the 27th Constitutional Amendment was filed in the Lahore High Court on Wednesday.

citizen Ashba Kamran, names the President of Pakistan, the National Assembly and the Senate as respondents through their respective secre-

Kamran contends that the amend- injunctions.

ment violates fundamental Islamic principles and therefore falls outside Parliament's legislative authority.

The petition states that Islam requires all public officeholders to remain accountable before the The petition, submitted by a people, and any law passed against this principle is unconstitutional.

The petitioner has requested the court to declare the 27th Constitutional Amendment null and void for allegedly contravening Islamic

Aleema Khan released on bail by ATC after brief custody

News Desk

Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) on Court. Wednesday released Aleema Khan on bail after taking her into temporary custody.

scheduled for December 1.

The ATC, hearing a case against Aleema Khan and 10 others over the into custody inside the court. November 26 protest, had initially ordered her temporary custody.

The court also imposed a fine of Rs10,000 per accused for allegedly using delaying tactics in recording statements of eight witnesses.

Aleema Khan requested the court to allow her release as her lawyers RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi's were occupied in the Supreme

sister of PTI founder Imran Khan, Section 351 of the Criminal Procedure Code, stating that she could not leave judicial custody without The next hearing of the case is the court's permission. Upon leaving the courtroom,

female police officers took her back

The court accepted a written request from her lawyer for additional time to present statements.

Prosecutors insisted that witnesses who had been appearing repeatedly record their statements.

Federal Minister Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh inaugurates launch of Shopping Mall in **Wah Cantt**



Shahid Nawaz

WAH CANTT: Federal Minister for Board of Investment (BOI) Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh inaugurated construction of shopping mall in Wah Cantt today. A large number of traders, industrialists, business leaders, and local dignitaries attended the cere-

Speaking at the event, the Federal Minister stated that modern commercial centres play a vital role in promoting investment and accelerating economic activity. He emphasized that restoring a fully investment-friendly environment in Pakistan remains a top priority of the government.

The Minister noted that quality infrastructure directly enhances is actively undertaking reforms to growth.

ensure ease of doing business and provide maximum facilitation to investors.

Highlighting recent government initiatives, Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh said that the establishment of the Business Facilitation Centre in Islamabad enables investors to access all essential government services under one roof.

Through the Aasaan Karobar reforms, the process of obtaining business approvals and permits has become significantly faster and more transparent.

He further stated that Pakistan's retail, real estate, and construction sectors are witnessing new investment opportunities, creating employment and boosting economic momentum. The Minister stressed that private-sector participation investor confidence and contributes forms the backbone of a developed to sustainable economic growth. He economy, and the government is fully added that the Board of Investment committed to supporting business