The Spokesman

(صحیح بخاری: حدیث نمبر 6056) **Barkat Rice Mills**

Punjab unveils major traffic overhaul after 60 years, CM

Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz has announced, for the first time in six decades, a comprehensive package of 20 major reforms aimed at making travel safer and easier across the province.



Supreme Court notifies winter vacations

Supreme Court of Pakistan (SCP) notified the schedule of acations, which will be observed from December 18 to Do

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Jamadi-us-Sani 7, Saturday, November 29, 2025

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Harsh conditions



Pakistan PM vows unwavering support for Palestinians amidst Gaza crisis

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif said the government and people of Pakistan with unwavering resolve and commitment stand with the brothers and sisters in Palestine.

In a message on International Day of Solidarity with Palestinian People observed on November 29. he said for decades, the Palestinian people have endured one of the most devastating tragedies of our time-denied their right to self-determination, their land



stolen, and their peace destroyed. of more than 70,000 people has witnessed the martyrdom women, and men, who were

"In the recent years, the world in Gaza including children,

caught in the relentless violence." He said, "Gaza underwent brutal atrocities with the entire neighborhoods erased and entire families wiped out. Homes, hospitals, schools, and the basic essential civic infrastructure has been reduced to rubble."

He said, "Yet, despite this unfortunate and inexplicable suffering, the Palestinian people have demonstrated exemplary resilience and remained steadfast while holding fast to hope for their identity, and justice to their cause. The courage of Palestinian people is a testament to

the indomitable human spirit."

"In the wake of these grave realities, there must be a full and credible accountability for the war crimes and genocidal actions committed against Palestinians by Israel, in accordance with international law," he continued.

The Prime Minister said. "Today, and for always, Pakistan reaffirms solidarity with the Palestinian people. We stand by Palestinians in their just struggle, in their due resilience, and in their rightful aspiration for freedom, dignity, and peace."

PTI neglecting KP governance, focused on jailed leader: Tarar

跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar on Friday criticized Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Sohail Afridi for pursuing a political approach that, he said, neglects governance in the province.

In a tweet, on his social media handle X, Tarar alleged that PTI's attention remains fixed on an unlawful demand seeking political guidance from its founder imprisoned in Adiala Jail on a corruption conviction - rather than addressing the needs of the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, a practice he stressed violates prison rules.

He added that despite Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's crucial role in the country's fight Afghanistan and amplified by against terrorism, the provin- Indian media.



cial leadership has ignored peace, development, and public relief, spending its time in Islamabad revolving politics around the same unlawful

Tarar further alleged that a female PTI politician employed a negative strategy by orchestrating a malicious campaign against Khan Sahib through accounts hostile to Pakistan operating from

Naqvi visits FC Headquarters, lauds officers, cops for foiling khawarij attack

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi reached FC Headquarters Peshawar to meet Federal Constabulary officers and men after the suicide blast at the Headquarters.

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi inspected the site of the attack and met with Federal Constabulary officers and men. Naqvi also visited the Martyrs' Memorial and laid flowers and recited fateha for the martyred. Later Naqvi presided over an important meeting where Interior Minister was briefed about the security situation. Interior Minister paid tribute to the bravery and spirit of the Federal Constabulary personnel for thwarting the attack of Fitna al-Khawarij.

🖺 City Desk Nagyi saluted the sacri fice of the three martyrs who thwarted the evil intentions of the terrorists. Mohsin Naqvi said FC constables fought bravely and killed 3 suicide bombers in 3 minutes.

Naqvi said the sacrifices of the martyred soldiers will not go in vain and the families of the martyrs will be taken care of like family.

Interior Minister said the martyrs set an eternal example of bravery and repelled the enemy attack. He told the FC iawans that the courage with which you fought against the Indian sponsored terrorists is commendable. IG Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Police Zulfiqar Hameed, Commandant Federal Constabulary Nazir Gada and senior officials were also present on the occasion.

Federal Govt determined to provide maximum facilities to energy consumers: Awais Leghari

Example 2 Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Energy Awais Ahmad Khan Leghari has said that the government was determined to provide maximum facilities to energy consumers.

He expressed these views while addressing the launching ceremony of the upgraded Helpline 118, which he formally inaugurated. Leghari said that transparthat self-accountability is impossible "until we expose ourselves to scrutiny."

"We are committed to implementing the principles of reform within the ministry," he affirmed.

He added that the new system will highlight shortcomings at every level — "from linemen to senior officials" — and that the responsibility for these mistakes would also have to be assumed by the department.

The minister said the system ency was being ensured within will positively impact every electhe Ministry of Energy, adding tricity consumer in the country. He urged the Chief Executive



Officers (CEOs) of power distribution companies to ensure its successful implementation.

He also assured that once the system proves successful, employees of the respective companies will be rewarded "to the maximum extent possible."

Highlighting the importance of accurate information, Leghari said the ministry relies heavily on DISCOs and data gathering.

"Under the leadership of the Prime Minister, efforts are underway to bring improvements

across all sectors," he remarked.

Imran Khan is safe and healthy in Adiala Jail, say prison officials

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreeke-Insaf(PTI) founder Imran Khan is "completely safe and healthy" inside Adiala Jail, according to the Prison Department, which released detailed information on his current living conditions amid ongoing concerns raised by party leaders and supporters.

Officials said six rooms in a prison barrack are reserved for the incarcerated former prime minister, who is provided weekly access to his wife, Bushra Bibi, for

a meeting inside the jail.

They added that Khan has access to television and newspapers and is permitted to order food from outside once a week, which typically includes "desi" chicken and fish. According to prison sources, security inside Adiala Jail is monitored through 300 cameras.

They stressed that all visitors who enter the jail's premises are granted meetings strictly under jail manual rules, but matters occurring outside the prison boundaries are not the administration's responsibility.

The clarification comes at a time when PTI leaders have been staging protests over restricted access to Khan.

The Prison Department maintains that all procedures being followed are lawful and in line with jail regulations.

Afghanistan ceasefire not holding amid continued attacks

跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Friday said the ceasefire understanding with Afghanistan cannot be considered effective as terrorist attacks originating from Afghan soil have continued despite assurances.

FO says Pakistan-

A Foreign Office spokesperson said at a briefing that the arrangement was never a "traditional ceasefire" between the two states but an understanding that Afghan-sponsored terrorist groups would cease attacks inside Pakistan.

He said major attacks carried out by the TTP, FAK and Afghan nationals after the announcement of the ceasefire indicate that the commitment has not been upheld.

"If Afghan nationals are continuously attacking, as seen recently in Islamabad and other places, we cannot be very optimistic about the ceasefire," he said.

ANF recovers over 254 kg drugs in five operations

跨 News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting five operations across the country against drug traffickers managed to arrest five suspects including a woman and recovered 254.8 kgs drugs worth more than Rs 20.9 million.

According to an ANF Headquarters spokesman in an operation on National Highway, Hyderabad, 72 kgs hashish was recovered from a vehicle and two accused were arrested.

In second operation on National Highway, Hyderabad, 62.4 kgs hashish was seized and an accused was netted.

In a raid in Dara Adamkhel District Kohat, 72 kgs hashish was recovered. The spokesman informed that in fourth operation conducted on the coastal line of Pisni, District Gwadar, 30 kgs hashish & 10 kgs ice drug hidden in bushes were recovered.

AJK PM Rathore puts public service at heart of governance amidst busy schedule



future and our destiny are intercon-

nected and interwoven," he remarked.

government would work day and

night to address public issues, remove

the sense of deprivation, and restore

people's confidence in state institu-

tions. "Our focus has been on improving

health and education," he said, adding

PM Rathore reiterated that his

MUZAFFARABAD: Prime Minister Azad Jammu and Kashmir Raja Faisal Mumtaz Rathore has made public service the central focus of his activities since assuming office.

Since taking charge, PM Rathore delegations and citizens. Even today, he spent a busy day meeting public delegations from various parts of Azad

Kashmir, listening to their grievances and issuing immediate instructions for the resolution of their problems.

Speaking on the occasion, he said that serving the people is his mission. "The PPP is the party of the masses; it senses and feels their pain," he added. He affirmed that the government would has consistently engaged with public utilize all available resources to address the challenges faced by the people.

Highlighting the historic relationship between the people of Kashmir and

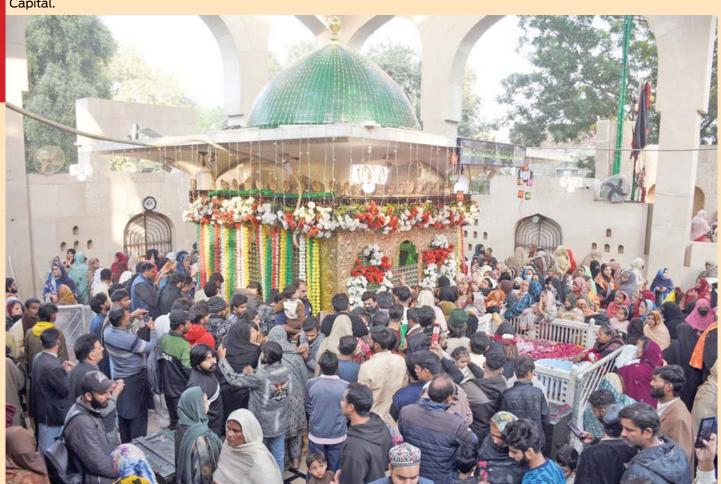
Pakistan, the Prime Minister said the that the public would soon witness a bond is rooted deep in shared culture, tangible change on the ground. history and identity. "Our existence, our

Those who called on Prime Minister Rathore included party and public delegations from Haveli, Hattian, Chakar and Mirpur.

The delegations were led by PPP leader Sardar Tabarak Khan from Muzaffarabad, the PPP Women's Wing AJK leader Shagufta Noreen, Dr. Ilyas, and a delegation of the PWD Workers led by Sardar Iftikhar Shaheen.

Annual Urs

LAHORE: Devotees offering pray during annual Urs of Bibi Ruqayyah Bint Ali at the Bibi Pak Daman shrine, in the Provincial Capital



AJK Health Minister Meets NIH Delegation to Boost Disease Surveillance and Response

👺 Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: The Minister of Public Health, Azad Jammu & Kashmir, Syed Bazal Ali Naqvi, met with a delegation from the National Institute of Health (NIH), Government of Pakistan. During the meeting, a detailed briefing was provided on the active Rapid Response Teams (RRTs) program, the Integrated Disease Surveillance & Response (IDSR) system, and recent progress in controlling communicable and epidemic diseases in the region.

The NIH delegation informed the Minister that comprehensive training accurate data reporting, and enable modules have been introduced across all districts to enhance the capacity of RRTs, strengthen emergency response protocols, conduct field investigations, improve laboratory sampling, ensure and next steps.



timely identification and control of epidemic outbreaks. The delegation also presented recommendations and reports on field response improvements

Welcoming the delegation, Minister Syed Bazal Ali Naqvi emphasized that the Public Health Department of Azad Kashmir continues to implement modern measures for the effective and timely containment of communi- collaboration with NIH.

program is being further strengthened and integrated under the IDSR system to ensure a scientific and timely response

to any outbreak situation. Officials present at the meeting included Dr. Muhammad Farooq Awan, Director Health Services (CDC); Dr. Abdul Sattar Khan, Director Health Procurement; Dr. Ahmed Junaid, Director MPRC/IDSR; Dr. Noman Manzoor Butt, Additional Medical Superintendent CMH Rawalakot; Dr. Qurat-ul-Ain, Additional DHO Muzaffarabad; along with technical representatives from NIH.

The meeting concluded with decisions to further enhance RRTs, modernize disease surveillance systems across districts, and strengthen technical

Technical College Delegation Explores Engineering Frontiers at MNS-UET Multan

腾 Kiran Asim

MULTAN: A delegation of female students and teachers of Government Technical College Ahmedpur Sial visited at The Muhammad Nawaz Sharif University of Engineering and Technology (MNS-UET) Multan, paid a study visit to Muhammad Nawaz Sharif University of Engineering and Technology (MNS-UET), Multan. The purpose of the visit was to meet the engineering degree students from South Punjab region studying at UET Multan and to familiarize the students with the modern laboratories, educa-



tional environment and research activ- they were briefed about the modern ities. The delegation made a detailed visit to various departments and laboratories of the university, where

machinery, technical facilities and ongoing projects. The students showed keen interest in practical experiments

and research methods, especially in engineering labs. The teachers appreciated the educational and research facilities provided by MNS-UET and said that such informational visits not only increase the confidence of the students but also expose them to the practical field. The university administration welcomed the delegation and said that MNS-UET has always kept its doors open for students from various institutions to promote knowledge and research. UET Multan is the future of the students of South Punjab, offering engineering degrees in various disci-

PPP Marks 58th Anniversary with simultaneous address by Bilawal Bhutto Zardari

MUZAFFARABAD: Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Azad Kashmir, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, has issued instructions to celebrate the Party's 58th Foundation Day with full zeal, respect, and ideological enthusiasm across all districts of Azad Kashmir as well as the four provinces of Paki-

According to party officials, PPP President Chaudhry



Muhammad Yasin will lead a major public gathering in Kotli, while Prime Minister Raja Faisal Mumtaz Rathore, along with Ministers Sardar Javed Ayub, Syed Bazil Ali Naqvi, Sardar Zia-ul-Qamar, and Ms. Nabeela Ayub, will address a grand public assembly in the Neelum Valley along the Line of Control. The gatherings will pay tribute to the historic victory achieved under the leadership of Field Marshal Hafiz Syed Asim Munir in the "Ma'rika-e-Haq" and reaffirm the nation's unwavering commitment to resist Indian aggression.

A central and dignified ceremony will be held at the Central Press Club Muzaffarabad, where Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari will address the 58th Foundation Day events in Pakistan and Azad Kashmir simultaneously via video link.

Speaking on the occasion, Shaukat Javed Mir said that the Pakistan Peoples Party and Pakistan share a bond like soul and body. He added that the visionary leadership of Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and Shaheed Benazir Bhutto provided Pakistan with an invincible defence, the nuclear program, a consensus Constitution, and strengthened the nation's dignity for generations. He noted that Shaheed Benazir Bhutto enhanced the professional capabilities of the Pakistan Armed Forces through missile technology, defeating the nefarious designs of enemies.

Kashmiri Leader Raja Najabat Hussain Honored with Global Ambassador Award 2025



👺 Bureau Report

ISLAMABAD / MIRPUR: Raja Najabat Hussain, Sitara-e-Pakistan, Founder Chairman of Jammu Kashmir Self-Determination Movement International (JKSDMI) and a prominent Kashmiri leader recognized globally for his successful lobbying on the Kashmir issue, has been awarded the Global Ambassador Award 2025 by the Diplomatic Insight Group.

The prestigious award was presented at a special ceremony held in Islamabad in recognition of his four decades of diplomatic and political services, his efforts in strengthening Pakistan-UK relations, and his advocacy for human rights.

The event was attended by ambassadors from various countries, nternational dignitaries, business leaders, and members of civ society. The seventh edition of the Global Ambassador Awards, organized by the Diplomatic Insight Group, is regarded worldwide as a credible recognition of excellence in diplomacy and interna-

Zakaria University's Banking Institute hosts Creative Showcase 3. Beyond Books: Multan Institute

👺 Quratul Ain Asim

MULTAN: Director of the Institute of Banking and Finance, Zakaria University, Multan, Dr. Ahmed Tasman Pasha, has said that along with curricular activities, extra curricular activities are essential for mental health, as they bring out the hidden God-given abili-

New ideas give birth to new businesses and students get the opportunity to practically showcase their hidden talents. He expressed these views while inspecting various stalls of the colorful event at the Institute of Banking and Finance under the supervision of Director Student Affairs Dr. Muhammad Haris.

On this occasion, Associate Professor Dr. Muhammad Irfan and Assistant Professor Dr. Muhammad Imdad were also with him. In the event organized to highlight the creative talents of the students of the Institute of Banking and Finance, stalls including paintings, sketches, canvas work, crafts, recycling art, live paintings and other stalls were set up in which the students highlighted their hidden talents so that students could be provided with new business ideas and opportunities to do business in accordance with the modern era in practical life. The event was attended by Executive Society President Hafiz Shreem Wajid, Vice President Famiya Zainab, Syeda Mahpara, Umaima Asif Asfand Iqbal Iqra Mirza, Anab Raza and other members of the society. The members were also accompanied by the director.

LUMU Launches as Pakistan's Premier eCommerce Market Place

👺 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's digital commerce landscape is about to transform with the launch of LUMU, a groundbreaking eCommerce platform redefining how people buy, sell, and connect through commerce. Far beyond being just an online marketplace, LUMU positions itself as a "Business Empowerment Online Portal," a movement dedicated to empowering producers, uplifting small businesses, and making quality products accessible to every house-

Speaking about the vision behind LUMU, the founder CEO, Mr. Abdullah Shah shared: "LUMU is not just a brand — it's a catalyst for economic revival. Our vision is to create thousands of new job opportunities and open digital doors for small and medium businesses across Pakistan

Co-founder, Chief Operating Officer (COO), Mr. Syed Arshad Hussain, shared the focus on operational excellence: "Our commitment is to leverage smart operations to create a seamless, friction-free experience for both our producers and our consumers, making LUMU the most dependable e-commerce platform in Pakistan."



Namaz Timings Maghrib

EMERGENCY

Rescue (Police) 15
Bomb Disposal 15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/
Islamabad1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance 1122 8
& Rescue Services 4451122
Motorway Police9266044
Motorway Police9270601-20
ENGLIEV

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

HOSPITALS

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

DEPARTMENTS

CDA 9221334-43
CDA 9208301-04
Met Office 9250360-6
RDA 5555864
TMA 5770886
Cantonment Board 9270151-3
Islamabad Metropolitan
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

A monument to the first cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin has been unveiled in *Islamabad*

跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The ceremony took place in Islamabad's F-9 Fatima Jinnah Park and was attended by Russian Energy Minister Sergei Tsivilev, Pakistani Power Minister Sardar Awais Ahmad Khan Leghari, Ambassador Albert P. Khorev. Amb sador of Pakistan to Russia Faisal Niaz Tirmizi and pilot-cosmonaut, Hero of Russia Elena Serova.

Sergei Tsivilev: "This is the greatest feat in our shared history. A huge number of scientists are engaged in space research. Let this work benefit all countries of the world."

He also announced that next year Islamabad will host a Russia-Pakistan conference dedicated to the development of cosmonautics and space infra-

The opening of the monument was timed to coincide with the 10th meeting of the Russia-Pakistan Intergovernmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, and Technical Cooperation.

The Embassy of Russia in Islamabad would like to thank the International Charitable Fund "Dialogue of Cultures-United World" for providing the bust of Yuri Gagarin, the St. Petersburg International Mercantile Exchange for its support in installing the monument and the Pakistani authorities for their assistance in implementing this project.

Deputy Chairman & CEO Hashoo Group Meets HSHM Students Selected for Future Leaders Challenge 2026

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Hashoo Group Head Office hosted a special interactive session where Mr. Murtaza Hashwani, Deputy Chairman & CEO Hashoo Group, met with the four students selected to represent Pakistan at the Future Leaders Challenge (FLC) 2026

During the session, Mr. Hashwani warmly congratulated the finalists and commended them for earning the honour of representing the country on a global hospitality platform. He urged the students to carry themselves with confidence, reminding them that they are not only participants from HSHM but ambassadors of Pakistan. He encouraged them to embody professionalism, integrity, and excellence throughout the competition.

The meeting was also attended by Mr. Haseeb Gardezi, Executive Director Pearl-Continental Lahore and Education Division, Mr. Azam Jamil, Advisor to the CEO for Education, and Mr. Faisal

Naeem, Director Education. They expressed pride in the students' achievement and reaffirmed Hashoo Group's commitment to supporting emerging talent in hospitality.

The Future Leaders Challenge (FLC) is a prestigious global competition that brings together hospitality students from leading institutions worldwide to address real-world challenges through innovation, leadership, and collaboration. HSHM's participation marks Pakistan's debut in this international forum, underscoring the institution's dedication to nurturing young leaders for the country's growing hospitality sector.

The selected students will now continue their preparation under the mentorship of Mr. Azam Jamil as they gear up for the FLC 2026 global finals

HSHM's participation in the first-ever Future Leaders Challenge 2026 marks a milestone for hospitality education in Pakistan and reflects Hashoo Group's commitment to empowering the next generation of industry leaders.



Pakistani Wedding Dresses

ISLAMABAD: Models wearing traditional dresses during a fashion show title "Nifty Sphere" at a local hotel, in the Federal Capital.



Action against smoke emitting vehicles continues, says DTO Atif Nadeem

👺 Zafar Chishti

TOBA TEK SINGH: District Traffic Officer (DTO) Toba Tek Singh Atif Nadeem has said that strict and continued action is being taken against vehicles emitting excessive smoke. Speaking to our correspondent, he stated that smoke emitting vehicles are a major contributor to environmental pollution and smog, which pose serious risks to public health.

DTO Atif Nadeem further that traffic police personnel remain active in the field on a daily basis, conducting regular inspec-



of the district. During these vehicle found emitting tions across different parts checking operations, any harmful smoke is immedi-

ately issued a legal challan and necessary action is taken according to traffic rules. He emphasized that combating smog and protecting the environment is a collective responsibility, but as law enforcement, the traffic police are fully committed to playing their part. He urged vehicle owners to keep their vehicles properly maintained and ensure that engines and exhaust systems are in good condition to avoid contributing to pollution. DTO Atif Nadeem reaffirmed that the campaign against smoke emitting vehicles will continue without any pause and no leniency will be shown to violators.

President of APSAMA North Punjab, Abrar Ahmed Khan, included in the sub-committee

ISLAMABAD: According to the orders of Honourable Justice Jawad Hassan of the Lahore High Court, Rawalpindi Bench, President of All Pakistan Private Schools Management Association (APSAMA) North Punjab, Abrar Ahmed Khan has been included in the sub-committee formed to draft special rules for the academic calendar for Punjab's educational institutions. The first meeting has been scheduled for December 2 in Lahore, and the notification has been issued.

Other members of the committee include: Assistant Advocate General Punjab Lahore Barrister Raja Hashim Javed, Muhammad Shakeel Ahmad Bhatti (Member CM Advisory Committee of Education), Director Public Instruction Punjab Lahore, Mian Imran Masood (President Pakistan Education Council), Kashif Adeeb Jawadani (Central President APPSMA), Asif Iqbal (Senior Law Officer, School Education Department), Ali Raza (Chairman Pakistan Chamber of Education), Kamran Malik (CEO KIMS), Naeem Qazi (Apex School), Anila Sajid (Deputy Director Training PECTA), Nighat Ali (Executive Director Lahore Grammar School), Saima Qasim (Principal Lahore Grammar School Defence), Ali Raza (Group Director Beacon Education Services), Umar Salamat (SICAS), Maryam Chughtai (Director National Curriculum Council of Pakistan), Aasia Khurram Agha (Regional Advisor, Aga Khan University), Usman Hameed (Education Expert), Gul Maryam (Educationist), Abdul Mannan (Director Star School), and Chairman Blooming School.

Farewell ceremony in the honor of Shahzad Ahmad Saleemi

S Abdul Maiid

FAISALABADD: Senior Sub-Editor/Reporter of APP Faisalabad Bureau Shahzad Ahmad Saleemi has retired from government service after attaining the age of superannuation.

In this connection, a grand and graceful farewell ceremony was organized in his honor at APP Faisalabad Bureau where the journalistic community paid glowing tribute to his outstanding services.

Shahzad Ahmad Saleemi began his professional journey at APP as a Sub-Editor/Reporter and through hard work, integrity and exceptional professional competence he soon earned a distinct recognition for himself within the organization.

Bureau Chief APP Faisalabad Rana Anjum Aala Rehman presided over the farewell ceremony while Chief Reporter Iftikhar Ahmad, Incharge Urdu News Service Rao Ali Aamir Sultan, Senior Sub-Editors/Reporters Muhammad Iqbal Awan, Abdul Rehman, Mirza Jabir Baig, Sub-Editors/Reporters Asif Ghaffar, Athar Rauf, Shafqat Rasool, Shehbaz Bhutta, Assistant Manager Tariq Mahmood Bandesha, Photographer Tasawar Abbas, Cameraman Muhammad Waseem and other staff members also attended it and bade an emotional farewell to their colleague.

Rangers arrest suspect linked to illegal arms trade, major robbery in Karachi

KARACHI, NOV 28 (APP): Pakistan Rangers Sindh have arrested a suspect allegedly involved in illegal arms sales, robberies, and multiple

other crimes during an intelligence-based operation in Pehlwan Goth. According to a Rangers spokesperson on Friday, the suspect, identified as Abdul Samad, was taken into custody with an unlicensed 30-bore pistol, ammunition, a stolen motorcycle, and a mobile phone recovered from his possession.

ISSI Launches Book on Post-5 August 2019 IIOJK

跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The India Study Centre at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) has launched its latest edited volume, titled: "The Kashmir Question in a Changing

World - Beyond August 2019." Featuring 12 chapters contributed by renowned academics and scholars from Pakistan, Azad Jammu and Kashmir, as well as abroad, the book focuses on various dimensions of the by India on the subject. Prominent Riphah International University; the lived experience of the Kashmiri

Mr. Altaf Hussain Wani, Chairman, Kashmir Institute of International Relations, Islamabad; and Ambassador Babar Amin, a career diplomat.

Dr. Ghulam Nabi Fai commended the ISSI's efforts in publishing the book, noting that most of the books available in the market were either written by Indian authors or foreign scholars, with many tending to lean more towards the Indian narrative. They completely ignore the suffering and pain of the Kashmiri people. Kash-Jammu and Kashmir dispute and miri voices have been conspicuously challenges the narratives advanced missing from the literary landscape on the conflict. The book published Kashmiri leader Dr. Ghulam Nabi by the India Study Centre has done Fai graced the occasion as Guest of an excellent job by including contri-Honour. Other speakers included: Dr. butions from a number of Kashmiri Waleed Rasool, Assistant Professor, writers who have aptly highlighted

people.

Earlier, in his remarks, Director General ISSI Ambassador Sohail Mahmood said that the ISC book being launched serves as a lens through which the lived reality of the Kashmiri people could be viewed. It maps India's repugnant policies and their unspeakable consequences for the Kashmiri people in the aftermath of New Delhi's illegal and unilateral actions of 5 August 2019. It illustrates a pattern of systematic denial of rights, political manipulation, and demographic engineering aimed at implementing a settler-colonial project.

Dr. Waleed Rasool, Mr. Altaf Husain Wani, Ambassador Babar Amin, Chairman BoG ISSI, Ambassador Khalid Mahmood also speak on the occasion



Asim Nazir Ahmad

Naveed Ahmad Khan

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Pakistan Finalizes Meat Export Plan to Malaysia

high-level meeting was held to finalize Pakistan's comprehensive meat export plan to Malaysia, in line with the vision of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

The session was jointly chaired by Special Assistant to the Prime Minister Haroon Akhtar Khan, Federal Minister for National Food Security Rana Tanveer Hussain, and Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan. Representatives from the Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of National Food Security, public and private sector stakeholders, and technical consultants were in attendance.

The committee presented the final business plan for meat exports to Malaysia, marking a major step toward expanding Pakistan's footprint in the international halal meat mar-

Haroon Akhtar Khan commended the collaborative efforts of all ministries and stakeholders in preparing the export business model, stating, "An efficient business framework for meat exports has been developed. All members of the committee and ministries have done an outstanding job."

Jam Kamal Khan highlighted the joint contributions of all stakeholders, noting, "This package is the result of collective efforts and consensus among all concerned sectors."

Under the Prime Minister's vision, a target of USD 200 million in meat exports to Malaysia over the next 3 to 5 years has been set. Currently, Pakistan exports buffalo meat worth USD 38,000 to Malaysia, as disclosed during the meeting.

The committee identified major challenges affecting exports, including foot-and- mouth diseases, processing deficiencies, and logistical hurdles.

Haroon Akhtar Khan further announced, "The halal meat sector will be granted industry status. This will increase exports and strengthen Pakistan's economy." He added that a practical business plan has been designed with mutual consultation, and specific tasks with timelines have been assigned to each sector and stakeholder to achieve the USD 200 million target.

Jam Kamal Khan underscored the significance of financial facilitation, adding, "To reduce export costs and provide incentives, the banking sector, provincial and federal governments, and the State Bank of Pakistan will play a crucial

Federal Minister Rana Tanveer Hussain stated that modern slaughterhouses will be established in accordance with Malaysian standards, facilitating compliance and strengthening trade potential.

Concluding the meeting, Haroon Akhtar Khan remarked, "These incentives will enable Pakistani halal beef to successfully reach the global market.

Trump's Tariffs: Rising Suicides, **Falling Innovation**

public as a bold attempt to restore national greatness is now revealing its deeper, more painful underside. What began as a political project aimed at resetting global trade dynamics and reasserting American strength has gradually transformed into an economic and institutional suffocation whose aftershocks are being felt across farms, universities, industries, and households alike. The rhetoric of "billions and billions" pouring into the U.S. Treasury from tariffs created an illusion of financial abundance, but reality has unfolded in the opposite direction: a shrinking export base, collapsing agricultural markets, rising consumer prices, weakened research ecosystems, and a fraying social and political fabric within the United States.

The hardest hit have been American farmers. For decades, agriculture functioned as one of the strongest pillars of the U. S. export economy, supplying China, East Asia, Europe, and the Middle East with soybeans, wheat, corn, cotton, dairy, and specialty crops. When tariffs escalated and retaliation began, China-America's most important buyer—swiftly diverted its purchases to Brazil, Argentina, Russia, and even emerging African producers. Billions of dollars in annual exports vanished almost overnight. The loss of the Chinese sovbean market alone, once valued at over \$24 billion a year, crippled thousands of farms.

the political interventions that accused universities of antisemitism and insuf-

sold to the American concerns of students calling attention to real humanitarian crises, some policymakers used the moment to justify intrusive investigations, funding threats, and speech restrictions.

This not only jeopardized academic freedom—one of the foundations of trade agreements, built regional blocs,

American intellectual leadership—but also discouraged foreign students, particularly Muslim-mafrom jority countries, from pursuing studies in the U.S. The result is a weakening of the very institutions that have historically given America its

competitive edge. When research stalls, when laboratories lose staff, when grants dry up, and when campuses spend more time navigating political minefields than conducting scientific inquiry, the country loses its innovative momentum, and rivals gain ground.

The tariff regime further disrupted the industrial and consumer sectors. Import restrictions and retaliatory tariffs led to higher prices for machinery, electronics, household essentials, and raw materials. Manufacturing industries that relied on global supply chains suddenly faced shortages and rising costs. Plants scaled back production, delayed expansion plans, or relocated overseas to avoid tariff pressures. American consumers, already stretched by high living costs, found themselves paying Compounding these pressures were more for everyday necessities—from groceries and clothing to appliances and building materials. Inflationary pressure, ficient action against pro-Palestinian once dismissed as temporary, became a

supply chains and reduced imports.

This domestic squeeze unfolded alongside a geopolitical realignment that placed the United States at a disadvantage. As Washington doubled down on tariffs, other nations strengthened their

> and opened markets among themselves. China expanded its Belt and Road partnerships, deepened trade ties in Africa and Latin America, and secured long-term access to critical minerals.

The European Union pursued trade diversifi-

cation, reducing dependence on American markets. Even countries once firmly aligned with the United States began exploring alternative economic relationships. The ideological posture of tariff nationalism not only isolated America economically—it weakened its diplomatic influence. A nation that once championed open markets, free exchange, and research collaboration became a symbol of restriction, confrontation, and inward retreat.

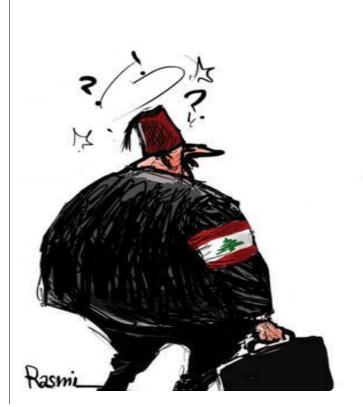
Perhaps the most significant long-term consequence is the erosion of America's claim to global leadership in science, technology, and higher education. Leadership in the twenty-first century depends not only on military power or financial clout, but on talent attraction, innovation, and the ability to shape the next frontier of discovery. When universities are politically constrained, when international scholars turn away, when research

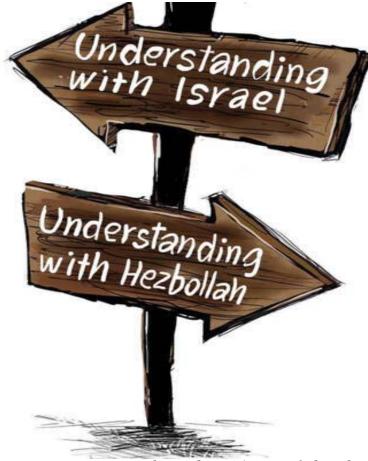
he tariff regime that was protests. Instead of addressing the long-term burden driven by fractured funding declines, and when laboratories lose their brightest minds, the country falls behind. China, meanwhile, has been investing billions into artificial intelligence, robotics, biotechnology, space exploration, and quantum research. As American campuses grapple with political controversies and financial shortages, China accelerates toward technological supremacy.

> It is a painful irony that a policy intended to revive American greatness has instead hindered many of the nation's greatest strengths. The tariff regime weakened agricultural power, strained consumers, disrupted industry, diminished university vitality, discouraged global talent, and compromised future research breakthroughs. Instead of elevating America, it created new obstacles that will take years to undo.

Reversing course is not simply a matter of lifting tariffs; it requires rebuilding trust with global partners, restoring market access for farmers, revitalizing universities, protecting academic freedom, and reopening the doors to foreign students and researchers who have long contributed to America's intellectual legacy. It means reaffirming the values that once made the United States the world's magnet for talent and innovation. Only then can the country reclaim its leadership role and repair the damage left by a tariff experiment that cost far more than it delivered.

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





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

The Green Legacy of Ethiopia as the Way Forward for Pakistan

environmental degradation, on plantations. climate-induced catastrophes, and deteriorating ecosystem health in Pakistan. The Ethio-

one of the global models due to its magnitude, comprehensive character, and effectiveness in environmental change. The project, which was introduced seven years ago, is thus far credited as one of the biggest afforestation and reforestation program in the world and serves as a good source of inspiration for the Pakistani climate change adaptation and mitigation policies.

The achievement in Ethiopia is based on the fact that the country shares a national culture of environmental consciousness, and green behavior has been placed in the mainstream of people. As close to 25 million individuals mobilize every year and over 48 billion trees and seedlings are planted, the program proves that reforestation can be more than a conservation effort; it can be a movement of the entire society. In the case of Pakistan, which is a nation where forests are disappearing at an alarming rate, with urban sprawl and pollution levels on the rise, and water scarcity on the rise, this model is very applicable and replicable.

Pakistan, having a developing technological market and a young population, can adjust to such models. Start-ups, university incubators, and vocational centers can incorporate the so-called green entrepreneurship starter reforestation, sustainable agriculture, solar have recorded large gains in forest cover and

he pursuit of scalable and sustain- projects, and electric mobility. Major governable solutions has become a ance issues can also be resolved using techpressing national issue in the nology to enhance monitoring, reduce corrupprocess of addressing the growing tion, and provide transparency in projects based

Pakistan is exposed to numerous environmental pressures, which include loss of biodipian Green Legacy Initiative can be considered versity, depletion of resources, as well as unpre-

dictable weather conditions, heatwaves, and floods cannot be solved without the good coordination of institutions. The centralized policy commitment and long-term planning assist in driving the green movement in Ethiopia since there is coherence between the government agencies and the international partners.

Khan Jadoon The implementation gaps, overlapping of institutions, and reactive actions instead of preventive actions are the common aspects of environmental governance in Pakistan. Pakistan can enhance policy congruency at the federal, provincial, and district levels by analyzing the integrated model of Ethiopia. An open and aligned system of climate governance, which is backed up by climate finance, evidence-

Dr. Muhammad Fahim

a long way in improving the outcomes. The importance of solutions based on nature, coupled with measurement and verification, is one of the most compelling Ethiopian lessons. Impact assessment, biodiversity surveillance, and community-based management support reforestation. This guarantees long-term ecological benefit as opposed to token plantation motives.

based planning, and timely monitoring, can go

In the case of Pakistan, it is important to have similar monitoring mechanisms. Well-man-

local livelihood. Having the correct information, communities will be able to monitor the progress, recognize changes in the ecology, and be involved in long-term stewardship.

The green legacy in Ethiopia shows that being climate responsible is not the task of forests, but also of universities, government departments, hospitals, and local institutions. Accountability is shown through internal measures on energy usage, waste production, and full-fledged emissions, and a culture of environmental ethics is established.

This can be emulated in the universities and other public organizations in Pakistan via climate responsibility frameworks, which include measurement and reporting schemes, campus sustainability programs, and green practices of operation. When these practices become institutional, they can spread to society, thus influencing the behavior of the environment on a large scale.

The concept of collective responsibility that includes citizens, governments, and nations. perhaps, is the largest lesson that Pakistan can learn from the Ethiopian green legacy. With the persistence of climate change that is slowly redesigning the ecosystem and posing a threat to livelihoods, no nation can go it alone. Transnational green diplomacy, such as the cooperation between the institutions in Ethiopia and Pakistan, will contribute to increasing global integrity and establishing additional potential points of knowledge sharing.

The green legacy in Ethiopia is not merely a green campaign but rather a dream of solidarity, sustainability, and environmental protection. In the case of Pakistan, the consideration and adaptation of this model can be a turning point, one that would be able to combine ecological restoration with socio-economic growth, techkits that promote innovation in the areas of aged forests, both reserve and protected, nological development, and the cooperation of global climate policies.

Smog: A Dangerous Threat to Human Health

urban development have undoubtedly made human life more ronment and health have also become increasheavily polluted areas are practical measures. ingly evident. Among these environmental chal- Moreover, adopting modern agricultural praclenges, one of the most serious threats is smog, tices, such as composting crop residues instead which proves hazardous to both human life and of burning them, can help reduce the intensity

the natural environment. Smog is essentially a mixture of dust, chemicals, smoke, and other harmful particles in the air that envelop a city in a dense, toxic haze. Its effects are most pronounced during the winter and in industrial areas. In many major cities around the world, smog has become a persistent problem, negatively affecting

human health, quality of life, and the economy. tion, conserving energy, and planting trees not Smog not only causes respiratory diseases but also impairs the functioning of the heart, brain, and other organs.

The effects of smog are not limited to physical health; mental and psychological health is also impacted. Air pollution reduces oxygen levels in the brain, and the presence of toxic particles can cause psychological stress, irritability, and reduced concentration. In children, smog can impair academic performance due to its negative effects on brain function and memory. Furthermore, smog discourages outdoor activities, reduces social interactions, and disrupts daily routines, all of which diminish the overall quality of life.

Governments and international organizations have proposed several measures to address the effects of smog, but effective implementation remains a challenge. Key steps include urban planning, strict industrial regulations, improving vehicle engine standards, and mandating filtration systems in factories. Addi-

he modern industrial era and rapid tionally, raising public awareness and educating people to take precautions during smog episodes is essential. For instance, avoiding outdoor expoconvenient and comfortable, but sure, wearing masks, using air purifiers, and their adverse effects on our envi- keeping children and the elderly away from



Muhammad Asif

of smog. Solving the smog problem is not limited to technical or governmental measures; individual responsibility is equally important. Citizens should adopt environmentally friendly practices in their daily lives. Reducing unnecessary vehicle use, increasing reliance on public transporta-

only help keep the environment clean but also effectively reduce the severity of smog. Through a combination of education, awareness, and social responsibility, the harmful effects of smog can be mitigated, laying the foundation for a healthier society.

In conclusion, smog is not merely an environmental issue but a serious threat to human life, health, and well-being. If not controlled in time, its effects will impact every citizen, including children, the elderly, and the disabled, and future generations will grow up in a sickly and unsafe environment. Therefore, it is essential that governments, institutions, and individuals collectively address the smog problem, adopt environmentally friendly practices, and establish a sustainable environment for a healthy life. Only through joint efforts can the eradication of smog ensure the survival of our environment and the well-being of future generations.

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Railways Minister touts Romania as Trusted Partner at National Day Event

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Railways Hanif Abbasi described Romania as a trusted friend and valued partner, noting the excellent bilateral relations and significant potential for future cooperation in trade, education and development. He addressed to gathering as a Chief Guest on the occasion of National day of Romania held here Islamabad.

The event attended by Governor KP Faisal Karim Kundi, Federal Minister, Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety, Syed Imran Ahmad Shah, Federal Minister for Investment and Chairman of the Board of Investment (BOI) Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh, Parliamentary secretary for Information and Broadcasting, Danyal Chaudhary, Sharmila Faruqui, govt officials, Friends of Romania and media

Abbasi said the celebration symbolized the strong and enduring friendship between the two nations, reaffirming Pakistan's goodwill and support for Romania's continued progress and pros-

Earlier, Romanian Ambassador to Pakistan Dr. Dan Stoenescu and his team gave a warm welcome to guests. Romanian Ambassador to Pakistan Dr. Dan Stoenescu on Thursday said Romania used its National Day celebrations to reflect on 61 years of relations with Pakistan, outlining new diplomatic, cultural, educational and economic steps that have strengthened the partnership over the past

The Ambassador, in connection to celebrate National day of Romania, said that Romania on 1st December marks the Great Union of 1918, when various Romanian regions came together as a unified state. The day carries symbolic value for Romanians. serving as a moment to reaffirm national unity and the principles that guide the country's path



Dr Dan said, this year's celebration also highlights 61 years of diplomatic relations between Romania and Pakistan more than six decades marked by cooperation, respect and steady engagement. Officials noted that ties between the two countries have expanded across political, economic, academic and cultural sectors, demonstrating a shared commitment to a long-standing partnership.

Romania has taken several steps in the past year to broaden its presence in Pakistan, he said while highlighting the opening of the Romanian Honorary Consulate in Peshawar was one of the key developments, with upcoming honorary consulates planned for Karachi and Lahore. These initiatives are intended to improve outreach, promote exchanges and strengthen diplomatic channels.

The Ambassador hoped to further enhance cooperation, as the Romanian embassy travelled widely across Pakistan, meeting government representatives, business leaders and industry groups toward security, stability and in cities such as Karachi, Sialkot,



Gujranwala, Rawalpindi and Peshawar. These visits helped advance discussions on trade, investment and business opportunities, creating room for direct collaborations.

One of the major milestones this year was the launch of the first Romania-Pakistan IT Forum. More than 100 companies from both countries joined the initiative, which created new connections between technology firms and opened space for future work in digital innovation and information technology.

Defence cooperation also

progressed. High-level military exchanges took place in both directions, reflecting a growing level of understanding between the two armed forces and reaffirming continued collaboration.

He said people-to-people links also became more visible during the year. Romania and Pakistan increased cultural, academic and media exchanges to strengthen mutual understanding. The first edition of Romanian Cultural Days in Pakistan was organised in November, offering film screenings, musical performances and art exhibitions in Karachi and



duced Pakistani audiences to Romanian creativity and cultural

Highlighting the academic partnerships also received a boost. Romanian universities expanded cooperation with Pakistani institutions including NUST, GIFT and NUTECH. A significant step came with the establishment of the first Romanian language lectorate in Pakistan at NUML. The presence of a Romanian lecturer, Dr. Oana Ursache, marks an important step in deepening

academic and cultural ties. In his remarks, the ambassador noted that nations today operate in a more diverse and multi-polar global environment where sovereignty and the right to make independent decisions remain central principles. He tions of Allied airspace by Russian 👺 Photos by Sultan Bashir

in Europe have not altered Romania's commitment to its national

goals, ensuring the safety of citi-

zens, strengthening the economy

and promoting long-term devel-

on Ukrainian ports along the Danube brought the effects of the war close to Romanian territory. These strikes prompted alerts in Romanian border areas, underscoring the wider security risks in the region. Recent steps taken by NATO and the European Union, including the Eastern Sentry initiwere mentioned as efforts to reincautioned that frequent violadrones and aircraft must not be treated as routine.

He said Romania, sharing the longest border with Ukraine among NATO members, has been active in strengthening collective defence measures. He reaffirmed Romania's continued support for Ukraine, stressing that this support aims to help secure a lasting peace and bring an end to the conflict. He added that Romania remains committed to defending its sovereignty and democratic principles while contributing to regional and global security.

The ambassador also noted that the Republic of Moldova continues to face security pressures, including attempts to destabilise its political landscape. Romania strongly supports Moldova's path toward European integration and maintains close cooperation to address shared

He said that although global dynamics are shifting rapidly, Romania's foreign policy remains anchored in several key pillars: its membership in the European Union, its role in NATO, its strategic partnership with the United States and its cooperation with global partners. These foundations continue to shape Romania's diplomatic work and international engagement.

As the event concluded, the ambassador reflected on the progress Romania and Pakistan He highlighted the impact of have made over their 61-year relathe ongoing conflict in Ukraine, tionship. He noted that cooperdescribing how drone attacks ation has continued to expand across culture, education, trade, security and technology. He expressed confidence that

both countries will continue to build on these achievements, deepening their partnership and creating new opportunities for future collaboration. He closed by reaffirming Roma-

ative and Eastern Flank Watch. nia's commitment to strengthening ties and celebrating the force regional defence. He also enduring friendship between the two nations.

Ambassador of Indonesia Officially Inaugurates Indonesian Corner at National Library of Pakistan

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia in Islamabad successfully organized the inaugural ceremony of the Indonesian Corner at the National Library of Pakistan on 27 November 2025, marking a significant milestone in strengthening cultural, educational, and intellectual cooperation between Indonesia and Pakistan.

Ambassador of Indonesia Officially Inaugurates Indonesian Corner at National Library of PakistanThe ceremony was hosted by Ambassador Chandra W. Sukotjo, and graced by distinguished dignitaries including Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture, Mr. Aurangzeb Khan Khichi; Prime Secretary of the National Library of Indonesia, Dr. Joko Santoso; and Director General of the National Library of Pakistan, Mr. Muhammad Ali Shahzad Muzaffar.

The event was also attended by all ASEAN Ambassadors and High Commissioners, senior government officials, members of



and representatives of the Pakistani community, reflecting strong people-to-people ties between the two brotherly nations.

In his opening remarks, Ambassador Chandra W. Sukotjo highlighted the significance of the Indonesian Corner as a symbol of mutual trust and enduring friendship between the two nations.

Ambassador of Indonesia Officially Inaugurates Indonesian Corner at National Library of Pakistan"Having a military background, I understand that the diplomatic corps, Indonesian trusting your colleagues means community including students, trusting them with your weapons.

In the same spirit, the dedicated space for the Indonesian Corner at the National Library of Pakistan stands as a powerful symbol of Pakistan's trust in Indonesia and its confidence in our longstanding friendship. We are sincerely grateful for this trust," he remarks drawing upon his background as a military officer.

In his address, Federal Minister Aurangzeb Khan Khichi stated that the Indonesian Corner symbolized a bridge between the two peoples. "It will provide greater access to Indonesia's literature, heritage, and intellec-



tual traditions, and will support research, learning, and cultural understanding for students and visitors alike. Such initiatives strengthen not only our institutions but also the people-to-people connections that define enduring friendships," he said.

Ambassador of Indonesia Officially Inaugurates Indonesian Corner at National Library of PakistanAnother important feature of the event was the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the National Library of Indonesia and the National Library

of Pakistan on cooperation in the field of library and information management. The MoU was signed by Prime Secretary, Dr. Joko Santoso and Director General Mr. Muhammad Ali Shahzad Muzaffar.

The Director General of the National Library of Pakistan underscored the importance of this institutional partnership. "The signing of the MoU between our two national libraries further deepens this collaboration," he said while expressing his commitment to support all programs at the Indonesian Corner.



In his turn, the Prime Secretary of the National Library of Indonesia described the Indonesian Corner as representing a significant milestone in Indonesia and Pakistan bilateral ties, "It reflects deep trust and mutual respect. We are confident that this Corner will grow into a vibrant hub of the enduring friendship between our two nations," he said while by donating 1,000 books in the

The National Library of Indo-

nesia holds one of the largest and richest collections in Southeast Asia. In 2024, the National Library of Indonesia received the UNESCO/JIKJI Memory of the World Prize, the first time this honor has been awarded to an Indonesian institution.

Before the event concluded. learning and a lasting symbol of Ambassador Chandra W. Sukotjo presented a book of 75 Years of Indonesia and Pakistan Diploexpressing his commitment to matic Relations to the distincontinue supporting the Corner guished guests as a gesture of goodwill and optimism to the cordial relations between two brotherly nations.

Pakistan Hosts International Conference on Countering the Smuggling of Migrants

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Government of Pakistan, in partnership with other national and internathe United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), with the financial support from the Migration Multi Partner Trust Fund (Migration MPTF) and the European Union, convened a high-lev-Countering the Smuggling of Migrants from 26-27 November 2025 in Islamabad.

The two-day conference and experts from more than commitments aligned with the

sentatives from INTERPOL, FRONTEX, ICMPD, and tional institutions. Participants examined emerging trends in migrant smuggling, operational challenges, and opportunities to strengthen cooperation to dismantle transnational criminal networks.

Building on the momentum el International Conference on of the 2024 Regional Cooperation Workshop, organized by the UNODC, the conference reinforced regional and international coordination and laid brought together senior officials the groundwork for thematic

30 countries, as well as repre- United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its supplementary protocols.

> In his opening remarks, the Deputy Head of the European Union (EU) Delegation to Pakistan, Philipp Oliver Gross reinforced that "the EU remains committed to take robust action to tackle the common challenge of migrant smuggling. This is possible only in a joint effort to strengthen collective action with international partners in a 'whole of route' approach. For this, the EU launched in 2023 the Global Alliance to Counter Migrant Smuggling with a world-



international conference of the tragedy of the Greece boat inci-Global Alliance will take place in December 2025 in Brussels. We are very pleased about Pakistan's engagement and look forward to building on the exchanges of this conference to continue to prevent the loss of lives of people venturing onto dangerous migratory journeys".

In his closing keynote, Pakistan's State Minister of Interior & Narcotics Control, Mr. Talal

dent in 2023 exposed the scale and ruthlessness of the transnational nature of illegal migration. Since then, Pakistan has proactively strengthened its national response mechanisms to prevent and deter human smuggling, addressing the urgent need for coordinated action. Amendments have been made in relevant laws, including launch of a robust National Action Plan,



and establishing a Risk Analysis effectively address the smuggling Unit. This conference is a testament to our commitment to work together with other countries to reintegration, an equal focus overcome the challenges posed needs to be placed on expanding by migrant smuggling networks."

Foreign Secretary, Ambassador a cycle of illegal migration and Nabeel Munir, highlighted, "We ensure orderly and regular migrarecognize the need for a balanced tion as enshrined in the Global and comprehensive approach to Compact of Migration."

of migrants. While there is focus on law enforcement, return and legal migration pathways to Furthermore, the Acting reduce the risk of perpetuating

Bull & Bears PSX 100-Share Index Fluctuation

ilidex Floctoation				
Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index				
Current	Prev. Close			
166,677.69	165,373.31			
Day's High	Day's Low			
165,611.10	165,753.35			
Index Value	Change			
32,532,523,753	+1304.38			
Percentage	Time			
+0.79%	27 Nov, 2025 4:30 pm			
Europe: FTSE 100 Index				
Index Value	Change			
9,720.51	+26.58			
Percentage	Time			
+0.27%	28 Nov, 4:35 pm GMT			
USA: Dow Jones I	ndustrial Average			
Index Value	Change			
47,674.09	+246.97			

+0.52%	28 Nov, 12:25 pm GMT-5		
Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Avera			
Index Value	Change		
50,253.91	+86.81		
Percentage	Time		
. 0.470/	28 Nov, 3:45 pm		

Time

28 Nov, 12:25 pm

GMT+9

Percentage

Open Market Forex Rates

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	181.75	186
Bahrain Dinar	744.5	754.25
Canadian Dollar	199	204
China Yuan	39.25	39.65
Danish Krone	43.15	43.55
Euro	326.15	329.65
Hong Kong Dollar	35.85	36.1
Indian Rupee	3.10	3.19
Japanese Yen	1.7825	1.8825
Kuwaiti Dinar	911	921
Malaysian Ringgit	66.5	67.1
NewZealand \$	156.15	158.15
Norwegians Krone	27.3	27.6
Omani Riyal	729.25	739.25
Qatari Riyal	76.55	77.25
Saudi Riyal	74.95	75.55
Singapore Dollar	215.15	220.15
Swedish Korona	29.1	29.4
Swiss Franc	346.1	348.85
Thai Bhat	8.45	8.6
U.A.E Dirham	76.6	77.35
UK Pound Sterling	372.5	376
US Dollar	281.55	281.65

inDrive Provides Funding for Flood Recovery Efforts with International Medical Corps

Example 2 Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: inDrive, the global mobility and services platform, is extending crucial support to communities still recovering from the devastating floods that struck Pakistan earlier this year. Through a dedicated funding contribution, inDrive is partnering with global humanitarian organization International Medical Corps to help address ongoing health, sanitation, and medical needs in the hardest-hit

Awais Saeed, Country Head of inDrive Pakistan, said. "Even after the floods have faded from the headlines, many families continue to face serious challenges. We believe it's important to support long-term recovery, not just short-term relief.

Syed Khurram Khursheed, Director of Country Programs for International Medical Corps in Pakistan, added: "inDrive's support comes at a crucial time, helping us expand access to essential medicines, clean water and emergency health services for communities that are still rebuilding."

Huawei Pakistan honors top partners, showcases commitment to ecosystem growth

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Enterprise Business Group of Huawei Pakistan successfully hosted a high profile partner event in Islamabad, bringing together more than 15 leading partners, including CXOs, service directors, and technical professionals. The gathering celebrated the collective business achievements of 2025 and reaffirmed Huawei's strong commitment to partner enablement in Pakistan's ICT landscape.

The event highlighted Huawei's Golden Seed training program, mentor led coaching, hands on scenario based learning, continuous skill building initiatives, and globally recognized HCIX career certifications. These initiatives are equipping partners with the capabilities required to meet today's challenges and seize tomorrow's opportunities.

In his opening remarks, Mr. Ahmed Bilal Masud, CEO of Huawei Pakistan's AI & Cloud Business, emphasized "Our goal is to make every



partner more capable, more competitive, and We deeply appreciate the strong engagement ongoing investments in upskilling and enabling more future ready. The impact is already visible. from our partners in response to Huawei's their engineering teams.

Throughout 2025, Huawei and its partners jointly delivered over 1,400 projects across multiple verticals, including Commercial, Government, Defence, Banking, ISP, and Education. This achievement demonstrates the powerful truth that when partners are empowered, the entire ecosystem moves forward.

A central highlight of the event was the unveiling of Huawei's O3 Partner Service Platform — a unified digital gateway for partner services, O3 integrates expertise, tools, knowledge resources, and workflows across the full service lifecycle, enabling partners to deliver projects more efficiently, improve service quality, and enhance customer satisfaction.

In his closing address, Mr. Liu Zongyi, VP for Delivery and Services at Huawei Pakistan, stated "The future of digital and intelligent transformation will be shaped not by any single company, but by strong ecosystems — ecosystems built on trust, capability, and shared vision. By investing in our people and strengthening our partnerships, we can turn digital potential into measurable value and sustainable growth."

Meeting

KARACHI: Consul General of the Republic of Indonesia, Dr. June Kuncoro Hadiningrat awarded to Mr. Ghazanfar Ali Khan, Executive Director of Mehran Commercial Enterprises, for his contributions to bilateral trade between Indonesia and Pakistan.



FFC secures consecutive **Overall Winner Title at SAFA Best Presented Annual Report Awards**

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Fauji Fertilizer Company Limited (FFC) proudly announces its historic achievement as the first Pakistani company to win the Overall Winner title for two consecutive years at the SAFA (South Asian Federation of Accountants) Best Presented Annual Report Awards.

The ceremony, held on November 27, 2025 in Islamabad with participation from delegates across South Asia, recognized leading institutions from SAFA member countries for excellence in transparency, governance, and financial Pakistan). reporting.

of FFC's Board of Directors - corporate reporting acro and the unwavering commit- Pakistan and the region.

ment of the management team, led by MD&CEO, Mr. Jahangir Piracha.

Representing FFC at the event were Syed Atif Ali (CFO), Syed Mustafa Haider, and Syed Imran Rizvi (Head of Investor Relations).

FFC received the following accolades, Overall Winner-Gold Award, Manufacturing Sector-Gold Award, Corporate Governance-Silver Award and Integrated Reporting-Bronze Award

The Overall Winner Award was presented to Syed Atif Ali by Mr. Jean Bouquot (President, IFAC) and Mr. Muhammad Ali (Chairman, Privatisation Commission of

FFC appreciates SAFA's achievements recognition and reaffirms its reflect the strategic guidance commitment to excellence in

Airblue launches new Islamabad-Dammam Route with **Inaugural Ceremony**

S Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Airblue, Pakistan's leading private airline, has officially launched its new international route connecting Islamabad to Dammam, strengthening air travel links between Pakistan and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The bi-weekly flight operation will run every Thursday and Saturday, offering passengers greater convenience and expanded travel options.

The inaugural ceremony took place at Islamabad International Airport and was attended by senior Airblue officials, airport representatives, and distinguished guests. The event marked a significant milestone in Airblue's continues growth and ongoing commitment to enhancing connectivity and providing safe, affordable, and comfortable travel experiences to its customers.

Speaking at the occasion, Muhammad Shafique, Director Commercial Airblue, said"The launch of the Islamabad-Dammam route reflects our dedication to meeting the growing travel demand



between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia. nities, and we are proud to provide a committed to expanding our network Dammam is an important destination reliable connection that supports our and delivering exceptional service across for both business and expatriate commupassengers' needs. Airblue remains all our routes.'

CCP Issues Show Cause Notices to Sugar Mills for Collusion

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) has issued show cause notices to ten sugar mills in Punjab for colluding in relation to start of crushing season and fixing the sugarcane procurement price at Rs. 400 per maund.

CCP's review found that representatives of these mills held a meeting on November 10, 2025, hosted Fatima Sugar Mills, where they collectively decided to commence crushing on November 28, instead of the Punjab Sugarcane Commissioner's officially notified date of November 15. The ness associations and mills also jointly agreed to fix the cane purchase price at Rs. 400 per maund, an act that constitutes collusive decision-making.

The meeting was chaired by Rana Jameel Ahmad was attended by representatives of Sheikhoo Sugar behaviour and penalize."

Mills, Thal Industries Corporation, Tandlianwala Sugar Mills (Rehman Hajra Unit), JK-1 Sugar Mills, Ashraf Sugar Mills, and Kashmir Sugar Mills, while Siraj Sugar Mills, Two Star Sugar Mills, and Haq Bahoo Sugar Mills joined

Under Section 4 of the Competition Act, 2010, any agreement or arrangement between market players to fix prices or coordinate on business decisions is strictly prohibited and constitutes a violation of competition law.

Chairman CCP, Dr. Kabir Ahmed Sidhu, has issued a strict warning to all busiindustry groups, stating, "No association or group of competitors will be allowed to form cartels or make collective commercial decisions that harm consumers and distort markets. CCP Shahid, Resident Director will take firm action against of Fatima Sugar Mills. It any entity found engaging in such anti-competitive

Algerian Envoy visits RCCI, stresses strengthening bilateral trade ties

Brahim Romani, Ambassador of Algeria to Pakistan, visited the Rawalpinsession with the business community. Senior Vice President Khalid Farooq Qazi, Vice President Fahad Barlas, and members of the Executive Committee. Usman Shaukat briefed the ambas-

stani businessmen to take full advan- atives and activities. He said there is RAWALPINDI: The Algerian Envoy, tage of the liberal economic policies of Algeria, emphasizing his country's keen interest in enhancing trade and di Chamber of Commerce and Indus- economic cooperation with Pakistan. try (RCCI) and held an interactive He highlighted that Pakistan and Algeria signed a bilateral trade agree-Upon arrival, he was warmly received ment in February 2023, and both counby RCCI President Usman Shaukat, tries have witnessed consistent growth

in trade over the years. During the session, President RCCI

vast potential to expand bilateral trade in sectors such as energy, pharmaceuticals, and textiles.

Highlighting the Government of Pakistan's 'Look Africa Policy', the President said that RCCI is actively contributing to this vision. He mentioned that RCCI recently organized an Africa Business Forum, where ambassadors from various African countries, including Algeria, delivered pres-

entations. He added that Africa offers numerous opportunities for Pakistan due to its rich natural resources, promising investment climate, and a large young population. Under the Look Africa Plan, Pakistan is exploring preferential trade agreements with major African trading blocs, he added.

Both sides expressed a strong desire to further enhance trade, investment, and cultural cooperation. The meeting also discussed matters related to bilateral relations, investment opportu-



nities, trade facilitation, cultural and eration, and broader economic develtourism exchange, diplomatic coop- opment.

CAS-Serena Hotels International Squash Championship-2025

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Squash Federation in collaboration with Serena Hotels, organized the Chief of the Air Staff-Serena Hotels International Squash Championship at Mushaf Squash Complex, Islamabad from 24-28 November, 2025.

Apart from 07 Pakistanis, a group of 17 world ranking players from Czech Republic, Egypt, Hong Kong China, Japan, Malaysia and Switzerland participated.

It is highlighted that Serena Hotels, under its Sports Diplomacy Initiative, is committed to using sports to build bridges between nations and commu-

Sporting events like squash championship, highlight their dedication to tioning Pakistan as a prominent venue promoting athletic excellence and posifor world-class sporting events.



The Final of CAS-Serena Hotels International-25 was played today 11-4 and 11-8.

(28 Nov-25) between Mr Muhammad Hamza Khan and Noor Zaman from Pakistan, followed by the Closing Ceremony. Air Marshal Kazim Hammad, President Pakistan Squash Federation graced the ceremony as Chief Guest and presented trophies and souvenirs.

Air Vice Marshal Sohail Akbar, Senior Vice President PSF along with Mr Fahim Inam, Chief Operating Officer Serena Hotels, Squash Legend Mr Qamar Zaman, VP PSF Dr Riaz Khan, President Sindh SA Mr Adnan Asad and a number of players, officials and squash lovers were also present during the ceremony.

World No 43 Noor Zaman won the Championship Title by beating World No 101 Mr Muhammad Hamza Khan with a game score of 9-11, 7-11, 11-7,

Sindh Hockey Teams gear up for National Games in Karachi after 18 Years

Sports Desk

KARACHI: After 18 years, preparations are in full swing for the Sindh hockey teams ahead of the National Games scheduled in

Karachi from December 6 to 13. According to Sindh Hockey Association Secretary Akbar

Qaimkhani, International Azlan Khan has been appointed head coach of the men's team, while international player Muhammad Naeem will lead the women's side. Open trials for team selection were held in October at the KHA Sports

Complex, where players from across Sindh participated. Olympian Iftikhar Syed served as chairman of the selection committee, which also included other Olympians and divisional representatives. The trials were attended by prominent figures including Barrister Murtaza Wahab, President of Sindh Hockey Association, and MNA Syeda Shehla Raza, President of KHA Women's Wing, who personally observed the proceed-

Sindh Olympic Association Secretary General Ahmed Ali Rajput and his team lso reviewed the trials, while the Sindh



Sports Board was represented by District and Coordinator Dr. Majid. The men's Shaheed Benazirabad, Mirpurkhas, Subhana from Hyderabad. Rifat Fatima. Sports Officer East, Syed Ismail Shah. squad includes Shahzaib Khan (captain) and Dadu. The women's team features Khizra from Larkana. Sardar Bibi. Selected players have been instructed from Karachi and Ubaidullah Bhutto Iqra Iqbal (captain) from Karachi and Subhana Taj and Aqsa are included

Jobal to Secretary Akbar Ali Qaimkhani with players from Sukkur Hyderaba to report at the KHA Complex Gulshan (vice-captain) from Larkana, along Shafaat Zahra (vice-captain) from from Mirpur Khas.

Shaheed Benazirabad, with representation from Sukkur, Hyderabad, Larkana, and Mirpurkhas. Shafqat Hussain has been appointed manager of the men's team, while Dr. Qamar Raza will manage the women's side. Both teams are determined to perform strongly in Pakistan's biggest sporting event.

The selected male players from Karachi Division include Abdullah Sheikh, Arsalan Khalid, Shahbaz Haider, Ali Abbas, Arbaz Ayaz. Hammad Ayaz. Haris Naseer. Arsalan Haider. Shahzeb Khan (captain). Azeem Anil and Daniyal Ali. Obaidullah Bhutto (vice-captain) from Larkana. Muhammad Arif from Sukkur. Mesum Abbas. Ahmed Nawaz. Hammad Rizwan from Hyderabad. Muhammad Usman. Nabil Ahmed from Shaheed Benazir Abad. Amanullah from Mirpur Khas and Tausiq Ahmed from

Among the female players, Shazma Naseem from Karachi. Iqra Iqbal (captain). Maheen Ali. Momal Sakina. Sundus Siddiqui. Reja Moeez. Saima Ghulam. Nida Anjum. Ayesha Mahmood. Rumaisa Khan. Fiza Saleem from Shaheed Benazir Abad. Shafaat Zahra (vice-captain). Asia Mehr from Sukkur, Maryam Tanio, Azra Batool

Training camps of Punjab athletes continue



Sports Desk

LAHORE: Director General Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Khizar Afzaal Chaudhry along with other top officials visited multiple training camps to review performance of coaches and athletes. He also visited athletes mess for checking the quality of food and other facilities.

Talking on this occasion, Director General Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Khizar Afzaal Chaudhry said that best training is being given to Punjab athletes under the supervision of qualified trainers. "Punjab's male and female athletes will participate in the mega event of 35th National Games with full preparation".

Dozens of athletes participated in the athletics training camp at Punjab Stadium where senior coaches conducted competitions among the players to assess their fitness and stamina. Similarly, modern playing techniques and tactics were taught to male and female athletes at judo camp.

Pakistan's Leaders Unite to Reimagine Climate-Resilient Cities and Communities at IGHD Annual Conference 2025



KARACHI: The Aga Khan University's (AKU) Institute for Global Health and Development (IGHD) brought together Pakistan's leading architects, planners, public health experts, development specialists, and government

representatives to address one of the country's most pressing national challenges: how to redesign homes, neighbourhoods, and public systems to withstand intensifying climate pressures in both urban and rural settings.

The dialogue unfolded at IGHD's Annual Conference on Climate Change and the Built Environment, hosted in partnership with Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) Pakistan, under the leadership of Professor Zulfiqar A. Bhutta, Founding Director of IGHD. This year's theme, "Climate Change and the Built Environment: Promoting Resilience & Adaptation in Low-Income Settings," set the stage for a day focused on evidence, solutions and innovative approaches.

The inaugural session welcomed Chief Guest His Excellency Tariq Khan, High Commissioner of Canada to Pakistan, followed by a Special Message from Honourable Minister Professor Ahsan Iqbal, Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Government of Pakistan, who joined the conference virtually. "Canada is helping countries like Pakistan confront climate-driven vulnerabilities," said His Excellency Tariq Khan. "The ideas shared at this conference can help shape a more sustainable future for millions of people."

Delivering a special message via Zoom, Honourable Minister Professor Ahsan Iqbal highlighted the national urgency for climate adaptation. "Pakistan's future will depend on how boldly we reimagine our cities, homes, and public institutions in the face of climate ange. Building resilience is not optional — it is a national devel opment priority. Conferences like this help translate research into policies that enable safer, more inclusive, and climate-adaptive environments for all Pakistanis."

LOLC Microfinance Bank partners with PTCL to Drive Scalable Digital Expansion

Example 2 Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Telecommunication Company Limited (PTCL) and LOLC Microfinance Bank have signed an agreement to provide comprehensive cloud services through PTCL Smart Cloud. The partnership will leverage PTCL's advanced infrastructure and platform solutions to provide LOLC with scalable, Ilsam Awfer, Chief Operating

growing microfinance operations across Pakistan.

Farooq Rashid, Chief Executive Officer, LOLC Microfinance Bank, and Asif Ahmad, Group Chief Business Solutions Officer, PTCL & Ufone 4G, signed the agreement at a ceremony in Islamabad. The signing was witnessed by senior executives from LOLC Microfinance Bank, including

Faraz Basheer, Head of IT, along with PTCL & Ufone 4G executives Haseeb Hashmi, Group Director Enterprise Solutions, and Syed Imran Ali Bukhari, Group Vice President Strategy and Product Management.

On the occasion, Farooq LOLC Microfinance Bank, said, secure technology to support its Officer, Nizar Ali Momnani, agreement with PTCL as our ucts and services."

Chief Commercial Officer, and trusted partner for infrastructure as a Service at PTCL Smart Cloud. This partnership signifies a transformative step forward in the Microfinance Bank's approach to infrastructure, platforms, and data management. By leveraging PTCL's data center and telecommunications expertise, LOLC Rashid, Chief Executive Officer, aims to achieve an enhanced and reliable operating leverage and "We are pleased to sign this reduced time-to-market of prod-



During the signing ceremony, isation effort across the country. Through such partnerships, corporate sector that will further

PTCL endeavours to provide best-in-class services to its corpo-PTCL continues to play its key rate customers across various role in the development of telecom industries in Pakistan. This infrastructure by providing inno- agreement is part of the growth vative and secure solutions to the momentum across diverse areas of ICT and Security Solutions, which contribute towards the overall is key to Pakistan's digital banking

company, is leading the digital- economic growth of the country." ecosystem.

SIGNING CEREMONY

36 Years of Neglect Ended? Modern Recreational Park Promised, Yet Fundamental Issues Persist

Zain-ul-Abideen Abid

welcome news for the resiglected and dilapidated be redeveloped into a modern, highreviewed the site's current conditions, development plans.

On the spot, the Commissioner issued clear instructions and decided that the 16-acre area, which had remained a park. He clarified that the park design officially commence by the end of December 2025. Commissioner Amir Kareem Khan stated that upon comple-

provide millions of local residents with dents of New Shah Shams a clean environment, high-quality recre-Colony: the long-ne- ational facilities, and a healthy atmosphere. During his visit, he encouraged Mohammadi Ground/Park is set to children by playing cricket with them and emphasized that parks are essenstandard recreational park. Commis- tial for the mental and physical growth sioner Multan, Amir Kareem Khan, of younger generations. He expressed announced a permanent solution to this a firm commitment to providing citilong-pending issue during a detailed zens with better, safe, and healthy recreinspection of the ground. He carefully ational opportunities. The visit was attended by DG MDA Rashid Irshad management arrangements, and future and officers from relevant departments, who agreed on a joint strategy for timely park construction.

There is no doubt that this project will represent a new dimension of develbarren, sandy ground for 36 years, would opment and revitalization, not only soon be transformed into a modern for New Shah Shams Colony but for Multan as a whole. The park is located has been finalized and, following the in a densely populated area, home to tendering process, construction would millions. Its importance is evident: the park's revival will not only provide a clean, high-quality recreational space

esterday brought highly tion, this development project would a reliable source of recurring revenue for the MDA. Plans include the installation of modern swings, establishment of small shops, and a designated parking area for vehicles, which will enhance public convenience and contribute is an urgent need to make prompt significant revenue to

> the authority. It is noteworthy that within the park's boundaries, a plot of 2 kanal 33 square yards has been officially reserved for a central mosque, while space for a community hall and dispen-

and Chairman of SM Group of Indus- only from a modern park but also from tries, Chaudhry Zulfiqar Ali Anjum, has repeatedly offered to fund the mosque's construction at his own expense, but the administration has yet to issue the necessary NOC. Similarly, a proposal for a modern library for children in the for local residents but will also become community hall area was submitted to

as a positive social investment, yet no progress has been made. Currently, all these matters are clearly

before DG MDA Rashid Irshad. There

and serious decisions regarding the construction of the mosque and children's library alongside the park's development. Recognizing the contributions of social leaders and benefactors like Chaudhry Zulfigar Ali Anjum, the delay in issuing NOCs should

sary also exists. Renowned industrialist be removed so that the area benefits not a complete, healthy, and balanced environment for worship, education, and social activities. Such a decision would mark a crucial step toward overall social and community improvement.

New Shah Shams Colony, despite its central location, suffers from misman-

promote reading among youth and serve agement and neglect. Due to the absence open auction to ensure proper utilization of street lights, the entire area plunges into darkness at dusk, creating difficulties for residents and increasing crime. Weak supervision and ineffective administrative control by previous DGs MDA led to widespread construction irregularities. Despite repeated highlighting of these issues, relevant officers neither took practical steps nor attempted reforms. As a result, commercial plaza owners on the sewage drain filled over two feet of debris, built ramps and solid structures, and removed sidewalks, disrupting drainage and obstructing the movement of women and children. All illegal structures on the sewage drain must be demolished immediately.

Restoration of street lights, repair of sidewalks, and ensuring their proper condition are fundamental requirements for public convenience that require urgent attention. Additionally, MDA plots 212 (Block A) and 177 have long been under the control of land mafias and must be reclaimed and sold through

of government land. Seven residential quarters—104,

111, 123, 174, 186, 192, 191—owned by MDA are currently occupied by illegal settlers, while official records show them as "locked." These quarters could be auctioned legally to increase government revenue. The 70-foot-wide main road of New

Shah Shams Colony has been reduced to less than 50 feet due to encroachments and irregularities, severely obstructing traffic flow. Restoring its original width is an urgent necessity."

Considering all these issues, the current DG MDA must demonstrate effective administrative capability and leadership by taking immediate action to remove illegal constructions, restore basic amenities, and bring the colony back under lawful order. These measures will not only resolve citizens' problems but also enhance the credibility of the DG MDA. I hope it does not happen ""Shiny on the outside, rotten inside"

The Spokesman

Meeting ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate, Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani in a meeting with H. E. Dr. Brahim Romani, Ambassador of Algeria to Pakistan at Parliament House on Friday.

DPM Dar Outlines Pakistan's **Priorities for ECO Vision** 2026-2035 Agenda

E City Desk

ISLAMABAD,: Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister (DPM/FM), Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Friday stressed the need for ECO member states to enhance cooperation in sustainable transport, transit trade, customs harmonization, and climate-resilient infrastruc-

addressing the 29th Meeting of the ECO Council of Ministers (COM) held virtually, where he urged joint efforts by the congratulated Minister of appreciated the contribu- States in finalising the ECO



DPM/FM was member countries to combat Foreign Affairs of Kazakhterrorism, which threatens stan, Yermek Kosherbayev regional economic progress.

for successfully hosting the In his address, the DPM ECO-COM meeting. He also

tions of Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Seyyed Abbas Araghchi, and the ECO Secretary General, Ambassador Dr. Asad Majeed Khan, for their leadership in advancing the ECO agenda.

DPM Dar underscored ECO's important role in fostering prosperity, economic integration, and connectivity. He reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to the ECO Vision 2025 and expressed Pakistan's intent, as incoming Chair of the ECO COM, to work closely with Member

Vision 2026-2035.

The deputy prime minister emphasized Pakistan's priority to strengthen multimodal transport corridors, harmonize customs frameworks, and align transport systems for seamless regional integration. He reiterated Pakistan's commitment to fully operationalize key regional connectivity projects including the Islamabad - Tehran-Istanbul Rail Corridor, the Eurasian Multimodal Corridor, and new railway initiatives linking Central Asia with Pakistan via Afghanistan..

Govt committed to vibrant, inclusive market, says Aurangzeb at Capital Market Council meet

№ Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Capital Market Development Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb said here on Friday that the government was committed to building vibrant and inclusive capital markets that could play a pivotal role in financing together senior leadership economic expansion, broadening investor participation, corporate sector, regulators, and advancing the structural reforms underway.

"Developing a modern, intecapital market ecosystem is a key national priority, essen-

long-term economic resilience," he said while chairing the inaugural meeting of the Council (CMDC) to review the roadmap for strengthening and expanding Pakistan's capital markets.

The meeting brought from key financial institutions, and government departments.

Representatives from the (SECP), State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), Pakistan Banks in the meeting. tial for improving access to Association (PBA), Pakifinance, promoting savings, stan Stock Exchange (PSX), the Terms of Reference and deepening market activity, Central Depository Company the overall roadmap for



Company of Pakistan Limited Securities and Exchange (NCCPL), Pakistan Busi- sising the adoption of global grated, and investor-friendly Commission of Pakistan ness Council (PBC), and the best practices and a struc-Finance Division participated

The Council reviewed

plan and strategy, emphatured approach to market broadening, deepening and

Discussions focused on strengthening four core areas, and strengthening Pakistan's (CDC), National Clearing capital market development including enhancing partic-

ipation of retail and institutional investors; developing diversified investment products tailored to investor needs; improving facilitation for intermediaries including banks, brokers, and mutual funds: amongst others, and creating incentives for investors and issuers, including measures for cross-border listings, collaborations, and wider market integration.

The meeting also examined the requirements for cross-border integration of capital markets, alignment of market technologies, regulatory modernization and the need to incentivize issuers to raise funds through both debt and equity capital markets.

Pakistan, Algeria to further cement bilateral ties in diverse sectors

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Algeria have decided further strengthening the historical bilateral relations in diverse sectors

The decision to this effect Brahim Romani in Islamabad today. with Pakistan.

The Chairman Senate thanked the Algerian parliamentary delegation for participating in the Inter-Parliamentary Speakers Conference.

The meeting also discussed highlevel delegation exchanges.

The Ambassador invited the was taken at a meeting between Chairman Senate to visit Algeria and Chairman Senate Syed Yousuf Raza said that the Algerian leadership is Gilani and Algerian Ambassador Dr. committed to increasing cooperation

NAB promotes 29 deputy directors to additional directors



ISLAMABAD: National Accountability Bureau (NAB) Selection Board has promoted 29 deputy directors to additional directors. According to sources, the Selection Board was chaired by Chairman NAB on November 25.

Deputy Directors Tauseef Hanif, Muhammad Kamran, Syed Faisal, Syed Mahmood, Muhammad Naseem, Israrul Haq, Muhammad Ramzan Khan, Asma Chaudhry and Rehan Akram were made Additional Directors.

Moreover, Mazhar Javed, Abul Hasan, Hussain Ali, Zeeshan Asim, Javed Ali, Farzana Parveen, Abdul Rehman, Shabnam Muzammil, Saadullah, Syeda Ramla Naqvi and Ali Raza were also promoted.

Similarly, Eric Paul, Waqarul Hasan, Shahzad Javed, Allah Rakha, Muhammad Faiz, Sadiqullah, Nadeem Khan, Qamar Shahzad and Zaheer Ahmed are among those

President grieved over loss of lives in Sri Lanka floods, landslides

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari on Friday expressed deep sorrow over the loss of lives and widepread damage to properties caused by floods and landslides in Sri Lanka following days of heavy rainfall.

The president, in a message of condolence, conveyed his heartfelt sympathies to the bereaved families and those affected by the disaster.

He noted with concern reports indicating significant casualties, with dozens of people having lost their lives and many others still missing.

President Zardari said that Pakistan stood in solidarity with the people of Sri Lanka during this difficult time, as rescue and relief operations continued across several districts amid ongoing weather chal-

Highlighting the broader context of such disasters, the president observed that climate change was a reality impacting countries of the Global South more severely, despite their limited contribution to the factors driving that change.

He said nations like Pakistan and Sri Lanka were increasingly facing extreme weather events placing immense pressure on lives, livelihoods, and public resources.



President Zardari noted that Pakistan, which has itself suffered heavily from the effects of climate change, believed there was an urgent need for collective efforts.

He emphasised the importance of working together not only to support affected countries in times of crisis. but also to develop shared strategies focused on resilience, preparedness and mitigation.

The president also conveyed his condolences to the President of Sri Lanka, Anura Kumara Dissanayake and expressed support for the government and people of Sri Lanka as they respond to the humanitarian impact of the floods and landslides.

He prayed for the departed souls, for strength for the bereaved families, and for the safe recovery of those still missing.

S Oxford Union Debate

Pakistani Students Secure Two-Thirds Victory After India Withdraws High-Profile Panel

widening.

跨 Chaudhry Tabraiz Aurah

LONDON: The Oxford Union this week hosted a high-profile Pakistan-India debate on the motion questioning whether India's Pakistan policy is fundamentally a populist strategy designed to inflame public sentiment, repackaged as a national-security doctrine. What began as a major academic exchange between senior policymakers from both countries ultimately transformed into a studentled contest—one that concluded with a decisive victory for the Pakistani side.

Last-Minute Withdrawal by India's Original Delegation Both countries had initially

line-up included former Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee General and Pakistan's High Commissioner to the strength of its argument, empha-

for its part, had agreed to send General M. M. Naravane (Retd), Dr Subramanian Swamy, and Sachin Pilot.

However, the debate took an unexpected turn when India's original delegation withdrew at the last moment, creating significant procedural and reputational challenges for both the Oxford Union and the University of Oxford. In order to avoid cancellation, India later proposed a new, less prominent panel comprising J. Sai Deepak, Pandit Satish Sharma, and Debarajan

Pakistan Responds by Fielding Students Instead of Senior Officials

In a notable strategic decision, confirmed prominent figures. Pakistan's Pakistan stepped back from its initial "heavyweight" panel and instead fielded a team of Pakistani students Zubair Mahmood Hayat (Retd), former from Oxford. Observers noted that the Foreign Minister Hina Rabbani Khar, move signalled Pakistan's confidence in

the UK Dr Muhammad Faisal. India, sising that its case did not rely solely on senior officials, but could be effectively presented by its well-informed youth. Debate Outcome: Two-Thirds Majority for the Pakistani Side

At the conclusion of the debate, attendees voted in favour of the Pakistani position by a two-thirds majority.

The prevailing argument from the Pakistan side was that India's Pakistan policy has increasingly functioned as a populist tool to shape electoral politics and domestic sentiment, while being framed publicly as a security imperative. Pakistan's team grounded its case in themes of peace, law, regional stability and responsible statecraft.

India's panel, meanwhile, relied heavily on civilisational, religious and populist framing, but struggled to secure even one-third of the votes.

Broader Implications The withdrawal of India's high-pro-

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after presenting a secondary panel, in an international, academic envihas raised questions about India's preparedness and confidence on global academic platforms. Analysts note that while India often amplifies its narrative strongly through domestic media, its



ronment. Pakistan's victory—delivered not

by senior diplomats or generals but by students—has been viewed as a sign of the country's growing intellectual file team, followed by its defeat even arguments struggled to gain traction confidence among its young scholars dominate elsewhere.

abroad. The result suggests that in shaping the emerging discourse of South Asia, reasoned argument, legal grounding and academic clarity may increasingly define Pakistan's voice, even as louder political narratives