ABC Rectified e Spokesman

Barkat Rice Mills

PM conveys condolences on Sri Lanka floods death toll

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif expressed his deep grief and condolences over the tragic loss of life and devastation caused by the severe floods and landslides in Sri Lanka. "Our heartfelt condolences to the families of those who lost their lives, and prayers for the missing," the prime minister, in a post on X handle, said

Khawaja Asif mocks India's leadership for skipping Oxford Union debate

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

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A Leading National Daily

Assistance PNS SAIF provides Humanitarian Assistance & Disaster Relief to affectees of Cyclone Ditwah during overseas deployment to Sri Lanka

DPM/FM Dar hints at positive response to UN's request over essential foodstuffs to Afghan people

跨 Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign allow supply of essential foodstuff for the Afghan people only on the request of the United Nations.

Addressing a presser at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the the Afghan people solely. DPM/FM informed that they received a request from the UN for reconsideration of permission granted in a day.

to allow humanitarian aid for the Afghan people

Considering the tense situation Minister and closure of borders, he said Mohammad Ishaq Dar, Satur- that though there was no room day, said that they were mulling to for relaxation, he would take up the matter of UN's request with the prime minister and the military leadership, expressing the hope to take positive action for

He said that permission over essential foodstuffs might be



The DPM/FM candidly argued that despite all the positive steps taken by Pakistan to help the Afghan nation, no decisive steps were taken against terrorists on Afghan soil, urging the Taliban regime to reflect upon their weak-

made with the world

He said their generous steps had not been reciprocated by the Taliban de-facto rulers as the terrorism emanating from the Afghan soil had resulted in shahadat of about 4,000 Pakistan's security forces personnel since 2021 and injuries to thou-

Reiterating in the strongest tone, the deputy prime minister/ foreign minister said that it was

Pakistan could not do an despite repeated terrorist attacks; Pakistan had the power and resources to take kinetic actions.

The issue was heading towards that direction, he said, adding, they received a request from the Qatari leadership for mediation as they were in constant contact with Pakistan, 'so an operation cleanup was halted.' Turkiye also tried to resolve the issue, he

Pakistan Navy extends swift humanitarian assistance to Sri Lanka amidst devastating **Cyclone Ditwah**

跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Navy Ship SAIF, currently on a port call at Colombo for participation in International Fleet Review-25, has promptly initiated Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) operations for the local populace affected by Cyclone Ditwah and ensuing torrential rains which have caused widespread devastation across Sri Lanka.

communities, PNS SAIF provided humanitarian relief supplies to Sri Lankan author-hour of need.

ities to augment ongoing national relief efforts. The aid package comprised food staples, Meals Ready to Eat (MREs), dry rations, first-aid kits, emergency medicines and essential equipment. In continuation of the ongoing support, Pakistan Navy will continue to provide further humanitarian assistance in line with evolving relief requirements.

This swift support provided by PNS SAIF underscores Pakistan Navy's commitment To support the affected to international obligations, regional stability and solidarity with friendly nations in their

Mohsin Naqvi orders crackdown on visa agents

跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Interior and Narcotics Control Mohsin Naqvi made a surprise visit to Islamabad International Airport on Saturday and reviewed the immigration process at the airport for two

During his visit, Mohsin Nagyi also met passengers who were travelling abroad and different questions from them about the immigration process.

Mohsin Nagyi also ordered a crackdown on visa agents ordered. He said travellers and said that there will be no concessions from agents who send innocent people abroad by promising them jobs.

Mohsin Naqvi took strict notice of a complaint of a passenger filed on November 7 about the shortage of staff at immigration counters and ordered an inquiry.

Mohsin Naqvi said the entire



situation should be reviewed through CCTV footage.

Mohsin Naqvi ensured citizens that in the future, they will not get a chance to complain in this regard.

No passenger with necessary documents should be stopped from travelling, Mohsin going abroad through fake documents or other illegal means are bringing disrepute to the country and this situation cannot be allowed to continue at any cost.

Agent mafia is playing with the future of innocent people for the greed of money and is bringing bad name to the country, Mohsin Naqvi said.

Joint session of parliament likely on Dec 2

News Desk

The federal government has decided to summon a joint session of the parliament which is likey to be called on a two-way voting process, Tuesday (December 2, 2025) in Islamabad.

During the session, the federal government will for voting by Law Minister introduce some legislation Azam Nazeer Tarar, the bill

2025, the National Assembly amendments to be debated passed the 27th Constitutional Amendment Bill during a ruckus-marred Prime Minister Shehbaz favour and four against.

Sharif, PML-N President Nawaz Sharif, and PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari.

The bill was passed by voting by division and clause-by-clause voting.

Presented in the house will now be referred back Earlier, on November 12, to the Senate for the new upon again, and then will be passed by the upper house.

National Assembly session attended by polit- Speaker Ayaz Sadiq said the ical heavyweights, including bill received 234 votes in

Pakistan has no issue with Afghan people, but Taliban regime enables terror: DG ISPR

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: tor-General of the Inter-Services Public Relations (DG ISPR) Lt-Gen Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry has said that fencing along the country's border cannot be fully effective without strong observation posts and adequate fire cover.

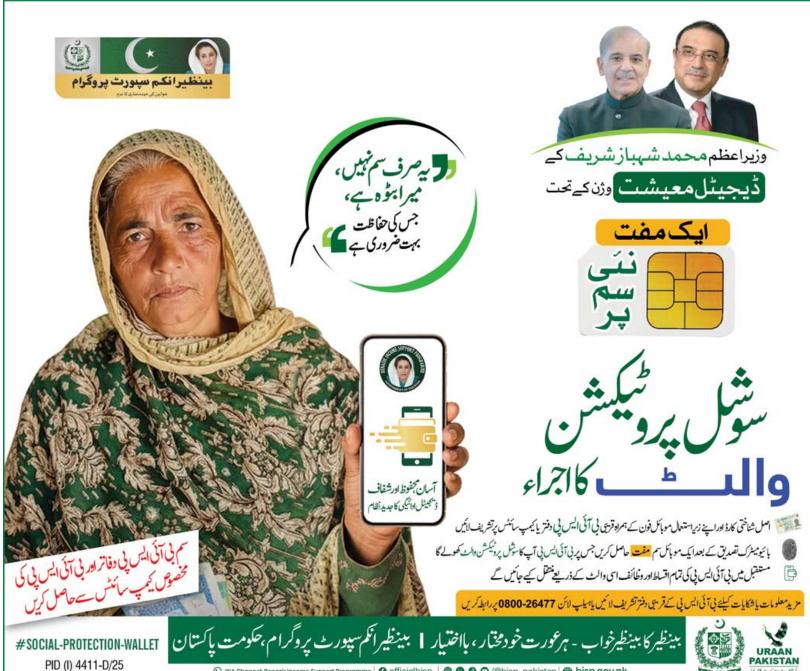
Addressing senior journalists on Saturday, he emphasised that Pakistan has no problem with the Afghan

people but has serious issues with the Afghan Taliban regime.

The DG ISPR highlighted key aspects of the security situation, border management, the behaviour of the Afghan Taliban, and India's provocations.

He stated that Pakistan has carried out indiscriminate counter-terrorism operations, significantly dismantling enemy networks.

Continued on Page 7



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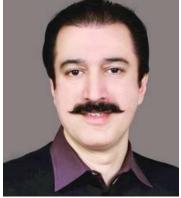
AJK PM honors PPP founders, pledges merit-based governance

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), Faisal Mumtaz Rathore, has paid rich tributes to the founding leaders of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) on its 58th Foundation Day.

"On this historic day, I pay tribute to our great leaders Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and Shaheed Benazir Bhutto, who made eternal sacrifices for democracy, the Constitution, and the rule of law," the AJK premier said.

Expressing full faith and confidence in the leadership of President Asif Ali Zardari, Chairman Bilawal in letter and spirit. Bhutto Zardari, and Shaheed Farval Talpur, he saluted the party workers the elected head of the liberated



who have upheld the PPP manifesto

The Prime Minister said that, as



historic and unwavering support for the rights, development, and political aspirations of the people he added.

of Azad Kashmir, as well as its consistent stand on the Kashmir

We are committed to Bhutto Sahib's vision, in which the equal development of all units of the state holds central importance," he said, adding that his public mandate was a testament to this trust.

He noted that the recent change in government had generated a wave of optimism among the poor, the working class, and the middle class in Azad Kashmir.

"Reducing the economic burden on our people, creating new employment opportunities, and strengthening social security programmes are our government's top priorities,"

Open Panchayat

CHINIOT: Federal Minister For Board of Investment Qaiser Ahmad Sheikh interacts with people during "Open Panchayat"



AJK PM Vows Global Push Against Indian 'Brutalities' in Occupied Kashmir

👺 Bureau Report

NEELUM: Prime Minister Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), Raja Faisal Mumtaz Rathore, has said that whenever India has resorted to misadventure or aggression on the LoC, it has faced a crushing response from the Pakistan

Speaking to the media at Chalhana during his visit to Neelum Valley, he said, "Our brave Pakistan Army has always crushed the pride of the Indian Army with an iron fist whenever it resorted to aggression."

Highlighting the Pakistan armed forces' role and sacrifices in defending the country's territorial and ideological frontiers, the Prime Minister said the Pak army deployed along the LoC had been rendering immense sacrifices for the protection of our homeland.

Paying tribute to the people of Indian



India could no longer keep Kashmiris

Voicing concern over widespread human rights violations in Indian-occupied Jammu and Kashmir, he said India had turned the region into a "military garrison," where over 700,000 troops were committing atrocities against Kashmiri Muslims. He added that India's

occupied Kashmir, PM Rathore said attempts to project "fake normalcy" were aimed at misleading the world and diverting attention from ground realities.

The Prime Minister said the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) firmly stood by the principle that Kashmiris must be granted their right to self-determination. Standing at the LoC, he noted, one truly understands the value of freedom. He praised the resilience of the local population living along the LoC and their unwavering support for the Pakistan Army. He assured that the PPP government would utilize all resources to address their problems.

Senior Minister Mian Abdul Waheed, ministers Sardar Javed Ayub and Syed Bazal Naqvi, and PPP leader Raja Mubashir Ijaz accompanied the Prime Minister during the visit.

AJK PML-N leader slams PPP for re-inaugurating past projects

👺 Bureau Report

NEELUM: Shah Ghulam Qadir, President of Pakistan Muslim League (N) Azad Jammu & Kashmir, has said that the development of Azad Kashmir, Prime Minister of AJK for their inaudevolution of powers at the grassroots level, and the provision of respectable employment opportunities for youth remain among the top priorities of the PML-N.

upcoming elections on the strength of its "We have served the people of Azad Kashmir before, and we will present a clear, practical, and people-oriented roadmap in our upcoming manifesto to address the challenges faced by the region," he added.

He criticized the Pakistan Peoples

Party, stating that it has shown little interest in resolving public issues. He remarked that if PPP MLAs had completed any genuine development works, they should have invited the guration. "Re-inaugurating projects completed during the PML-N government is a matter of embarrassment for the PPP," he said.

He added that had the PPP MLA He said the party will contest the from Neelum been truly concerned about the people of the lower belt, he performance during its previous term. would have completed a major development project for them. "For months, the people of Kutton and Kundal Shahi have been walking miles on foot, yet the PPP MLA could not muster the courage to construct a bridge for them. During our tenure, when the Kundal Shahi bridge collapsed, I rebuilt it within just



15 days—proving what real leadership looks like," he said.

Shah Ghulam Qadir made these remarks while addressing party workers and local residents at Union Council Nagra after several individuals announced their formal inclusion in the PML-N, abandoning PPP and PTI. Those joining the party included: Numberdar Abdul Rasheed

Mughal, Ali Bahadur Mughal, Shabbir Ahmad Mughal, Allah Dad Mughal, Pir Manzoor Mughal, Abdul Hameed Lone, Mashkoor Mughal, Shabbir Mughal, Dawood Mughal, Allah Dad Lone, Miraj-ud-Din Mughal, Liaqat Ashraf Mughal, and Kabeer Mughal, among others.

He welcomed the new members on behalf of Quaid Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, and Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif, stating that widespread political support for the PML-N across AJK reflects public trust in their leadership. During his visit to Union Council Nagra, Shah Ghulam Qadir also met party workers, listened to local issues, expressed condolences at the homes of various bereaved families, and offered prayers for the departed souls.

Opposition leader demands immediate action on ailing $capital\ infrastructure$

MUZAFFARABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Central Lead $er \, and \, Leader \, of \, the \, Opposition, \, MLA$ City Muzaffarabad, Khawaja Farooq Ahmed, has urged Prime Minister Raja Faisal Mumtaz Rathore and the ministers belonging to the Muzaffarabad Division to take personal interest in the long-pending development projects of Muzaffarabad, stating that the capital city belongs to everyone and deserves immediate attention.



Khawaja Farooq Ahmed said that since the Prime Minister and several cabinet members have permanent residence in Muzaffarabad, the people of this constituency expect special focus on its development needs. He highlighted several projects that have stalled due to lack of funds, including Walkway Plate, Fatima Jinnah Ladies Park, Bella Noor Shah, Restoration of the former Neelum Park, Provision of funds for the under-construction bridge from Rashidabad to Manak Payian and Construction of side links connecting to the Neelum Bridge adjacent to the CMH Flyover

Khawaja Farooq Ahmed urged the Prime Minister to immediately visit these project sites and ensure on-spot resolution of funding constraints. He added that when governments are determined to deliver, no obstacle

Indian forces' brutal raids in Occupied Jammu & Kashmir: Safi

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: Convener of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC), Azad Kashmir and Pakistan chapter, Ghulam Muhammad Safi, has strongly condemned the ongoing brutal raid operations by Indian occupying forces in Occupied Jammu & Kashmir. In a detailed statement, he said that continuous night raids, cordon-andsearch operations, destruction of homes, harassment of women, and violations of privacy represent a severe escalation of Indian state oppression.



He stated that the Indian military has created an environment where human dignity, personal liberty, religious identity, and civil rights have been completely eroded. Homes are being demolished on fabricated charges, properties sealed, and civilians subjected to fear and intimidation to the extent that they feel unsafe even inside their own houses. Such actions, he emphasized, are blatant violations of fundamental human rights, international humanitarian law, and the Geneva Conventions.

He reiterated that the people of Kashmir have been struggling for freedom, dignity, and identity for over seven decades. No amount of military force, state terrorism, political victimization, or collective punishment can break their resolve. He cautioned that continued global silence will place the international community on the wrong side of history—as a silent spectator to the suffering of an oppressed people.

Chaudhry Qasim Majeed appointed Minister for Finance and Inland Revenue

Bureau Report



MIRPUR: The Azad Government of the State of Jammu and Kashmir has appointed Chaudhry Qasim Majeed, Minister for Finance and Inland Revenue, as the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Bank of Azad Jammu and Kashmir. A formal notification of his appointment has been issued.

AJK Higher Education department appoints 341 lecturers to fill long-vacant posts

MIRPUR: The Higher Education Department of the Azad Jammu & Kashmir government has announced the appointment of 341 lecturers on an ad hoc basis, following a rigorous selection process that drew applications from roughly 15,000 candidates. The appointments, approved by AJK Prime Minister Raja Faisal Mumtaz Rathore, aim to address a chronic shortage of teaching staff in public colleges across the region.

Secretary of the Higher Education Department, Muhammad Tayyeb Chaudhry, said, while exclusively talking o APP on Saturday, the selections were made on open merit after written examinations and interviews conducted in collaboration with the Public Service Commission of AJK. The induction includes 185 male and 156 female lecturers across 13 subjects, who will be posted to colleges throughout Azad Jammu & Kashmir where vacancies have remained unfilled for years.

Chaudhry explained that the appointments were made through a formal notification after a regular advertisement in the media, and that the process had been stalled for several years before the new prime minister's intervention. He expressed confidence that the fresh faculty will improve teaching standards and encourage higher enrollment in staterun institutions of higher education.

The move is seen as a key step in fulfilling the government's commitment to strengthening the education sector, a priority highlighted by PrimeMinister Raja Faisal Mumtaz. By filling these long-standing vacancies, the administration hopes to uplift academic performance and provide better opportunities for students across AJK.

The appointments are expected to be formalized shortly, with the newly inducted lecturers set to begin their duties at the start of the upcoming academic term, bringing much-needed expertise to colleges that have struggled with staff shortages for years.

PU organizes a seminar on television commercials

LAHORE: Punjab University College of Art and Design's Department of Graphic Design organized a seminar titled "Bringing Life to a TVC", drawing a large number of students, faculty members, and industry professionals. Chairman of the Department, Prof Dr Ahmad Bilal, and renowned advertising professional Asad ul Haq attended the event.

In his address, Dr Bilal praised the resource person for his dynamic and diverse portfolio of television commercials, highlighting the iconic 1993 advert "Rhythm of Unity", which inspired an entire generation. He added that the Department of Graphic Design continues to create learning opportunities through such events, effectively bridging the gap between academic study and industry practice.

During the seminar, Asad ul Haq shared his professional insights and expertise, demonstrating techniques and creative approaches to bringing television commercials to life, and engaging students with practical examples from his career.



30° – 38° Clear

Namaz Timings

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Rescue (Police)	1
Bomb Disposal	1
Fire Services Rawalpindia	/
Islamabad	1122 & 10
Emergency Ambulance	1122 8
& Rescue Services	445112
Motorway Police	.926604
Motorway Police92	270601-20

ENQUIRY

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

HOSPITALS

CMH	561111
MH	
MH	561116
Cantt Hospital	9270907-1
DHQ	5556311-4
RGH	

Celebrating Our **Foundational** Strength and Future Vision!

👺 Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: This year's celebration was dedicated to the enduring legacy of our hotel, brought to life by the passion and commitment of our associates. We were deeply honored to host the members of our Opening Team from 1987 of Serena Hotel, whose pioneering spirit continues to inspire us. They not only recounted fascinating stories from our early days but also provided invaluable insights to grow further in life. It was a powerful session connecting our past achievements with our future ambitions. Thank you to these incredible pioneers for laying the foundation, and to our current team for carrying

IGP reviews traffic management targets

LAHORE: Inspector General of Police (IGP) Punjab Dr Usman Anwar chaired a meeting at the Central Police Office Lahore to review traffic management targets here on Saturday.

The IG directed strict enforcement of amended traffic laws, reforms, and modern systems, emphasizing that DPOs, CTOs, and DTOs are responsible for achieving the targets within the specified deadlines.

Dr Usman Anwar ordered indiscriminate and strict action against traffic violations, instructing SHOs and SDPOs to coordinate efforts to prevent accidents and maintain orderly traffic.

He also mandated the immediate removal of black (tinted) glasses from police vehicles and stressed that all government and private police vehicles and motorcycles must display registration plates. Violations by officers or personnel will result in departmental action.

Global Flavours and Academic Insight: Westminster **Hosts Blockbuster Food Festival**

跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Westminster International School and Westminster Academy Islamabad proudly hosted the highly anticipated Food Festival' 2025 on November 28, 2025, at the H-8 Campus.

This year's festival was a grand celebration that blended cultural diversity, culinary excellence and the true spirit of community.

Federal Parliamentary Secretary for cuisines, offering guests the opportunity

Information and Broadcasting, Barrister Mr Danyal Chaudhry, veteran TV celebrity Ms Ayesha Khan, CEO Westminster School, Mr Raheel Sajjad Khan, and Principal Westminster Bahria Town Campus, Ms Shagun Irfan, along with the over 7,000 attendees from the Twin Cities, including several dignitaries and diplomats, the event quickly became a melting pot of global flavours, vibrant cultures and unity.

The festival showcased an excep-With the presence of honourable tional range of international and local



to savour a truly global dining experience. Alongside the culinary delights, live musical and cultural performances added a rhythmic and colourful touch, celebrating the harmony and creativity

that Westminster champions. For children, interactive entertain-

ment zones provided fun-filled activities and games, ensuring that young minds remained engaged throughout

Westminster International School and Academy remains steadfast in its mission to provide a holistic and

dynamic education that promotes creativity, responsibility and cultural understanding. Through events like the Food Festival, Westminster continues to foster an environment of learning and growth, creating meaningful experiences for students, staff and the wider community.

Kanwal Jheel

ISLAMABAD: A view of the devastated condition of the Lotus Lake "Kanwal Jheel" as spreading the cause of the germs in visitors, which is the open sign of the negligence of CDA Authority, Building are in Federal Capital.



Strong condemnation on the denial of lawful meeting rights to former PM

腾 Kiran Asim

KARACHI: Dr Safdar Ali Abbasi President Pakistan Peoples Party workers & Miss Naheed khan Political Assistant and Political Advisor to former Prime Minister Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto strongly condemn the inhuman and unlawful conduct of the Government of Pakistan and jail authorities in denying former Prime Minister Imran Khan his legitimate right to meet his immediate family, his legal team, PTI legislators and party office bearers for the past one month.

Furthermore, all the sentences awarded to the former Prime Minister have already been suspended by the High Courts. One sentence in Al Qadir trust case is holding ground because Islamabad high court after the passage of nation deserves a clear expla-court, nor has any transparent



the hearing despite repeated requests by Mr Imran Khan to be confined. He has not and his counsel. Therefore, been produced before an open

26th amendment is delaying nation of the legal basis on which he and his wife continue jail conducted hearing taken place.

Former Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi, former Governor Omer Cheema, former Health Minister Dr. Yasmin Rashid, herself a cancer patient MehmoodurRasheedSenator Ijaz Chaudhry, and scoresof PTI workers and political opponents have been incarcerated for the past three years under circumstances that raise profound legal, constitutional, and moral concerns.

We demand their immediate release and insist that all cases be tried in open courts so the public may witness the fairness of the proceedings and the independence of the judiciary. Only transparent and lawful processes can restore public trust and uphold Pakistan's commitment to democratic norms and human rights.

Crackdown continues against motorcyclists without helmets and driving licenses



Example 2 Zafar Chishti

TOBA TEK SINGH: The Toba Tek Singh Police are actively enforcing traffic laws across the district, ensuring strict compliance. On the instructions of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, a crackdown is underway against motorcyclists riding without helmets and individuals driving vehicles without driving licenses.

District Police Officer (DPO) Ibadat Nisar has intensified monitoring efforts and is personally visiting different areas to oversee enforcement operations. He has directed all traffic and field officers to adopt a zero-tolerance policy against traffic violations. According to police officials, teams have been deployed at various checkpoints to educate motorists and take legal action where necessary. The aim is to prevent road accidents, ensure public safety and promote responsible behavior on the roads. The police department reiterated that following traffic laws is essential for the protection of citizens' lives and property. Authorities have urged the public to cooperate by wearing helmets, carrying driving licenses and adhering to all safety guidelines to avoid legal action.

Biannual Airport Inspection Focuses on One Window Facilitation at FIAP

Majid Majid

FAISALABAD: According to Tasneem A Jameel (Bina) Airport Manager/ Chief Operating Officer at Faisalabad International Airport,

The Advisor to Federal Ombudsman, Muhammad Shahid Hussain Jilani visited FIAP along with other officials in connection of biannual inspection/ and



follow up visit of the airport. They Visited Int'l briefing, Int'l Dep $Lounges\,\&\,Int'l\,arrival\,lounges.\,The\,purpose\,of\,the\,visit\,was\,to\,inspect$ the Airport One Window Facilitation Desk.

During their visit there were passengers of three departure flights, (PK717 Lyp to Mad, FZ392 Lyp to Dubai, and G9 563 Lyp to Shj) and pax of 3 flights in arrival and concourse hall.

After the visit, a debrief session was held in the conference room. COO/APM presented the briefing on New SOPs and post inspection report with a brief on compliance at FIAP. After the presentation which was conducted in presence of airlines staff, agencies heads honourable advisor asked questions from agencies and airlines about the particular processes related to passenger ease.

Gaza Medical Trainees Conclude Successful Training at Gujrat's Cleft Hospital, Vow Humanitarian Return

was hosted by Deputy Commissioner Gujrat, Ms. Noor-ul-Ain Qureshi, in honor of Palestinian students Basma Al-Sakani and Sarah Abu-Saqar from Gaza, Palestine, on the successmedical training at Cleft Hospital Pakistan, Guirat.

The meeting was attended by the Palestinian students as of Cleft Hospital Pakistan, Society, Mirza Ashfaq Bashir.

Matto; President Pakistan Business Forum Germany, Chaudhry Nasir Mahmood; Secretary Gujrat Gymkhana, Rukhsar Melo; former Secretary Gujrat Gymkhana, Khurram ful completion of their 15-day Bhatti; CEO United Flour Mill, Iftikhar Matto; and CEO Royal Marquee, Yasir Natt.

Expressing their views, Basma Al-Sakani and Sarah Abu-Saqar well as their hosts in Gujrat: thanked Pakistan, calling their Founder and Patron-in-Chief 15-day training at Cleft Hospital a great blessing. They stated Dr. Ijaz Bashir, and Presi- that they were returning to dent of the Decent Welfare Gaza, Palestine equipped with professional skills and inspired Also present were: President with a strong commitment to

GUJRAT: A farewell meeting and Industry, Ahmad Hasan joint statement, they said: "We are returning to Palestine with professional lessons and a passion for humanitarian service after completing our training at Cleft Hospital,"."

Host of the farewell ceremony, Deputy Commissioner Gujrat Noor-ul-Ain Qureshi, reiterated Pakistan's commitment to extending every possible support to the people of Palestine and praised Cleft Hospital Pakistan as a source of pride for Gujrat due to its world-class specialists and international training activities.

Founder and Patron-in-Chief Dr. Ijaz Bashir offered free Gujrat Chamber of Commerce humanitarian service. In their medical treatment for Pales-

tinian children visiting Cleft Hospital Pakistan, while President Decent Welfare Society Gujrat, Mirza Ashfaq Bashir, announced free treatment for Palestinian patients visiting the Muhammad Guttrad Artificial Limbs and Clubfoot Centre. President Pakistan Business Forum Germany, Chaudhry Nasir Mahmood, highlighted the efforts of the overseas Pakistani community in Palestine's reconstruction and rehabilitation.

The event was also attended by President Gujrat Chamber of Commerce and Industry Ahmad Hasan Matto; Secretary Gujrat Gymkhana Rukhsar Melo; President Pakistan Busi-

Bhatti; CEO United Flour Mill Iftikhar Matto; and CEO Royal



tary Gujrat Gymkhana Khurram of the Palestinian people. At the conclusion of the cere-

Association, presented certificates to the Palestinian students mony, Deputy Commissioner upon completion of their Marquee Yasir Natt, who all Gujrat Noor-ul-Ain Qureshi, training.

Sunday, November 30, 2025

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UN decries 'summary execution' of two men in the West Bank

he UN human rights office, OHCHR, said on Friday that it was "appalled" by the "brazen killing" of two Palestinian men by Israeli border police in the West Bank, describing it as "an apparent summary execution."

The shooting occurred on Thursday in Jenin and was apparently caught on film by a TV channel, OHCHR Spokesperson Jeremy Laurence told journalists in Geneva.

He said an internal review was announced following the incident, but statements made by a senior Israeli official sought to absolve security forces of responsibility, "raising serious concerns about the credibility of any future review or investigation conducted by any entity that is not fully independent from the Government."

Laurence noted that killings of Palestinians by Israeli security forces and settlers in the occupied West Bank have been surging, without

OHCHR said it has verified that Israeli forces and settlers have killed 1,030 Palestinians there, including 233 children, since 7 Octo-

"Impunity for Israel security forces' unlawful use of force, and ever-growing Israeli settler violence, must end," he said.

Moreover, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Turk has called for independent, prompt and effective investigations and for those responsible to be held fully to account.

The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) noted that violence continues unabated across the West Bank with casualties, damage and displacement reported on a daily basis.

More than 1,600 attacks perpetrated by Israeli settlers since the beginning of the year have led to causalities, property damage, or both,

with over 270 Palestinian communities affected. The number of Palestinians injured in these attacks has surpassed 1,000, with most of them sustaining physical assault, hit by stones or inhaling teargas.

Some 700 Palestinians were injured by settlers themselves, OCHA said. The rest were either injured by Israeli forces, or it remains unknown whether they were injured by Israeli forces or settlers.

The 700 figure is roughly double the number of Palestinians injured by Israeli settlers in attacks in 2024.

OCHA also updated on the situation in the Gaza Strip, where UN staff and facilities continue to come under fire despite the ceasefire between Israel and Hamas.

On Monday, a yard in a school operated by the UN Palestine refugee agency UNRWA in Jabalya, northern Gaza, was bombed, reportedly by an Israeli quadcopter.

The following night, a group of armed Palestinians fired at a team from the UN Office for Project Services (UNOPS) in Deir Al-Balah. "The team had finished loading fuel and carrying out monitoring work at the Kerem Shalom crossing. Thankfully, no one was injured in either of these attacks," OCHA said.

Despite the risks, the UN and partners continue providing services and critical items to people across Gaza.

Between Sunday and Tuesday, humanitarian partners assisted some 18,000 families with monthly food parcels through 59 distribution points.

'Since the start of November, over 204,000 families – nearly half of Gaza's population - have received food parcels," OCHA said.

Humanitarians are also scaling up nutrition services. Forty malnutrition treatment sites are now operating across the Strip following the opening of eight new locations in the north last week.

The G-20 Summit Sans America

Qamar Bashir

in South Africa will be the historic decisions taken, but equally for the loud, symbolic silence created by the absence prism of tariffs and industrial protection, of President Donald Trump and the the G-20 chose global environmental United States' high-level delegation. It was a vacuum that everyone felt, a political absence that lowered the temperature of the event, diminished its traditional stature, and yet, paradoxically, empowered the rest of the world to move forward without waiting for Washington's approval. A gathering once shaped, dominated, and animated by American leadership unfolded without it — and the world did not stop. In fact, it moved with surprising confidence and determination, proving for the first time in decades that global cooperation no longer revolves around a single pole of power.

Trump's official explanation for skipping the summit was both extraordinary and controversial. He alleged that South Africa was maltreating, harassing and killing its white population of Britain, France, Europe, and the United States origin," and that the U.S. would therefore boycott the gathering in protest.

This justification stunned diplomats. The South African president and prime minister engaged in frantic outreach to convince Washington to participate at its traditional strength, but their efforts came to nothing. The United States remained absent, and the G-20 moved on. That moment alone signaled a shift: the world's most influential economies were no longer willing to freeze or dilute their agenda because America chose not to show up.

Yet the most ambitious and visionary outcome was the creation of a \$120 billion Green Energy Transition Fund. This fund aims to help developing and least-developed countries move away from fossil fuels and adopt solar, wind, hydrogen, and advanced battery-storage

he 2025 G-20 Summit systems. It promises not only financing, but also technology transfer, expertise, remembered not only for and capacity building. The symbolism was profound: while Washington debates climate strategies through the responsibility as a collective mission, marking a sharp contrast with Ameri-

> ca's inward shift. The summit also produced a roadmap to reduce global tariffs a direct counterpoint to Donald Trump's aggressive tariff wars. Leaders agreed that escalating tariffs undermine supply

chains, inflate consumer

prices, suffocate export markets, and weaken global economic stability. By committing to reduce trade barriers and revive the core principles of the World Trade Organization, the G-20 openly challenged the direction of U.S. trade policy and reaffirmed that globali-

zation, though evolving, is far from dead. Food security emerged as another defining pillar. The G-20 endorsed a multi-continental fertilizer and grain corridor network that would ensure developing nations have the ability not only to access essential agricultural inputs but also to build their own production capacity. The initiative aims to strengthen local seed development, introduce climate-resilient crops, and reduce dependency on vulnerable supply chains. It was a reminder that global hunger is not caused by scarcity, but by inequity, mismanagement, and geopolitics — and that collective action remains the only antidote.

Pandemic preparedness also received unprecedented attention. The G-20 agreed on a universal pathogen-sharing system, vaccine production guarantees for countries that cannot afford them, and the creation of global emergency

stockpiles. COVID-19 had exposed the veto is increasingly viewed as anti-dembrutal reality that the world was divided between vaccine "haves" and "have-nots." face of new threats.

Even tax justice — long a contentious issue

G-20 endorsed a crackdown on tax evasion and illicit financial flows, expanding automatic data and creating stronger digital taxation systems capable of identifying hidden wealth and offshore transfers. It was a direct strike

against corruption, financial secrecy, and the long-standing loopholes that have drained developing nations of trillions.

What is extraordinary is that these decisions, perhaps some of the most consequential in G-20 history, were made in the absence of the United States. Washington's non-participation deprived the summit of its traditional weight, but it also gave the rest of the world a rare freedom — a chance to act without American vetoes, delays, or political bargaining. For the first time, the G-20 showed that global governance can continue even when America chooses not to lead.

This absence also reflects a deeper American decline. The United States has already withdrawn from key UN bodies, distanced itself from multilateral structures, and ceded leadership of global organizations to rising powers such as China and India. Across Europe and beyond, intellectuals are questioning the legitimacy of veto powers at the UN Security Council, arguing that one nation should not be allowed to overturn a resolution supported by nearly 200 states. The principle of unilateral

ocratic and incompatible with a modern, multipolar world. If that power is eventu-This summit promised not to repeat that ally dissolved, the United States — which inequality, committing to a global health relies heavily on the veto to protect its shield that can activate instantly in the geopolitical interests — would suffer the greatest strategic loss.

Economists across Europe are also saw real progress. The sounding alarms about the U.S. dollar. They note that gold prices have nearly doubled since Trump intensified tariffs, a sign that global confidence in the dollar as a reserve currency is eroding. History exchange of banking teaches that such erosion is initially slow and subtle — as with the British pound until one day it becomes sudden and irreversible. A reserve currency survives on three pillars: military strength, predictable governance rooted in rule of law, and a robust, stable economy. Today, America's economic dominance is shrinking, its global leadership is receding, its institutional predictability is weakening, and its geopolitical influence is being challenged by China, India, Russia, and an increasingly assertive Global South.

The South Africa G-20 Summit was therefore more than a diplomatic event; it was a mirror held up to the United States. It is a wake-up call for a nation that once led the free world with confidence but is now drifting into isolation, controversy, and self-inflicted decline. If the United States hopes to restore its leadership, stabilize its currency, and reclaim its global relevance, it must reverse its inward retreat, rebuild alliances, re-enter global institutions, and embrace cooperation instead of confrontation. Only then can it regain the trust of a world that, for the first time, has shown it can move forward without America and perhaps, if necessary, beyond it.

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)

Kabul's Manufactured Airstrike Allegations: A Forensic Look at a Narrative Built on Evasion - I

region—arrived not with evidence, staging grounds. not with coordinates, not with victim identities, and not with the transparency expected of a state actor, but with the familiar urgency of a government racing to rewrite a story unravcan respond. The allegation appeared almost

photograph, an emotionally charged-but evidence-lightstatement. And like clockwork, an ecosystem of aligned propaganda accounts, especially those operating from Afghan and Indian digital clusters, sprang into coordinated action, echoing the claim with remarkable uniformity. Such speed is not organic—it

is operational. And when a narrative moves faster than verification, it often signals that These are classic hallmarks of explosives stored verification is precisely what the narrators wish

Muhammad Akram Choudhry

What Kabul presented is an accusation; what the terrain of Khost-Bermal presents is an entirely different reality. For investigators, analysts, and regional security experts, this region is not an empty blank on a map. It is a corridor heavy with insurgent history—a place where the geography itself tells a story of militant transit, factional warfare, and clandestine infrastructure. For nearly two decades, this belt has served as a principal artery for Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), Jamaatul-Ahrar (JuA), and ISIS-K's breakaway cells. Satellite surveillance, HUMINT reports, UN Monitoring Team documentation, and repeated same truth: this corridor is neither a civilian errs, mediators, and international observers.

that Pakistan conducted an a cluster of safehouses, bomb-making units, airstrike on a supposed civilian sleeper-cell barracks, weapons transit points, home in the Khost-Bermal extortion hubs, and cross-border infiltration

Understanding the forensic improbability of Kabul's claim requires understanding how explosions in this belt have historically occurred. A decade-long catalogue of incidents eling faster than its propaganda machinery reveals that a large number of explosions in Bermal, Ghulam Khan, and the Khost outer ceremonially: a dramatic tweet, a recycled belt have stemmed from IED mishandling,

accidental detonations inside bomb factories, internal turf battles, and targeted assassinations within fragmented militant networks. These blasts exhibit forensic signatures not the uniform blast radius of aerial munitions. Investigators often observe irregular pressure-wave patterns, asymmetrical structural damage, and

residue inconsistent with guided munitions. in enclosed spaces—ammo depots, safehouses, and clandestine workshops—not of precision ordinance delivered from across the border.

Complicating Kabul's narrative further is its timing. This allegation was not made in a vacuum; it arrived on the heels of a series of verified investigations in Pakistan revealing that the attackers in the Islamabad Judicial Complex attempt, the Wana Cadet College assault, and the Peshawar campaign were Afghan nationals who operated from Afghan territory, trained in Afghan sanctuaries, and moved through Afghan channels unhindered. These findings did not merely embarrass Kabul—they cornered it diplomatically. When a state finds itself associated with attacks across its border, ground-based confirmations all narrate the it faces difficult questions from neighbors, part-

he latest accusation from Kabul— sanctuary nor a typical residential space. It is States under such pressure often resort to diversionary narratives. In political crisis management literature, this is called a preemptive blame deflection strategy: create a parallel crisis-preferably one that portrays your state as the victim rather than the negligent host.

> The allegation also follows a noticeable pattern: every time Pakistan prepares a diplomatic or operational response to Afghan-based attacks, Kabul generates a sudden claim of Pakistani aggression. This is not speculation but a recurrent sequence observed across years. When Pakistan struck TTP enclaves in the past, Kabul was silent. When Pakistan signaled any future readiness to respond, Kabul suddenly "discovered" civilian casualties in militant zones. Each time, the alleged strike zones overlapped with TTP routes or ISIS-K transit points. The coincidence is too consistent to be accidental; it is strategic messaging by Kabul aimed at framing Pakistan as the aggressor before Islamabad can expose Afghan soil as the launchpad of attacks.

> In investigative analysis, one must also examine the information warfare dynamics surrounding such claims. Within minutes of Kabul's announcement, old photographs some from Syria, some from Gaza, and some from previous years in Afghanistan-surfaced on Afghan social media with captions linking them to the alleged Khost incident. Reverse image searches quickly debunked several. Yet they had already fulfilled their purpose: feed the outrage cycle, saturate timelines with emotional imagery, and blur the line between verified facts and recycled archives. In information manipulation studies, this is called the "emotional latency tactic"-release emotionally compelling content faster than investigators can disprove it. The goal is not truth; the goal is virality.

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

To be continued

Honor Killing in Pakistan: Laws Exist, but Women Still **Remain Unsafe**

Nazia Naz

s a Defender deeply committed to human rights, I am increasingly of concerned about the state of women's safety in Pakistan. Despite years of advocacy, promises, and legal reforms, the reality on the rise in honor killings reflects not only a failure of this year alone, 146 cases of honor killing have been officially registered across the country, yet countless more remain unreported due to fear, stigma, family pressure, and the absence of safe reporting mechanisms. These unreported cases lives are taken without any record, justice, or acknowledgment.

Pakistan has passed several laws to address on honor crimes, domestic violence, harassment, and gender-based violence. These laws such as the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act on honor killing, the Domestic Violence Prevention and Protection Acts at provincial levels, and workplace harassment laws are important steps towards legal protection. However, the core issue is not the absence of laws but the absence of implementation. Women cannot be protected by laws that remain on paper. If police investigations are weak, if medical examinations are delayed, if courts do not prioritize gender-based crimes, and if cultural pressures silence witnesses, then even the strongest legal framework cannot save women's lives.

The problem lies in the gap between legislation and lived experience. Many police stations are not trained to handle gender-sensitive

cases; some officers discourage women from filing complaints or attempt "family settlements," even in cases of honor killing. Courts often take years to resolve cases, during which families manipulate evidence or pressure survivors. In rural areas, parallel systems like jirgas or panchayats continue to justify honor killings as "tradition," despite being illegal. When perpetrators know they can escape ground remains deeply troubling. The alarming punishment, crimes continue with impunity. To truly protect women, Pakistan must protection but a failure of implementation. In move beyond symbolic reforms and focus on practical, ground-level implementation. This requires a coordinated effort between government departments, police, judiciary, civil society, and community leaders. Police must undergo training on gender sensitivity represent the silent suffering of women whose and human rights. Safe reporting mechanisms, including women-friendly desks and helplines, must be strengthened. Survivors need access to shelters, legal aid, psychological support, violence against women, including legislation and financial assistance. Media must report responsibly and highlight gaps that demand urgency. Education campaigns are essential to challenge harmful norms that justify violence in the name of "honor." The safety of women cannot be negotiable. Women are not property, and their lives cannot be traded for cultural approval or family reputation. A society that cannot protect its daughters, sisters, and mothers cannot claim progress. The rising cases of honor killing are a national emergency that must be confronted with honesty, courage, and unwavering commitment. Pakistan has the laws it needs; now it needs the will to enforce them. Only then can we create a country where women live without fear and where justice is not the privilege of the few but the right of all.

The writer is defender & international researcher ಆ human Rights

APO International Conference on Green Productivity 2.0 Concludes at LUMS with **Strong Regional Participation**

👺 Bureau Report

LAHORE: The Asian Productivity Organization's international conference on Green Productivity 2.0 (GP 2.0), jointly organized by the National Productivity Organisation Pakistan (NPO), Federal Ministry of Industries & Production and LUMS Energy Institute (LEI), concluded successfully at the Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS). The two-day event brought together senior government officials, industry leaders, international experts, academics, and development practitioners from 21 Asian Productivity Organization (APO) member economies, with more than 80 foreign delegates participating, marking one of Pakistan's most prominent international forums on sustainable indus- Sessions addressed a wide range of



trial transformation.

The conference featured highlevel plenaries, expert keynotes, and sector-focused discussions aligned with the advanced GP 2.0 framework.

efficiency, circular-economy innovation, energy transition, digital applications, green initiatives in the representing Italy, Japan, Thailand, tivity across the region.

themes, including sustainable archi- power and oil and gas sectors, effi- China, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Türkiye, tecture and industrial growth, energy cient thin-film photovoltaics, circular Vietnam, Pakistan and other APO plastics solutions, and collaborations economies showcased cutting-edge across government, academia, and research and applied solutions productivity tools, green hydrogen industry. Presentations from experts shaping the future of green produc-

collaboration in accelerating sustainable transformation. Dr. Tariq Jadoon, Provost LUMS, appreciated the active participation from international and national delegates, adding, "The insights shared over these two days will meaningfully support Pakistan's transition toward cleaner, more competitive, and productivity-driven industrial

Federal Minister for Planning, Development & Special Initiatives,

an environmental choice; it is an

Beaconhouse Leads Global Conversations with SOT

LAHORE: The nineteenth edition of year's theme, Co-Creating Tomorrow: ments enables students, especially the importance of partnership, sustain- Munir, among others. An alumna of future and practice of inclusion. SOT Events opened in Lahore, mark- Humans, AI, and the Future, explores women, to develop the confidence conversations on the future of human- collaboration can guide the world

Launched in 2000, SOT Events more than 100 speakers. started as School of Tomorrow Conference. Now a flagship event of the Aurangzeb, Senior Minister Punjab, Beaconhouse Group, it is a testament commended Beaconhouse for leading to the Group's commitment to fostering global conversations through its open dialogue, forward-thinking thought leadership and recognised its education, and public discourse that role as a pioneer in shaping discourse anticipates the needs of a changing on education, creativity, and the future. world. Over the past 25 years, SOT She emphasised how Beaconhouse's has evolved into one of Pakistan's emphasis on personal connections

ing the start of two days of insightful how human creativity, ethics, and ity in an age shaped by rapid techno- toward a more equitable future. The event features over 30 sessions and

The Chief Guest, Marriyum most renowned public forums. This and supportive learning environ-

and skills needed for leadership, crediting teachers for their transformative

In her address, Mrs Nasreen Kasuri, Chairperson Beaconhouse Group, reflected on Beaconhouse's 50-year journey and the role of SOT as a platform for public thought leadership. She emphasised that education must evolve with a rapidly changing world, highlighting Beaconhouse's longstanding leadership in technology-enabled learning while underscoring that human connection, empathy, and values remain central. She also stressed ability, and youth-driven innovation in Beaconhouse, Shaza Fatima Khawaja, shaping a shared future.

A panel discussion moderated by Kasim Kasuri, CEO Beaconhouse, set the direction for this year's event with an overview of how AI is transforming all aspects of life and highlighted how, within this uncertainty, lies the opportunity to shape futures that are equitable, sustainable, and humane.

Prominent speakers on Day 1 included Hina Rabbani Khar, Syed Talat Hussain, Zarrar Khuhro, Fahd Husain, Nadia Jamil, Rashid Rana, Feeha Jamshed, Dr Sohail Naqvi,

Minister for IT & Telecommunication, commended Beaconhouse for pioneering such discourse and attributed her own achievements to the strong foundation she received at Beaconhouse. She lauded SOT for bringing critical global conversations to the forefront.

The opening session also featured a virtual keynote by Jürgen Schmidhuber, often called the Father of Generative AI, who examined the rise of realworld AI and the long-term possibilities of machine intelligence. Daniel Sobel,

growth."

Discussions throughout the day ranged from higher education and public policy to art, culture, creativity. and politics, reflecting Beaconhouse's leadership in convening diverse voices to reimagine the future.

SOT XIX is a free and open event that continues today with more sessions on a wide range of topics, along with live entertainment, food, and immersive experiences. With its long-standing commitment to public discourse, Beaconhouse continues to create inclusive spaces for ideas that question assumptions, connect communities, Dr Tayyaba Tamim, and Dr Kamal a global inclusion expert, explored the and create new possibilities.

IIUI holds Saiban-e-Pakistan international seminar on role of religion and law in dialogue among civilizations

ISLAMABAD: A High-Level Saiban-e-Pakistan International Seminar on "The Role of Religion and Law in Dialogue Among Civilizations" Concludes at Islamic Research Institute (IRI), International Islamic University, Islamabad (IIUI).

This major event was a collaborative effort between the Islamic Research Institute (IRI), IIUI, the Embassy of the Republic of Austria and the International Research Council for Religious Affairs (IRCRA) in collaboration with Directorate of Student Affairs (Male & Female), and Faculty of Shariah & Law, IIUI. The event brought Ambassadors, Judges, diplomats, jurists and top scholars together. The Ambassador of the Holy See (Apostolic Nuncio) in Pakistan is Archbishop Germano Penemote specially attended the seminar.

The seminar was addressed by H. E. Wolfgang Oliver Kutschera, Ambassador of the Republic of Austria; Senator Danish Kumar (Member Senate of Pakistan; His Excellency Kelly R. Johnson, President Asia Region of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints; Professor Dr. Stefan Hammer from the University of Vienna, Austria, His lordship Justice Dr. Syed Muhammad Court; Professor Dr. Muhammad



Zia-ul-Haq, Director General of IRI/ Dean FSL; Mr. Israr Madni President, International Research Council for Religious Affairs (IRCRA) and others. His Excellency Mr. Georg Steiner Ambassador of Switzerland to Pakistan, Mr. Jan Gerald Krausser Head of Communications Cultural Affairs and Protocol of the Embassy of federal republic of Germany in Pakistan and Pir Mujtaba Farooq Gul Badshah, Sajjada Nasheen Darbar Aliya Mohra Sharif along with other diplomates and notable personalities attended the event. On this occasion Professor Dr. Muhammad Zia-ul-Haq, Director General of IRI introduced Saiban-e-Pakistan, national narrative of Islamic Republic Anwer, Judge Federal Shariat of Pakistan on Interfaith Harmony.

The seminar commenced with the

welcome address of Professor Dr. Muhammad Zia-ul-Haq, Director General of IRI/Dean FSL. In his welcome the Guests on the behalf of President International Islamic University Prof. Dr. Ahmed Saad Al-Ahmed. In his well come address he welcomed the honourable guests and presents various theories related to civilizational Dialogue. Professor Dr. Muhammad Zia-ul-Haq, also introduced the Saiban-e-Pakistan, national narrative of Islamic Republic of Pakistan on Interfaith Harmonev to the foreign dignitaries. His speech sets the tone for the necessity of civilizational dialogue and its various aspects in the context of law and religion.

Senate of Pakistan) also addressed the tional dialogue for Pakistan.

participants, offering a parliamentary perspective on the role of dialogue in tional cohesion and policymaking. Professor Dr. Stefan Hammer from the University of Vienna, Austria, delivered the compelling keynote, offering a scholarly examination of the harmonization between religious ethics and contemporary legal frameworks across diverse cultures. Justice Dr. Syed Muhammad Anwer of the Federal Shariat Court provided invaluable judicial insights, emphasizing the crucial role of law in facilitating dialogue and ensuring peaceful coexistence within the context of faith. His Excellency Kelly R. Johnson, President Asia Region of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints describes the dual thrust of dialogue in theological perspectives and highlighted prospects of civilizational dialogue. H. E. Wolfgang Oliver Kutschera, Ambassador of the Republic of Austria and Chair of the session underscored the deep bilateral commitment between Islamic Republic of Pakistan and Republic of Austeria, viewing the seminar as a vital step in intellectual and cultural cooperation. Mr. Israr Madni President, International Research Council for Religious Affairs (IRCRA) high-Senator Danish Kumar (Member lighted the importance of civiliza-

Grand Farewell Ceremony in Jeddah in Honour of Consul General Khalid Majid

JEDDAH: A dignified and grand farewell ceremony was held in honour of the Consul General of Pakistan in Jeddah, Khalid Majid, The Vice Chairman of the Punjab Overseas Pakistan Commission, Barrister Amjad Malik, attended the ceremony as the chief guest. The event was organized

by prominent personalities Masood Ahmed Puri, Chaudhry Akram Gujar, and Sheikh Saeed Ahmed.

A large number of representatives from various political, social, business, literary, minority, and journalistic organizations of the Pakistani community—hailing from different cities of Saudi Arabia, including Riyadh, Madinah Munawwarah, Makkah Mukarramah, Abha, and Taif—participated in the ceremony.

Consul General Khalid Majid, Barrister Amjad Malik, Chaudhry Akram Gujar, Masood Ahmed Puri, and Sheikh Saeed Ahmed addressed the gathering. The speakers welcomed Barrister Amjad Malik to Saudi Arabia and paid tribute to his remarkable services for



overseas Pakistanis. They also highly appreci-

ated the six years of service of Consul General Khalid Majid, particularly declaring the construction of the new Jeddah Consulate building as one of his major achievements.

In his farewell address, Consul General Khalid Maiid said that his six-year tenure in Saudi Arabia was devoted to serving the Pakistani community. He expressed gratitude for the community's full support and hoped that this bond would always remain strong. He also informed Barrister Amjad Malik about some important issues faced by the community.

The Vice Chairman of the Punjab Overseas Paki-

stan Commission, Barrister Amjad Malik, said in his speech that Pakistanis residing in Saudi Arabia are the backbone of the nation. and their contribution to the country's foreign exchange reserves is a matter of pride. He also briefed the participants on the steps taken for overseas Pakistanis under the leadership of Punjab Chief Minister Ms. Maryam

Barrister Amjad Malik also congratulated the organizers for arranging such a dignified and impressive community event.

At the end, the organizers presented honorary shields and gifts to Consul General Khalid Majid, Barrister Amjad Malik, and Sheikh

Art connects us, and the World Culture Festival is a wonderful example of this. Said Sarmad Khoosat

KARACHI: On the 30th day dancer stands a choreographer. of the ongoing "World Culture Festival 2025" at the Arts Council of Pakistan Karachi, Malian dancer Lassina Koné presented a documentary titled "A Soulful Dance Journey." The day also featured an open mic talk session, a dance workshop, a film screening, a theatre play, and the Mega Musical Concert 3.0. The day began with the Presentation of the documentary "A Soulful Dance Journey", presented by Mali's renowned creator, choreographer, and dancer Lassina Koné, who showcased a fusion of tradition, emotion, and the depths of the human spirit in every movement of his dance. Speaking at the Presentation, Lassina Koné said that it took his students seven months to produce the film. He praised the World Culture Festi-

He commended the Arts Council's team and management and stated that they should take their commitment to art and culture not only across Pakistan but to the world. A large number of international artists participated in the open mic talk session, including performers from Oman, South Africa, Norway, Mali, Uganda, the United States, Azerbaijan, Malaysia, Türkiye, Iceland, Belgium, and Bangladesh. They discussed various global themes.

Speakers noted that only 44 countries in the world are currently not engaged in conflict, while the rest are involved in some form of strife. They emphasized that the festival allows them not only to present their art but also to learn from others. "We have val and added that behind every much to say and much to offer, Joy, independence, and freedom

which is why we are all here," they added. Artists communicate with the public through their performances; using AI in dance, they said, is inappropriate. Art brings hope, light, and positivity.

Head of the Dance Academy, Mani Chao, expressed gratitude to the Arts Council and President Ahmed Shah, stating that the World Culture Festival has energized students, who feel excited to perform alongside international artists. Musician Ahsan Bari added that self-reflection had allowed him to transform himself. A dance workshop was conducted by Norway's acclaimed dancer Navid Rezvani, who taught students various techniques.

He said, "Dance is life. In hip-hop, you must give your energy. The students of the Arts Council possess immense talent.



hold great meaning in dance. Feel the magic of music within you, and you will enjoy the dance." The film screening featured Sarmad Khoosat's acclaimed film Kamli. In the film discussion session, spread public appreciation. "Art connects us, and the World director Sarmad Khoosat and Dr Umair Ahmed engaged in Culture Festival is a wonderful

conversation. President Arts

Council Muhammad Ahmed

Shah and renowned writer Noorul-Huda Shah were also present. Speaking at the Session, Khoosat said he was delighted that Kamli received wide-

example of this," he said. He

a rich cinema culture; globally, films are released every Friday. He believes in experimentation and noted that cinema in Pakistan is affordable while theatre worldwide is costly. Director Adil Shakir's theatre play The Glass Darabu, and Pakistan's emerging

Hassan, Sheryl, Fatima, and

touched the audience. The 30th day concluded with the Mega Musical Concert 3.0, featuring powerful performances by Faris Shafi, Meesha Shafi, Sahib Pashazade from Azerbaijan, Menagerie was performed, with Artist Gizri. The Jaun Elia Lawn was packed to capacity, and the Raza delivering emotionally audience danced enthusiastically added that Pakistan once had moving performances that deeply throughout the concert.



Index Fluctuation				
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				
Index Value	Change			
9,720.51	+26.58			
9,720.51	+26.58			
9,720.51 Percentage +0.27%	+26.58 Time 28 Nov, 4:35 pm			
9,720.51 Percentage +0.27%	+26.58 Time 28 Nov, 4:35 pm GMT			
9,720.51 Percentage +0.27% USA: Dow Jones	+26.58 Time 28 Nov, 4:35 pm GMT ndustrial Average			
9,720.51 Percentage +0.27% USA: Dow Jones Index Value	+26.58 Time 28 Nov, 4:35 pm GMT Industrial Average Change			
9,720.51 Percentage +0.27% USA: Dow Jones Index Value 47,674.09	+26.58 Time 28 Nov, 4:35 pm GMT Industrial Average Change +246.97			

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average			
Index Value	Change		
50,253.91	+86.81		
Percentage	Time		
+0.17%	28 Nov, 3:45 pm GMT+9		

Open Market Forex Rates

Currency	Duying	Sellilly
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

348.85

8.6

281.55 281.65

77.35

The Black Friday paradox: more shoppers, fewer dollars

Thai Bhat

US Dollar

U.A.E Dirham



A Black Friday sale sign is displayed in a shop window at an outlet mall in Carlsbad, California, on November 25, 2025. Reuters

Black Friday, the post-Thanksgiving shopping frenzy that attracts throngs of bargain hunters to stores, faces a paradox this year: record crowds are expected, but consumers' appetite to spend has dropped

The day, traditionally marked by pre-dawn lines outside retailers and "doorbuster" deals on electronics and appliances, emerged as a cultural phenomenon around the late 1980s, when shoppers began racing to stores with Christmas lists even before the Thanksgiving turkey had been digested.

This year's event on November 28 is poised to attract more foot traffic than ever, according to estimates from the National Retail Federation (NRF). Yet underlying economic indicators suggest those crowds will be far less willing to convert browsing into purchases.

The disconnect presents a challenge for retailers who depend on the holiday season to drive a third of their annual prof-

Nearly two-thirds of consumers surveyed by the NRF plan to wait for Thanksgiving weekend deals, up from 59% in 2024, while average spending is projected to fall to \$890 per person from last year's \$902.

The forecasted slowdown underscores the effect of mounting pressures of inflation and weak job growth.

US retail sales increased less than expected in September, in part due to elevated prices. President Donald Trump's tariffs have contributed to this trend, adding roughly 4.9 percentage points to retail prices, according to the non-profit Tax Foundation, opens new tab.

Jubilee Life Insurance Supports the Digital Future as Title Sponsor of InsurTech 2025

ISLAMABAD: As Pakistan's leading life insurance provider, Jubilee Life Insurance partnered with InsurTech 2025 as the Title Sponsor, facilitating the Summit's theme of marking "Pakistan's Insurtech Decade: Vision 2030". The event brought together industry leaders, innovators, and technology experts to explore the future of digitization, financial inclusion, and the growing influence of artificial intelligence in reshaping the insurance sector.

The Summit serves as a signification of the insurance sector's commitment to accelerating Pakistan's digital insurance evolution and supporting platforms that drive meaningful industry-wide progress.

Pakistan's insurance sector is undergoing a rapid shift, powered by rising internet penetration, a growing



fintech ecosystem, and increasing customer expectations for seamless, tech-driven services. With digital payments crossing USD 14 billion nationwide.

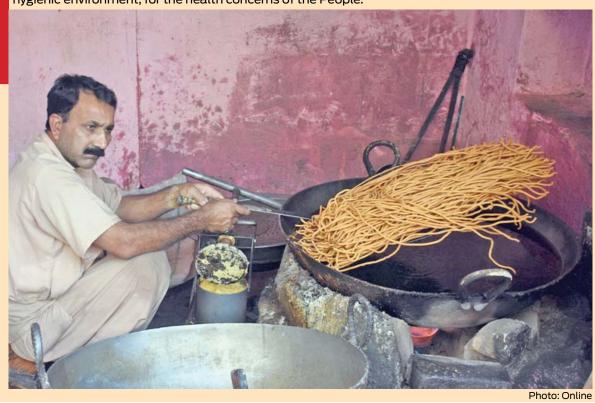
annually and smartphone penetration surpassing 53%, the momentum for digital transformation in financial services has never been stronger.

At the same time, minimal insurance penetration in the country highlights a significant opportunity for innovation-led growth. InsurTech 2025 plays a pivotal role in addressing this gap by bringing forward solutions that enable accessibility, affordability, and enhanced customer experiences.

With a sustainable goal to support initiatives that strengthen Pakistan's future-ready insurance landscape, Jubilee Life Insurance continues to play a role. Its participation highlights the company's ongoing efforts to broaden financial protection, champion digital convenience, and contribute to an inclusive, technology-enabled ecosystem that benefits individuals and communities

local snacks

LAHORE: Workers are busy in preparing traditional salted Vermicelli at a baking factory in the Gowalmandi area as such snacks are very in demand due to winters but it should also need some hygienic environment, for the health concerns of the People.



PEC Chairman meets Sindh Chief Secretary to bolster engineering reforms

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Chairman Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC), Engr. Waseem Nazir, called on Chief Secretary Sindh, Syed Asif Haider Shah, in Karachi to discuss ongoing reforms for strengthening the engineering profession in the province.

The Chairman briefed the Chief Secretary on PEC's initiatives, including the Graduate Engineer Trainee (GET) Placement Program aimed at developing a skilled, industry-ready workforce. The Chief Secretary appreciated PEC's efforts and assured the provincial government's full support for the program's implementation in Sindh.

Matters relating to the Technical Allowance for engineers serving in Sindh also and reported instances of malpractice must be protected at all costs. came under discussion, with the Chief Secretary assuring that the issue will be reviewed for an early resolution.

Expressing concern over quality lapses



by some engineers, the Chief Secretary emphasized the need for strict regulatory oversight and underscored that the services and uplifting the profession integrity of the engineering profession across Sindh.

Both sides expressed their resolve to work closely for enhancing engineering

UBG-BMP alliance will strengthen the business community, says Zubair Tufail

Example 2 Commerce Desk

KARACHI: United Business Group (UBG) President and former FPCCI President Zubair Tufail has welcomed the commitment shown by the leadership of the ruling UBG and the opposition group Businessmen Panel (BMP) at the Federation of Chambers of Commerce to work together for the better future of Pakistan's business community. He termed the alliance between UBG and BMP as a sign of strength for Pakistan's business sector.

According to a statement issued by UBG's Central Spokesperson Gulzar



Feroz, Zubair Tufail said that the business community across Pakistan is currently distressed due to unresolved issues and

is expecting the government to provide immediate solutions. Under these circumstances, the business community wanted its voice to reach the government through a strong and unified platform.

Congratulating former minister for Commerce Dr. Gohar Ejaz, UBG Patron-in-Chief S M Tanvir, BMP Chairman Mian Anjum Nisar, and other leaders on the UBG-BMP alliance, Zubair Tufail said that the nation is proud of Field Marshal General Sved Asim Munir, who has played a key role in making the country unconquerable and in strengthening both national defense and the economy.

FBR faces Rs412 billion shortfall in tax collection from July to November

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) encountered a shortfall of Rs 412 billion against its Rs5,143 billion revenue ber this year, according to official documents.

The revised targets indicate that FBR faced a gap of Rs314 billion for July-November. In November alone, against an actual target of Rs1,035 billion, the shortfall was Rs139 billion, while the revised target of Rs995 billion showed a deficit of around Rs96 billion.

including Rs896 billion in tive targets of Rs439 billion. targets during this period.

From July to November, issued in November alone.

income tax collections stood at Rs2,233 billion, sales tax at Rs1,876 billion, FED at Rs326 billion, and customs duty at Rs548 billion.

The original targets for July-November were set at target from July to Novem- Rs2,367 billion for income tax, Rs1,925 billion for sales tax, Rs332 billion for FED, and Rs519 billion for customs duty. Revised targets were Rs2,317 billion for income tax, Rs1,883 billion for sales tax, Rs326 billion for FED, and Rs519 billion for customs duty.

In November alone, FBR collected Rs403 billion in income tax, Rs364 billion Overall, FBR collected in sales tax, Rs64 billion in Rs4,730 billion in revenue FED, and Rs108 billion in during July-November, customs duty, against respec-November alone. However, Rs369 billion, Rs67 billion, collections in income tax, and Rs112 billion. During sales tax, and Federal Excise July-November, Rs255 Duty (FED) fell short of billion were refunded, with Rs48 billion in refunds

Sugar mafia runs wild as prices jump by over Rs10 per kg

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The sugar mafia seems to be running wild once again, as government measures to cool down the market have fallen flat. The price of sugar has shot up by more than Rs10 per kilogram in a single week.

According to official data, the maximum retail price of sugar across Pakistan has climbed to Rs220 per kg, compared to Rs210 per kg

Karachi residents are bearing the brunt, as the city recorded the highest rate of Rs220 per kg, forcing consumers to dig deeper into their pockets.

The Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported that the maximum price in Quetta and market manipulation reached Rs216 per kg, while keeping rates on the rise.

sugar was sold at Rs215 in Hyderabad and Rs212 in Bannu.

In Larkana, sugar was

available at Rs205 per kg, while Sukkur recorded a price of Rs200 per kg. In Islamabad and Rawalpindi, the maximum price stood at Rs190 per kg. Consumers in Gujranwala and Sialkot were paying

Rs180 per kg, the same rate seen in Faisalabad and Sargodha, while Lahore recorded Rs179 per kg.

The average national sugar price was reported at Rs189.61 per kg, slightly higher than last week's average of Rs188.81 per kg.

Analysts say prices continue to slip out of the government's hands, with supply pressures

Gold price surges by Rs5,300 to hit Rs444,162 per tola

ISLAMABAD: The price of per tola 24-karat gold 22-karat gold rate went in Pakistan increased by Rs5,300 on Saturday, reaching Rs444,162, compared to Rs344,911 on Friday. Rs438,862 on the previous

According to the All Pakistan Sarafa Gems and Jewellers Association, the price of 10 grams of 24-karat gold rose by Rs4,544, climbing to Rs380,797 from Rs376,253 a day earlier.

up by Rs4,165, closing at Rs349,076 against In the international

Similarly, the 10-gram

market, gold prices increased by \$53, reaching \$4,218 compared to \$4,165 on the previous day. Meanwhile, the price of

per tola silver rose by Rs267, reaching Rs5,909 from Rs5,642 yesterday.

TRI Nation T-20 Cricket Cup Series 2025

Pakistan Cricket Team defeated Sri Lanka by 6 Wickets in the Final

Asim Tanveer

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan won the Tri-Nation T-20 Cup. It defeated Sri Lanka by 6 wickets in the final to win the title and has expressed its full ambitions before the T20 World Cup 2026.

In the final match played at the Pindi Cricket Stadium Rawalpindi on Sunday, Pakistan won the toss and invited the Sri Lankan cricket team to bat first. Sri Lanka had a better start. They had lost only two wickets for 98 runs in 13 overs, but what happened after that? Then what often happens with the Pakistani team. The remaining 8 wickets of Sri Lanka returned to the pavilion, adding only 16 runs to the score and the entire team was dismissed for 114 runs in 19.1 overs. Kamil Mishra was the top scorer with 59 runs. For Pakistan, Mohammad Nawaz took ${\it 3}$ for 17 runs, Shaheen Shah Afridi took 3 for 18 runs and Abrar Ahmed also took 2 wickets for

Fakhar Zaman took a catch which was later declared not out, Fakhar got confused with the other umpires.

In reply, the Pakistan cricket





team had to be confident 18.4 overs. Sahibzada Farhan Agha was dismissed for 14 and Ratnayake took 2 wickets for the Prime Minister Mian Shahbaz Minister and Chairman PCB Cricket Series and congratulated considering the low score and was dismissed for 23 and Saim Fakhar Zaman for 3. Babar Sri Lankan cricket team. Presi- Sharif, Chairman Senate Syed Mohsin Naqvi expressed happi- the entire Pakistan cricket team

the team achieved the target in Ayub for 36 runs. Salman Ali Azam returned unbeaten on 37. dent of Pakistan Asif Ali Zardari, Yousuf Raza Gilani and Interior ness on winning the Tri-Nation and the Pakistani nation.





20 Probables Named for Pakistan Women's U19 Tour to Bangladesh

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: The Pakistan Cricket Board has unveiled 20 probables for Pakistan Women's U19 tour to Bangladesh with five T20 games set to be played from 3-12 December at Cox's Bazar Academy Ground between the two teams.

Pakistan U19 players are set to take part in a 14-day intensive training camp at the Hanif Mohammad High-Performance Centre in Karachi starting from Saturday,

Former Pakistan men's U19 and Shaheens coach Muhammad Masroor will be the head coach for the camp and former Pakistan women's international coach) in the support staff.

The 20-player contingent includes six batters, four pacers, five spinners, three all-rounders and two wicketkeepers. PCB's Women's National Selection Committee will further finalise the 15-member trav-



tour, while he will be accompanied by including Aleesa Mukhtiar, Areesha The players have been shortlisted after Ansari Fizza Fiaz Komal Khan the four-team 15-match III0 T90 tour Jaweria Rauf (fielding coach) and former Mahnoor Zeb, Memoona Khalid, Ravail nament in September and October and manager) first-class players Shoaib Khan (batting Farhan, Rozina Akram, Shahar Bano, coach) and Naeem Tayyab (bowling and Zoofishan Ayyaz have been part of previous Pakistan U19 squads.

The fortnight camp not just comprises of specialised fitness, fielding, batting and bowling sessions in group as well as individual capacity but also multiple T20 warm-up matches, off-field lectures on playing conditions, code of conduct and

a 20-day skills and fitness camp for 30 U19 players in Karachi, which concluded on 6 November.

15-member Pakistan Women's U19 squad will depart for Bangladesh on assemble - 30 November Saturday, 29 November from Karachi.

20 probables for pre-tour camp: Batters: Areesha Ansari, Fizza Fiaz, Malaika Suhani, Raahima Syed, Ravail Pacers: Ayesha Riaz, Barirah Saif,

Mahnoor Zeb, and Shahar Bano Spinners: Aleesa Mukhtiar, Maria, Memoona Khalid, Rozina Akram, and Zainab Khanum

All-rounders: Alzoha Hammad, Aqsa

Habib and Eman Naseer Wicketkeepers: Komal Khan and

Support staff for the two-week camp

Muhammad Masroor (head coach), Shoaib Khan (batting coach), Naeem Tayyab (bowling coach), Jaweria Rauf (fielding coach), Taimoor Mehmood (strength & conditioning coach), Surakhsha Shaker (physiotherapist), Eman Arbab (analyst) and Aisha Jalil (team

Schedule of five-match Women's U19 series: (All matches at Cox's Bazar Academy Ground)

Pakistan U19 & Bangladesh U19

1st T20 - 3 December 2nd T20 - 5 December

3rd T20 - 7 December 4th T20 - 10 December

elling squad in due course. Among the probables, 10 players involves media training too. Farhan, and Zoofishan Ayyaz 5th T20 - 12 December Pakistan has no issue with Afghan people, but Taliban regime enables

Continued from Page 1

According to the DG ISPR, so far, from November 4, the military conducted 4,910 intelligence-based operations (IBOs), eliminating 206 terrorists.

terror: DG ISPR

Overall this year, 67,023 operations were conducted across the country, including 12,857 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and 53,309 in Balochistan, during which 1,873 terrorists were neutralised, 136 of whom were Afghan nationals.

He noted that hostile elements spread misleading propaganda about the Pakistan Army's border management, adding that the Pak-Afghan border is one of the world's most challenging.

In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the border stretches 1,229 kilometres with 20 crossing points, and posts are often 20-25 kilometres apart, he added.

The DG ISPR said that border fencing requires significant resources, including firepower, drone surveillance and fortified posts, to be truly effective.

"Many villages straddle both sides of the border, complicating the regulation of movement," he added.

He stressed that effective border management is a bilateral effort, but Afghanistan lacks the administrative framework to manage its side of the

Lt-Gen Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry said the Taliban regime was facilitating terrorists and highlighted the strong nexus of "political terror crime" facilitated by Fitna Al Khawarij across the border, which enables smuggling, illegal trade, and

He criticised the authorities for failing



vehicles moving freely, which are often used in suicide attacks.

He also pointed out that diesel smuggling from Iran, previously 20.5 million litres daily, has been reduced to 2.7 million litres after crackdowns.

Funds from such smuggling were reportedly used to support Indian-backed groups like the Baloch Liberation Army (BLA) and Baloch Yakjehti Committee

He added that all 27 districts of Balochistan are now under police control, covering about 86% of the province, and security forces are working with local communities to restore peace.

Speaking about the Doha Agreement reached with the Afghan Taliban, the DG ISPR stressed that Pakistan's position is clear: Afghan soil must not be used

against any country. He said the Taliban failed to uphold

Al Qaeda, Daesh, and other terrorist groups remained active in Afghanistan sion. and continued to receive weapons and funding to carry out attacks against Paki-

Pakistan has provided solid evidence to the Taliban in this regard, but these were ignored, he added.

Taliban should reach an agreement under a verifiable mechanism.

If the verifiable mechanism is to be established by a third party, we have no objection, he said, adding that the mediator countries are also fully aware of Pakistan's position.

He said that if the Taliban's claim that is ongoing. the terrorists of Fitna Al Khawarij were Pakistani nationals, and they were guests in Afghanistan, then the Kabul authorities should hand them over to us.

"We will deal with them according to their promise that Afghan soil would our law. What type of "guests" are these Afghanistan.

who come to Pakistan armed?" he added.

He said that according to a report, the US left behind weapons worth \$7.2 billion in Afghanistan, which have fallen into the wrong hands.

The Afghan regime has become a threat to the entire region and the world, he said, adding that a proper government should have been established in Afghanistan after 2021, but even today, non-state actors are being nurtured there, who have become a threat to the entire region.

Lt-Gen Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry also criticised India, saying its leadership is suffering from "self-delusion".

He also dismissed Indian army statements about "Operation Sindoor" as inaccurate, noting real damage was inflicted on India's assets during the border aggres-

On Pakistan's counter-terrorism strategy, the DG ISPR said all political parties and the government agreed on eliminating terrorism, and the solution lies in the National Action Plan.

A comprehensive system has been The DG ISPR said that the Afghan created in Balochistan in this regard, but its absence is felt in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

He said, "There is no such thing as a 'good' or 'bad' terrorist for us. A good terrorist is one who has been neutralised, he remarked.

The DG ISPR said that the process of honourable return of Afghan refugees

In the year 2024, 366,704 Afghans were repatriated, while in 2025, so far 971,604 Afghans have been sent back.

He further said that during November alone, 239,574 people returned to

PSL announce, auction of two new HBL PSL franchise teams

Sports Desk

LAHORE: This marks a significant milestone in the league's continued expansion and its commitment to expanding its footprint across Pakistan. The addition of two new teams will also create fresh commercial, sporting and fan engagement oppor-

The pool of cities shortlisted for potential franchise allocation includes:

1. Faisalabad 2. Rawalpindi 3. Hyderabad 4. Sialkot 5. Muzaffarabad 6. Gilgit

The successful bidders at the auction will have the right to choose from amongst these city/team names. Only technically qualified bidders will be invited to the Auction.

The HBL PSL, now recognised as one of the premier T20 leagues globally, continues to grow in stature, commercial strength and fan following. The PCB and PSL Management look forward to welcoming new stakeholders to the HBL PSL ecosystem and to further elevating the league's impact on Paki-

Conquerors Post Record Total as Stars Secure Comfortabe Win in NWOT Round 8

The eighth round of the National Women's One-Day Tournament 2025-26 saw Conquerors and Stars reign supreme against Challengers and Strikers, respectively as the matches took place at the HPC Ground and Iqbal Stadium in Faisalabad on Saturday.



The penultimate round of the tournament will be played on

Monday, 1 December at the same venues. Conquerors registered a thumping 148-run win over Challengers at the HPC Ground as they scored the highest total 300-9

in the stipulated 50 overs. Conquerors' opening duo of Saira Jabeen and Gull Feroza put on a dominating 171-run stand 24.1 overs. Saira fell ten runs short of her century departing for 90 off 104 balls hitting 12 fours, while

Gull struck 10 fours in her swift 67-ball 78. Challengers' Memoona Tippu Sultan removed both the openers with 198 runs on the board after 31 overs. Sidra Nawaz (31, 29b, 2x4s), Farzana Farooq (20, 24b, 3x4s), Iram Javed (17, 26b, 2x4s) and Ayesha Bilal (15, 27b) took their team to the 300-run mark.

Apart from Memoona, Sana Talib and Quratulain picked up two wickets each for Challengers. In turn, skipper Fatima Sana provided her team a head start

with new ball as she castled Sadaf Shamas and Fatima Shahid with just five runs on the board. Ayesha Zafar (65, 57b, 11x4s) and Huraina Sajjad (23, 38b, 3x4s) then put on a 75-run stand before the latter was run out.

Rameen Shamim (27, 28b, 4x4s) and Eyman Fatima (14, 8b, 3x4s) were the only other Challengers batters to enter double figures as they lost 8-72 succumbing to their fifth loss in the tour-

At the Iqbal Stadium, Stars beat Strikers by seven wickets as they chased the 167-run target with 59 balls to spare. Sidra Amin - who is now leading the run scoring charts with 328 in seven outings, stitched a unbeaten 96-run stand with Syeda Aroob Shah as Stars bagged their fifth win of the tournament.

Player of the match Sidra's 81 not out came off 116 balls hitting six fours and one six, while Aroob hit five fours and one six during her 47-ball 50. For Strikers, Rabia Rani, Areesha Noor and Humna Bilal picked up one wicket each.

Earlier, Noreen Yaqoob's half-century (58, 105b, 7x4s) and opening batter Shawaal Zulfiqar's 34 off 40 comprising six fours took Strikers to 166-9 in 50 overs. Stars' Anosha Nasir, Fatima Zahra and Diana Baig dismissed two batters each.

Round 8 - Scores in brief Match 15 - Stars beat Strikers by seven wickets at Iqbal Stadium, Faisalabad

Strikers 166-9, 50 overs (Noreen Yaqoob 58, Shawaal Zulfiqar 34; Anosha Nasir 2-20, Fatima Zahra 2-21, Diana Baig 2-40) Stars 172-3, 40.1 overs (Sidra Amin 81 not out, Syeda Aroob

Shah 50 not out, Omaima Sohail 23) Player of the match - Sidra Amin (Stars)

The Spokesman

27th National Security Workshop ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari presenting certificates on the completion of the 27th National Security Workshop at the National Defence University (NDU). Bibi Aseefa Bhutto Zardari is also present.

SC observes divorce ineffective before mandatory 90 days

E City Desk

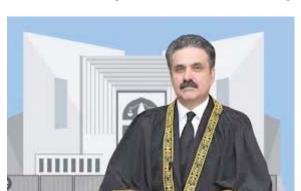
ISLAMABAD: In a key ruling on family law, the Supreme Court has observed that a divorce notice cannot take legal effect until the mandatory 90-day period is completed, affirming that a wife retains the right to withdraw the divorce.

The court dismissed the appeal filed by Muhammad application to withdraw her Hassan Sultan, upholding earlier decisions of the union 2023, well within the 90-day council concerned and the Sindh High Court. A threemember bench headed by

and including Justice Shafi Siddiqui — who authored a 12-page judgement — heard the case.

According to the court, the couple had been living in New York after marriage. In 2023, the wife returned to Karachi with her daughter, where she issued a divorce notice on July 3, 2023. The wife submitted an

divorce notice on August 10, period prescribed under Pakistani law. The union council in Karachi subsequently termi-Chief Justice Yahya Afridi, nated the divorce proceedings,



stating that the 90-day period had not concluded, making the notice legally ineffective at that

The Supreme Court noted that under Pakistani law, a wife's withdrawal of divorce within 90 days is valid and becomes effective.

fully recognized.

After the wife withdrew the notice, the husband approached the union council in Karachi seeking initiation of divorce proceedings. The UC dismissed his application, citing lack of jurisdiction, ruling that because the wife had already moved back to New York, proceedings from Karachi could not continue.

The judgement reinforces the protections built into Pakistan's family law system, especially the requirement of 90 days for reconciliation or withdrawal before a divorce

Ishaq Dar urges Muslim countries to join hands to crush terrorism

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Ishaq Dar has urged the Ulema and religious scholars to champion the cause of unity and solidarity within Muslim Ummah. Addressing concluding ceremony of First International Qira'at Competition in Islamabad on Saturday, the Deputy Prime Minister said every Muslim state has its own unique strengths, and uniting and harnessing these collective strengths, the Muslim Ummah can become an invincible force.

Ishaq Dar said Islam is manifestations. a religion of peace and it



unequivocally denounces terrorism in all its forms and

The minister said all states

must join hands to crush the menace of terrorism as

Pakistan, the Deputy Prime ordained by Allah almighty. Minister said as terrorism has Mentioning the resur- reared its ugly head again,

Pakistan stands committed and resolute than ever to eliminate this scourge.

The minister applauded the Ministry of Religious Affairs for organizing the International Qira'at competition and gathering Qaris from around the Muslim world.

Dar suggested that next time Qaris from across the world be invited to participate

in this competition. He urged the participants particularly young Qaris to strengthen their connection with Quran. He thanked delegates and envoys of all participating countries for further strengthening the fraternal bond of Muslim Ummah.

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 widespread 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 challenges.

Pakistan targets green, productivitydriven growth as Int'l GP 2.0 conference concludes at LUMS

👺 Bureau Report

LAHORE: Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination Dr. Musadiq Malik stressed the alignment between climate policy and productivity-led growth. He said Pakistan's energy future depends on "cleaner, smarter, and more efficient systems," and green productivity strengthens both energy security and national resilience. He noted the country's 17 per cent voluntary NDC commitment, adding that shrinking multilateral climate financing poses challenges for nations striving for rapid green economic growth.

He was speaking at the concluding session of the two-day Asian Productivity Organization (APO) International Conference on Green Productivity 2.0 (GP 2.0), jointly organised by the



LUMS Energy Institute (LEI), on Saturday. National Productivity Organisation (NPO), and the Federal Minister for Planning, Devel-Ministry of Industries and Production, held at LUMS Ahsan Iqbal has said that Goals.

On this occasion, Federal opment & Special Initiatives

merely an environmental choice but an economic necessity for developing countries like Pakistan. Ahsan Iqbal highlighted

green productivity is no longer

Pakistan's ambitious targets for 2035, which include achieving over 6 per cent productivity-driven GDP growth, 100 billion dollars in exports, a 30 per cent reduction in emissions intensity, universal climate-resilient infrastructure, 60 per cent clean energy, creation of two million green and high-tech jobs, and integration into Asian green supply chains.

Representing parliamentary leadership, MNA Shaista Pervaiz Malik, Convener of the Parliamentary Taskforce on SDGs, underscored the importance of development priorities aligned with the Sustainable Development

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Informed leadership, integrated policy key to tackle security challenges: Zardari

👺 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari has underscored the importance of informed leadership, national cohesion and integrated policy formulation in confronting Pakistan's contemporary security challenges.

President Zardari was addressing the participants of the 27th National Security Workshop (NSW-27) at National Defence University in

Zardari congratulated the partic- of Comprehensive National Security.

ipants on successfully completing the workshop and commended their dedication to strengthening national security awareness.

The President also awarded certificates to the graduating participants.

The workshop brought together parliamentarians, senior civil and military officers, and representatives from academia and civil society.

NSW-27 focused on deepening participants' understanding of the interplay among various elements of national power under the framework

Egyptian foreign minister due today for two-day official visit



👺 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Egypt's Foreign Minister Dr Badr Ahmed Mohamed Abdelatty is set to arrive in Pakistan today (Saturday) for a two-day official visit.

The visit, being undertaken at the request of Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Ishaq Dar, reflects the longstanding and cordial relations between Pakistan and Egypt, according to a statement issued by the Foreign Office.

The ties between Pakistan and Egypt are grounded in common faith, cultural affinity, and shared perspectives on regional and international

trengthening the strategic direc-

tion of Pakistan-Egypt relations and placing them on a broader trajectory, with a focus on political, economic, defence, cultural, and people-topeople cooperation.

During the visit, the Egyptian foreign minister will hold a tête-àtête meeting and delegation-level talks with the deputy prime minister/ foreign minister.

The two sides will review the full range of bilateral relations and exchange views on regional and international developments, including the situation in Gaza

The visit of Dr Badr Ahmed Mohamed Abdelatty is expected to reinforce Pakistan-Egypt cooperation and further advance the longstanding The visit will contribute to further partnership between the two brotherly countries

Punjab resolves 1,005 land disputes in two days under new property ordinance

跨 Bureau Report

LAHORE: The Punjab government has resolved 1,005 land disputes in just two days, setting what officials called a record in its drive to end illegal land grabbing across the province.

A detailed report on the swift disposal of these cases was presented on Saturday during a high-level meeting chaired by Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz.

The meeting reviewed the implementation of the new Property Ordinance, which aims to accelerate decisions and ensure immediate physical possession for rightful owners.

CM Maryam said no delay, recommendation, or negligence would be tolerated in land matters. She directed officials to prioritise

cases involving women and ensure that every order was followed by prompt handover of possession.

"The decision is incomplete until the rightful owner takes possession," she said. "The ownership should not Punjab.



remain only on paper. It must be visible on the ground."

Officials told the meeting that families who had spent years fighting their cases in courts finally received their land back within 48 hours. The chief minister said the prov-

ince's land belongs only to its legitimate owners, whether a marla, a kanal, or an acre. She urged citizens to report any

illegal occupation directly to their district deputy commissioner's office, promising that cases would now be decided within days.

CM Maryam reaffirmed strict enforcement of the ordinance and protection of property rights across

PTI neglecting KP governance, focused on jailed leader: Tarar

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Infor- a practice he stressed violates prison mation and Broadcasting Attaullah rules. 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, He added that despite Khyber Pakh-

tunkhwa's crucial role in the country's fight against terrorism, the provincial leadership has ignored peace, development, and public relief, spending its time in Islamabad revolving politics around the same unlawful narrative.

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 Afghanistan and amplified by Indian media.