Barkat Rice Mills

IHC seeks full briefing regarding Dr Aafia's repatriation

The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Wednesday sought a full briefing from the federal government by January 20, in the case related to Dr Aafia Siddigui's health and repatriation from a US jail.



Five officials suspended over 3-year-old's death in Karachi manhole

Five officials have been suspended following the death of a three-year-old child, Ibrahim, who fell into an open manhole in Karachi near Nipa flyover, on the directives of Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah. A formal notification regarding the sus

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Jamadi-us-Sani 12, Thursday, December 4, 2025

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(a) @daily spokesman



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Welcome

RAWALPINDI: President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif receiving President of the Kyrgyz Republic,



PM Shehbaz reaffirms transparency as top priority in PIA privatisation

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday underscored that full transparency and merit would remain the government's foremost priorities in the ongoing privatisation of Pakistan International Airlines (PIA), announcing that the bidding process would be broadcast live on national television across the country.

Speaking during a meeting at the Prime Minister's House with all business leaders and company representatives participating in the PIA privatisation process, the PM said the airline's lost reputation must be restored through a smooth and credible transition.

He said the government was committed to aligning the national flag carrier with modern aviation standards, adding that the reform and divestment process was progressing in an "InshaAllah, PIA will soon once Prime Minister remarked.



again live up to its old slogan of efficient and structured manner. 'Great People to Fly With," the commitment to a corruption-free in every step would be ensured.

Reiterating his government's

process, he said transparency

and professionally executed "The entire bidding on December

23, 2025, will be aired live on all media channels so that the nation can witness the process firsthand," he added.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said restoring PIA's global routes would greatly benefit overseas Pakistanis by providing reliable connectivity. Modernising the airline, he added, was also critical for strengthening Pakistan's tourism sector, which required a competitive and efficient national carrier.

The meeting was attended by all bidders participating in the PIA privatisation round, along with senior members of the federal cabinet and government advisors. Federal ministers Ishaq Dar, Ahsan Iqbal Cheema, Muhammad Aurangzeb, Attaullah Tarar, Azam Nazeer Tarar, and Sardar Owais Leghari; Minister of State Bilal Azhar Kayani; Adviser to the PM Muhammad Ali; Special Assistant Haroon Akhtar; and senior officials were present.

Kyrgyz president in Islamabad for two-day maiden state visit

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: President of the Kyrgyz Republic Sadyr Nurgozhoevich Zhaparov on Wednesday arrived here on his maiden state visit to Pakistan, at the invitation of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

As the Kyrgyz president came out of his special aircraft at Nur Khan Airbase, President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif warmly received him.

Two children attired in traditional dresses presented bouquets to the Kyrgyz President as a gun salute boomed in the backdrop to herald the arrival of the dignitary.

Young children wearing traditional dresses, were waving the flag buntings of Pakistan and Kyrgyzstan. The flags of both countries also fluttered along the road where the motorcade of President Zhap-

The smartly turned out contingent of Presidential Body Guard presented the static salute.

The Kyrgyz president is accompanied by a high-level delegation comprising senior cabinet ministers, high-ranking officials, and business leaders.

During the visit, he is expected to meet the President Asif Ali Zardari, hold a tête-à-tête followed by delegation-level talks with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, and address the Pakistan-Kyrgyzstan Business Forum.

The two sides will review the full spectrum of bilateral relations and explore new avenues to further deepen cooperation across diverse sectors, including trade, energy, defence, education, people-topeople exchanges, and regional connectivity.

The last presidential visit from the Kyrgyz Republic took place in January 2005.

Commander **Bahrain National** Guard calls on Field Marshal at GHQ



Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: H. H General Shaikh Mohammad Bin ISA Bin Salman Al Khalifa. Commander Bahrain National Guard, called on Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), HJ, Chief of Army Staff (COAS), at General Headquarters (GHQ) today.

According to an ISPR press release, during the meeting, matters of mutual interest, regional security, and bilateral defence cooperation Bahrain in all domains.

were discussed. Both sides reaffirmed their resolve to further enhance existing military-to-military ties between Pakistan and the Kingdom of

The visiting dignitary appreciated the professionalism of Pakistan Army and acknowledged its role in regional peace and stability. COAS highlighted long-standing brotherly relations between the two nations and expressed Pakistan's continued support for

Govt plans Rs975bn relief package for corporate and salaried sectors

Example 2 Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The federal government is preparing a major relief package worth nearly Rs975 billion for the corporate sector and salaried class, with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif directing officials to begin discussions with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on possible tax reductions. According to sources, all proposals will

be subject to IMF approval. The sources said the government is

considering substantial tax relief for both sectors under the planned Rs975bn

For salaried individuals, an initial proposal of up to a 25% reduction in income tax burden is under review.

Rs190bn relief for corporate sector The corporate sector could receive relief of around Rs190bn through the abolition of super tax, while proposals to scrap income tax surcharges and the capital value tax on

foreign assets are also being examined. In addition, authorities are considering



tax, and corporate dividend tax for corporations — a move expected to have an imme-

diate fiscal impact exceeding Rs600bn. The sources said that ending the Sindh and Punjab infrastructure cess is also part of the proposed plan.

Other suggestions include abolishing the 1% advance income tax on exporters and eliminating super tax, minimum income removing the advance tax on overseas credit ment before implementation.

The prime minister has also instructed officials to end the Workers Welfare Fund and Workers Participation Tax.

According to Finance Ministry officials, the entire package and all associated measures will depend on IMF approval, and the government will seek the lender's endorse-

Grand jirga held in North Waziristan to ponder over security issues

👺 Wazir Khan

PESHAWAR: A grand jirga was held in Miranshah under the auspices of Pakistan Army, which was attended by tribal elders from across North Waziristan. General Officer Commanding (GOC) Miranshah welcomed the participants and praised their role in ensuring peace and tranquility in the area.

The participants had a detailed discussion on the security situation in North Waziristan.

They also gave their proposals regarding the ongoing development projects and administrative issues in the area.

The tribal elders renewed their pledge to continue to support the security forces till the elimination of militants from the area.

Several suspects in Mir Murtaza Bhutto murder case have died, SHC told News Desk

KARACHI:

Lawyers in Mir Murtaza Bhutto murder case told the Sindh High Court (SHC) on Wednesday that several suspects nominated in the FIRs registered in connection with the murder of slain prime minister Benazir Bhutto's brother Mir Murtaza Bhutto had died. During the hearing of appeals in Murtaza murder case, lawyers for the appellants said that Shahid Hayat, who was a police officer at that time, Shabbir Ahmad Qaimkhani, Agha Muhammad Jameel and Masood Sharif

had all died. Besides that, they said that the documents submitted in the appeal filed by Shahid

Hayat were not legible. The court directed that



with the appeal. Later, the court adjourned

the case's hearing until January 27, 2026. Murtaza had

murdered near Dau Talwar in Karachi on September 20, 1996 allegedly in a police encounter. Two cases had been regis-

tered in connection with the murder; first on the complaint of the state, while the second on the complaint of the deceased's family.

A trial court had acquitted all suspects in the case.

Thursday, December 4, 2025

PM Rathore vows to prioritize democracy, rule of law, and public welfare

👺 Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: Prime Minister Faisal Mumtaz Rathore has said that strengthening democratic system, upholding of rule of law and ensuring welfare of the people remain his government's top priorities.

These views were expressed by Prime Minister Faisal Mumtaz Rathore while addressing a delegation of District Council Muzaffarabad members. He said the government sees dialogue and sustained communication as key address public issues.

"Maintaining effective communication with the public and fostering a strong, trust-based relationship between citizens and the government have been top priorities", he noted. Referring to various challenges faced by the people in Azad Kashmir, he said that many problems have existed for decades and cannot be attributed to any single government.

forward was to learn from past mistakes. The PM added a climate of trust and confidence has been fostered through public interaction and direct communication between political lead-

Caleed AJK PM



ership and citizens. Prime Minister Rathore thanked the federal government for providing full support for development projects in Azad Kashmir.

"Those chosen by the public have He stressed that the only way a duty to serve the people and stay accountable; this is essential to establish trust", he maintained."Civic services, road infrastructure, health and education projects, and other development activities in Muzaf-

farabad and other cities are being expedited", the PM stated. Implementation of the Public Action Committee agreement, he said, was in progress while all public welfare projects are being run transparently.

He said the government's sole mission was to promote transparent, people-centric governance and guarantee fundamental rights for all citizen. Real change, he noted, is not possible

without public participation.

The delegation was comprised of members and office bearers of the council including Ms. Maha Jabeen Abbasi, Chairman District Council Sardar Imtiaz Ahmed Abbasi, Chaudhry Abdul Naeem, Mir Imtiaz Ahmed, Basharat Khan Mughal, Mir Adil Hussain, Khawaja Muhammad Imtiaz, Iiaz Igbal, Nadeem Mumtaz Mir, Aamir Zafar, and others.

Newly appointed Deputy Commissioner Chiniot Ayesha Rizwan assumed charge of the post.

Constituency-7 delegation presents 16-point demands to PM Rathore



MUZAFFARABAD: 5A delegation from Constituency-7 led by candidate Shoukat Javed Mir and comprising party leaders and local government representatives, called on Prime Minister Faisal Mumtaz Rathore here today. The delegation presented a sixteen point charter of demands highlighting key issues of the constituency. The demands included a mega tunnel project, a separate assembly seat, construction of the Barthwar Gali-Leepa Bypass Road, a 50-bed hospital, establishment of offices for government departments and local councils, construction of press clubs in Hattian Bala and Leepa, creation of a Development Authority, provision of interest-free loans for youth, addressing teacher shortages and educational facilities, improving health centres, taking up the opening of the Taitwal route with the federal government, and allocation of funds for protection-bunkers. The delegation congratulated the Prime Minister and expressed full confidence in the leadership of Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, President Asif Ali Zardari, Faryal Talpur and others. He also underscored the exemplary working relationship with the Government of Pakistan. He also praised Assembly candidate Shoukat Javed Mir for his political services and competence. The meeting also congratulated the Pakistan Armed Forces on their historic success in operation Bunyan-al-Marsous, led by Field Marshal Hafiz Syed Asim Munir. The meeting concluded with prayers for the security of Pakistan, the freedom of Indian occupied Jammu and Kashmir, and the early recovery of President Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry and former Prime Minister Chaudhry Abdul Majeed. The delegation also invited the Prime Minister to visit the Leepa Valley and Pando Sector, which he gladly accepted.

AJK PM pledges day and night work to fulfill public trust

Bureau Report

patience, sacrifice and consistency.

He said the agreement signed with the Public Action Committee was also being implemented. Referring to the party's deep connection with Kashmir, he said, "Our slogan for the freedom of Kashmir is: "sab say bari-raisumari". The dinner was attended by Senior Minister Mian Abdul Waheed, government ministers Sardar Javed Ayub, Syed Bazal Ali Naqvi, former Legislative Assembly candidates Shaukat Javed Mir, Mubashir Munir Awan, Mukhtiar Abbasi, and others.

Rafiullah Mandokhel

ZHOB: Commandant Zhob Militia (The Frontier Corps Balochistan), Brigadier Azhar Khan has emphasized that education is the fundamental right of every child and lauded BRC Zhob for its pivotal role in imparting

Flanked by the newly appointed Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Arif Zarkoon, the Brigadier visited Balochistan Residential College here

Principal Guldar Ali Khan warmly welcomed the distinguished guests upon their arrival at the institution. The guests inspected various academic and administrative departments, including the hostels.

Brigadier Azhar underscored the significance of extracurricular activities alongside formal academics, particularly highlighting the importance

Punjab Govt launches free hospitality training to boost tourism in Murree

free hospitality training programme for hotel and restaurant staff in the hill station of Murree, aiming to elevate service standards and build a

Addressing a press conference at the Murree Press Club, TDCP Deputy General Manager (North) Moazam Nazir said the 'Saliqamand Tourism

tality sector and raise the quality of tourist services.

MUZAFFARABAD: Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir Faisal Mumtaz Rathore has said that the PPP is the only party that has the guts to face the challenges and deliver under difficult circumstances. Prime Minister Rathore said this while addressing a dinner hosted in his honour by founding leader of Pakistan Peoples Party Azad Kashmir Shaukat Rathore Khaksar here today. The PM said that he was grateful to the party leadership for entrusting him with this responsibility. He said that senior leaders including Chaudhry Latif Akbar and President Pakistan People's Party Azad Kashmir Chaudhry Yasin approved his nomination before Chairman Pakistan People's Party Bilawal Bhutto Zardari. Reiterating his commitment to fulfill the responsibility entrusted to him by the party leadership, the PM said that he along with his team would work day and night to live up to the expectations of both the party leadership and the public." Soon after assuming the office, I decided that I would live among the people", he remarked. The government, he said, has successfully stabled the situation in the region and was trying to solve the problems of the workers. Highlighting the role of party workers in rebuilding trust and confidence, he said it was a great responsibility, which requires

BRCZhob Shaping Dreams, Empowering Balochistan's Youth: says Brigadier

quality education to students from diverse backgrounds.

of sports such as football.

RAWALPINDI: The Punjab Government on Wednesday launched a skilled local workforce.

Programme' is a joint initiative of the Tourism Development Corporation of Punjab (TDCP) and Kohsar University Murree. Representatives from the Punjab Tourism Squad and the University attended the event. Moazam Nazir said the programme, initiated on the special directives of TDCP Managing Director Aasim Raza, would strengthen the hospi-

"The curriculum will feature two core modules; housekeeping and waiter training, to be conducted by professional instructors. Participants who complete the month-long course will receive official certification from the Punjab Government," he said.

MUZAFFARABAD: A high level delegation led by Auditor General of Pakistan Mr Maqbool Ahmed Gondal called AJK Prime Minister Raja Faisal Mumtaz Rathore and exchanged their views in Muzaffarabad Azad Kashmir capital.



Photo: Online

Consumer Rights Awareness Seminar held at Education University Attock

👺 Raza Nagvi

ATTOCK: Assistant Director Legal, Consumer Protection Council. Abdul Rehman Akhund, conducted an awareness seminar on consumer rights and responsibilities at the

042-99213419

and participants from various departments attended the session.

Addressing the seminar, Abdul Rehman Akhund said that the primary purpose of the Consumer Protection Council is to raise public awareness about consumer rights, Education University Attock. A large complaint redressal mechanisms,

market. He informed the students Council in case of any issue or grievthat consumer protection laws aim to ensure the provision of quality products and accurate services to the

He advised the students to practice caution in their daily purchases, always obtain proper receipts, and

At the end of the session, students appreciated the information provided, stating that such awareness programs play a vital role in enhancing legal literacy among youth. The university administration also praised the

number of faculty members, students, and promoting transparency in the contact the Consumer Protection

Afforadable Private Housing Scheme نے Afforadable Private بار کی 2<u>02</u>0 تحت مندرجہذیل سکیمیں یاس کی ہیں جمن میں 3 مرلہ اور 5 مرلہ کے تعمیر شدہ مکان مہیا کئے گئے ہیں مکانات کی الاٹمنٹ بذریعی تر عدائدازی کی جانی مطلوب ہیں۔جس کی تفصیل مندرجہ ذیل ہے۔

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گے اور کمل ہونے	ىيە يونث1 سال مكمل ہوں	6.25 ملين	885SFT	41	3.23مرله	مكانات	کیمبل پورگرینز
الا ٹی کیاجائےگا۔	کے بعد حالی و قبضہ حوالہ	8.65ملين	1220SFT	68	4.5مرله	مفات	مخصيل حضر وضلع ائك

درخوست جمع كروانے كي آخرى تاريخ 22د تمبر، 2025 ہے۔



درخواست گزارصوبہ پنجاب کارہائش ہو۔ درخواست گزار، اس کی بیوی اوراس کے زیر کھالت بچوں کے نام کوئی گھراور پلاٹ شہو۔ متعلقہ بخصیل وضلع کے درخواست گزار

درخواست گزار کی ماباند آمدنی ساتھ بزاررویے سے زائدند ہو۔

درخواست گزار 12 ایکزے زائدزری اراضی کامالک ندہو۔

فون مبر: - 051-5191909

درخواست فارم PHATA کی ویب سائٹ اور PHATA کے تمام دفاتر سے دستیاب ہوں گے۔ ورخواست كيمراة قوى كيدير ارز دشاخى كارؤى كالي اوربيان فني (شق فبر1,2,3) روسيك فيس (نا قائل والسي) 250 روي اور 10 بزار زمنان CDR بنام Deputy Director PHATA Sub Region ,Rawalpindi جع كروانا موركي جس كي آخري قط من اليج شهنت مورك بـ

 قرعا امازی ش کامیاب درخواست دہدہ آفر لیٹر جاری ہونے کے 60 دن کے اندرا ندر تحدر کو دہ تیست کل 10% ندیر عاند جح کر دانے کا پایند ہوگا۔ بصورت ديكرآ فرايتركينسل تضور موكى_

10% زریعاندادا کرنے کے بعد بقیدر قم زیادہ سے زیادہ 15 سال کی ماہاندا قساط میں ادا کرنے کا یابند ہوگا۔

يقرمه اندازي پنجاب آئي في يور ڈلا مور كے زيرا تظام كمپيوٹرائز ڈاائټائي شفاف طريقة سے وام كي موجود كي ميں موك _ وشرا الكاد خوابط سے بٹ كريانا كھل درخواستين زير فورنين لائي جائيں گی۔ ناكام اميد داروں كے تمام جح شدہ پيے (علاوہ پروسينگ فيس)ايک ماہ ش واپس كرديج جائیں گے۔دیگرشرائط تنصیلات کی معلومات دفتر ڈپٹی ڈائر کیٹر PHATA سب دیجن (گلزارقائکہ)رادلینڈ کی کے دفتری اوقات میں حاصل کی جاسمتی ہے۔

المشتر د پی دائر یکٹر PHATAسبریجن (گلزارقائداولڈا بیز پورٹ روڈ) راولپنڈی

051-5191753

The Restless Generation

👺 Qura-tul-Ain

In today's fast-paced world, sleep has become a forgotten necessity. Many people, especially the younger generation, struggle to get proper rest due to stress, technology, and lifestyle habits. This growing issue has turned us into a restless generation — tired in body, but unable to switch off our

The Digital Distraction

Late-night scrolling, endless notifications, and bingewatching have replaced the calm of bedtime. The blue light from screens interferes with the production of melatonin — the sleep hormone — making it harder to fall asleep. As a result, many people stay awake long past midnight, trapped in the cycle of "just one more video." The Pressure to Perform

Modern life demands constant

productivity. Students worry about grades, employees chase deadlines, and everyone seems to be in a race to succeed. This pressure creates anxiety, which niques, and limit caffeine intake. follows us into bed, keeping our minds awake even when our bodies crave rest.

Unhealthy Lifestyle Choices

Caffeine, energy drinks, irregular meals, and lack of physical activity also disturb natural sleep The difficulty of concentrating Instagram reels are the basic reason of less concentrating.

rhythms. Instead of winding

down, many people keep their

minds stimulated late into the

night, leading to fatigue and irri-

Sleep and mental health are

closely linked. Insomnia often

accompanies anxiety, depression,

and emotional stress. When sleep

is poor, emotional control and

focus decline, creating a contin-

uous loop of exhaustion and

tability the next day.

Mental Health and Šleep

Many people could not focus due to that habbit. They just

the story within seconds. They real problem starts from here. The Way Back to Rest To reclaim restful nights, we must set boundaries with technology, maintain a regular sleep schedule, and create a peaceful bedtime environment. Avoid

want to explain or understand

bed, practice relaxation tech-A well-rested mind is a healthy mind. The solution lies not in sleeping more, but in sleeping better — giving our bodies and minds the rest they truly deserve.(The writer is a Assistant

Professor Home Economics).

screens at least an hour before



Namaz Timings Maghrib

EMEDGENCY

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

women Police **Stations**

Islamabad	922259		
Rawalpindi	9270601-2		

ENQUIR	C Y
Edhi Ambulance	115
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HOSPITALS

HUSFI	ALJ
CMH	561111
MH	561116
MH	561116
Cantt Hospital	9270907-1
DHQ	5556311-4
RGH	9290301-
Holy Family	9290322-
PIMS	9261170-79
Polyclinic	9218300-09
Shifa International	4603666

DEPARTMENTS

CDA	9221334-43
CDA	. 9208301-04
Met Office	9250360-6
RDA	5555864
TMA	5770886
Cantonment Board .	9270151-3
Islamabad Metropol	itan
Corporation	9209224

PHC dismisses plea against declaring PTI lawmakers as independents

PESHAWAR: The Pesha $war\, High\, Court\, (PHC)$ on Wednesday dismissed the petition filed by former Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur challenging the decision to declare Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) members of the provincial assembly as independent lawmakers.

The case was heard by a two-member bench nprising Justice Muhammad Naeem Anwar and Justice Kamran Hayat Miankhel.

In his petition, Ali Amin Gandapur had challenged Election Rules 94, arguing that the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) had declared PTI-backed candidates as independents and should clarify whether PTI is recognized as a political party or not.

During the hearing, the lawyer representing the Election Commission stated that prior rulings on reserved seats had already been issued by a five-member Peshawar High Court bench and later upheld by the Supreme

Court. Meanwhile, the counsel for Pakistan Muslim League-N (PML-N) argued that the constitutional bench had already decided the review petitions, and the matter now stands concluded.

After hearing all arguments, the court had reserved its verdict earlier, which was announced today. The PHC formally rejected the petition of the former chief minister.

Fifth International Conference on Economics and Sustainable Development held at Women University

👺 Kiran Asim

MULTAN: The Fifth International Conference "Economic Issues and Sustainable Development 2025" organized by the Department of Economics of Women University Multan has begun. The three-day conference will continue till December 5. According to the spokesperson, the main objective of the conference is to provide an effective platform for the promotion of sustainable development, economic research and scientific cooperation where experts can openly discuss their experiences and suggestions. The event is being patronized by Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Kulsoom Paracha, while the special guest DPI Colleges Higher Education Department South Punjab Dr. Farid Sharif, while addressing the inaugural session, said that education is the foundation of any progressive society, which plays a role in both formal and informal forms. Formal education promotes discipline, punctuality, communication skills and personali-

Stressing the importance of time, he said that the proper use of time is the key to development, the awareness of which must be created among students.

Addressing the conference, Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Kulsoom Paracha said, "Sustainable development is not just a concept but a guarantee of the future of the coming generations. Developing countries like Pakistan have to create a strong link between economic research, innovation and policy making so that we can successfully face global economic challenges. Focal person Dr. Hana Ali said that the sessions of the conference are very useful and will provide guidance for determining the future economic direction. The research papers presented here will be published in special journals accredited by HEC. On the first day, national and international economists, researchers and scholars included Dr. Irfan Ahmed, Dr. Ramzan Sheikh, Dr. Nadia (Norway), Dr. Shuja Ahmed, Dr. Hafeez-ur-Rehman and Dr. Babar Aziz. The speakers shed light in detail on economic issues, ty development through educational sustainable development and the use of institutions, while informal education modern technology, especially artificial is formed through society and peers. intelligence, in their speeches.



Group photo

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Ireland to Pakistan Mary O' Neill posing for a group photograph along with participants during lecture and exhibition of Prof Salima Hashmi ceremony title "The Intimacy of the making-Art and Artisanry in Turbulent times" at Satrang gallery, in the Federal Capital.



CECOS University, CDGAI, and CMPO Host Strategic Summit on 'The University of the Future'

News Desk

PESHAWAR: CECOS University, through the Centre for Digital Governance & Artificial Intelligence (CDGAI) in collaboration with the Chief Minister's Performance Office (CMPO), organized a high-level summit titled "The University of the Future", bringing together prominent education leaders, industry experts, and students to deliberate on the evolving landscape of higher education.

The event commenced



Mohsin Khan, Vice Chancellor and changing learner expecof CECOS University, who highlighted the urgent need for the future of higher education universities to adapt to rapid depends on innovation, agility, technological transformation, and student-centered reforms.

with opening remarks by Dr. shifting workforce demands, tations. He emphasized that

The first segment, "The University of the Future: A Leaders' Dialogue," featured an in-depth discussion on governance models, inclusive admissions, digital and hybrid learning environments, future-relevant degrees, and emerging trends in teaching and assessment.

The panel consisted of: Mr. Shaifque Ur Rehman, CEO RMI, Dr. Faisal Khan, Director PML, Dr. Omar Usman, Director NUFAST & Engr. Sohaib Tanveer, Vice President CECOS University.

DC Umar Abbas Mela Distributes Assistive Devices to 111 Persons with Disabilities

👺 Zafar Chishti

TOBA TEK SINGH: A dignified ceremony was held at the Government Boys College Auditorium on the occasion of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, organised by the Department of Social Welfare. During the event, modern assistive devices were distributed among 111 deserving persons with disabilities from across the district.

Deputy Commissioner Umar Abbas Mela attended the ceremony as the chief guest, while Pakistan Muslim League (N) leader Chaudhry Haris Amjad also participated as a special guest. Deputy Director Social Welfare Rana Kashif Nisar, District Coordi-



nator Ghulam Mustafa Paras, Dr Abdul Qayyum, Umar Farooq and a large number of civil society representatives were also present. Addressing the participants, Deputy Commissioner Umar Abbas Mela said that, under the vision of Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif, concrete measures are being taken for the protection of rights and rehabilitation of persons with disabilities.

PML-N leader Chaudhry Haris Amjad said Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif is taking historic steps for the welfare of persons with disabilities. He said the provision of assistive devices will bring ease and confidence in their daily lives and help create more opportunities for their inclusion.

Commissioner Catches Four Touts Red-Handed at City Sub-Registrar Office; Official Suspended

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Sub-Registrar Imran Arshad has been suspended following a surprise inspection of the Sub-Registrar City Office by Commissioner Multan Division, Aamir Karim Khan. Formal proceedings under the PEEDA Act have also been initiated against



him on the recommendation of the Commissioner.

During the inspection, four unauthorized individuals were found seated at official counters and performing government duties. All four were arrested on the spot, and FIRs have been registered against them for impersonation, interference in official work, and related offences.

The action comes in the wake of persistent public complaints regarding corruption and the increasing influence of touts and private agents within the office. Despite repeated warnings, no improvement was observed, prompting the Commissioner to conduct an unannounced visit, where the irregularities were directly witnessed

Savour Foods Opens 17th Branch in Gujar Khan, Fueled by Local Demand

跨 City Desk

RAWALPINDI: The seventeenth branch of the popular food brand Savour Foods, known for its widely loved dishes, was inaugurated in Gujar Khan. The inauguration was performed by Ch Muhammad Amin, father of the founder and Chief Executive of Savour Foods, Chaudhry Muhammad Naeem.

The event was attended by Assistant Commissioner Gujar Khan Tehsil Hamza Ehthesham, President of Rawalpindi Restaurants Caterers Sweets and Bakers Association Muhammad Farooq Chaudhry, Chairman Mumtaz Ahmed, Chaudhry Muhammad Mubeen, Chaudhry Muhammad Nadeem, Chairman Sweets Home Khan Zumrud Khan, and a large number of business community members, who all conveyed their best wishes. Prayers were offered for the success of the business

and for the security and prosperity of Pakistan. Speaking on the occasion, Chief Executive of Savour Foods Chaudhry Muhammad Naeem said,"I am grateful for Allah Almighty's countless blessings. For many years, we have received immense love and sincerity from the people of Gujar Khan. It is upon their strong insistence that we have opened SavourFoods here.

Chairman Sweets Home, Khan Zumrud Khan, said "Chaudhry Muhammad Naeem rules the hearts of people because of his humility. Savour Foods provides meals to the children of Sweets Home according to their wishes. One who serves humanity is never left empty-handed."

EU-Funded Nutrition Project Marks Successful Closeout with Strengthened Civil Society and Innovation in Sindh

KARACHI: A two-day "Dissemination and Project Closeout Event" was held in Karachi under the European Union in Pakistan-funded initiative "Strengthening Local Civil Society and Community-based

Organisations and their Capacity in the Nutrition Sector in Sindh." The initiative addressed malnutrition across the five most adversely affected districts of Sindh i.e. Sukkur, Kashmore, Ghotki, Khairpur, and Nosheroferoze. The EUR 6 million project co-funded by the European Union in Pakistan was jointly implemented by the International Rescue Committee (IRC), Medical Emergency Resilience Foundation (MERF), and the Strengthening Participatory Organization (SPO).

The Chief Guest, Dr. Azra Fazal Pechuho (Provincial Minister of Sindh for Health and Population Welfare) appreciated the efforts of the European Union and highlighted the decade-long partnership through EU WINS, EU PINS, and EU SIGN projects, complementing the Government of Sindh's Accelerated Action Plan for Reduction of Stunting and Malnutrition. She emphasized that investing in nutrition programming is directly linked to preventive care, economic productivity, and a resilient health system.

 ${\it Dr.\,Shah\,Miran\,(CEO-MERF), Javed\,Jabbar\,(Board\,Member-SPO),}$ BNBWU Vice Chancellor Dr. Tahmina Managan, SMBBU Vice Chancellor Dr. Nusrat Kamal Shah, SALU Vice Chancellor Dr. Yousaf Khushk, Fahad Abbasi, Country Director, IRC Pakistan and Barbara Riksen, Team Leader Rural Development and Economic Cooperation also speak on the occasion.

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Pakistan lauds UN mission for helping Iraq achieve stability as it ends work

NITED NATIONS, Dec 03 (APP): With the UN Assistance Mission in Iraq (UNAMI) set to end its work this month after more than two decades, Pakistan has praised the Mission's "pivotal role" in helping the country achieve stability, strengthening electoral processes, facilitating political dialogue, and advancing national reconciliation efforts.

'We laud the resilience of the Iraqi people and their steadfast pursuit of a peaceful and prosperous future," Ambassador Asim Iftikhar Ahmad, permanent representative of Pakistan to the United Nations, told the UN Security Council on Tuesday.

The Mission was established in 2003 against the backdrop of long-standing dictatorship, regional wars, internal conflict, foreign occupation and terrorism.

Speaking in a debate on UNAMI's last report to the 15-member Council, the Pakistani envoy welcomed the holding of parliamentary elections in Iraq last month. The polls, he pointed out, were conducted in an orderly and inclusive manner with a strong voter turnout, reflecting public confidence in democratic institutions and the will of the Iraqi people in pursuit of stability, good governance, and sustainable development.

Noting that Iraq's security situation has improved, even as it still warrants vigilance, he stressed that Da'esh, which continue its attacks in several governorates, "must not be allowed to regroup or regain operational space."

We appreciate the Iraqi security forces for their continued counter-terrorism operations to neutralize this menace," Ambassador Asim Ahmad added.

The drawdown and imminent completion of UNAMI's mandate mark a "historic milestone" and a testament to Iraq's progress, its strengthened institutions, and its restored capacity to steer its own future, he said.

"In a region facing profound turmoil," he added, "Iraq's trajectory stands as a beacon of hope, demonstrating what national resolve, adequate international support, and inclusive political processes can achieve together."

Briefing the Council, Mohamed al Hassan, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of UNAMI, said, "Today, indeed, is a great day for the international community and the UN to witness the honourable and dignified closure of a UN mission.

He said UNAMI's departure does not mark the end of the Iraq-UN partnership. "Rather, it represents the start of a new chapter rooted in Iraq's leadership of its own future."

Hassan recounted the Mission's history, noting: "The road to peace, security and stability was long and difficult. However, with the support of the international community, Iraq came out victorious — but with untold sacrifice." He noted the many tragedies faced by the people of Iraq and UN personnel alike, including the 22 staff killed in the 2003 Canal Hotel bombing.

Trump's Gaza Peace Plan in Jeopardy

September 2025 and later endorsed by the United Nations through Security Council Resolution 2803, was hailed as the most ambitious attempt yet to end the cycle of devastation in the Strip. It promised a structured ceasefire, a phased Israeli withdrawal, the release of hostages, the demilitarization of Gaza, and the creation of a transitional governing body capable of stabilizing the enclave after one of the deadliest wars in its modern history. For a moment, it appeared the international community had finally constructed a serious pathway toward

Yet, as of 2 December 2025, the plan is facing its gravest crisis. Both major actors—Israel and Hamas—have violated core commitments, raising deep concerns that the fragile framework could unravel. The UN-mandated International Stabilization Force (ISF), meant to secure Gaza during the transition, has yet to take shape because governments are reluctant to contribute troops. And the Board of Peace, the body authorized to govern Gaza during the transitional phase, is struggling to form, weighed down by political tensions, regional mistrust, and operational uncertainty. The promise of stability is buckling under the pressure of reality.

At the heart of the plan is the commitment by Israel to withdraw its forces from Gaza in agreed phases. This has not happened. Israel argues that Hamas remains armed, entrenched, and capable of renewed attacks. Without full demilitarization-another part of the agreement—Israel insists it cannot risk a full withdrawal. Critics counter that Israel is using security concerns as justifica-

tion for indefinite control, effectively involvement. Egypt, perhaps the most leadership style. hollowing out the plan's political foundent Donald Trump in dation. The United Nations has repeatedly urged Israel to comply with withdrawal commitments, but those calls have gone unheeded.

Hamas, for its part, has accepted the ceasefire but rejected the plan's requirement for complete disarmament. While it has cooperated on prisoner exchanges

and the return of some remains of deceased hostages, it refuses to surrender its weapons or submit to what it calls "foreign guardianship"

Caught between these violations is the United Nations, tasked with constructing the

International Stabilization Force (ISF) that would take over security responsibilities as Israel withdraws. But weeks after Resolution 2803 passed, not a single major country has committed significant combat troops. Many governments express support for the idea in principle but fear the political and operational risks involved. Participating in the ISF means deploying soldiers into a volatile war zone where they could face attacks from militant groups opposed to foreign presence, hostility from parts of the population traumatized by war, and unpredictability from Israeli forces still conducting operations in and around

Arab and Muslim-majority statesinitially mentioned as potential contributors—have pulled back, wary of being perceived as legitimizing an arrangement that could be interpreted as internationalizing or fragmenting Palestinian territory. Turkey has been excluded by Israel from the ISF, despite offering

natural candidate to lead the force, has rules of engagement and guarantees that it would not be forced into direct Even Western nations, including close U. S. allies, fear getting drawn into a long and politically costly mission.

The ISF was meant to be the backbone of the peace plan. Without it, the entire architecture collapses: Israel refuses to with-

draw without a credible stabilizing force; Hamas refuses to demilitarize under Israeli guns; and the United Nations cannot supervise recon-

Qamar Bashir struction or transitional governance without secure conditions. A similar paralysis haunts the Board of Peace—the temporary governing authority endorsed by the UN. It is intended to administer Gaza, manage

aid distribution, coordinate reconstruction, and oversee the transition toward self-governance. President Trump is designated as the chair of this board, a unique arrangement that places a former U.S. president at the helm of an international civilian authority. But the Board has struggled to form. Key member states argue over representation, mandates, and mechanisms of accountability. Palestinians fear that the Board could become a substitute for sovereignty. Israel doubts it will be strong enough to prevent Hamas from re-emerging politically or militarily. Many countries remain uncertain whether Trump's political involvement will provide anchor or instability, given U.S. domestic polarization and

the global controversies surrounding his

The failure to assemble the Board remained cautious, demanding clear of Peace quickly has immediate consequences: without it, Gaza's civil administration remains fragmented and under conflict with any Palestinian faction. strain; aid agencies cannot fully coordinate reconstruction; and there is no credible neutral actor to mediate compliance between the two sides.

The cumulative effect of these failures is bleak. The peace plan is neither dead nor alive—it is suspended in a fragile limbo. Every violation, from rocket fire to airstrikes, chips away at the credibility of the agreement. Every delay in ISF formation erodes confidence in global commitments. Every political dispute over the Board of Peace deepens the vacuum of authority on the ground.

If both Hamas and Israel continue to treat the ceasefire as flexible rather than binding, the peace plan risks collapsing entirely. Diplomats warn that once trust is lost, even the most meticulously crafted architecture becomes unworkable. The success of Trump's Gaza plan requires more than signatures on a resolution-it demands sustained restraint, credible enforcement, and international political will. For now, all three remain dangerously weak.

Whether this plan becomes a turning point or another addition to the long archive of broken peace proposals will depend entirely on whether both sidesand the world—choose to honor their commitments. At this moment, Gaza stands at the edge of both possibility and peril. The next few weeks may determine which path prevails.

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)

Pak Army's Anti-Terrorism Campaign and Achievements in 2025

vices Public Relations (DG ISPR) recently delivered an exhaustively detailed and statistically comprehensive press briefing, which served as a meticulous accounting of Pakistan's nationwide counterterrorism operations conducted throughout the entire calendar year of 2025. This critical report not only highlighted the significant, measurable achievements realized in the arduous and continuous maintenance of national security but, with profound solemnity, also detailed the enor-

armed forces and allied security personnel in the execution of their duty. The data presented paints a vivid picture of a state security apparatus operating at an unprecedented, high-tempo level, reflecting an unrelenting national commitment to rooting out violent extremism.

The statistical core of the briefing was the astonishing

volume of preemptive security actions: the Pakistan Army and all allied security and intelligence agencies executed a staggering, record-breaking total of 67,023 intelligence-based operations (IBOs) across the nation during 2025. To fully grasp the intensity of this effort, this number translates to approximately 208 targeted, intelligence-driven operations every single day—a pace of continuous, high-risk engagement that clearly underscores the fierce and relentless commitment of the military and intelligence community. Their primary goal remained the proactive identification, meticulous tracking, and decisive neutralization of extremist threats before they could be allowed to coalesce and that would destabilize society. Every single one entire security apparatus and highlights the country's long-term security

he Director General of Inter-Ser- of these IBOs required meticulous, multi-layered planning, flawless, real-time coordination across various agencies, and surgical execution, effectively fusing tactical precision with the most current intelligence. This strategic approach was engineered specifically to target entrenched terrorist networks, systematically dismantle their operational and logistical infrastructure, and successfully apprehend or, when operational necessity dictated, eliminate highvalue terrorist operatives.

The exhaustive information presented by the DG ISPR in the detailed press briefing mous, non-quantifiable sacrifices made by the paints a visceral, accurate, and strategically vital

picture of the true scale, relentless intensity, and profound consequences of Pakistan's comprehensive counterterrorism operations in 2025. The core data—the combination of the astounding 67,023 intelligence-based operations, the decisive elimination of 1,873 terrorists, the tragic occur-

rence of 4,729 terrorist incidents, and the ultimate, sorrowful loss of 1,873 martyrs—collectively illustrates the immense, multi-faceted, and enduring challenges the nation faces in its continuing struggle against extremist violence and militancy. Yet, these solemn numbers also powerfully reveal the extraordinary depth of sacrifice undertaken by the Pakistan Army, the tireless law enforcement agencies, and the resilient civilians, who have collectively borne the heaviest brunt of extremist violence while remaining utterly steadfast, resolute, and unwavering in their fundamental commitment to the preservation of national security and the rule of law. The totality of the data stands as an unbreakable testament to the materialize into large-scale, violent incidents resilience and fierce determination of Pakistan's eliminate extremist threats and safeguard the

truly extraordinary, persistent efforts made to systematically eradicate the plague of terrorism from every corner of the country. Crucially, this effort reflects a broader, profound societal commitment, where the collective and individual sacrifices of military personnel, LEAs, and civilians reinforce the deep-seated, national resolve to courageously confront extremism and perpetually preserve the peace, hard-won stability, and fundamental sovereignty of the state. The DG ISPR's briefing, therefore, functions as far more than just a clinical record of operational metrics; it stands as a perennial, powerful reminder of the profound human cost that must be continuously paid to maintain national security and the unyielding, foundational dedication of Pakistan's armed forces in protecting their country against persistent, complex, and rapidly evolving threats, ensuring the safety and future of generations to come.

The 2025 counterterrorism campaign in Pakistan marked a decisive and transformative phase in the nation's ongoing struggle against extremism, combining intelligence-driven operations, advanced technology, strong leadership, and coordinated inter-agency efforts to dismantle militant networks across both rural and urban regions. Through rigorous planning, ethical conduct, and humanitarian engagement, the Pakistan Army neutralized high-value targets, disrupted supply chains, reduced terrorist incidents, and restored stability in affected areas, while simultaneously supporting reconstruction and community resilience. The year's achievements—built on the sacrifices of security forces and the resilience of local communities-underscore that counterterrorism is a continuous, collective effort requiring strategic foresight, national unity, and sustained commitment to permanently

Ban Lifted, But the Dangers Remain: Conditional Permission for Basant Is a Risky Experiment

Punjab. The government has norms? issued an ordinance granting conditional permission to celebrate Basant. craft of kite-making has virtually disappeared. Under this ordinance, any violation of the law
Twenty-one years of prohibition have severely may result in imprisonment of no less than damaged this traditional art. Skilled craftsmen

three and no more than five years, along with a fine of up to two million rupees.

From the Punjab government's perspective, the decision may appear justified, but the underlying picture is far more troubling. The government assumes that by allowing kite flying within a "legal framework," a safe recre-

ground reality suggests that there is virtually no likelihood of any positive outcome. The ban on kite flying in Punjab was not imposed merely because of metallic string; it was imposed because the administration repeatedly failed late it in neighborhoods, and after accidents to control the dangerous aspects of this activity. If the Punjab government now believes that a few fines, QR codes, and age restrictions will magically fix the problem, it is nothing more than wishful thinking.

When an entire society begins to believe the law is only for others, the seeds of anarchy inevitably take root. The same mindset applies to kite flying. Despite the government's restrictions age limits, registration, QR codes, and approved string—the reality is that we, as a nation, treat the law as nothing more than a scrap of paper.

How can we expect compliance with PSOs (prescribed rules) from people who do not follow basic traffic laws, who record videos

fter twenty-five years, the tradi- while riding motorcycles, who do not teach tional festival of kite flying their children the importance of helmets, (Basant) has been reinstated in and who routinely ignore the simplest safety

Across Punjab today, the ancient and delicate

are gone, and the special paper and fragile bamboo once used for quality kites are no longer easily available. Today's children have no familiarity with this tradition, and the few elderly enthusiasts who once adored the sport have now lost much of their passion. Under such conditions, allowing kite

Zain-ul-Abideen Abid flying becomes an impractical ational environment will emerge. However, the and dangerously risky experiment. Maintaining the ban appears to be the wiser option.

It would not be wrong to say that even if we hear about a ban on metallic string, we will not truly follow it. We will buy it secretly, circuoccur, we will shift the blame—just as we have always done.

Until respect for the law grows from within, every rule imposed from above will collapse like a wall of sand.

The truth is that nations are built on adherence to the law, and the sanctity of the law is upheld not merely by government announcements but by the conduct of citizens. Unless we collectively decide that breaking the law is not bravery but shame, no PSO, no regulation, and no new law can turn us into civilized citizens. This is the real challenge—and the weakest link

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Ishaq Dar Opens ISSI Islamabad Conclave on South Asia's Security, Economy & Climate

ISLAMABAD: The 5th edition of the Institute of Strategic Studies' annual dialogue forum, Islamabad Conclave, with thematic focus on "Reimagining South Asia Security, Economy, Climate, Connectivity," got under way today. Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Pakistan, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, was the chief guest at the Inaugural Session.

In his remarks, Director General ISSI Ambassador Sohail Mahmood warmly welcomed speakers and participants from across South Asia and expressed deep appreciation to Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar for gracing the occasion. He pointed out that this year's theme, "Re-imagining South Asia," drew inspiration from his address at the ISSI Foundation Dav in June 2025. He highlighted ISSI's position as a premier thinktank dedicated to informed research and policy advocacy on foreign policy as well as regional and global issues. He underscored the Institute's research achievements in 2025, five edited volumes, two special reports, and the sixth book on Operation Buyanum Marsoos that was being presented.

In his inaugural address, DPM/FM Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar underscored the urgent need to re-imagine cooperation in South Asia, commending ISSI for choosing a theme that is both pertinent and timely at a moment when highlighted that, as an elected member



profound flux, marked by multiple conflicts, including the ongoing Israeli genocidal onslaught against the Palestinian people. Reflecting on the regional landscape, he noted that the recent 92-hour crisis between India and Pakistan was a stark reminder of how quickly tensions could escalate. He stressed that multilateralism was under assault globally, while the rise of extremist ideologies, populism, and Islamophobia was causing unprecedented political and societal upheaval. DPM/FM Dar affirmed Pakistan's principled opposition to bloc politics and reiterated the country's steadfast belief in dialogue as indispensable for peaceful coexistence. He

actively contributing to collective efforts for international peace and security.

DPM/FM Dar underlined that a iust and lasting solution to Jammu and Kashmir, in accordance with the aspirations of its people, remained essential for sustainable peace. He urged South Asian nations to reflect deeply on whether the region is destined to lag behind while others progress, emphasizing that the region's challenges could not be overcome without abandoning zero-sum mindsets, embracing peaceful coexistence, and building an architecture of cooperative regionalism. He expressed hope that South Asia would eventually achieve peace with dignity for its peoples.

The inaugural session concluded with Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman ISSI's Board of Governors, presenting a memento to Senator Muhammad Ishaq Dar. He was also presented ISSI's latest book "Operation Bunyanum Marsoos: Deterrence, Doctrinal Shifts, and Strategic Stability in South Asia." The two-day Islamabad Conclave, a Track 1.5 forum, is being attended by practitioners, scholars, academics, experts, and university students. It features national and international experts, interactive discussions, expert analyses, and policy recommendations on the security, economy, climate, connectivity challenges and opportunities in the rapidly changing 21st-century global order.

Meeting of the Pakistan-Palestine Parliamentary Friendship Group with the Ambassador of Palestine

Example 2 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan-Palestine Parliamentary Friendship Group (PFG), chaired by Mr. Ammar Ahmad Khan Leghari, MNA, convened a meeting with H. E. Dr. Zuhair Mohammad Hamadallah Zaid, Ambassador of the State of Palestine to Pakistan, at Parliament House, Islamabad.

Welcoming the Ambassador, the Convener reaffirmed the cordial and longstanding ties between Pakistan and Palestine, grounded in shared history, culture and faith. He reiterated Pakistan's principled and consistent position that a just and durable solution to the question of Palestine lies in the establishment of an independent Palestinian State $\,$ on pre-1967 borders, with Al-Quds Al-Sharif (Jerusalem) as its capital, in accordance with relevant UN resolutions.

Highlighting Pakistan's continued efforts since the escalation of Israeli Aggression in Gaza on 7 October 2023, the Convener noted that Pakistan has actively supported the Palestinian cause across political, diplomatic, legal and humanitarian dimensions. He underscored that at the United Nations and other multilateral fora, Pakistan has consistently called for an immediate, unconditional and permanent ceasefire, unhindered humanitarian access and accountability for grave violations of international humanitarian law.

H. E. Dr. Zuhair Mohammad Hamadallah Zaid expressed deep appreciation for Pakistan's steadfast support, emphasizing that the Palestinian people consider Pakistan a reliable and enduring friend in their pursuit of freedom, dignity and self-determination. He applauded Pakistan's role within the Islamic world, particularly in humanitarian outreach, educational opportunities offered to Palestinian students, and its principled stance against occupation and human rights abuses. He suggested enhancing parliamentary exchanges, Increase the number of delegations and explore further MoUs to deepen institutional collaboration.

Both sides reaffirmed the enduring bond between Pakistan and Palestine and emphasized the importance of sustained parliamentary engagement to advance justice, human dignity and regional stability. The meeting concluded with a shared commitment to deepen cooperation in political, humanitarian and public-advocacy domains and to continue raising the voice of the Palestinian people at bilateral and multilateral forums.

The meeting was attended by Members of the Pakistan–Palestine Parliamentary Friendship Group (PFG), including Dr. Shezra Mansab Ali Khan Kharal, Minister of State for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, and MNAs Ms. Shandana Gulzar Khan, Mr. Sher Ali Arbab, Ms. Romina Khurshid Alam, Mr. Muhammad Khan Daha, Nawabzada Mir Jamal Khan Raisani and Ms. Shaista Khan

Kaspersky reports detecting half a million malicious files daily in 2025

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Kaspersky's detection systems discovered an average of 500,000 malicious files per day in 2025, marking a 7% increase compared to the previous year. Certain types of threats saw growth

globally – there was a 59% surge in password stealer detections, a 51% growth in spyware detections and a 6% growth in backdoor detections compared to 2024.

These findings are part of the Kaspersky Security Bulletin series where we review the key cybersecurity trends of the past year.

Windows remains the primary target for cyberattacks. 48% of users on Windows were targeted by different types of threats throughout 2025. For Mac users, this figure stands at 29%.

Globally, 97% of users were attacked with web threats - these to malware that targets users when they are online. Web threats are not limited to online activity, but ultimately involve the internet at some stage for inflicted harm. In Latin America, 26% of users were attacked by web threats in 2025, while this share reached 25% in Africa, 21% in Europe and 19% in the Middle East.

33% of users were attacked with on-device threats. These include malware that is spread via removable USB drives, CDs and DVDs, or that initially makes its way onto the computer in non-open form (for example, programs in complex installers, encrypted files, etc.). Africa headed the rating with 41% of users attacked with this type of threat; APAC reached 33%, Middle East – 32%, Latin America – 30%, and Europe 20%.

"The current cyberthreat landscape is defined by increasingly sophisticated multi-platform attacks, among other factors. One of the most significant revelations made by Kaspersky this year was the resurgence of the Hacking Team after its 2019 rebranding, with its commercial spyware Dante used in the ForumTroll APT campaign, which incorporated zero-day exploits in Chrome and Firefox browsers. This ties into broader trends where the number of registered vulnerabilities has been constantly increasing year-on-year. Protective solutions are indispensable, including detection and response tools, flexible patch management, continuous infrastructure monitoring, and comprehensive vulnerability analysis to neutralize threats. Equally crucial are user and employee training programs to boost cybersecurity awareness, simulate incident responses, and foster a culture of vigilance against phishing and social engineering. Without these layered approaches, the escalating threat ecosystem risks turning isolated incidents into widespread operational catastrophes," comments Vladimir Kuskov, Head of Anti-Malware Research at Kaspersky.

Kaspersky recommends that organizations should always keep software updated on all the devices you use to prevent attackers from infiltrating your network by exploiting vulnerabilities. Do not expose remote desktop services (such as RDP) to public networks unless absolutely necessary and always use strong passwords for them. Use advanced Kaspersky Next security products for comprehensive visibility across all company's corporate infrastructure to rapidly hunt out, prioritize, investigate and neutralize complex threats and APT-like attacks. Use the latest Threat Intelligence information to stay aware of actual TTPs used by threat actors.

Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Netherland Robert Jan Siegert called on Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf at Naval Headquarters, in Federal Capital.



Strengthening Social Protection for Nutrition

👺 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: A three-day learning event on nutrition-sensitive social protection opens today in Islamabad. convened under the Global Task Force on Social Protection for Nutrition. The event is co-hosted by the Governments of Pakistan and Timor-Leste. with the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) serving as Secretariat of the Global Task Force and facilitating collaboration among governments and partners.

Cambodia, Lao PDR, Nepal, Niger, Timor-Leste and Pakistan will exchange lessons, evidence and innovations to integrate nutrition effectively into national social protection systems.



In a written statement, the President of Pakistan, Asif Ali Zardari, Delegates from Bangladesh, underscored: "Integrating nutrition into social protection has been a major milestone. Through the Benazir Nashonuma initiative, pregnant and lactating women and children under two receive targeted support during the

first thousand days. At the core of this effort is a simple conviction: no child should face malnutrition, no mother should be without care, and no family should endure hardship alone. Ending malnutrition is both a development priority and a responsibility that shapes the future of all nations".

Coco Ushiyama, WFP Representative and Country Director in Pakistan, reiterated, "Pakistan's experience shows that integrating social protection and nutrition is not only feasible and impactful but cost-effective. It requires sustained political will and predictable financing."

On behalf of H. E. President Jose Ramos-Horta of Timor-Leste, the chair of the Global Task Force, H. E. Ceu Brites, Vice Minister of Social Security and Inclusion expressed her deep appreciation to the Government of Pakistan for hosting the event and for their leadership in advancing nutrition-sensitive social protection. She also thanked the Government of France for their support to the Global

United Nations marks '16 Days of Activism, Against Gender-Based Violence' in Pakistan Tarar, in presence of UN Women for Asia and the Pacific. "When November, Peshawar Stadium shamed, and intimidated — in

👺 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Today, the United Nations in Pakistan marked the '16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence' by calling for urgent global action Hashmi as Honorary Advisor. It against digital violence during an event at Islamabad's Pakistan National Council of Arts (PNCA). It alerted on the need to adapt the legislation to evolving technologies as nearly half in Karachi, Lahore, Peshawar, IOM, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNFPA, of the world's women and girls lack legal protection from digital abuse.

The event, chaired by the Rights, Senator Azam Nazeer UN Women Regional Director Governor House in Quetta on 27

Arab, also marked the opening of 'Seen & Unseen', an Art exhibition featuring renowned Pakistani artists, with Prof. Salima was part of a series of four other UN events that discussed how to keep women and girls safe online, and empower them to lead and shape the digital future, and civil society, together with

"During the 16 Days of Activism, we must invest in the and WHO. They took place in vision and leadership of young Federal Minister for Human people," said Christine Arab, in Lahore on 25 November,

Regional Director, Christine innovation is shaped by gender equality, we create digital spaces where women and girls are not just included, but protected, empowered and able to thrive," she added as she launched UN Women's Firewall Feminist Lab.

The five events brought together the Government, law enforcement, the legislature, UNHCR, UNIC, UNICEF, UNESCO, UN WOMEN, Punjab Safe City Authorities

on 1 December, and PNCA Islamabad on 2 December, with support from Marriott Islamabad. The fifth event will take place at State Bank of Pakistan Museum in Karachi on 4 December.

"The digital world promised connection and empowerment. Yet for millions of women and girls across the world, it has become a minefield of harassment and abuse," said Pernille Ironside, Acting UN Resident & Humanitarian Coordinator. "We cannot let online platforms become yet another space where women and girls are silenced,

Pakistan or across the world. We must urgently adapt the legislation to evolving technologies, and end the impunity of both perpetrators and online platforms. Just like the offline world, the online world should not threaten women and girls, but help them thrive. There is no excuse for online abuse."

Digital violence is spreading at an alarming speed fueled by artificial intelligence, anonymity, and a lack of effective laws and accountability. It comes under many forms — online harassment, cyberstalking, doxing, non-consensual image sharing,



deep fakes, and disinformation. Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar, in Digital abuse can spill into real life, sometimes leading to phys-

ical violence. responses must evolve accord-Minister for Human Rights, and equality."

his keynote remarks. He added, "The Government of Pakistan is committed to strengthening Technology has transformed legal protections, expanding the nature of abuse, and our access to justice, and ensuring laws, institutions, and social that every woman and girl can participate in society—online ingly," said Chief Guest, Federal and offline—with safety, dignity,

Bull & Bears PSX 100-Share Index Fluctuation

IIIdex I toctoatioi			
Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index			
Current	Prev. Close		
166,145.34	167,642.27		
Day's High	Day's Low		
168,160.88	166,115.17		
Index Value	Change		
35,642,349,301	-1496.93		
Percentage	Time		
-0.89%	3 Dec, 2025 4:30 pm		
Europe: FTS	E 100 Index		
Index Value	Change		
9,692.07	-9.73		

Index Value	Change		
9,692.07	-9.73		
Percentage	Time		
-0.10%	3 Dec, 4:35 pm GMT		
USA: Dow Jones I	ndustrial Average		

USA: Dow Jones I	ndustrial Average
Index Value	Change
47,716.74	+242.28
Percentage	Time
1 crociitage	111110
+0.51%	3 Dec, 12:05 pm GMT-5

ASIA PACITIC: NIKKEI STOCKS AVERAGE			
Index Value	Change		
49,864.68	+561.23		
Percentage	Time		
+1.14%	3 Dec, 3:45 pm GMT+9		

Open Market Forex Rates

	_	
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	182.75	187
Bahrain Dinar	745	755
Canadian Dollar	199.5	205
China Yuan	39.26	39.66
Danish Krone	43.17	43.57
Euro	326.5	329.5
Hong Kong Dollar	35.69	36.04
Indian Rupee	3.05	3.14
Japanese Yen	1.7850	1.8850
Kuwaiti Dinar	911.5	921.5
Malaysian Ringgit	67.31	67.91
NewZealand \$	158.95	160.95
Norwegians Krone	27.42	27.72
Omani Riyal	729.5	739.5
Qatari Riyal	76.39	77.09
Saudi Riyal	74.95	75.5
Singapore Dollar	215.25	220.25
Swedish Korona	29.39	29.69
Swiss Franc	346.63	349.38
Thai Bhat	8.59	8.74
U.A.E Dirham	76.65	77.4
UK Pound Sterling	371.5	375
US Dollar	281.45	283.5

Ericsson Mobility Report: differentiated connectivity services gaining momentum

Example 2 Commerce Desk

KARACHI: 5G Standalone (5G SA) deployments have triggered a notable 2025 growth in the number of communications service providers (CSPs) offering differentiated connectivity commercial models based on 5G SA Network Slicing-where CSPs guarantee quality of service for customer use cases through the allocation of slices of the network. The statistic is part of in-depth reporting, analysis and forecasting in the November 2025 Ericsson (NASDAQ: ERIC) Mobility Report

More than 90 CSPs have now launched/soft-launched 5G Standalone (5G SA) networks-an increase of about 30 CSPs from the same period last year and 20 from the June 2025 EMR

EMR researchers identified 118 cases-across 56 CSPs-where network slicing is used to provide differentiated connectivity services.

Of the 118 cases-65 have moved beyond proof of concept and into commercial services, across 33 CSPs. These are either subscription services or add-on packages for consumer or enterprise customers.

Twenty-one of the 65 commercial offerings-almost one third-were launched during 2025 alone.

"We see that service providers around the world are keen to embrace and deploy 5G SA to offer differentiated connectivity based on value services and not just data volume packages,' EMR publisher and Ericsson CTO, Erik Ekudden, says. "As reflected in the case studies in this EMR edition, 5G SA is already enabling differentiated connectivity opportunities. We've seen many service providers go from proof-of-concept to commercial deployment in 2025 alone, and we expect to see that trend continuing."

Business confidence surges to +22%; Services sector records highest growth since 2017, reveals OICCI BCI Survey

Example 2 Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Pakistan's business sentiment has strengthened notably, with the OICCI Business Confidence Index (BCI) - Wave 28 showing an 11 percentage-point rise, pushing the overall confidence level to +22 percent. The latest survey, covering businesses that represent nearly 80 percent of the country's GDP, also highlights a significant shift towards innovation, with 43 percent of OICCI members already

percent expecting AI to take over key business functions in the near future.

OICCI President Yousaf Hussain said the survey findings reflect a constructive shift in business sentiment after a turbulent economic

"The results of Wave 28 point to a cautiously improving business climate. The performance of the services sector and the strong forwardlooking expectations show that business stakeholders are reassessing Pakistan's economic adopting generative AI technologies and 81 direction with greater optimism. While chal-

invest and expand is a promising sign for the months ahead," he stated.

Speaking on the underlying trends highlighted in Wave 28, OICCI Secretary General and Chief Executive M. Abdul Aleem noted: "Wave 28 points to a broad-based recovery, with confidence strengthening across services, lights the need for focused efforts to support to sustained business growth.

lenges persist, the willingness of businesses to industrial competitiveness and cost stability. Sustaining this upward trajectory will require continued attention to the structural issues affecting manufacturing so that confidence can strengthen across all segments of the economy."

Despite the upbeat indicators, OICCI Business Confidence Wave 28 Survey respondents identified persistent challenges including taxaretail, and even in non-metro cities that prevition, inflation, rupee devaluation, corruption, ously recorded negative sentiment. However, and inconsistent government policies among the manufacturing sector's marginal rise highthe key concerns. These remain the top threats

Called on

ISLAMABAD: A high-level delegation of FCDO and GSMA, called on the Federal Minister for IT & Telecommunication, Shaza Fatima Khawaja, in Islamabad to discuss the critical role of connectivity and mobile ecosystems in disaster resilience, digital inclusion, and sustainable development.



Yango Pakistan Distributes Winter Safety Kits to Support Partner's Drivers Across Pakistan



Example 2 Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Yango Pakistan, part of the global tech company Yango Group, has launched a winter safety initiative aimed at protecting the health and well-being of its partner drivers. The effort includes distributing warm jackets, anti-smog kits, and protective face masks to help drivers and couriers stay safe and comfortable during colder months.

The ride-hailing platform shared that the initiative is part of its ongoing commitment to driver welfare, recognizing the increased health challenges faced by those who spend long hours on the road, particularly during peak smog season. The winter kits have been designed to offer both warmth and protection, helping drivers continue their daily operations with greater ease.

Commenting at the ceremony, Miral

Sharif, Country Manager for Yango Pakistan, noted that the company views partner drivers as an integral part of the city's mobility ecosystem.

"As temperatures drop and air quality fluctuates, it's important for us to take proactive measures to support the individuals who keep our cities moving. These winter kits are a small but meaningful step in prioritizing their safety,"

Philip Morris International Expands its Partnership with Scuderia Ferrari HP

E Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Philip Morris International Inc. today announced an expanded Ferrari HP and with Ferrari Challenge Trofeo Pirelli the single-marque motorsport championship created in 1993—for the 2026 season and beyond. This next chapter introduces the ZYN brand of nicotine pouches—the number one nicotine pouch brand globally, will feature on Scuderia Ferrari HP Formula 1 liveries at select races throughout the seasons.

"PMI shares with Scuderia Ferrari HP the pursuit to innovate and challenge the status quo for millions of adults that share this passion. By engaging in this space, we demonstrate our commitment on this journey," said Stefano Volpetti, Presi-Officer, PML "By further

enhancing our partnership with Scuderia Ferrari HP, we hope to accelerate the replacement of cigarettes, and we want our adult partnership with Scuderia consumers of nicotine products, like ZYN, to embrace and enjoy every moment of this thrilling ride."

"Ferrari has always valued partnerships built on innovation, responsibility and a vision oriented toward one major development: continuous improvement, with a forward-looking mindset. Our renewed collaboration with PMI is a concrete expression of this approach and continues a relationship that has lasted for over fifty years, grounded in scientific progress and long-term thinking. As PMI advances the development of smoke-free alternatives, we are proud to evolve together, uniting our shared values of excellence, discipline and innovation to drive progress both on and off the dent Smoke-Free Prod- track," said Lorenzo Gioructs & Chief Consumer getti, Chief Racing Revenue Officer, Ferrari

Women's financial inclusion expands to 52%, gender gap shrinks to 30%: SBP Governor

State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) Jameel Ahmad, highlighting the progress made in financial inclusion and gender equality in the country on Wednesday, said that women's financial inclusion has risen to 52 percent while gender gap has been narrowed to 30 percent

The SBP Governor, while addressing the Pakistan Women Entrepreneurship Day (PWED) 2025 event at the SBP, emphasized the event as a celebration of the creativity, determination, and success of women who are driving economic transformation in Pakistan as no nation can grow when half of its population is excluded from the financial system.

Jameel Ahmad informed that women's financial inclu-

KARACHI: The Governor sion has risen from 4% to 52 % while the gender gap narrowed from 47% in 2018 to 30% in 2025. More than 17.6 million new women owned bank accounts have been added since 2021 while significant progress has been made in provision of loans to women led business, he said, adding "Over 974,000 loans have been disbursed amounting to Rs. 230.3 billion between November

> 2024 and October 2025." Under the National Financial Inclusion Strategy 2024-28, the central bank was aiming to push financial inclusion to 75% and reduce the gender gap to 25% by 2028, he vowed.

SBP has pursued a deliberate, multi-pronged strategy to expand women's financial inclusion, he said.

FBR Expands Tax Income Tax Jurisdiction Expands: Business Units Move Towards Transparency Under POS System

👺 Zain Khan

MULTAN: Deputy Commissioner Income Tax(IR) Multan, Umair Shafqat, in a telephone conversation with a special correspondent, stated that business units that have remained outside the scope of income tax for years are now being gradually integrated into the tax system. In this regard, Chief Commissioner Income Tax CCIR Multan, Dr. Sarmad Qureshi, has issued cally recorded, ensuring accucomprehensive instructions rate tax collection and busito integrate private hospiness transparency.

tals, educational institutions, markets, and salons with the modern Point of Sale (POS)

The Deputy Commissioner said that, as a corrective measure, penalty notices have been issued to various business units, and, God willing, these measures will soon be implemented in practice. Through the POS system, every sale and financial transaction is automationly make business monitoring easier but also protect the government from any compromised behavior, as a digital record of each transaction will be instantly availpicture of business activities, enabling penalties or corrective actions to be imple-

mented effectively. The Deputy Commissioner stated that under compliance.

Umair Shafqat explained FBR Section 182, if a busithat this initiative will not ness unit does not integrate with the POS system, a fine of up to PKR 1 million can be imposed. In Khanewal, Officer Ms. Arwa recently held a meeting with doctors to brief them on the imporable. Furthermore, the use of tance of the POS system, the POS system provides the while notices were issued in government with a complete Multan in November. Meetings with the relevant units are now beginning to educate hospitals and doctors and inform them about the legal consequences of Section 182



Giving opportunity to talent from the grassroots level is a commendable move

FAISALABAD: Commissioner Faisalabad Division Raja Jahangir Anwar attended the opening ceremony of the Commissioner Cup Super 8 stage under the School Talent Hunt Program under the auspices of the Pakistan Cricket Board at the Bohra Nawali Ground. He started by hitting the cricket ball. 8 school teams will participate in the tournament while the final will be played on December 15.

The Commissioner said that giving a chance to talent from the grassroots level is a commendable initiative. The Commissioner expressed happiness over Faisalabad's PSL team and said that new talent will emerge through the initiative of school cricket.

Faisalabad Regional Cricket Association President Rana Anis, former president Hasibullah Shahid, Aziz Ahmed Bhatti, Tariq Bajwa, Aleem Ehsan, District Cricket Association Finance Secretary Zaheer-ul-Hassan, Noor, Wajahat Saleem Bandsha, Waheed Gul, Azmat, Maulvi Anis, Khawaja Abdul Mateen Butt, Omar Daraz, Kashif Farid, Sabir Hussain, Shah Manzar Farid, and others were also present. 8 school teams

have participated in this tournament. This tournament will continue till December 15. Asad Shafiq visited the



Talking to the media, he said that he

appreciates Mohsin Naqvi's efforts for grassroots level is a commendable move. the initiative of school cricket.

matches held at Bohra Wali Ground. the improvement of cricket in Faisalabad. On this occasion, cricket officials have Giving opportunity to talent from the said that new talent will emerge through

National Women's One-Day Tournament



B Abdul Maiid

FAISALABAD: The final of the National Women's One-Day Tournament will be played on December 6 between Stars and Conquerors. Who have earned twelve points in the league

On Wednesday, Challengers and

Invincibles won the matches.

Challengers (264 runs, 7 players out) defeated Strikers (185 runs) by 79 runs. Challengers' Ramin Shamim scored 71 not out and Yesri Amir scored 56

Zaibun-Nisa and Shawal Zulfiqar Conquerors (181) by 66 runs. took two wickets each.

Strikers' Alia Riaz scored 56 runs. 85 runs, Muniba Ali scored 44 runs and



Qurat-ul-Ain and Sana Talib took two wickets each.

Ramin Shamim was declared the player of the match.

Invincibles (247 runs) defeated 51 runs and

Hafsa Khalid of Invincibles scored

Natalia Parvez scored 43 runs. While

Amber Kainat, Um Hani and Ayesha

Bilal took two wickets each.

Sidra Nawaz of Conquerors scored

Hafsa Khalid took two wickets. Hafsa Khalid was declared the Player

of the Match.

PCB Launches Pioneering Biomechanics Course for Cricket Coaches

Tahir Amin Malik

The National Cricket Academy (NCA) with the support of the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) will host the first-ever Foundational Biomechanics Course - a programme aimed at integrating modern sports science into cricket coaching and player development.

Abdur Rehman, Aizaz Cheema, Ashraf Ali, Humayun Farhat, Ijaz Ahmed Jnr, Imran Farhat, Mohammad Salman, Salman Butt, Syed Wajahatullah, Wahab Riaz and Zulfiqar Babar.

The instructors, which include Dr Mian Muhammad Awais, Dr Imran The two-day course, which will Abbas, Shahid Aslam and other NCA commence on 4 December at the NCA, coaches, will provide participants with Abdur Rehman, Adnan Raees, Adnan Babar

them are 11 Test cricketers, including the kinetics and kinematics involved in batting, bowling and fielding. By the tools required to enhance player performance and reduce injury risks.

Participants in alphabetical order:

will feature 27 participants. Among a comprehensive understanding of Rasool, Afaq Rahim, Ahmad Said, Aizaz Cheema, Ashraf Ali, Fahad Akram, Fahad Masood, Humayun combining theoretical concepts with Farhat, Ijaz Ahmed Jnr, Imran Farhat, practical application, the programme Khuram Shahzad, Mohammad Saddiq, is designed to equip participants with Mohammad Salman, Raees Amjad, Salman Butt, Samiullah Khan Niazi, Saqib Faqir, Syed Umar Javed, Syed Wajahatullah, Umaid Asif, Wahab Abdul Majeed, Abdul Rehman, Riaz, Waqas Ahmad and Zulfiqar

Abdullah Fazal's century helps Karachi Blues extend second-innings lead to 276 day 3 in the Quaid-e-Azam Trophy 2025

👺 Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: Abdullah Fazal struck a magnificent century to help Karachi Blues finish the day three with a 276-run second innings lead in the Quaid-e-Azam Trophy 2025-26 final here at the Gaddafi Stadi-

um, Lahore on Wednesday. At close, Karachi Blues were 202-1 in 64 overs with Abdullah unbeaten on 104 (200b, 11x4s) and Haroon Arshad 55 not out (55 not out, 145b) on the crease after Sialkot were dismissed for 266 earlier in the day, after resuming from overnight score of 235-6.

Abdullah and Haroon came together with Blues 53-1 in 11.4 overs before keeping Sialkot bowlers wicketless for the next 314 balls, stitching a unbeaten

149-run stand. Left-handed opening batter Abdullah,

who backed up his first innings 88, which crucially took Sialkot from 170-6 to end up in Usama Mir's hands at first brought up his half-century off 91 balls before converting it into his second first-class ton off 193 balls late in the day. Haroon brought up his maiden first-class half-century off 128 balls after starting the tournament with a

century on debut. Earlier, Karachi Blues took 65 balls at the start of day three to wrap up Sialkot's first innings taking 4-31 as they bowled out defending champions for 266 in 71.5 overs, taking a 74-run first innings lead. Blues' pacers Saqib Khan and Muhammad Umar returned identical figures of 4-79 in the 23.5 and 24 overs that they sent down, respectively.

Hamza Nazar (64, 126b, 8x4s) was the first to fall nicking to Haroon Arshad at gully off Umar in 65th over, putting an end to the 75-run seventh-wicket stand,

to 245-7.

Hasan Ali's 43-ball 41 comprising three fours and two sixes too came to an end in the subsequent over with Saad taking his 24th catch behind the stumps in the tournament. Usama and Hasnain both gave in without much resistance as both were caught at mid-on and short mid-wicket, respectively, trying to hit big shots.

with 55-1 in 14 overs as Saad Baig departed two overs before the interval scoring 31 off 39 balls hitting four fours. He also became the first the batter to notch the 1,000-run mark in the prestigious first-class tournament since

Mohammad Hurraira in 2022-23 season. Hasnain induced a sharp outside edge off Saad's bat, which ricocheted off Abdullah Shafique's fingers at second slip

slip as Sialkot broke the 53-run opening stand between Saad and Abdullah. Scores in brief – Day 3 – Stumps

Final - Sialkot v Karachi Blues at Gaddafi Stadium, Lahore

Karachi Blues lead by 276 runs in second innings with nine wickets remaining

Karachi Blues 340 all out, 81.2 overs In turn, Karachi Blues went to lunch (Abdullah Fazal 88, Usman Khan 82, Saad Baig 39, Saqib Khan 33, Rameez Aziz 22; Mohammad Ali 4-79, Mohammad Hasnain 2-70, Hasan Ali 2-75) and 202-1, 64 overs (Abdullah Fazal 104 not out, Haroon Arshad 55 not out, Saad Baig 31)

> Sialkot 266 all out, 71.5 overs (Mohsin Riaz 71, Hamza Nazar 64, Hasan Ali 41, Abdullah Shafique 32; Saqib Khan 4-79, Muhammad Umar 4-79)

Pakistan Women U19 Cricket Team Secure 13-Run Win Over Bangladesh in a Thrilling Contest



Sports Desk

BANGLADESH (COX'S BAZAR): Pakistan Women U19 registered a thrilling 13-run win over Bangladesh Women U19 in the first T20 at the Cox's Bazar Academy Ground on Wednesday. The second T20 of the five-match series will be played at the same venue on Friday, 5 December.

After opting to bat first, Pakistan posted 88 all out in 19.4 overs, a total built largely around captain Eman Naseer's composed 30 off 41 balls. Her $66\mbox{-}$ minute knock, marked by patience and control on a challenging surface, held the innings together as wickets fell at regular intervals.

Areesha Ansari provided valuable support with 22 off 23 balls, including a four and a six.

Bangladesh bowler Jarin Tasnem Labonno claimed four wickets for 14 runs, with Habiba Islam Pinky picking up two wickets.

Chasing 89, Bangladesh lost wickets at regular intervals. Captain Aritry Nirjona Mondol top-scored with 20, but lacked substantial support from her partners. Pakistan's bowlers led by Shehr Bano with figures of 3-27, struck at crucial moments to prevent the hosts from building partnerships. Rozina Akram and Memoona Khalid bagged two wickets each, while sharp fielding contributed two vital run outs.

Bangladesh were bowled out for 75 in 19.5 overs, handing Pakistan a 13-run victory as they held their nerve in the final overs.

Pakistan Women U19 beat Bangladesh Women U19 by 13 runs Pakistan 88 all out, 19.4 overs (Eman Naseer 30, Areesha Ansari 22; Jarin Tasnem Labonno 4-14, Habiba Islam Pinky 2-22)

Bangladesh 75 all out, 19.5 overs (Aritry Nairjona Mondol 20; Shehr Bano 3-27, Rozina Akram 2-5, Memoona Khalid 2-13) Player of the match - Eman Naseer (Pakistan)

Wing 999 Inter Departmental Cricket League begins from Friday.

KARACHI: Khalid Nafees Chairman RCAK Tournament Committee announced the Regional Cricket Association Karachi is Organizing Wing 999 Inter Departmental Cricket League Tournament with the collaboration of Wing 999 Sports (pvt) limited. The Opening Match of the Tournament will be played between Mesol Solar vs Saudi Titans on Friday 5th December at KCCA Stadium 9.30 am.

On this occasion Mr. Jansher Ashrafi, Director Wing 999 Sports will be the Chief Guest and Inaugurate the Tournament.

The Following Prominent departments of Karachi participate in the Tournament like Wing 999, One Ten Communication, Omar Associate, Sindh Police, Customs Academy, Medicam Group, Pak Saudi International, Appie Farms, Saudi Titans, Y. J. Sports, Mesol Solar D Cattel Farm Pakistan Stallions and other

All the Matches of the tournament will be played on One-Day PCB Tournament Rules on 45 overs basis. Participating departments advised for other information Contact M. Touseef Siddiqui, Tournament Secretary phone no.0330-2211272 or RCAK Office National Bank Stadium.

Hamza Taimur Leads After Two Rounds at 44th Annual **Golf Championship**

№ Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: In the 44th annal golf championship in active progress at the world class defense Raya golf course in Lahore. at the end of the second round the golf professional who looks in command is the accomplished hamza Taimur with a two days aggregate score of 139, Three under par.following him in the race for the title is m.sajid.he is placed at a score of aggregate 140, two under par.the fight is on for top class accolishment.others in line are m.ashfaq of Karachi and he is a champion with great scores to his credit.currently he is third and the score reached is 142, par in total. more professionals looking good and capable are Waheed Baloch at 144, m.shabbir m.abid.they are in the run and might surprise all.much credit to major Harroon sahib and team.

Babar Azam to headline star-studded PSL roadshow at Lord's

LAHORE: The star-studded lineup for the Pakistan Super League (PSL) landmark roadshow at Lord's Cricket Ground has been revealed, with ace batter Babar Azam and former captain Wasim Akram headlining the event.

A day earlier, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) announced that the PSL is set to host a road show at the Home of Cricket - highlighting the league's growth over the years.

The HBLPSL has rapidly evolved into one of the world's most exciting and commercially robust T20 leagues.

As the league prepares for expansion with the addition of two new teams, it has already received significant interest from potential ownership groups across the United Kingdom - a testament to HBL PSL's rising global profile and its strong connection with UK-based cricket stakeholders," the board had said in a press release.

The lineup for the event was released on the PSL social media handles with an animated poster.

"London Roadshow brings cricket's biggest names to the Home of Cricket. Join us for an exclusive evening with Babar Azam, Haris Rauf, Sahibzada Farhan, Wasim Akram, Ramiz Raja & Ali Zafar," the caption of the post read.

Ace batter Babar Azam, former captain Wasim Akram, and opener Sahibzada Farhan will feature in the event, whereas pacer Haris Rauf, commentator Ramiz Raja, and singer Ali Zafar will also add to the lineup of the mega event.

It is pertinent to mention that PSL, which began in 2016 with five outfits, is set to expand with the addition of two new teams. Notably, the league expanded to five teams in 2018 with the addition of Multan Sultans.

With the addition of two new teams, the league will undergo its first major restructuring in seven years, taking the total to



PM Shehbaz expresses solidarity with Indonesia, offers flood relief support in call with President Prabowo

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday conveyed Pakistan's deep condolences and solidarity to Indonesia following the recent floods and landslides that caused significant loss of life and destruction, particularly in Sumatra.

During a telephonic conversation with Indonesian Presof the government and people of Pakistan, calling the devas-





ident, Prabowo Subianto, tation a tragic human loss unwavering support, Prime disaster preparedness, crisis opportunity for both leaders the prime minister extended that Pakistan deeply mourns, Minister Shehbaz assured management, and climate to further strengthen diploheartfelt sympathy on behalf a Prime Minister's Office news President Prabowo that Pakir resilience. stan stands ready to provide Reaffirming Pakistan's all possible relief and human- expressed gratitude for Paki- interest.

to share Pakistan's extensive experience in handling large-scale natural disasters, including emergency response, rehabilitation, and reconstruc-Highlighting the shared

itarian assistance. He offered

vulnerability of both countries to climate-induced calamities, the Prime Minister underscored the need for stronger bilateral cooperation in

Presider

stan's message of solidarity and informed the Prime Minister that Indonesian authorities had acted swiftly and effectively to manage the unfolding crisis.

Prime Minister Shehbaz also said he looked forward to welcoming President Prabowo to Pakistan during his scheduled official visit next week. He noted that the visit would provide an important matic ties and expand cooperation across all areas of mutual

Minister for Food Security Bialteral Meeting With DG FAO

№ News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for National Food Security & Research Hon'ble Rana Tanveer Hussain held an hour-long substantive bilateral discussion with DG FAO Dr. Qu Dongyu at FAO Headquarters earlier today.

Expressing satisfaction over his participation at 179th FAO Council & trajectory of excellent bilateral cooperation with FAO, Hon'ble Minister, highlighted challenges & opportunities emerging from climate change and underlined mitigating the threats through climate-resilient practices in agricultural productivity, water management, seeds, cutting-edge infrastructure and strengthened research & innovation.

Hon'ble Minister welcomed deeper FAO technical support and expressed



interest in learning from successful models, particularly China, in precision agriculture, intercropping, cooper-

 $ative \, farming, geographical \, indication$ (GI) products, digital farm management, and food safety standardization.

Expressing support for Pakistan's needs, DG FAO conveyed commitment for close cooperation in 'Development Research' as means to a long-term strategy to mitigate the challenges and suggested high-impact investments over short-term spending.

Hon'ble Minister thanked DG FAO for his support for ongoing projects in Pakistan and suggested prioritizing transformative projects that deliver lasting benefits to farmers and rural communities.

The two dignitaries also discussed best practices in smallholder farming, local food systems and green rural development. Both concurred on targeted investment in research which may significantly boost farmer incomes and food security.

PPL strengthens Pakistan -Türkiye strategic energy partnership

Example 2 Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Pakistan Petroleum Limited (PPL) is pleased to announce the signing of the Assignment Agreement for Eastern Offshore Indus Block C that marks the beginning of a new era of energy cooperation between Pakistan and Türkiye.

The signing ceremony was witnessed by Honourable Prime Minister of Pakistan Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Minister for Energy and Natural Resources Turkiye Alparslan Bayraktar, Federal Minister for Petroleum Mr. Ali Pervaiz Malik with other dignitaries and company officials on December 2 in Islamabad. MD and CEO PPL Sikandar Memon signed the assignment agreement on behalf of the company.



PPL has assigned 25 percent with operatorship to Turkish Petro-Participating Interest (PI) along leum Overseas Company (TPOC), a ship between Pakistan and Türkiye.

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wholly owned subsidiary of Türkiye Petrolleri Anonim Ortaklığı (TPAO), the national oil company of Turkiye, and 20 percent PI each to Oil and Gas Development Company Limited and MariEnergies. PPL retains the remaining 35 percent PI with a key role in the block's development.

This partnership is the result of high-level engagements between the governments of Pakistan and Turkiye, aimed at deepening bilateral cooperation in the energy sector and promoting Foreign Direct Investment in Pakistan's offshore exploration activities.

The signing of the farmout agreement marks a pivotal move toward unlocking Pakistan's offshore hydrocarbon potential and reinforces the long-term strategic energy partner-

Saudi land forces commander meets **Field Marshal Asim Munir**

ISLAMABAD: Commander of Royal Saudi Land Forces, Lt-General Fahad bin Saud Al Johani, called on Field Marshal Asim Munir at General Headquarters (GHQ), Rawalpindi, on Wednesday. During the meeting, matters of mutual interest, regional security, and avenues for enhanced bilateral defence cooperation were discussed, says a press release issued by the ISPR.

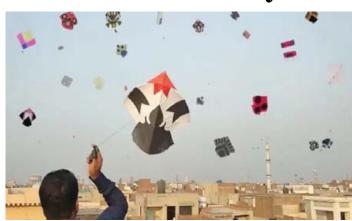
Both sides reiterated their commitment to further strengthening the longstanding and brotherly relations between the Armed Forces of Pakistan and the Kingdom of Saudi

The COAS expressed satisfaction with robust defence collaboration between the two countries and emphasised upon the need for continued cooperation in training, capacity building, and intelligence sharing.

Commander RSLF acknowledged the professionalism of the Pakistan Army and appreciated the positive role played by Pakistan in regional peace and stability.

Upon arrival at GHQ, the visiting dignitary was presented with a Guard

Punjab announces return of Basant festival after 25 years



跨 Bureau Report

LAHORE: The Punjab Government on Wednesday issued the Punjab Kite Flying Ordinance 2025, which marked the return of the traditional kite festival — Basant — in the province after 25 years.

The festival had been banned by the government in 2007 because of an increasing number of deaths and serious injuries.

The newly issued ordinance the safety and regulatory measures, kites and holding fairs.

which included the punishment of up to five years and a fine of up to Rs100,000.

According to the Punjabi calendar, it is held on the fifth day of the lunar month of Magha (in late January or early February), marking the start

In the Punjab province of Pakistan. Basant is considered to be a seasonal festival and is celebrated as a spring festival of kites. In the region, Basant Panchami has been called for the strict imposition of a long-established tradition of flying

Customs Enforcement Karachi foils major misdeclaration attempt

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Collectorate of Customs, Enforcement Karachi has thwarted a major attempt to evade revenue, preventing a loss the national exchequer. The action was taken against M/s Insons Corporation, Karachi, and their clearing agent, M/s Pakistan Shipping and credible intelligence indicated possible mis-declaration in an incoming consignment.

Upon re-examining Container No. OOLU1097058 at the KICT Terminal, filed under GD No. KAPW-HC-81856-05-11-2025, Customs officers discovered a gross value Japanese-origin auto parts imported via Jebel Ali. The reas- and tax evasion across all channels.

sessment revealed the concealment of 24,000 Universal Joints (GMB, Japan), the presence of 43 undeclared refurbished laptops, and substantial under-reporting of automotive bearings, all of which of approximately Rs. 167 million to had been intentionally mis-declared to evade duties and taxes.

The seized goods carry an assessed value of Rs. 193 million, making this interception one of the most signifi-Logistics Company, Karachi, after cant mis-declaration cases detected in a single container by the Collectorate. Legal proceedings under the Customs Act, 1969, have been initiated against the importer, the clearing agent, and all facilitators involved in the attempted evasion.

FBR reaffirms its commitment to safeguarding government revenue mis-declaration involving high- and maintaining strict vigilance against mis-declaration, smuggling,

Punjab CM Maryam launches honorary cards for Imam Masjids

👺 Bureau Report

LHAORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has launched honorary cards for Imams of mosques (prayer leaders). Chairing an important meeting in Lahore on Wednesday, Maryam Nawaz has set a deadline for issuance of honorary cards of February 2026.

Maryam Nawaz ordered payment from January 1 and pay orders will be given for the first time.

Payment will be made through 'Chief Minister Punjab Honorary Card' for Imams of mosques from

The Chief Minister directed that the registration process of Imams should continue continuously.

The meeting was told that registra-

February 1.



tion forms of 62994 Imams received and verification process underway across Punjab.

Honourary card of Imams of mosques involved in moral or financial crimes or working against the country and nation will be stopped.