اور آخرت کے دن پر ایمان رکھتا ہووہ اپنے

الصحح بخاری: حدیث نبر <sub>018</sub> **Barkat Rice Mills** 



# Field Marshal Asim Munir appointed Pakistan's first Chief of Defence Forces

The federal government on Thursday appointed Field Marshal Asim Munir as Pakistan's first Chief of Defence Forces (CDF). The top army official who was promoted to the rank of Field Marshal earlier this year — will concurrently serve as Chief of Army Staff for five years.

**Punjab schools' winter vacations** announced

A Leading National Daily

Department stated: "Winter vocation in all public and private ools across the province of Punjab shall be observed with effect from December 22, 2025 to January 10, 2026.

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Jamadi-us-Sani 13, Friday, December 5, 2025



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### Exchange MoU

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani federal minister exchanges MoUs with their Kyrgyz counterparts at the ceremony of exchange of MoUs between Pakistan and Kyrgyzstan in various sectors,



# Pakistan, Kyrgyzstan agree to elevate bilateral ties to new highs in diverse areas

跨 Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Kvrgvzstan on Thursday reaffirmed the resolve to elevate bilateral relations to a much higher level by enhancing collabculture, connectivity, education, energy, and political and cultural domains.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in President of Kyrgyz Republic Sadyr Nurgozhoevich Zhaparov, expressed his confident that the visit of the Kyrgyz President, which was taking place after a gap of two decades, will give a fresh impetus to the already strong bilateral relations in all fields of mutual interaction.

mutual trust, respect, and shared aspiration and common values" he added

Earlier, the both leaders witnessed the signing ceremony of Memorandum oration in trade, agriculture, defense, of Understandings (MoUs) and agreements between the two countries in various fields of mutual interests.

"Just now, we have witnessed signing a joint press stakeout along with the ceremony of 15 MoUs and agreements which will serve as a framework for structured result oriented engagements and closer institutional linkages between the two countries in various various trade agreements will be signed fields of mutual interest," the prime minister added.

during his bilateral meeting with the "Since the establishment of our Kyrgyz President, the discussion high-

diplomatic relations in 1992, we have lighted the need to strengthen people nurtured a relationship grounded in to people exchanges through cultural initiatives, tourism promotion, and academic partnership. During the meeting, he said, they also agreed to hold such cultural events in Islamabad and other parts of Pakistan combined with similar activities in Bishkek.

The prime minister informed that, a business forum has also been scheduled during the visit to chart new pathways for collaboration in sectors of economic cooperation.

In the business forum, he said, which will ensure to take the current bilateral trade volume of US\$16 million The prime minister pointed out that to \$200 million over a period of next

#### two years. Continued on Page 7 Khawaja Asifdubs PŤI a power-

hungry party

ISLAMABAD: Referring to the Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI), Defence Minister Khawaja Asif said on Thursday that the party was power hungry. In a tweet, he asked the PTI leaders to stop doing politics by sitting in the lap of India. "Show some grace," the minister advised the party leaders.

He further said that six months back, the armed forces of Pakistan, led by Field Marshal Asim Munir, inflicted a humiliating defeat on India. "US President Donald Trump by repeatedly referring to the downing of seven Indian jets has rubbed salt into the wounds of Indian PM Narendra Modi," he said, and added, "And in the event of another war with India, Pakistan will give such a befitting response that not only the Indians but the PTI leaders will also mourn."

Asif further said that if fighting for the supremacy of Islam and defending the country is Islamic conservatism, then the entire Pakistani population is proud of this label.

# President signs summary appointing Gen Asim Pakistan's first CDF

跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari on Thursday signed a summary, appointing Field Marshal Asim Munir Pakistan's first Chief of Defence Forces (CDF). According to the report, the president also signed the summary of extension of the term of the air chief.

Earlier in the day, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif sent a summary to President Zardari for appointing Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) Field Marshal Asim Munir as Pakistan's first chief of defence



office of the Joint Chiefs of

Staff Committee (CJCSC)

chairman, which formally

tion combined with the office tional Amendment, will of the army chief. replace the now-abolished

According to PM office press release, Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir will be the Chief of Army Staff as well as ended on November 27. It the Chief of Defence Forces. completion of his current five-The CDF position, created would be a dual-hatted posi- The appointment is for a year term in March 2026.

period of five years.

Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir will be the country's first Chief of Defence Forces.

Another pending decision is the appointment of the commander of the National Strategic Command, a new four-star position created to assume nuclear manager role previously exercised by CJCSC.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif also approved a two-year extension in the tenure of Chief of Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Babar Sidhu. This extension will apply to the

# Dar calls on Kyrgyz president; reaffirms Pakistan's commitment to strengthen ties tions in all areas of mutual interest.

跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Thursday called on the President of the Kyrgyz Republic Sadyr

his delegation to Pakistan, the deputy prime minister conveyed warm greetings of President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif to the visiting dignitary.

He reaffirmed Pakistan's strong commitment, at the highest political level, Welcoming President Zhaparov and to further strengthening Pak-Kyrgyz rela-

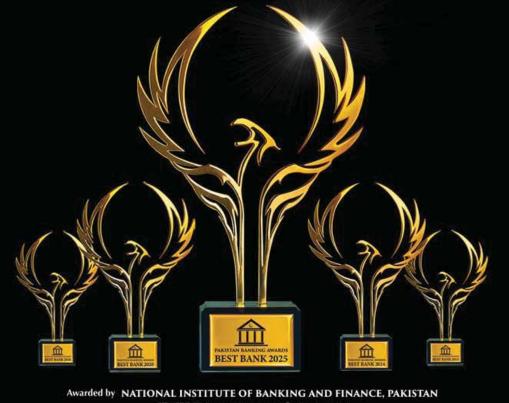
Deputy Prime Minister Dar also briefed President Zhaparov on his planned engagements with Pakistan's leadership, interactions with the business communities of both countries, and discussions aimed at advancing broadbased bilateral cooperation.



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The State Bank of Pakistan has introduced the Sunwai portal for lodging complaints at sunwai.sbp.org.pk. You can also download the Sunwai Customer Complaint app from Google Play Store and the IOS App Store.

# Govt announces complete ban on Imran Khan's meetings: Law Minister

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Law Minister Azam Nzeer Tarar and Federal Information Imran Khan. Minister Atta Ulla Tarar have urged es, adding that soon genuine notification will be issued by the government.

Addressing a press conference with Atta Tarar, Law Minister said that members cannot hold political discusdon't worry, the original notification will also come soon.

underway and notification of the cannot be made public. appointment will be made at any time and storm in tea cup will come to an end.

Federal Law Minister said now a days issue of meetings with PTI a convicted criminal, adding that prisfounder Imran Khan was being oners are not allowed to meet without raised a lot. He said the constitution and legislation in accordance with the constitution are needed for the national system.

He made it clear that Puniab government has the authority to allow meeting with PTI founder

Azam Nazeer Tarar said superior the people that no one should disturb prisoners can meet once a week and over fake notification regarding the not more than 6 people can attend appointment of Chief of Defene Forc- the meeting. Azam Nazeer Tarar said Superintendent Jail has the power to stop the meeting.

Azam Nazeer Tarar said PTI sions in jail as per the jail rules. He said the jail rules clearly state that He made it clear that process is whatever is discussed in the meeting

He said now on ward meeting of Uzma Khan will not be held with Imran Khan.

Law Minister said Imran Khan was supervision.

Under Rule 557, if the superintendent does not consider the meeting as per the rules, he can end it.

# AJK Premier Pays Tributes at Sardar Abdul Qayyum Khan's Mausoleum

Abdul Maieed Tahir

Prime Minister of Azad Jammu & Kashmir Raja Faisal Mumtaz Rathore, accompanied by Ministers and AssemblyMembers, visited the mausoleum of Mujahid-e-Awwal Sardar AbdulQayyumKhan.

Ghaziabad AJK premier Raja Faisal Mumtaz Rathore along his cabinet members Mian Abdul Waheed Ms And Ayub Professor Taqdees Gilani visited Ghaziabad and attended the reception given by former Prime minister Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan. He also visited the Mazar of former Prime Minister Sardar Abdul Qayyum Khan and laid the wreath of flowers an offered fateha

Several political and local representatives were also present, including Sardar Irfan Abbasi, President Muslim Conference Dheerikot; Raja Mubashir Eiaz Khan and others

Several political and local representatives were also present, including Sardar Irfan Abbasi, President Muslim Conference Dheerikot; Raja Mubashir Ijaz, senior PPP AJK leader; Raja Munir Khan, General



ikot; Malik Aman, District Councillor; Raja Tabarak Ali, District Councillor; Raja Shehbaz Khan, Town Councillor; senior journalist Raja Shesh Khan; Raja Mudassir Arshad, Chairman Union Council Chhoor; Mohsin Tehzeeb, Organizer Muslim Conference Dheerikot; Raja Mazhar Hayat, President MC Youth Wing Tehsil Dhirkot; and a large number

Secretary Muslim Conference Dheer- of Muslim Conference workers, Iiaz, Raia Mazhar Havat, President MC senior PPP AJK leader; Raja Munir Khan, General Secretary Muslim Conference Dheerikot; Malik Aman, District Councillor; Raja Tabarak Ali, District Councillor; Raja Shehbaz Khan, Town Councillor; senior journalist Raja Shesh Khan; Raja Mudassir Arshad, Chairman Union Council Chhoor; Mohsin Tehzeeb, Organizer Muslim Conference Dheerikot;

Youth Wing Tehsil Dheerikot; and a large number of Muslim Conference

Later The the Prime Minister visited Mujahid e Awwal House and met former Prime Minister and President Muslim Conference Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan and discussed bilateral issues regarding deteriorating situation in occupied Jammu and Kashmir

## AJK bomb squad urges PM to approve lifesaving allowances and post upgrades

MUZAFFARABAD: The Bomb Disposal Squad of Azad Jammu & Kashmir has made an urgent appeal to the Prime Minister of AJK, demanding the immediate approval of risk allowance, explosive-handling allowance, and upgradation of posts in line with the police model.

According to the spokesperson, the squad consists of 41 personnel across 10 districts, including 16 commanders, 15 technicians, and 10 helpers, all performing highly sensitive and life-threatening duties without any special incentives.

The squad stated that despite round-the-clock, high-risk assignments, the personnel are deprived of essential allowances. The team plays a frontline role in VVIP security, search-and-sweep operations, area clearance, defusing Indian shells along the Line of Control (LoC), and securing national events—with virtually no concept of rest or leave.

The spokesperson added that although the squad was established on the police model, no upgradation has been granted to date, whereas all provinces of Pakistan and the Pakistan Army already provide these allowances to their bomb disposal units.

Key Performance (2022-2025):

2022-24: 110 bombs defused, 184 helipads cleared, over 18,000 search-and-sweep operations

Jan-Oct 2025: 229 bombs defused or relocated, 3,910 operations conducted

Three-Point Charter of Demands:

1. Immediate upgradation of posts

2. Approval of risk allowance 3. Approval of explosive-handling allowance

Calling the prolonged denial of rights "deeply unjust," members of the squad remarked: "We risk our lives every day, yet we receive no special benefits." The personnel expressed hope that the Prime Minister

of AJK, Chief Secretary, and Secretary Finance will take swift action to ensure justice for the squad.

#### Kashmiri PM Meets Dr. Ghulam Nabi Fai, stresses self-determination struggle



Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: Prime Minister Azad Kashmir, Faisal Mumtaz Rathore, has said that the foremost objective of the base camp government is to highlight and promote the Kashmiris' ongoing freedom movement against India. He expressed these views while speaking with a delegation led by Dr. Ghulam Nabi Fai, a renowned Washington-based Kashmiri intellectual and Chairman of the World Forum for Peace and Justice, who called on him here today.

Hailing the Kashmiris' decades-long struggle to achieve their long-cherished goal of freedom from India's illegal occupation, the Prime Minister said that the valiant people of Kashmir have never accepted New Delhi's control over the territory.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Ghulam Nabi Fai, while referring to  $\,$ the changes taking place at the global level regarding the Kashmir issue, highlighted the diplomatic efforts being undertaken by the Government of Pakistan and diaspora abroad.

Those who were part of the delegation included Sardar Zulfiqar Khan, Sardar Zarin Khan, Dr. Waleed Rasool, Nadeem Khokhar and others. Whereas Senior Minister Mian Abdul Waheed, government ministers Sardar Javed Avub, Sved Bazil Ali Nagvi, Chaudhry Rafique Nayyar, Chaudhry Qasim Majeed, Javed Iqbal Badhanvi, Ms. Nabila Ayub Khan were also present on the occasion.

#### DC Umar Abbas Mela Reviews Progress of PSER Survey

👺 Zafar Chishti

TOBA TEK SINGH: Under the vision of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, the PSER (Punjab Socio-Economic Registry) survey is currently underway in Toba Tek Singh. A meeting to review the survey's progress was chaired by Deputy Commissioner Umar Abbas Mela.

The meeting was attended by Assistant Commissioners, Sub-Divisional Enforcement Officer Sadaf Irshad, representatives from the police, education department and other relevant departments. District Manager PSER Muhammad Danish provided a detailed briefing on the survey's current performance.

He stated that over 265,600 households in the district have been surveyed, accounting for 63 percent of the overall target. He also highlighted the challenges and obstacles encountered during the survey. Deputy Commissioner Umar Abbas Mela said that the PSER survey is a revolutionary initiative by Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, aimed at ensuring transparent and timely access to public services for every household.

He urged all departments to work collaboratively to complete the remaining survey as soon as possible and to remove any obstacles immediately. The Deputy Commissioner further stated that the PSER survey will ensure timely and transparent access to public services for

The data collected will serve as a foundation for various social protection programs, including BISP and the CM Punjab Rashan Card. Timely completion of the survey will also facilitate transparency, meritbased welfare initiatives and help ensure that essential services reach the families in need.

### Anti-Smog Gun spraying

LAHORE: A view of the Anti-Smog Gun spraying Anti smog spray for clear environment in Provincial Capital.



AJK PM vows systemic reform over face changes, prioritizing public issues

👺 Bureau Report

BAGH: Prime Minister Azad Kashmir, Faisal Mumtaz Rathore, has said that his government was moving forward with the mission of public service and their objective is not to change faces but to reform the system. While addressing a large public gathering at the Pilot High School Ground in Bagh today, the prime minister Rathore said that the government's foremost priority was to resolve the critical issues affecting the people of Azad Kashmir.

He reaffirmed that the government would go to any extent to ensure full implementation of the agreement reached with the Action Committee.



historic victory in the recent war against India, the PM said that Field Marshal General Asim Munir's lead-Praising the Pakistan army for its ership has elevated Pakistan's global

Prime Minister, Faisal Mumtaz Rathore, said in his address to the grand rally that Bilawal Bhutto's

slogan, "Rai Shumari Sab Pay Bari," reflects the voice of the Kashmiri nation. Hailing the party chairman for his strong advocacy for Kashmiris just cause at the international level, he said Bilawal Bhutto is a strong voice for Kashmiris.

He also thanked the host for organizing such a big rally. The rally was attended by former President and Prime Minister Sardar Muhammad Yaqoob Khan, former Prime Minister Sardar Tanveer Ilyas, Senior Minister Mian Waheed, government ministers Zia Al-Qamar, Malik Zafar, and Ms. Nabila Ayub, local government representatives, political and social activists, members of civil society, and a large number of people.

# Amir Muqam Chairs Crucial Meeting on AJK Agreement Implementation

👺 Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs, Gilgit-Baltistan and SAFRON Engineer Amir Muqam chaired a review meeting regarding the implementation of the agreement between the federal government and of the points of the agreement reached the Jammu and Kashmir Joint Public between the federal government, the Action Committee.

The meeting was attended by Federal Minister Dr. Tariq Fazal Chaudhry, Ministers of the Azad Kashmir Government Diwan Ali Khan Chughtai,

Secretary Azad Kashmir Khushal Khan, Member of the Jammu and Kashmir Joint Public Action Committee Shaukat Nawaz Mir and others

During the meeting, a detailed review was taken of the implementation government of Azad Jammu and Kashmir and the Joint Public Action Committee.

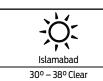
Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs, Gilgit-Baltistan and SAFRON Engi-Chaudhry Qasim Majeed, Secretary neer Amir Muqam heard the concerns

Kashmir Affairs Zafar Hassan, Chief of the members of the Jammu and Kashmir Joint Public Action Committee regarding the implementation of the agreement and assured immediate implementation of the remaining points, saying that the development of Azad Kashmir and the welfare of the people are the top priority of Prime Minister of Pakistan Mian Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif. The federal government has provided ample development funds for the development and progress of Azad Kashmir and will utilize all resources for the welfare of the people and the develop-



ment and progress of the region. In the on the progress of the agreement, said been implemented, while work is also meeting, Chief Secretary Azad Kashmir that most of the points related to the underway on matters related to consti-Khushal Khan, while giving a briefing government of Azad Kashmir have tutional amendment.





#### **Namaz Timings** Maghrib ..... 6:28 pm

EMERGEN	ICY
Rescue (Police)	15
Bomb Disposal	1!
Fire Services Rawalpind	i/
Islamabad	1122 & 10
Emergency Ambulance.	1122 8
& Rescue Services	445112
Motorway Police	926604
Motorway Police9	270601-20

#### **FNOUIRY**

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

#### **HOSPITALS**

CMH	
MH	561116
MH	561116
Cantt Hospital	9270907-1
DHQ	5556311-4
RGH	9290301-7
Holy Family	9290322-7
PIMS	9261170-79
Polyclinic	9218300-09
Shifa International	4603666

#### **DEPARTMENTS**

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

#### **COMPLAINTS**

E-7, F-10 & F-11 .. G-5, G-6, G-7, G-8, G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, H-8 ..9266316

Robust operation against land grabbers in progress under Kamalia AC Igra Nasir's supervision

#### 跨 Zafar Chishti

TOBATEK SINGH: On the directions of Deputy Commissioner Toba Tek Singh Umar Abbas Mela, Assistant Commissioner Kamalia Iqra Nasir is continuing robust operations against land grabbers. Acting promptly on severa applications related to illegal occupation received at the DRC, on-site inspections were carried out.

In this regard, the **Assistant Commissioner** conducted operations in Kamalia city and Shahabal Shah, successfully retrieving illegally occupied land and restoring it to the rightful owners. Several cases were decided on the spot, while action on the remaining applications has also been initiated strictly on merit. Tehsildar Hafiz Muhammad Shakeel was also present during these operations. Assistant Commissioner Iqra Nasir stated that, under the directives of Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif, strict action is being taken against the land mafia under a zero-tolerance policy. She added that protecting the rights and properties of owners is the government's top priority and no negligence in this regard will be tolerated.

# Pakistan HC Dr Mohammed Faisal Meets Hope 4 Humanity Leadership at High Commission London

#### Chaudhry Tabraiz Aurah

LONDON: Hope 4 Humanity held a constructive meeting with H. E. Dr Mohammed Faisal, High Commissioner of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, as part of preparations for the organisation's upcoming delegation visit to Pakistan.

Chairperson Dr Mah, Head of Operations Ms Simone Thompson, and Head of Strategy Junaid BEM met with His Excellency to discuss the objectives of their visit and explore avenues for meaningful collaboration. The delegation also sought the High Commission's support in arranging meetings with selected NGOs, orphanages, and charitable hospitals across Pakistan.

Hope 4 Humanity is widely recognised for its work in Children's Clubs, Youth Development, and Women's Empowerment. The organisation aims to share its expertise with local partners to help strengthen community welfare initiatives across the country.

During the meeting, the delegation highlighted the serious challenges faced by disadvantaged communities in Pakistan, particularly the ongoing issue of malnutrition. Vulnerable infants, children, and mothers continue to struggle with access to nutritious food. Hope 4 Humanity plans to collaborate with local organisations to raise awareness of nutritional needs and provide essential support to affected families.

H. E. Dr Mohammed Faisal praised the organisation's humanitarian efforts and congratulated Junaid BEM on being awarded the British Empire Medal by His Majesty King Charles III, along with other notable distinctions.

Hope 4 Humanity expressed gratitude to the High Commissioner for his support and willingness to facilitate the delegation's upcoming visit. The organisation also thanked Press Minister Mr Ali Awan and senior officials of the Pakistan High Commission for assisting in the coordination of The Meeting.



### Independence day of Finland

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Finland to Pakistan Hannu Ripatti along with his spouse cut the cake during ceremony on the occasion of the Independence Day of Finland at local hotel in Federal



# A Lesson in Integrity: Cleaning Worker Refuses Temptation, Praised by City Officials

#### 👺 Abdul Maiid

FAISALABAD: These are the things that make us proud. Clean Punjab Faisalabad's care company worker Nusrat Bibi, who found a packet of garbage lying outside her house while cleaning a street in Mohalla Nighaban Pura, which when opened, contained some bundles of notes.

What a wonderful thought of this lady who did not let her heart be dishonest or let her faith waver and immediately called her officer. The packet was taken to the office of the cleaning company where other officers opened it and counted the notes and found an amount of 9 lakh rupees.

After that, the owner was found in the same street and told that while cleaning the house, the garbage was picked up



and thrown into the dustbin which was later poured outside the house.,, Anyway, everyone is happy and surprised at the honesty of this female worker.

A ceremony was held in the Deputy Commissioner's office in honor of this woman this morning in which the owner of the money, the people in charge of the cleaning company and the Deputy Commissioner all gave one lakh each. Rs., a total of three lakh rupees, was awarded to this lady and a certificate of appreciation from the district administration, and the DC offered a job to her son. We believe that this lady is also a source of pride for us who have set a high example of honesty and it is also a good move by the company and the district administration who have appreciated her honesty.

# Spotify Releases 2025 Wrapped with Talha Anjum

KARACHI: Spotify's biggest global moment is back — more captivating, more layered, and more revealing than ever before. And this year, Pakistan made sure its voice was heard. 2025 Wrapped reveals that Talha Anjum has once again emerged as Top Pakistani Artist for the second year in a row. His continued rise reflects a year in which love for local music surged, with Pakistani music consumption up 70%.

Top Pakistani Artists of 2025

Talha Anjum Umair

Hasan Raheem

Atif Aslam Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan

Maanu Bavaan

Afusic AliSoomroMusic

### Philanthropists to drive Nationwide education revolution with Green Crescent Trust

ISLAMABAD:-The leading Sindh-based educational charity. Green Crescent Trust (GCT), is set to hold consecutive get-togethers in Lahore and Islamabad, seeking philanthropic support from prominent busi-



nessmen and industrialists in Punjab and the federal capital to accelerate its mission of enrolling out-of-school children across Sindh. GCT CEO Zahid Saeed will deliver a compelling presentation highlighting key facts and figures related to the current education crisis in Pakistan. He will also outline a practical and impactful way forward, proposing sustainable solutions to address the serious challenges facing school education—particularly for underprivileged children—through GCT's proven and scalable model.

The upcoming event in Lahore will be graced by Punjab Finance Minister Mian Mujtaba Shuja-ur-Rehman as the chief guest, with Provincial Minister for Primary and Secondary Healthcare Khawaja Imran Nazir attending as the guest of honor. In Islamabad, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Tourism Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan will grace the event as the chief guest.

Both events will be conducted by Renowned artist Adnan Siddiqui, whose continued support adds powerful voice and visibility to GCT's mission. Renowned business leader Khawaja Shahzeb Akram and Mr. Usman Shaukat, President of the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce & Industry, will graciously host the upcoming fundraising dinners in Lahore and Islamabad, respectively.

"Thanks to the generous support of our committed donors, GCT remains steadfast in pursuing its Vision 2030," said Zahid Saeed, CEO of GCT. He further shared that the vision aims to expand GCT's network of charitable schools in Sindh to 250 institutions, with the capacity to provide quality education to 100,000 underprivileged children over the next five years.

# **AKU LEADS Awards 100** Learners with Micro-Credentials and Digital Badges

University (AKU) proudly celebrates a major milestone in its journey toward democratizing education as 100 learn-Learning, Education and Development of Skills) programme with digital badges and micro-credentials. Their success captures the heart of LEADS' mission: skills that support personal growth, professional development and longterm empowerment.

learning should be within reach for everyone, LEADS is designed to overcome the barriers faced by individuals in remote, underserved or resource-limited contexts. Its flexible, virtual and self-

KARACHI: Today, the Aga Khan paced model allows learners to engage with high-quality education wherever they are, using everyday devices and low-bandwidth internet. The 100 awarers graduate from its LEADS (Lifelong dees represent this diversity, coming from different regions, backgrounds and life stages, yet united by their commitment to learning and self-improvement.

Each micro-credential and digital creating opportunities for individuals badge awarded signifies dedicato build practical, globally recognized tion, effort and verified achievement. Learners graduate only after meeting clear standards and assessments, ensuring that every credential carries Built on AKU's belief that quality credibility, relevance and value. These achievements enhance employability, build confidence and enable individuals to take meaningful steps toward improving their lives and contributing to their communities and the economy

at large.

With courses developed by experts from within the region, LEADS ensures that learners see themselves, their realities, and their aspirations reflected in the curriculum. This approach not only strengthens relevance but also fosters confidence and belonging among diverse learners. Whether improving English skills, developing competencies in family medicine, early childhood development, mathematics, allied health sciences, or leadership, LEADS provides pathways that support workforce readiness and sustainable liveli-

believe in empowering people from all walks of life, especially from the underserved communities in LMICs," says



Provost, AKU. "AKU-LEADS is one such groundbreaking programme that will meet the diverse educational needs

such communities".

As we honour this first cohort of

"At the Aga Khan University, we Dr Anjum Halai, Professor and Vice- of the youth and career professionals in expanding the programme, welcoming more learners, and continuing to trans-LEADS achievers, we also look ahead to ingful education.

Friday, December 5, 2025

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#### NDMA and UN Conclude **Two-Day Joint PAK-UN Multi-Hazard Simulation Exercise to Strengthen Pakistan's Emergency Preparedness**

ational Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), in collaboration with the United Nations (UN), successfully conducted a two-day Joint PAK-UN Multi-Hazard Simulation Exercise (SimEx) held from 3-4 December 2025 at the National Emergencies Operation Centre (NEOC), NDMA Headquarters, Islamabad.

The SimEx aimed to assess and improve Pakistan's coordinated response capacity during large-scale emergencies by testing decision-making, interoperability, information management, and resource planning across NDMA, PDMAs, GBDMA, SDMA, district administrations, federal ministries, UN agencies, international organizations, and national NGOs. The exercise also evaluated stakeholder coordination under the National Authority during multi-hazard crises while promoting adoption of pre-disaster adaptive planning, improved reporting systems, and structured use of NDMA-developed scenario-based planning tools and SOPs.

More than 130 participants from all across Pakistan representing federal ministries, provincial departments, district administrations, humanitarian organizations, academia, and media took part through six dedicated Working Groups. These groups included delegates from Punjab, Sindh, Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Gilgit-Baltistan, Azad Jammu & Kashmir, and the Federal Government. Each Working Group worked through evolving tabletop scenarios reflecting earthquake impacts, monsoon flooding in Punjab and Sindh, GLOF events in high-altitude regions, and winter blockages in mountainous districts. The participants used NDMA's response matrices, incorporating hazard baselines and coordinated line-department inputs, presented synchronized response frameworks.

The two-day activity not only strengthened inter-agency collaboration but also improved operational clarity among field-level departments regarding resource allocation, roles and responsibilities, early warning dissemination, emergency logistics, and humanitarian relief protocols during complex, cascading disasters. Participants demonstrated strong commitment to building resilient systems capable of supporting communities vulnerable to seismic risks, riverine flooding, GLOF hazards, and landslides, across Pakistan's diverse geographical regions.

NDMA reaffirmed that such exercises will continue to form a core component of Pakistan's national preparedness framework, enabling all government tiers and humanitarian partners to respond swiftly and effectively during crises. NDMA expressed appreciation to UN agencies, FCDO, participating ministries, PDMAs, district administrations, and partner organizations for their active engagement and support in strengthening a unified national response system.

# **America Falls Victim to Its Own Pre-Emptive Doctrine**

once defended as a tool to neutralize danger, has abroad and polarization at home. instead evolved into one of the most destabilizing forces of the modern era. It was misused in Iraq, misapplied in Afghanistan, refined by Israel across the Middle East, and has now begun reshaping U.S. policy in the Western Hemisphere with dangerous a legitimate expression momentum. A strategy designed to stop future conflict is in reality manufacturing perpetual instability, radicalization, and blowback that reaches far beyond the battlefield. Today it resurfaces in Venezuela and Colombia, where neighborhoods and U. S. kinetic actions mirror the same flawed logic that once plunged entire regions into chaos.

Washington now accuses Venezuela's leadership of facilitating narcotics trafficking—including fentanyl, cocaine, heroin, and synthetic opioids-into the United States. Acting on these claims, U. S. forces have destroyed 21 Venezuelan maritime vessels, including a mini-submarine, multiple fishing boats, and coastal carriers allegedly tied to smuggling networks. Venezuela has condemned these strikes as "acts of war," and nationwide protests demand retaliation. As naval deployments increase and rhetoric hardens, the region inches toward confrontation.

This pattern continued recently with the fatal shooting of a U.S. National Guard soldier and the wounding of another by an armed gunman who, according to initial assessments, carried deep personal grievances and emotional wounds closely tied to broader social and psychological turmoil. His act, though individual in execution, reflects

and pre-emptive strike, born not only from ideology but from a society increasingly shaped by violence

> When nations normalize pre-emptive violence externally, elements within their own society begin to internalize the same logic-that grievance can justify aggression, that perceived threats demand

of injury. This tragedy is a domestic echo of a doctrine whose psychological fractures now reach into American military families.

external These and internal patterns converge with a new and overlooked threat: America's own

criminal ecosystem, which is deeply intertwined with the consequences of its foreign and domestic policies. According to law-enforcement estimates, there are approximately 172,000 cartel-affiliated and illegal-gang operatives inside the United States, embedded in trafficking, distribution, logistics, and underground financial networks. If aggressive external crackdowns in Venezuela and Colombia disrupt these supply chains, tens of thousands of operatives inside the United States will suddenly lose their income, hierarchy, and criminal ecosystems.

History shows that men trained in covert movement, armed logistics, intimidation, and criminal coordination rarely retire when their networks collapse. Some may reintegrate into society, but many-dispossessed, angry, and stripped of status—may evolve into more violent, unpredictable actors. A consequences.

he doctrine of preventive a growing trend: internal radicalization displaced criminal workforce of 172,000 individuals, skilled in violence and trafficking, represents a potential flashpoint for domestic terrorism far greater than the maritime vessels destroyed abroad. Without rehabilitation, education, economic inclusion, and cultural transformation enforcement alone may ignite a domestic insurgency that grows immediate force, and that violence is silently inside American borders.

Meanwhile, abroad, the preventive doctrine continues generating diplomatic and strategic losses. Israel's long-term reliance on pre-emptive strikes has led to unprecedented isolation from Europe, legal indictments, suspended arms

transfers, and deep economic damage. Its military strength remains intact, but its global legitimacy has deteriorated. The United States is experiencing similar erosion. At the United Nations, America increasingly stands alone defending actions viewed internationally as violations of sovereignty. Allies abstain rather than stand with Washington. Latin American anger intensifies as U.S. forces strike vessels and aircraft in waters they consider their own.

If left unchecked, these actions could fracture hemispheric relations for decades. A region historically tied to the United States may transform into a zone of resistance and asymmetric retaliation. Every destroyed boat, every violated border, every wounded soldier, every act of internal violence becomes part of a growing web of instability linking foreign miscalculations with domestic

A sustainable solution requires more than interdictions, seizures, or kinetic displays. Preventive violence cannot cure the social, economic, and cultural conditions that fuel crime and extremism. Real security emerges from deeper reforms—education, opportunity, community rebuilding, regional cooperation, and domestic social healing. Without addressing underlying fractures, the United States risks creating the very threats it seeks to eliminate, both abroad and within its borders.

The world must move toward outlawing preventive and pre-emptive strikes. Nations that violate sovereignty must face automatic, impartial economic and diplomatic consequences enforced by mechanisms beyond the reach of political manipulation.

Humanity cannot afford another Iraq, another Libva, another Syria—or a Venezuelan and Colombian conflict born from speculative intelligence and unilateral force. Nor can the United States afford more tragedies like the killing of its own National Guard soldier at the hands of a deeply wounded man shaped by a fractured national psyche.

Pre-emptive doctrine does not provide safety. It creates destruction, resentment, and internal instability. Only when nations reject the impulse to strike first and invest instead in longterm social transformation—at home and abroad—will the world begin to heal from the damage this doctrine has unleashed.

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



## Local Govt in Punjab: The Need or Not?

never been left out of a politswitched on and off depending on whoever is on power. Such perpetual toadying leaves a massive gap in governance between the provincial governments and individuals on the ground. The real question is whether or not Punjab, the most populous province in Pakistan, requires a functioning and empowered local govern- complex due to the establishment of numerous ment structure or not, or whether the prov- competing centers of power. They say coordiince can continue running the province well anation becomes sloppy when local, provincial

under a central administrative umbrella. I am quite certain that Punjab does not merely require local government, it needs it immediately. Such a large province can never be effectively governed without the transfer of power to the people.

The Constitution of Pakistan has local government as a compulsory level of govern-

ance. Article 140-A provides that provinces have to create local bodies that have political, administrative and financial powers. This shows that democracy is not a matter of the National Assembly or the Provincial Assemblies, but it must also be at the grassroots level. No one is to be left waiting until a provincial minister or bureaucrat switches a switch on his or her street lights, drainage or community needs. In the absence of working local bodies, democracy is merely a mere figment- it does not allow the citizens to influence the making of decisions that will impact on their daily lives.

The local governments are training fields of the future leaders. A number of top national and provincial politicians have made their mark in local bodies. The system allows the youth, particularly of middle or rural origin, to enter politics at a comfortable level and gain experi-

he Punjab local government has ical leadership would be trapped in a circle of tary regimes have been the strongest local elites who are able to afford large campaigns. ical debate, it has always been Punjab requires a continuous supply of trained and community-based leaders and it is only then that local institutions are alive and oper-

> Some of them claim that Punjab does not require local government, and they put forward some arguments. It is stated that local authorities make the process of governance

> > and federal levels work simultaneously. Some others also note that the political culture in Pakistan may not be mature to be fully devolved and fear that some of the local representatives may misuse the funds or be corrupted. And a lot of provincial politicians are opposed to local bodies as they do not want to lose control of the development funds and in

their constituencies.

**Muhammad Sohail** 

Hassan

However true those arguments may contain, they cannot be compared to the merits of a working local system. Problems at all levels of governance, not only the local, are coordination, inefficiency, or corruption. The solution does not lie in abandoning a democratic level but in enhancing transparency, tightening up on policing and capacity building. The local accountability can be increased through stringent financial regulations, independent audits, and online tools. In addition, the opposition to the local bodies due to the fear of provincial politicians to lose their power is not in keeping with the democratic spirit.

The actual question is not whether Punjab should have local government- it should not. The issue is whether the political leadership of Punjab is prepared to allow a truly empowence. Without the local governments, the politered system to operate. Traditionally, mili-

governments in Pakistan, whereas the civilian regimes are the weakest. Elected governments are partial to de-devolution of their powers as they like maintaining control over their regions despite decentralization being essential in responsive government. Punjab must stop this cycle, in case it wishes to enhance the performance of the public service delivery and enhance democracy.

The province also requires stability at the local government system. The law is always in flux and elected bodies are dissolved, which complicates the way things are run and suffies the public participation. The Sikh Communities of Punjab really need an enduring and secure local government system that does not shift with each new government. The laws ought to ensure that when elected, local bodies cannot be dissolved even before their term is over unless in a case of extreme situations. Autonomy Fiscal autonomy should be ensured and the local governments should be given equitable allocation of provincial funds on transparent

Punjab requires local government not as a political choice but as a governance requirement. There is no big province in the world that is efficiently run without decentralizing power to the local level. Local governments enhance the level of democratic participation, enhance service delivery, increase accountability, enhance the growth of the economy and reduce regional disparities. Their downsides can be addressed through reform and regulation yet their upsides are the cornerstone of any working democracy. The future stability, growth and administrative efficiency of Punjab to the extent of sustaining an effective local government rests on adopting and maintaining a strong empowered local government.

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### **Empowering Women in** Governance Qudsia Batool **Takes Key Assembly Role**

floods, torrential rains, heatwaves, or drought-like situations, these recurring chal-Assembly's Standing Committee on Disaster Management holds exceptional

significance. Held on 28 November, the meeting was attended by key provincial administrative and legislative leaders, and several decisions were taken that will directly influence Punjab's future disaster preparedness strategies. But the most notable

development of the day was the election of Ms. Qudsia Batool as the Chairperson the committee's role. of the Disaster Management Committee.

Disaster management is a crucial requirement of the modern world, particularly for a large and diverse province like Punjab. In such a scenario, an informed, capable, and responsible chairperson is indispensable. Expectations from MPA Qudsia Batool are high; she is seen as someone who can activate the committee, introduce modern strategies, improve institutional coordination, and enhance the overall efficiency of disaster response mechanisms.

Her political identity has been shaped by her balanced approach, pragmatic views, and direct attention to public issues. She believes in practical, result-oriented politics rather than unnec- more efficient disaster management framework essary rhetoric. Her speeches in the Assembly in the coming years.

unjab is Pakistan's largest and are known for research-based arguments, logic, most populous province and has and clarity. Her election as Chairperson is a always remained vulnerable to strong vote of confidence in her abilities and a natural disasters. Whether it is testament to her focus on organized and resultdriven governance.

Women's participation in Pakistani politics lenges demand not just a reactive response but has often faced obstacles, but capable individuals a strong, coordinated, and proactive disaster like Qudsia Batool are changing that tradition. management system. It requires timely planThrough her active political engagements, she ning, preparedness, and resilient strategies. In is proving that women can play a central role in this context, the recent meeting of the Punjab policy-making and decision-making processes. In her first statement as Chairperson, Qudsia

Batool thanked PML-N leader Nawaz Sharif, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, Speaker Punjab Assembly Malik Ahmad Khan, and other parliamentary leaders. This acknowledgment not only reflects her humility but also highlights the seriousness with which the government views

**Malik Faisal Munir** 

Her political journey continues to progress with dedication and purpose. Her consistent performance and commitment to public issues indicate that she is poised to play an even more prominent role in Punjab's political landscape in the future. If she maintains this momentum, she will undoubtedly emerge as a strong decision-maker at both party and provincial levels.

Modernizing Punjab's disaster management system is a challenging but essential task. Under Qudsia Batool's leadership, if the committee maintains the right direction, works with consistency, and focuses on practical measures, Punjab can develop a safer, more prepared, and

Disclaimer: All reports and recommendations have been prepared for your information only. Summary and Analysis are not recommendations to buy or sell. This information should only be used by investors who are aware of the risk inherent in securities trading. The facts, information, data, indicators and charts presented have been obtained from sources believed to be reliable, but their accuracy and completeness cannot be guaranteed. Daily The Spokesman and its employees are not responsible for any loss arising from use of these reports and recommendations.

# Pakistan, Kyrgyzstan urge Afghan Taliban regime to meet global commitments, act against terrorist groups

**E** City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Kyrgyzstan on Thursday underscoring the importance of regional peace and stability, honor its commitments to the international community, and address Paki- UN Security Council resolutions. stan's legitimate security concerns, by taking concrete and verifiable actions against terrorist entities.

discussed during the delegation level

Sharif and President of the Kyrgyz Republic Sadyr Zhaparov Nurgozho- Al-Sharif as its capital. evich led their respective sides at a During the talks, the prime delegation level meeting in the Prime minister was assisted by the Deputy Minister House.

commitment to a peaceful and stable Syed Asim Munir, Chief of Army Staff, Afghanistan and a sustainable future Federal Ministers and senior governfor its people.

During the talks, both sides also

and global developments. While its brotherly relations with the Kyrgyz expressing their concern over the escalating threats to peace and security in the region, they agreed that disputes must be resolved through peaceful means agreed that Afghan Taliban regime must in accordance with international law including the UN Charter, and relevant

The two sides also exchanged views on the ongoing peace efforts in Gaza and reiterated their unwavering support for The bilateral and regional ties were the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and the establishment of talks held at the Prime Minister House. a sovereign, viable, contiguous, and Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz independent Palestinian state, based on pre-June 1967 borders with Al-Quds

Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Both leaders also reaffirmed their Muhammad Ishaq Dar, Field Marshal

exchanged views on important regional Pakistan attached high importance to

Republic.

He reiterated Pakistan's abiding commitment to enhancing its engagement with the Central Asian states under the "Vision Central Asia" policy.

Both leaders emphasized the significance of expanding and deepening Pakistan-Kyrgyz relations, that were underpinned by historic links, cultural similarities, shared values, and a common vision for regional peace and prosperity. They reviewed progress on existing cooperation frameworks and reaffirmed their shared resolve to further strengthen this partnership, particularly in the areas of trade, energy, connectivity and people-to-people contacts.

Highlighting the need to enhance economic cooperation, the two sides agreed to expand bilateral trade and investment, setting a target of USD 200 million bilateral trade volume by 2027-28, through effective imple-The prime minister emphasized that mentation of the signed agreements/ MoUs and a result-oriented approach.

The two leaders noted with satisfaction the fruitful Fifth meeting of the Kyrgyz-Pakistan Joint Intergovernmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technical and

abad, on 28-29 July 2025. Both sides recognized the importance of energy connectivity for regional stability. They reiterated their shared vision of timely and effective implementation of the CASA-1000 project,

Cultural Cooperation, held in Islam-

which represents a cornerstone of regional energy cooperation and a vital link between Central and South Asia.

The two leaders also stressed upon the vital need for well developed, secure, sustainable and diversified connectivity routes between Kyrgyz Republic and Pakistan to ensure the further enhancement of bilateral as well as regional trade. In this regard, they expressed satisfaction over operationalization of the road corridor between Pakistan and UN Security Council resolutions.

Kyrgyz Republic under Quadrilateral Traffic in Transit Agreement (QTTA).

During the talks, both sides also exchanged views on important regional and global developments. While expressing their concern over the escalating threats to peace and security in the region, they agreed that disputes must be resolved through peaceful means in accordance with international law including the UN Charter, and relevant



# Pakistan, Kyrgyzstan Ink Landmark Youth **Empowerment MoU in Islamabad**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Kyrgyzstan Thursday signed a landmark Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in Islamabad to expand youth cooperation, deepen bilateral engagement, and launch a broad set of joint programmes focused on leadership, training, cultural exchange, and capacity building.

The MoU was formally signed by Chairman of the Prime Minister's Youth Programme (PMYP), Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan, and Kyrgyz Minister for Culture, Information expose young people to new ideas, and Youth Policy, Mirbek Kemelovich Mambetaliev, during a ceremony attended by Kyrgyz President Sadyr Japarov, Pakistan's Prime Minister Mian Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, and federal ministers from both countries. cultural exchange, and civic engage-

The signing marked a significant moment for both governments as

Officials said the agreement reflects pate actively in economic, social, and the shared vision of Pakistan and community-based activities. Kyrgyzstan to harness the energy, crea-

and channel it toward national and regional progress.

The two sides emphasized that youth are central to future growth, stability, and cooperation across the region.

Under the MoU, the two countries will collaborate closely to exchange experiences, technical knowledge, and best practices in youth policy.

Both nations will organize joint events, including seminars, workshops, conferences, exhibitions, and official youth delegation visits. These activities are designed to

promote learning, build capacity, and

institutions, and opportunities for The cooperation framework places strong focus on leadership development, entrepreneurship support,

Youth from both countries will gain they moved toward a stronger, long- access to training programmes, joint term partnership built around youth initiatives, and collaborative plat- ship will create multiple avenues for contacts and build long-term goodwill. forms designed to help them partici-



regional cooperation, and innovation-driven growth.

cross-cultural learning.

ence different environments, interact tions. It reinforces diplomatic ties, and resilient region. The aim is to prepare them for with peers from another society, and supports educational cooperation, Both countries expressed strong contribute to national and regional tivity, and potential of young people meaningful roles in policy making, broaden their understanding of the and promotes cultural and profes- commitment to ensuring that the part- development.

Both countries believe this exchange Officials noted that the partner- will strengthen people-to-people

The MoU is being viewed as a mile-



representatives Government agreed that sustained collaboration at the youth level will support stability, economic development, and shared progress in the years ahead.

The agreement also emphasizes empowering young leaders with modern skills. Training modules, joint projects, and participatory platforms will help youth engage directly with Pakistan's dedication to developing a development processes.

Officials believe the initiative will ot only strengthen communities but Young people will be able to experi- stone in Pakistan-Kyrgyzstan rela- also contribute to a more connected Kyrgyzstan by giving them opportuni-

nership remains active, impactful, and long-term.

They highlighted that regional cooperation depends on preparing the next generation of innovators, reformers, and problem-solvers who can serve their societies with confidence and

competence. Chairman PMYP Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan said the signing reflects dynamic and capable generation.

He said the partnership will upport young people in Pakistan and ties to build skills, gain exposure, and

# China Pakistan Study Center (CPSC) – "Regional Connectivity in South Asia: Multilateral Pathways for Collective Growth"

👺 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The China-Pakistan Study Centre (CPSC) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organized the fifth working session of the Islamabad Conclave 2025 titled "Regional Connectivity in South Asia: Multilateral Pathways for Collective Growth." The session brought together an esteemed panel of regional experts, including Ambassador Masood Khalid, former Ambassador of Pakistan to China; Prof. Dr. Zhang Jiadong, Director, South Asian Studies, Head of Department, MNU Business School, Maldives National University; Strategic Policy Planning Cell (SPPC), National Security Division (NSD). The Khurram Dastgir Khan, former Minis-

Dastgir Khan underscored Pakistan's inclusive, rules-based, and future-oriented regional connectivity rooted in geo-economic cooperation.

He highlighted that connectivity is a shared aspiration across South Asia, vet remains underdeveloped at multiple levels. Emphasizing the region's vast economic potential, he noted that Pakistan's vision aligns strongly with the growing demand for regional integration, particularly with the increasing engagement of Central Fudan University; Dr. Aminath Sudha, Asian Republics (CARs). He pointed out that hostile regional dynamicsespecially challenges emanating from and Mr. Syed Hassan Akbar, Chairman, India and Afghanistan—continue to hinder meaningful regional integration. Stressing that credible leadership is keynote address was delivered by Mr. essential for regional harmony, he urged India to adopt a more responsible and ter for Foreign Affairs, Defence, and constructive approach toward South Asia's collective progress. Mr. Khurram

In his keynote remarks, Mr. Khurram Dastgir appreciated China's pivotal role in promoting win-win cooperation and strategic commitment to fostering highlighted CPEC as a transformative model of partnership. He emphasized that Pakistan-China relations should be optimally leveraged to expand sub-regional connectivity and strengthen Pakistan's long-term geo-economic posture. He concluded by noting that Pakistan's recent diplomatic gains provide a strong foundation for advancing its regional connectivity agenda.

Earlier in his remarks, Dr. Talat Shabbir, Director CPSC and moderator of the session, emphasized the importance of structured regional cooperation in an era characterized by global fragmentation. He highlighted South Asia's immense connectivity potential and underscored Pakistan's strategic geo-economic location as a catalyst for regional transformation and shared prosperity.

Ambassador Masood Khalid highlighted BRI and CPEC as key drivers of

South Asian connectivity and cooperation, urging Pakistan to build practical, inclusive frameworks with regional partners. He emphasized leveraging China-led mechanisms and regional

potential.

Prof. Dr. Zhang Jiadong discussed China's Global Development, Security, and Civilization Initiatives, noting their significance for South Asia's long-term

Dr. Aminath Sudha highlighted the value of robust multilateralism and inclusive regional institutions in accelerating South Asia's economic rise. She noted that as one of the fastest-growing regions in the world, South Asia stands to benefit greatly from comprehensive connectivity frameworks built on

#### platforms like CAREC and ECO to stability and prosperity. He emphasized address development gaps. By fostering the need for strengthened sub-regional dialogue, trust, and economic integracooperation, climate partnerships, tion, South Asia can transform rivalry digital integration, and inclusive narracomplementarity rather than compeinto collaboration and unlock its full tives to unlock the region's full potential. tition.

## Aurangzeb chairs inaugural 11th NFC meeting, calls it a step toward key constitutional duty

Continued from page 8

He noted that despite external threats and natural disasters, the federal government and provinces had demonstrated unity, resilience and determination, and expressed hope that the same spirit would guide the 11th NFC deliberations.

Senator Aurangzeb underscored the critical role of the NFC in ensuring equitable distribution of financial resources, promoting fiscal sustainability and supporting long-term economic growth.

He voiced confidence that the Commission would engage in meaningful and inclusive dialogue aimed at delivering a fair and forward-looking NFC Award.

The Chief Minister of Sindh

federal government for holding the first meeting of the 11th NFC which was initially postponed due to the devastating floods.

He appreciated the prompt notification of the 11th NFC in August 2025 after the expiry of the 10th NFC Award in July 2025. Shah agreed with the federal finance minister that moving forward with 11th NFC with consensus was very important and highlighted that Sindh has an unwavering commitment to the prosperity, unity and progress

He further underscored that consensus can only be developed by deliberating within the forum of the National Finance Commission and that this Commission

order to move forward.

The Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa expressed his gratitude to the federal government for holding this meeting and expressed that a strong federation and strong provinces will guarantee a strong and united Pakistan. He underscored the sacrifices of the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province made in the war on terror, which unfortunately has resurfaced again.

He further expressed the hope that the 11th National Finance Commission will address the ultra vires of the 7th NFC since June 2018 and include the population and other variables of the Newly Merged Districts in the province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and

to give them due representation and requested the other provinces for their positive response in this

He highlighted the importance of bringing the 7th NFC Award in compliance with the Constitution by including the complete province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Mian Mujtaba Shuja ur Rehman was also thankful to federal government for holding this meeting and agreed for the need of consensus, however, consensus building will take a lot of effort on everyone's part. He emphasized that importance of equitable resource distribution and consistency of policies between the Federal and Provincial Governments. He concluded

expressed his gratitude to the should adhere to its mandate in update the share of the province by expressing hope that the Award deliberations. This was decided that a Sub-group on the Commission will be successful with mutual agreement.

Mir Shoaib Nosherwani also echoed sentiments of federal finance minister and CM Sindh and stated that CM Balochistan has instructed that there should be consensus and that cooperation of Balochistan with the federation and the provinces has always been there and going forward, Balochistan will continue this path

of cooperation and consensus. He underscored the support the Federation through quoting examples of Sui Gas, Saindak and Reqo Diq projects.

During the meeting, the participants held general discussion on the strategy for the 11th NFC

from all provinces-Balochistan, Merged Districts, and its share in Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa the divisible pool, will be constiand Sindh-as well as the federal tuted which will facilitate early government, outlining their respective fiscal positions and priorities.

These exchanges contributed to developing a shared understanding of the economic landscape and the challenges that lie

The Commission also discussed the proposed schedule and timeagreed to initiate the formation will undertake work on specific mandates relevant to the NFC's

It was also unanimously people of Pakistan.

followed by detailed presentations merger of former FATA/ Newly formulation of its recommendations for the NFC by mid-January 2026. The meeting concluded with

a reaffirmation of the collective commitment to steering the 11th NFC process with transparency, professionalism, mutual respect & collaboration.

The Commission resolved to of Balochistan in strengthening line for future meetings and continue its work through a structured series of meetings and techof technical sub-groups that nical consultations in the coming months, with the shared objective of achieving an equitable and sustainable NFC Award for the

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

Index Fluctuation				
Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index				
Current	Prev. Close			
166,283.55	166,145.34			
Day's High Day's Low				
166,837.10	165,886.25			
Index Value Change				
16,794,253,345	+138.21			
Percentage	Time			
+0.08%	4 Dec, 2025 4:30 pm			
Europe: FTS	E 100 Index			
Index Value	Change			
9,710.87	+18.80			
Percentage	Time			
+0.19%	4 Dec, 4:35 pm GMT			
USA: Dow Jones	Industrial Average			
Index Value	Change			
47,838.52	838.52 -44.38			
Percentage	Time			
-0.093% 4 Dec, 12:25 pn GMT-5				

	GIVI 1-5				
Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average					
Index Value	Change				
51,028.42	+1,163.74				
Percentage	Time				
+2.33%	4 Dec, 3:45 pm GMT+9				

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	183.5	188
Bahrain Dinar	744.5	754.5
Canadian Dollar	199.5	205
China Yuan	39.26	39.66
Danish Krone	43.17	43.57
Euro	327	329.6
Hong Kong Dollar	35.69	36.04
Indian Rupee	3.05	3.14
Japanese Yen	1.7860	1.8860
Kuwaiti Dinar	911	921
Malaysian Ringgit	67.31	67.91
NewZealand \$	158.95	160.95
Norwegians Krone	27.42	27.72
Omani Riyal	729	739
Qatari Riyal	76.39	77.09
Saudi Riyal	74.9	75.4
Singapore Dollar	215.5	220.5
Swedish Korona	29.39	29.69
Swiss Franc	346.63	349.38
Thai Bhat	8.59	8.74
U.A.E Dirham	76.6	77.35
UK Pound Sterling	371.6	375.1
US Dollar	281.4	283.25

UK-Educated Entrepreneur Mian Kashif Ashfaq Tapped as First BICEFE Chairperson



Commerce Desk

LAHORE:-Chief Executive Officer Pakistan Furniture Council Mian Kashif Ashfaq, a diversified and dynamic entrepreneur with higher education from UK equipped with vast exposure has been appointed first Chairperson Board of Industrial Collaboration to Enhance Fashion Exports (BICEFE).

His achievements are countless, among many of his positive attributes is his strong decision power, his right decisions at the right time have made his previous tenure as Chairman Faisalabad Industrial Estate and Development Management Company(FIEDMC) most successful with unprecedented development. Under his leadership the employees efficiency is optimum and is integral part of many other ventures. He is also holds the positios of CEO ChenOne chain of Stores, Director Faisalabad Garments City Company, a project of Ministry of Textile Industry. President Vocational Training Institute Faisalabad, Chairman Khidmat E Khalq Citizen Community Board Toba Tek Singh, under this board two hospitals are providing free medical aid of which one is Cardiac Care Unit and second is Liver Clinic. Due to his passion he and and his father has donated their house for Liver Clinicin the prime location of Toba Tek Singh.

# Pakistan Sustainability Summit urges for urgent regulatory actions to mainstream sustainable construction, housing

**Example 2** Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Chair of Senate Standing Committee on Climate Change Senator Sherry Rehman, has called for an urgent national shift toward sustainable, circular, and climate-resilient construction while addressing the inaugural session of the 2nd edition of Pakistan Sustainability Summit and Awards in Islamabad on Wednesday. Themed on "Sustainable Housing for Economic Resilience and Climate Smart Living", the conference was organized by the **Development Communications Network** (Devcom-Pakistan) as an annual component of its National Climate Action Advocacy Programme.

Senator Sherry Rehman stressed that the core focus of the Summit must remain on sustainable construction, as Pakistan stands at a critical juncture in its climate and urbanization trajectory. "Pakistan already has Green Building Codes, but implementation is extremely low. According to the Climate Risk Index 2025. Pakistan is the most climate-impacted country in the world," she said.



Speaking about the scope of the Paki- founder and Executive Director Devcom-Pa- country faces rising climate risks, rapid urbanstan Sustainability Summit 2025 theme, the kistan Syed Munir Ahmed said: "Pakistan ization, and a severe housing deficit.

stands at a crucial juncture where economic pressures, rapid urbanization, and climate change intersect.

Speaking about the strategic directions, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry president Sardar Tahir Mahmood said: To accelerate progress, three strategic directions are central including institutionalized, transparent, and performance-driven public-private-partnerships to unlock land,

capital, and technical resources. Waseem Hayat Bajwa, Chief Executive Pakistan Infrastructure Development Company Ltd (PIDCL) and Director General of the Public-Private Wing at the Ministry of Housing and Works, highlighted the government's renewed commitment to mainstreaming sustainable housing infrastructure across Pakistan.

Speaking at the 2nd Pakistan Sustainability Summit 2025, Hamid Mumtaz Khan, Deputy Programme Manager UN-Habitat Pakistan, emphasized the urgent need for sustainable, climate-resilient housing as the

### Outstanding performance

KARACHI: Syed Tariq Hassan, Chief Risk Officer (CRO) and Group Head Risk Management of Meezan Bank, accepted the award from the Chief Guest, Mr. Saeed Ghani Khaskheli, Minister of Labour, Human Resources, Social Protection, in recognition of the Bank's outstanding performance

in Pakistan's banking sector. IGHQGEHETIL ASSOCIATION OF FAKISTALL

# JICA-Funded Drainage Equipment Plays Crucial Role During Monsoon Season

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), through its Grant Aid project "THE PROJECT FOR UPGRADING SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE SERVICES IN MULTAN", provided essential drainage equipment to WASA Multan in April 2025. During the recent monsoon season, this equipment proved instrumental in minimizing the risk of urban flooding.

A key highlight of this assistance is the deployment of de-watering sets such as dewatering pumps and a generator for additional pumps and suction machines. These units enabled the WASA to swiftly manage urban flooding, protect critical infrastructure, and ensure a higher degree of resilience for the people of Multan.

In addition, the newly provided machinery such as Jetting machines, small trucks for pipe cleaning machines, cargo truck with crane, dump trucks and pick-up trucks have enabled the WASA to cope up with its complaint management system and successfully carry out over



across Multan. These efforts have led to noticeable improvements in drainage efficiency, a reduction in sewerage blockages, and fewer service disruptions for resi-

not only enhanced our operational effi- municipal services."

35 kilometres of mechanized desilting ciency but also empowered us to better serve the people of Multan in a more responsive and sustainable way," said a representative from WASA Multan. "We are deeply thankful for this partnership, which has strengthened our institutional "The equipment provided by JICA has capacity and elevated the quality of our

#### **Meezan Bank Claims** 'Best Company' Title in Islamic Finance for Fourth **Straight Year**

**E** Commerce Desk

Pakistan's leading Islamic has been awarded the top distinction at the 40th Corporate Excellence Awards hosted by the this recognition, the Bank has maintained its standthe Financial Category' for distinguished guests. the fourth consecutive year.

The ceremony, held together senior government officials, regulators, financial industry.

business leaders and representatives of the corpo-KARACHI: Meezan Bank, rate sector from across the country. Syed Tariq Hassan, bank and one of the larg- Chief Risk Officer (CRO) est banks in the country, and Group Head Risk Management of Meezan Bank, accepted the award from the Chief Guest, Mr. Saeed Ghani Khaskheli, Management Association Minister of Labour, Human of Pakistan (MAP). With Resources, Social Protection in presence of Senator Sarmad Ali, President of ing as the 'Best Company in MAP; and several other

The award highlights the Bank's leadership in Islamic at the Pearl Continental banking and its continued Hotel, Karachi, brought contribution to the growth and stability of Pakistan's

#### **DWP Care Celebrates Service Excellence at** the Customer Support **Annual Awards 2025**



Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: DWP Care, the customer service department of DWP Group, successfully hosted the Customer Support Annual Awards 2025, honoring the outstanding achievements, dedication, and service excellence of its nationwide technicians and service professionals.

leadership, including Muhammad Farooq Naseem, Chairman & CEO of DWP Group, and Consumer Electronics (CE) Division, graced the event and applauded the relentless efforts of the CS and field

Speaking at the occasion, Muhammad Farooq Naseem, Chairman & CEO of DWP Group, said, "DWP Care has once again demonstrated that service excellence is not just a function, it is a culture. Our technicians and service professionals represent the frontline of customer trust, and this international award is a testament to the standards they uphold every day. I am immensely proud of Rizwan Butt, COO of the the team for bringing global recognition to Pakistan and to DWP Group."

### Rawalpindi Traders Announce Grand Ceremony to Honor Pakistan Armed Forces: Malik Sohail Awan

**Example 2** Commerce Desk

RAWALPINDI: Malik Sohail Awan, President of Anjuman-e-Tajran, Commercial Market Rawalpindi, said that the trader community and the entire nation are proud of the selfless sacrifices of the Pakistan Armed Forces. From eliminating terrorism to contributing to the development and progress of Pakistan, we stand firmly with our Army Chief, General Asim Munir. To pay tribute to the services of the Pakistan Army, a grand ceremony will be organized on Monday, Decem-

while presiding over an important meeting. On the occasion, Secretary Rai Zafar and a large number of traders were also present. Malik Sohail Awan stated that we are proud of our armed forces, who are bravely fighting terrorism without caring for their lives to defend the country. Some time ago, an important ceremony was announced to express solidarity with the Pakistan Army, but due to certain significant reasons, it had to be canceled. Now, to express solidarity and deep affection for our armed forces, an important ceremony will be

He expressed these views held on Monday, December 8 at 8 PM. The chief guest of the event will be Federal Minister for Railways, Hanif Abbasi.

Malik Sohail Awan said that Hanif Abbasi is a benefactor of the trader community who has completed numerous development projects for the people of Rawalpindi. A large number of traders will participate in the ceremony. The main purpose of the event is to send a message to the world that we all stand firmly with the Pakistan Armed Forces, and we stand united with the martyrs at every step. We will not let the sacrifices of our soldiers go in vain.



# The Spokesman

# Chamber of Commerce and Hum Mashal Rah Pave Way for Special Needs Inclusion

S Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: An Awareness Walk was Organized on the occasion of International Day of Persons with Disabilities in collaboration with the Multan Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Hum Mashal Rah Foundation to express solidarity with the special needs people and promote their rights and welfare in the societv. The walk started from the Multan Chamber of Commerce and Industry highway and ended at Kalma Chowk, Multan.

The walk was led by Vice President of the Chamber Azhar Baloch, CEO of Hum Mashal Rah Foundation Amna Aftab, Patronin-Chief Mrs. Qaiser Shamim Khan and Regional Director of Hum Mashal Rah Foundation Abdul Mohsin Shaheen. The walk was attended by former President of the Chamber Malik Israr Awan, former Ambassador Khayyam Akbar, President Multan Chamber of Small Traders and Small Industry



Governor Lions International Dr. Nisar Chaudhry, President Crescent Lions Club Professor Azam Hussain, social leaders Tahira. Najam, Miss Ayesha, Miss Naila, Professor Hameed Raza Siddiqui, Hanif Ramey, Assistant Secretary of the Chamber Sajid Ansari, special individuals, social leaders and a large number of students. Sheikh Umair Saeed, District Vice President Multan Chamber

Baloch, while talking to media representatives at the end of the walk, said that the International Day of Persons with Disabilities gives us a message to raise collective awareness regarding the rights, facilities and dignified position of special persons. He said that the development of society is not possible unless

of Commerce and Industry Azhar we provide special persons with education, health, employment and empowerment opportuni-

> Azhar Baloch further said that the Multan Chamber of Commerce and Industry has always been actively involved in social welfare works and will continue to provide full support to special persons at its level in

the future. He appreciated the efforts of Hum Mashal Rah Foundation and said that such institutions lay the foundation for positive change in the society. CEO Hum Mashal Rah Foundation Amna Aftab, while talking to the media, said that special persons are an important part of our society and all institutions and individuals will have to play a role together for their rehabilitation, training and welfare. He said that Hum Mashal Rah

Foundation is actively working facilities for special children for the welfare of special people and adults where training, rehaand this mission is being further expanded.

the foundation is establishing Pakistan's first comprehensive center "Noor Maskan" in DHA Multan, in which a nursery, home (residential care), and research thanked the Multan Chamber of center will be established for Commerce and Industry and said special people. She said that that only the cooperation of all Noor Maskan will be an ideal sections of the society makes such center equipped with modern purposeful projects successful.

bilitation, research, and care will be provided at one place. Aamna Aftab announced that Aamna Aftab added that this project is a big step towards bringing real change in the lives of special people, which will be implemented very soon. She

#### Exhibition

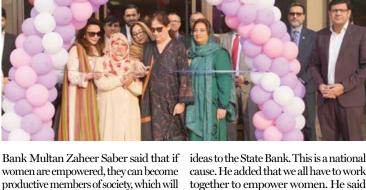
ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Portugal to Pakistan Fredrico Silva along with others taking interest in art pieces during an exhibition "Totems of Time" in Federal Capital.



### Women Entrepreneurs Day Celebrated

跨 Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Women Entrepreneurs Day was celebrated Multan and across the country under the auspices of the State Bank of Pakistan. On this occasion, a ceremony was organized at the State Bank of Pakistan Multan auditorium under the theme of Empowered Women, Prosperous Pakistan, in which hundreds of businesswomen, Chamber of Commerce, Women Chamber of Commerce, academic students and representatives of banks participated enthusiastically. In the ceremony, loan checks were distributed for empowering women and issuing loans to women entrepreneurs. Special shields were also given to banks. The ceremony was inaugurated by Chief Manager State Bank of Multan Zaheer Sabir, President Women Chamber of Commerce Miss Farah Saqib, Vice Chancellor Women University Dr. Kulsoom Paracha, Deputy Chief Manager Muhammad Adeel Khan, Deputy Chief Manager Imran Sadaf and Deputy Director Kiran Amjad. On this occasion, stalls of their products were set up by successful to provide loans to women. Address-



provide opportunities for economic and social development and eliminate deprivations from society. Only 23 percent of women have their own bank accounts. He said that State Bank Multan brought 500 women who had never seen the path of a bank to the bank and gave them loans. Today, they have become successful business women and are playing a positive uted among successful business women. businesswomen, while awareness stalls role in society, and the recovery from them And certificates of appreciation were were set up by various commercial banks is also 100 percent. Women should come distributed while the best bank award to banks and benefit from modern bank- was won by ASA Microfinance Bank and Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir ing the gathering, Chief Manager State ing. Female students should give business Bank of Punjab.

cause. He added that we all have to work together to empower women. He said that Pakistan is a resource-rich country where there is no shortage of human resources. The aim of today's day is to provide maximum business opportunities and banking facilities to women and provide maximum loans under Empowered Women, Prosperous Pakistan. On this occasion, loan checks were distrib-

#### 2nd batch of Punjab contingent departs for Karachi to feature in 35th **National Games**

**Tahir Amin Malik** 

LAHORE: The second batch of Punjab contingent departed for Karachi on Thursday for taking part in the 35th National Games being staged at Karachi from December 6 to 13, 2025.

Director General Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Khizar Afzaal Chaudhry in a statement on Thursday said that second batch of Punjab contingent is comprising of 13 teams including tennis, squash, rugby, swimming, volleyball, kabaddi, basketball, baseball, table tennis, judo, fencing, gymnastics and rowing. "Several senior team and technical officials of Sports Board Punjab are also accompanying the large batch of Punjab contingent".

Director General Sports and



Youth Affairs Punjab Khizar Afzaal Chaudhry said that Punjab's male and female athletes are leaving for Karachi with full preparation. "Punjab's players are quite determined to offer excellent performance in the 35th edition of National Games".

Director General Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Khizar Afzaal

Chaudhry informed that Punjab Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs Malik Faisal Ayub Khokhar will lead the Punjab contingent in the National Games. "Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Muzaffar Khan Sial and other senior sports officers will supervise the team proceedings during competitions of mega event".

## Pakistan, Kyrgyzstan agree to elevate bilateral ties to new highs in diverse areas

Continued From page 1

PM Shehbaz Sharif said that Pakistan was ready to provide the Kyrgyz Republic, a landlocked country, access to regional and global markets through sea ports of Karachi and Gwadar. "No doubt such initiative will further reinforce solid foundation of our friendship and brotherhood between the two countries."

"May the radiant sun of Kyrgyzstan and Pakistan unite to illuminate a future between the two countries of enduring peace and shared prosperity, a hope for both the peoples and the region and the world beyond," the prime minister added.

President of the Kyrgyz Republic Sadyr Nurgozhoevich Zhaparov, said it was his first official visit and first for any of head of

state of the Kyrgyz Republic after ties of both countries.

Terming Pakistan as an important partner of Kyrgyzstan in South Asia, the Kyrgyz president said that he viewed Pakistan's dynamic development, its growing economic potential and its ambitious infrastructure projects as a testament of PM Shehbaz Sharif's effective leadership.

He pointed out that in today's discussion with Pakistan, the two sides paid the attention to activating collaboration in trade, economy, investment, transport, logistic, education and science.

Welcoming the ongoing busisaid he attached great importance to further developing Kyrgyz-Paeffective mechanism for bringing together the business communi-

He called for full use of transtwo countries as one of the most important areas of mutual part-The Kyrgyz president said the

two sides also highlighted the key role of CASA-1000 project which will serve as a corner stone in establishing a unified energy system between Central and South Asia. He expressed the confident that timely implementation of this project will deliver significant mutual benefit to the

peoples of the two countries. Furthermore he informed that ness forum of the two countries, he the two sides also exchanged views on future cooperation in education 2027. field. Currently, he said more than kistan business council as an 12000 Pakistani students were studying in Kyrgyzstan. "We are ready to further facilitate Pakistani

students in the country," he added.

He said the two sides shared port and transit potential of the commitment to combat terrorism, extremism, and transnational crime. "We agreed to strengthen coordination between competent authorities to ensure peace, security and stability in the region."

President Sadyr Nurgozhoevich Zhaparov invited the prime minister to attend as an honoured guest in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Summit and the World Nomad Games to be held in Bishkek in 2026.

He also invited the prime minister to attend the second global Mountain Summit Bishkek plus 25" to be held in

Furthermore, he also invited PM Shehbaz Sharif for a state visit to Kyrgyzstan to further strengthen bilateral ties.

## Provincial Ministries, Ali Hassan Zardari's Institutional Dynamic...

Rehmatullah Buriro

Sindh government, who is the most dynamic and result-oriented minister among the provincial ministers, their administrative, institutional activities, and public welfare and institutional reforms will be closely observed. If we examine the cabinet of the current Sindh Chief basis of work, among the active ministers, provincial ministers like Syed Nasir Shah, Jam Khan Shoro, Sharjeel Inam Memon and Haii Ali Hassan Zardari will be seen as institutionally active in their own unique way. Among these Zardari, due to his simple nature, is the model minister of the current Sindh cabinet as an institutionally dynamic minister. In Sindh politics, there was also a leader of the Zardari commu-

fwe take a comprehensive look President of Pakistan Asif Ali Zardari, that Haji Ali Hassan Zardari, a very at the provincial cabinet of the the famous leader Haji Ali Zardari in the 60s. Nawabshah was one of the best political figures in the country's politics since the 1980s and 1970s. Similarly, from the mid-1980s and the full 1990s to the present, Asif Ali Zardari has been the name of the best politician. The complex character of power and politics, Asif Ali Zardari has reached the Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on the heights of politics and power. It would not be wrong to call the position of the national president of the People's Party the political ascension of Asif Ali Zardari. Similarly, when the successor of Allama Mashriqi, Hakim Ali Khan Zardari, played a role in the politactive ministers, it is seen that again, ical training of his beloved grandson Provincial Minister Haji Ali Hassan Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, he played a role in the political training of the current President of Pakistan, Asif Ali Zardari. Similarly, when the working class elected President of Pakistan Asif Ali Zardari, the humble character of nity in the 70s, the father of the current Nawabshah's politics, no one believed

simple and humble worker, could reach the provincial ministry and remain so strange thing. But the wise have said the truth that the election of leaders is not

without purpose and political vision. Today, we see the institutional dynamic of Provincial Minister Haji Ali Hassan Zardari, representing this political activist and public electorate, as if we are forced to write the following words.

Provincial Minister for Works and ment. The provincial minister made Services and Prisons in the Sindh Cabinet, Haji Ali Hassan Zardari, is one of those ministers who, in his short tenure, has shown remarkable dynamic with administrative reforms, speed of development works and public conven-

ience policies within the institutions. The real test of provincial governments is not just with announcements or planactive for the welfare of the institution ning, but this test is when the paper and the public. Working seems like a orders are aligned with the modern needs of the staff and institutions on the ground. In this context, Haji Ali

Hassan Zardari's work is exemplary. For years, the dilap-

idated conditions of prisons, inhumane conditions of prisoners, shortage of staff, and weaknesses in supervision have been major challenges in the prisons depart-

frequent visits to review the actual situation of the prisons, in which instead of relying only on expenses or reports, he adopted a clear strategy by looking at the practical situation. As a result, the conditions of food, treatment,

cleanliness, and detention according to the rules for prisoners in many jails began to improve. Steps such as a new monitoring system, security management, and thorough training of staff became an important part of institutional reform. On the other hand. the Works and Services and Roads Department is the lifeblood of Sindh's infrastructure. For years, complaints of slowness and corruption have been going on in dilapidated roads, drains, government buildings, and development projects. After Ali Hassan Zardari took charge, there has been a clear acceleration in the repair of roads, construction of new roads, and projects of the building department. The pace of work has increased in many places from Karachi to Larkana, Thatta to Sanghar, and Badin to Sujawal, improving regional transportation. Steps like vigilant monitoring, strictness on contractors, and ensuring the quality of work are making the performance of this

ministry more effective. The provincial minister's active involvement on the institutional and administrative front is not only improving the performance of the ministries, but is also proving that if the political leadership so desires, every department within the provincial government can prove to be an exemplary model for the convenience of the people. This dynamic behavior is also a clear message to other ministers that performance is the real standard of political leadership. The structure of the government in Sindh will be strong only when the ministers prioritize the internal difficulties, administrative weaknesses, and developmental needs of their departments. Ali Hassan Zardari's performance is proof that reforms in institutions are possible, and with better strategies, the people can also benefit directly. Thus, the dynamic behavior of this minister is becoming a positive example for the overall performance of the Sindh government.

# The Spokesman

# Meeting ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate, Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani and Speaker National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq in a meeting with President of the Kyrgyz Republic, H.E. Sadyr Japarov, on Thursday.

# Aurangzeb chairs inaugural 11th NFC meeting, calls it a step toward key constitutional duty

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

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb on Thursday chaired the inaugural meeting of the 11th National Finance Commission (NFC), saying the gathering reflected the federation and provinces' shared resolve to fulfill a key constitutional responsibility.

According to press release issued by finance ministry, from Sindh, the commission meeting was attended by Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah, and Dr Asad Saveed, Member NFC; from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, CM Muhammad Sohail Afridi, and Dr Musharraf Rasool Cvan Member NFC; from PunjabMian Mujtaba Shuja ur Rehman, Minister for Finance and Nasir Mahmood Khosa Member NEC: and



ttended by Muzammil Aslam. remarks. Senator Muhamma from Balochistan Mir Shoaib Advisor to CM for Finance, Aurangzeb extended a warm federal government, as directed

Nosherwani, Minister for government of Khyber Pakh-Finance and Mahfooz Ali tunkhwa on special invita-Khan, Member NFC attended tion. The provincial Finance importance and collaborative Secretaries also attended spirit underpinning the NFC The meeting was also the meeting. In his opening process.

highlighted the constitutional

by the Prime Minister, was keen to convene the inaugural meeting of the 11th NFC without delay. While the session had been postponed earlier due to the devastating floods affecting Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Sindh, the Minister noted that today's gathering reflected a shared resolve to fulfil a vital constitutional responsibility.

He stressed the government's commitment to transparent and sincere dialogue, reaffirming that the federal government was present to listen to the provinces and work collectively in the national interest.

Aurangzeb commended the provinces for their cooperation in signing the National Fiscal Pact and acknowledged their efforts in achieving mandatory fiscal surpluses to support Pakistan's compliance with IMF requirements.

Continued on Page 6

# Pakistan asks Britain to hand over Shehzad Akbar, Adil Raja



#### **E** City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's interior ministry has formally initiated the extradition process for Shehzad Akbar and Adil Raja through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, reported 24NewsHD TV channel on Thurs-

The development comes as Islamabad seeks the return of several individuals accused of running coordinated propaganda campaigns from abroad.

The move followed a meeting between Interior Minister Mohsin Nagyi and British High Commissioner Jane Marriott, during which the two sides discussed bilateral relations, security cooperation, and the repatriation of Pakistanis residing

illegally in the United Kingdom.

presented "solid evidence" against Shehzad Akbar and Adil Raja, allegedly involved in anti-Pakistan propaganda from abroad.

In the meeting, Mohsin Naqvi urged the UK to hand over Shehzad Akbar and Adil Raja without delay, stating that both men are wanted in Pakistan.

He said that while Pakistan fully supports freedom of expression, no country can allow the spread of malicious disinformation or defamatory content targeting its institutions.

The minister added that Pakistan would welcome enhanced British cooperation in returning those engaged in "anti-Pakistan propaganda" while residing abroad.

Interior Secretary Muhammad Khurram Agha and senior officials from the ministry were also present Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi during the meeting.

# Saudi Arabia extends \$3bn deposit for another year

#### Commerce Desk

Saudi Arabia on Thursday extended the \$3 billion deposit it holds with the State Bank of Pakistan for another

set to mature today (Thursday), are activities managed by the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

crucial support in maintaining under a formal agreement. stability in the country's foreign exchange reserves.

Pakistan's foreign exchange reserves, plays a key role in supporting the country's balance of payments and overall financial stability.

Officials said the extension ensures that Pakistan will not face The funds, which come from the immediate repayment pressures and Saudi Development Fund, originally will help sustain ongoing economic

The deposit has been held at the State Bank of Pakistan since Saudi The Saudi move will provide Arabia initially provided it in 2021

The Saudi Development Fund's approval for another year reinforces According to sources, the \$3 financial support for Pakistan amid billion deposit, which forms part of ongoing economic challenges.

# LHC to take up petitions against 27th Constitutional Amendment today

#### 👺 Bureau Report

LAHORE: The Lahore High Court (LHC) is set to take up a series of petitions challenging the 27th Constitutional Amendment, with a crucial hearing scheduled for today. A three-member bench, headed by

Justice Sadaqat Ali Khan, will preside over the proceedings. Justice Jawad Hassan and Justice Sultan Tanveer Ahmed will also serve on the bench. In preparation for the hearing,

Justices Sadaqat Ali Khan and Jawad Hassan travelled to Lahore from Rawalpindi earlier today

The petitions were filed by citizen

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Lawyer and

rights activist Imaan Zainab

Mazari-Hazir on Thursday

filed an urgent application in

the Supreme Court (SC) seek-

ing an early hearing in her

bid to halt the ongoing trial

against her and her husband,

Advocate Hadi Ali Chattha, in

the controversial tweets case.

the trial is moving at such

speed that a verdict could

be delivered within days,

rendering their pending

In her petition, Imaan

appeals ineffective.

matter for two weeks.

Imaan Mazari argued that



Munir Ahmed along with several others, who have raised objections to the 27th Constitutional Amendment the bench as it takes up the petitions.

Imaan Mazari moves SC to halt verdict in

and are seeking that it be declared null and void. The federal government, the Punjab government, and multiple relevant parties have been

named respondents in the case. Legal observers note that tomorrow's hearing could mark an important moment in the ongoing constitutional debate, as the court begins to examine the arguments surrounding the amendment's validity. The outcome may have far-reaching implications for governance and constitutional interpretation in the country.

The LHC will commence the hearing tomorrow, with all eyes on

> the apex court against IHC's refusal to issue a stay order on

> the trial petition. The appeal

was filed through Advocate

Faisal Siddiqui. The counsel

demanded a stay order on the trial in the District and

They contended that their constitutional right to a fair

trial was denied by the court,

which recorded evidence in

their absence. The petitioner

said that the statements of 4

prosecution witnesses were

cate Hadi Ali Chattha further

contended that instead of

for two weeks after issuing notice to

times that the next hearing of the case

The trial court was told several

Advocate Mazari and Advo-

recorded in their absence.

Sessions Court.

### Karachi manhole tragedy: DC East transferred, AC, SSP, DSP suspended

#### 👺 Bureau Report

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Thursday took sweeping administrative action disciplinary proceedings be initiated after the tragic death of a three-yearold child, Ibrahim, who fell into an open manhole near Nipa in Karachi.

Eight senior officers of the Karachi administration came under scrutiny, with DC East Abrar Ahmed Jaffar transferred and SSP East, as well as DSP New Town, suspended for negligence.

Assistant Commissioner Gulshan Iqbal, Senior Director Municipal Assistant Engineer of Water Corporation have also been suspended. The provincial government also

issued formal transfer and suspension notifications and directed that further against all those found responsible.

Following his transfer, Abrar Ahmed Jaffar was ordered to report to the Services Department, while Malir Deputy Commissioner Samiullah Nisar Ali Sheikh assumed additional charge as DC East.

The chief minister vowed that all aspects of the incident would be investigated thoroughly, insisting that any official whose negligence contrib-Services, Executive Engineer and uted to the tragedy would face consequences.

# Third International Punjabi Conference to commence in

ISLAMABAD: Delegations from Punjab's metaphysical thought. around the world are arriving in the provincial capital to participate in the of climate change, experts will three-day event, which being held at the Punjab Institute of Language, Art

cians, students, women, and children tion, Policy Response, and the Way will take part in a diverse program of activities, including debates, discussions, live performances, and singing

Participants will explore Punjab's

In light of the growing challenges

present critical analyzes on environmental vulnerability, governance, and sustainable recovery under the theme "Floods in Punjab: Devasta-Forward."

Another session, Narrative of Language: Public and State Discourse on Punjabi as a Medium of Instruction, will invite policymakers, intellectuals, and educators to examine the ideological and pedagogical tensions surrounding moth-

# **Lahore on Friday**

and Culture (PILAC).

Intellectuals, poets, artists, politicompetitions.

Indigenous Philosophy: The Legacy of Yogis, Sufis, and Gurus, delving into the spiritual traditions woven

by mystics and sages who shaped er-tongue education.

Mazari contended that the Islamabad irreparably harmed.

controversial tweet case

High Court (IHC) refused to grant a The plea follows developments stay order and instead adjourned the earlier in the day when Islamabad District and Sessions Judge Afzal She warned that if the trial court Majoka adjourned the case until issued a conviction before the apex Tuesday for final arguments and indicourt hears the case, their constitu- cated that the verdict would likely be tional right to due process would be announced after arguments conclude.

Yesterday, Lawyer and rights issuing a stay order, the Islamabad activist Imaan Zainab Mazari-Hazir High Court adjourned the hearing and her husband, Advocate Hadi Ali Chattha have moved the SC to stop their trial in the controversial tweets

Advocate Mazari and Advocate

was on December 4, but the court was Hadi Ali Chattha filed an appeal in not listening to them. Published by: Almass Ayoub Sabir from Zero Point Printers Rawalpindi

the parties.