

CM celebrates Sindhi Culture Day, says World Culture Festival Hosted 1,000 Artists from 142 countries

Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, addressing a grand ceremony at the Arts Council of Pakistan Karachi on Sunday, said he was proud that Karachi had successfully hosted more than 1,000 artists from 142 countries during the 39-day World Culture Festival, calling it an "unprecedented cultural achievement" for Sindh and Pakistan.



Punjab governor urges strengthening of Army

Punjab Governor Sardar Saleem Haider Khan ha

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Selamat datang

ISLAMABAD: A view of portraits of Pakistan's President Asif Ali Zardari, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, and Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto installed in front of Parliament house ahead of Indonesia President Prabowo Subianto will undertake an official



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Pakistan committed to principles, objectives of SAARC Charter: PM

👺 Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif said Pakistan remained firmly committed to the principles and objectives of the SAARC Charter as it believed that genuine cooperation, guided by sovereign equality, mutual respect and constructive engagement, can unlock South Asia's vast potential and ensure a better tomorrow for all.

In a message on 40th anniversary of SAARC Charter Day observed on December 8, 2025. he said, "As we commemorate, the 40th anniversary of the



SAARC Charter Day, I extend commend the SAARC Secremy warmest greetings to the peoples and the governments of all SAARC member-states. This auspicious occasion, reminds us of our shared aspirations for peace, progress and prosperity across the region of South Asia."

"When SAARC was established, over four decades ago, it was meant to provide an essential platform, to promote dialogue, foster cooperation and strengthen the bonds that bring our nations together," he added.

He said, "While these goals have, regrettably, remained elusive due to political considerations, within the region, I region," he continued.

tariat for striving hard to provide its dedicated assistance as well as for its efforts to advance the organization's goals and creating opportunities for meaningful collaboration among the member states.

"In an era of growing regional cooperation, the necessity of economic, digital, and peopleto-people connectivity in South Asia could hardly be overemphasized.

Together, we must work to enhance linkages that facilitate trade, investment, innovation. and cultural exchange in our

Political leadership expresses solidarity with Armed Forces, slams PTI anti-state narrative





Shehbaz, Nawaz discuss

in Jati Úmra meeting

political, economic situation

👺 Bureau Report

held a special meeting with former prime minister and at his residence in Lahore's Jati Umra.

During the meeting, the in detail. The prime minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, while under discussion.

Punjab Chief Minister LAHORE: Prime Minister Maryam Nawaz updated the Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday meeting on the ongoing development projects in the province, highlighting that work PML-N leader Nawaz Sharif on various projects is continuing at a fast pace and will be completed on schedule.

She also briefed the two leaders discussed the leaders on preparations for prevailing political situation local government elections in Punjab and progress on also briefed Nawaz Sharif restoring Lahore's historic on the political scenario in cultural heritage. The meeting included discussions on develthe economic situation and opment strategies and various electricity prices also came administrative matters.

News Desk ISLAMABAD: The lawmakers from across the political spectrum have on Sunday by criticising the PTI for

supported Pakistan's armed forces what they termed as an orchestrated bid to malign state institutions and an alleged conspiracy against Pakistan.

A day earlier, the PTI had expresses dismay over ISPR press conference by calling it inappropriate and unfortunate after the spokesperson accused incarcerated Imran Khan of being a "narcissist" and a "mentally ill person" who was becoming security threat Maqbool Siddiqui during a press with his persistent anti-army narra-

Speaking about the anti-state propaganda of PTI, the Minister said those spewing hatred against state and its institution will have to face a crushing defeat. He said Tehreek-e-Intishaar should be ashamed of speaking ill against the armed forces of Pakistan and the senior military leadership

which brought to knees an arrogant enemy like India.

The Minister said PTI has become a tool in the hands of enemies of Pakistan as tweets and false propaganda through their official accounts is taken up and propagated by Indian and Afghan media.

Muttahida Qaumi Movement Pakistan (MQM-P) leadership has also called out the PTI for deviating from a political route and resorting to the politics of the streets to cause instability in the country.

MQM-P Chairman Khalid conference in Karachi said PTI has continued its politics of hurling allegations, and instead of choosing the right forum to address those allegations, it used it to create political instability in the country.

Railways Minister Hanif Abbasi during a press conference in Rawalpindi, assailed Imran Khan by calling him a threat to national security and

stating that had his claims about the ex-premier receiving funding from India and Israel been taken seriously, Pakistan would not be in the state it

Echoing the words of Director General Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) Lt Gen Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry, the railways minister called Imran a mental patient and slammed him for a social media post against the armed forces. He also assailed Imran's family for giving interviews to Afghan and Indian media.

Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party (IPP) President Abdul Aleem Khan has said Pakistan's security forces are sacrificing their lives to protect the country's children, calling those who attain martyrdom for the nation are people of great honour'

Addressing a workers' convention in Faisalabad, Federal Minister for Communications expressed gratitude to the people of Faisalabad for their warm welcome.

Indonesian President to visit Pakistan on December 8-9

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: The President of Indonesia, Prabowo Subianto set to visit Pakistan on December 8 and 9, the Foreign Office confirmed on Sunday, marking an important bilateral engagement between the two countries.

According to a spokesperson, the visit is taking place on the invitation of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and will include a high-level delegation of ministers and senior Indonesian officials.

that the last presidential visit from Indonesia occurred in 2018, and this year's trip carries particular significance as Pakistan and Indonesia celebrate the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations.

Officials described the upcoming engagement as an opportunity to bolster political, economic and strategic coop-

During his stay, the Indonesian President will hold delegation-level talks with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, focusing on expanding trade, investment, defence and cultural partnerships.

He is also scheduled to meet President Asif Ali Zardari, as well as the Chief of Defence Forces, Field Marshal Syed The spokesperson noted Asim Munir, in a bid to enhance defence and security collaboration. Diplomatic sources expect the visit to result in renewed commitments and new areas of cooperation as both countries seek to deepen long-standing

Security forces kill 12 terrorists in Kalat

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Security forces, during an intelligence based operation in Kalat District of Balochistan yesterday, killed twelve terrorists belonging to Indian proxy, Fitna al Hindu-

The operation was conducted on reported presence of terrorists in the area.

numerous terrorist activities in the country.



Sanitization operations are being conducted to eliminate any other Indian sponsored terrorist found in the area as During the conduct of oper-relentless Counter Terrorism tion, own forces effectively campaign under vision "Azm engaged the terrorists' loca- e Istehkam" (as approved by tion, and after an intense fire Federal Apex Committee on exchange, twelve Indian spon- National Action Plan) by Secusored terrorists were sent to hell. rity Forces and Law Enforce-Weapons, ammunition and ment Agencies of Pakistan will explosives were also recov- continue at full pace to wipe out ered from the terrorists, who menace of foreign sponsored remained actively involved in and supported terrorism from

President commends security forces for eliminating Fitna al Hindustan terrorists in Kalat

跨 City Desk



ISLAMA-BAD: President Asif Zard-Ali ari, Sunday, commend-

ed the security forces for a successful and effective operation

Balochistan.

The president said the state of Pakistan was fully capable of taking enemies of peace to their end at all costs.

He expressed his satisfaction over the clearance and sanitization steps being taken in the area, President Media Wing, said in a press release.

The president reiterated against Indian proxy Fitna that resolve of the nation al Hindustan in which 12 would foil every conspiracy terrorists were killed in Kalat, of Fitna al Hindustan.

Prime Minister pays tribute to security forces for successful Kalat operation

👺 Bureau Report

LAHORE: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif has praised the security forcligence-based operation in Kalat district.

which resulted in the elimination of 12 terrorists belonging to the group known as "Fitnat-ul-Hindustan."

Sunday, the Prime Minister highlighted the government's unwavering commitment to stabilizing the country. He commended the security forces for their significant victories in the ongoing fight against terrorism, calling the latest operation a clear demonstration of the courage,

professionalism, and dedication of Pakistan's armed forces.

Prime Minister Sharif emphasized that the entire es for their successful intel- nation stands united with the Pakistan Army in its efforts to

> He reiterated that the people of Pakistan are resolute in their determination to eradicate all forms of

combat terrorism.

terrorism and will continue In a statement issued on to support the armed forces until peace and stability are fully restored.

The Prime Minister reaffirmed that the state will not tolerate any elements that threaten national security and vowed to take all necessary measures to ensure long-lasting peace across the country.

PM AJK pays tribute to Bhutto Family, vows to uphold democracy and public service

Spokesman Report

LARKANA: Prime Minister Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Faisal Mumtaz Rathore, has said that national consensus, democracy and good governance are essential to realising the vision for a strong, stable and prosperous Pakistan cherished by the Bhutto family.

Speaking to the media, Prime Minister Faisal Mumtaz Rathore highlighted the struggle and sacrifices of the Bhutto family, describing their struggle as the brightest chapter in Pakistan's political history."

Zulfikar Ali Bhutto gave Pakistan a unified constitution, laid the foundations of the nuclear programme, and empowered the weaker segments of society, while Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto sacrificed her life for the restoration of democracy", he noted.

the struggle and perseverance of the



Begum Nusrat Bhutto, remain a beacon of guidance for every political worker. Paying rich tributes to their The Prime Minister added that unparalleled political struggle and service to the country, the PM said the

Bhutto family has always maintained a bond of affection with the people of Kashmir.

his commitment to uphold democratic

traditions and advance the mission of public service. Terming his visit to Garhi Khuda Bakhsh a historic and deeply emotional moment, the Prime Minister said that standing at the graves of the martyrs of democracy had further strengthened his spirit of public service.

Earlier, upon his arrival to Garhi Khuda Bakhsh, the AJK premier visited the mausoleums of Quaid-e-Awam Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, Shaheed-e-Jumhuriat Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto, and Madar-e-Jumhuriat Mohtarma Nusrat Bhutto. The Prime Minister laid floral wreaths on their graves and offered Fateh. Senior PPP leader Chaudhry Muhammad Riaz, EX PM AJK Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan Most Senior Minister Mian Abdul Waheed, and ministers Sardar Javed Ayub, Malik Zafar Igbal, and Prime Minister Rathore reiterated Javed Iqbal Badhanvi were also present

AJK PM Expresses Grief Over The Demise Of Ch. Fakhar-uz-Zaman's Mother



Spokesman Report

GULPAHRA GUJAR KHAN: Prime Minister Azad Jammu and Kashmir Faisal Mumtaz Rathore attended the funeral prayers of the mother of PPP Azad Kashmir Punjab Zone President Chaudhry Fakhar-uz-Zaman here today. The PM was accompanied by senior PPP leader Chaudhry Muhammad Riaz, Presidential Spokesperson Fida Hussain Paracha, Government Minister Javed Iqbal Badhanvi, Member Kashmir Council Khawaja Tariq Saeed Advocate, Special Assistant Syed Azadar Shah Kazmi and others. On this occasion, Prime Minister Faisal Mumtaz Rathore extended his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family and prayed for the departed soul.

Shah Ghulam Qadir's Congratulations: A Reflection on Military Leadership and National Pride

Spokesman Report



ISLAMABAD: President Pakistan Muslim League (N) and Leader of the Opposition, Shah Ghulam Qadir, has extended heartfelt congratulations to Field Marshal General Syed Asim Munir on his appointment as Chief of Defence Forces. He stated that the nation looks toward the Defence Forces with renewed hope as they embark on this new era of responsibility.

Shah Ghulam Qadir said that the leadership, vision, and courage of Field Marshal General Syed Asim Munir will further strengthen the defence of the motherland, ensure stability, advance the cause of resolving the Kashmir issue, and enhance public confidence. He remarked that General Asim Munir's services as a devoted soldier of Pakistan have always been a source of pride. "We firmly believe that Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir will continue to confront future challenges with wisdom, determination, and unwavering commitment," he added.

He further said that Field Marshal General Syed Asim Munir's clear stance—"Kashmir is our jugular vein; Pakistan stands firmly on its principled position"—has greatly boosted the morale of the Kashmiri people. For this reason, the people of Kashmir extend warm congratulations to him and express hope that, under the leadership of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Field Marshal General Asim Munir, meaningful progress will be achieved toward resolving the Kashmir issue.

PPP Government launched a new era of development in AJK: Chaudhry Qasim



Bureau Report Mirpur/Chakswari

Azad Jammu & Kashmir's Minister for Finance and Inland Revenue, Chaudhry Qasim Majeed, has stated that under the leadership of Prime Minister Raja Faisal Mumtaz Rathore, the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) government has launched a new era of development, public service, and welfare across all constituencies of Azad Kashmir. He said that the offices of the Prime Minister Secretariat, cabinet ministers, and administrative departments have been opened to the public, restoring the people's confidence in the government and further strengthening the historic bond between Kashmiris and Pakistan.

The Minister announced that the AJK Cabinet has approved the Health Card in its very first meeting. He further revealed that assets worth Rs. 10 billion have been secured to transform the Bank of Azad Jammu & Kashmir into a scheduled bank.

Speaking during his first visit to his constituency, Chakswari, after assuming charge of the Finance and Inland Revenue portfolio, Chaudhry Qasim Majeed thanked the people of Chakswari for their overwhelming support, warm reception, and trust. He reaffirmed his commitment to meeting their expectations and addressing all public issues. He said that PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has already issued clear directives to resolve the demands of the Public Action

He expressed gratitude to President Asif Ali Zardari, Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, Political Affairs In-Charge Faryal Talpur, and Prime Minister Faisal Mumtaz Rathore for entrusting him with the significant responsibilities of Finance and Inland Revenue. He highlighted that Chakswari was awarded two ministries due to their support.

The strike

LAHORE: Chairman Mutahida Transport Action Committee Asmat Ullah Niazi addressing a press conference in the Pro-



Sardar Attique's Vision for Development in Jammu & Kashmir: A Focus on Public Welfare

👺 Bureau Report

DHEERKOT: President of All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference and former Prime Minister, Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan, has said that the All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference is the only ideological political party of the state which has always prioritized development, transparency and public welfare. He said that whether in government or in opposition, the party has consistently placed public interest and developmental objectives at the forefront.

During his visit to Dhaerikot, Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan inaugurated and laid the foundation stones of several key development projects in Union Council Kotli Rangoli and adjoining areas. Major initiatives included the inauguration of the Diyar Gali Bahak Road, Hans Choki Darwaya Road, and the groundbreaking of Chanchal



Jandali Road. These projects, he said, will significantly improve local mobility, enhance access to health and educational facilities, and relieve longstanding hardships faced by the local population.

The ceremonies were attended by regional political and social leaders, central and local office-bearers of the atives, and a large number of local residents. Among the prominent participants were Major Sardar Nasrullah Khan, President Muslim Conference Halqa Dhirkot Sardar Irfan Abbasi, General Secretary Halqa Dheerkot Raja Munir Khan, District Councilor Sardar Shaukat Afzal, President UC Kotli Raingoli Raja Khurshid Khan, Raja

Muhammad Niaz Khan, Chairman UC Chamyati Sardar Shakeel Abbasi, District Council Member Nasreen Akhtar Raja, senior journalist Raja Shesh Khan, Raja Abrar Sarwar, Raja Fawad Rukhsar, Sardar Shamshad Ayub, Abdul Shakoor Bhatti, Raja Ashfaq Khan, Raja Naeem Khan, Asib Abbasi, and many other workers and

Human Rights Day Exposes the World's Silence on Kashmir

10, governments, institu- world. tions, and global leaders of universal principles that supposedly apply to all human beings. But for the people of Indian-occupied Jammu and Kashmir, this day serves as a painful use of pellet guns, which have blinded reminder of a global system that has repeatedly failed them.

At the heart of the Kashmir conflict unmatched in any other democracy. lies a truth the world rarely acknowl-UN-mandated right to self-determi-Security Council resolutions. For over seven decades, India has refused

Human rights abuses in the region celebrate Human Rights are not isolated incidents—they are Day, reminding the world systematic. Killings, torture, mass detentions, enforced disappearances, and the suppression of political and civil liberties define everyday life. The and maimed hundreds, stands out as a stark symbol of state violence

One of the deepest wounds inflicted edges: the Kashmiri people possess a on Kashmiris is the tragedy of the enforced disappearances. Thousands nation, guaranteed through binding of men were taken by Indian forces and never returned. Their families remain in permanent uncertainty. The women to honour this obligation, turning known globally as "Half-Widows" live Kashmir into one of the most milita- suspended between grief and hope,

Their suffering represents one of the most overlooked humanitarian crises of the modern era.

India's repression, however, is no longer limited to physical control. It includes a deliberate policy aimed at altering the region's cultural, religious, and demographic identity. Properties are being seized and sealed, land is

being confiscated, and legal frameworks have been redesigned to dilute Kashmir's Muslim-majority character. This form of demographic engineering is prohibited under international

Mushtaq Ahmad Butt

very year on December rised and restricted territories in the unable to mourn or rebuild their lives. humanitarian law-yet it continues without international scrutiny.

Despite these realities, the global response remains muted. Powerful

states that speak forcefully on human rights elsewhere maintain a troubling silence on Kashmir. This selective outrage undermines the universality of human rights and weakens the international legal order. If the world overlooks

abuses in Kashmir because of India's geopolitical or economic weight, then the principles celebrated on Human Rights Day become little more than political rhetoric.

It is time for the international is rooted in internationally recognised community to address this contradiction. Human rights institutions, global media, and influential states must confront India's violations with the same urgency applied to crises elsewhere. This includes:

demanding accountability for enforced disappearances and state

upporting independent international investigations,

challenging demographic changes that violate international law, and reaffirming the Kashmiri people's right to determine their political future.

Kashmiris have shown extraordinary resilience despite decades of occupation and oppression. Their struggle

principles, not in extremism or illegitimacy. What they demand is simple and lawful: the right to live with dignity, the right to be heard, and the right to choose their own destiny.

Human Rights Day is meant to celebrate progress. But as long as Kashmir remains under siege-its people blinded by gunfire, its land seized, its population re-engineered, its families torn apart by enforced disappearances—this day will continue to highlight a profound global failure.

If the world truly believes human rights are universal, then it must prove it in Kashmir. Silence is no longer an

The writer is Secretary Information, All Parties Hurriyat Conference



Namaz Timings Maghrib . 4:59 pm

.. 6:28 pm **EMERGENCY**

EMENOEIG I	
Rescue (Police)	15
Bomb Disposal	15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/	
Islamabad1122 &	16
Emergency Ambulance 1122	2 &
& Rescue Services 44511	22
Motorway Police92660	44
Motorway Police 9270601-	20

Women Police Stations

- 141111		
Islamabad	922259	
Rawalpindi	9270601-2	
	D \/	

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

HOSPITALS

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

DEPARTMENTS

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

Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony

👺 City Desk

Islamabad Serena Hotel, is delighted to commence this festive season with the Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony on December 5th, 2025, in the decorative lobby. This celebration brings forth the magic, the excitement of the festivities, and is the start of the many celebratory events henceforth this season.

This joyous event included many festive neers from being grac by the beautiful harmonious voices of the carollers to the anticipation of lighting up the twinkling lights and ornaments on the Christmas tree. The words shared by Pastor Rashid from Christ Church, brought forth his blessing and emphasized on the importance of giving this season. Furthermore, the General Manager of Islamabad Serena Hotel, Christoph Hoeflich, wished everyone a Merry Christmas and to relish this evening in

The spirit of Christmas was enhanced by the laughter of the children as they got to meet Santa Clause, and their unbridled innocence and happiness touched the hearts of everyone at the event. The refreshments at the ceremony with the sweet and savory treats and the beverages, warmed the very soul along with the heartfelt environment. Overall, the ambiance of the hotel lifted everyone's spirit and left everyone giddy for the start of the season.

Empowering Women: Insights from APWA's Recent Seminar in Multan

MULTAN: In connection with the international 16-day campaign under the slogan "No justification for violence against women", a special seminar was organized by the All Pakistan Women Association (APWA Multan) at the residence of Joint General Secretary Tehmina Munir, in which APWA members, Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry and wellknown social women leaders of the city participated in large numbers.

Addressing the seminar, APWA Multan Vice Chairperson Farah Faisal said that every section of society has to play its role to eliminate violence against women. APWA Multan General Secretary Nazia Yasir said in her address that violence affects women not only physically but also in the form of mental, economic and social attitudes.

He said that APAWA is continuing to take practical steps and awareness campaigns for the welfare of women. Host of the event and Joint General Secretary Tehmina Munir said that the aim of Orange Day is to raise collective awareness for women's rights.

She said that today's seminar is Farah Saqib, said in her address that Ayesha Farzana, Mrs. Farah Ilyas, Asma Nadeem, Mrs. Sheila Mustafa



practical role in social reform in a full manner. President of Women Chamber

strong voice and are playing their economic stability and social development.

The seminar was attended by Mrs. of Commerce and Industry Multan, Hafsa Rauf, Mrs. Munza Jamil, Mrs. Mrs. Iqbal, Mrs. Afshan Wasim, Mrs.

proof that women have become a empowering women is the basis of Mrs. Rabia Bosan, Mrs. Ayesha Mansoor, Rahat Bano, Mrs. Zahra Omar, Mrs. Rumana Tanveer Sheikh, Mrs. Rameen Anis, Mrs. Rafat Sadaf,

Pasha, Mrs. Atrat Mujtaba Gilani, Mrs. Masooma Sibtain, Mrs. Seerat Fatima. Mrs. Faima Aun Bappi, Mrs. Rukhsana Maqsood, Mrs. Sarah Alamgir, Mrs. Abida Ashfaq and other distinguished women.

Chirsmas Lights

ISLAMABAD: A Santa Claus interacts with the people of Christen community during ceremony entitled "Christmas Lights" at local hotel of Federal Capital, ahead of greatest holy event of Christens around the world "Christmas".



Workshop Highlights: A Collaborative Approach to Ending Gender-Based Violence in Punjab

👺 Kiran Asim

MULTAN: A workshop was organized by Reverts Learning and Sangi Development Foundation to prevent gender-based violence. Kamran Rajar, Kulsoom Saqib, Zeeshan Noel, Zahra Kamal and Dr. Aira Andreas and attended a workshop on preventing gender-based violence organized by Riots Learning and Sangi Development Foundation.

The workshop was attended by representatives from the United Nations Development Program, Punjab Women Protection Authority, National and Minority Affairs Depart-



Commission for Human ment Punjab, Punjab Police, Rights, National Commission on the Status of Women, Women, teachers from univer-Punjab Information Technology Board, Human Rights members of civil society.

sities and colleges, lawyers and On this occasion, Reverts

Learning presented a research paper based on the powers and challenges faced by the institutions working on genderbased violence in Punjab. After which the participants formulated recommendations regarding the lack of coordination between different departments, training and unavailability of facilities.

In which it was emphasized that the Anti-Rape Crime Cell and the Women Protection Cell should be strengthened on an expanded basis so that a high-level coordination forum should be formed for better coordination between

Journalists Meet to RPO Sahiwal

👺 Bureau Report

SAHIWAL: Former President of Chichawatni Press Club, Muhammad Saeed Akhtar Rana along with former General Secretary Hafiz Muhammad Faheem Javid, called on Regional Police Officer (RPO) Sahiwal, Rana Ayaz Saleem at

During the meeting, they congratulated him on assuming charge as RPO of Sahiwal Division. Matters of mutual interest were discussed in detail. including the overall law and order situation in the Sahiwal region, police performance and the issues faced by the general

Speaking on the occasion, RPO Sahiwal Rana Ayaz Saleem stated that maintaining law and order and ensuring the safety of citizens' lives and property is the top priority of the police.

He added that indiscriminate action



dealers and illegal weapons. Providing are among the top priorities. He further immediate justice to the public, improving police station culture and is being taken against criminals, drug making service delivery more effective

urged citizens to contact the police without fear, assuring that their problems would be addressed on a priority basis.

At the end of the meeting, the RPO reaffirmed his commitment to utilize all available resources to make the Sahiwal region crime free, safe and peaceful.

Crackdown against Quackes

Zafar Chishti

TOBATEK SINGH: Deputy District Health Officer (DDHO) Kamalia Dr. Asim ijaz said that quack doctors deserve no leniency whatsoever, as they are unqualified and endanger human lives through unsafe and unprofessional medical practices. He emphasized that the public must also act responsibly by avoiding treatment or purchasing not medicines from such untrained individuals, who lack proper knowledge about diseases, their



complications and appropriate treatment methods. He further stated that seeking treatment from these so-called doctors can put lives at serious risk. Dr. Asim ijaz added that the Health Department is actively conducting operations across the region against fake and illegal practitioners. He reiterated that this crackdown will continue without interruption until the menace of quackery is completely eliminated. He urged citizens to immediately report any clinic, medical store or individual involved in illegal medical practice so that timely action can be taken to protect public health.

Chaudhry Inam Praises Unified Military Leadership Under Field Marshal Asim Munir

RAWALPINDI: Political and social leader Chaudhry Inam Zafar said that the appointment of Field Marshal Asim Munir as the first Chief of Defence Forces (CDF) is historic, and he is truly deserving of this position. With this appointment, the command of all armed



forces has come under a single center, which will further strengthen our defense structure and national security. He paid tribute to General Asim Munir for his leadership abilities.

In his important statement, he said that under General Asim Munir's leadership, the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Cyber Forces will operate under a unified command, giving him exceptional authority over military policy, strategic assets, and nuclear command. As a five-star Field Marshal, his position will prove to be a milestone in institutional history. Chaudhry Inam Zafar added that his leadership and diplomatic engagements will enhance Pakistan's strategic significance.

The leadership of the Awaam Pakistan Party—including Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, Miftah Ismail, Sardar Mehtab Khan—as well as all party workers and the public, congratulate and pay tribute to their commander on receiving this new rank.

Bakery Sector Faces Unprecedented Pressures: Urgent Call for Price Adjustments on Rusk and Bread"

跨 City Desk

RAWALPINDI: Chaudhry Shehzad Iqbal, Senior Vice President of the Rawalpindi Restaurants, Caterers, Sweets & Bakers Association, representing traders associated with the bakery and sweets sector, said that he considers it necessary to highlight a very important and factual issue. He stated that they have always strived to provide the public with the best, high-quality, clean, and hygienic food at reasonable prices. However, the fixed prices of certain items—particularly rusk and bread—set by the government have put the business community under severe pressure.

Chaudhry Shehzad Iqbal explained that when these prices were originally fixed, a sack of flour cost Rs. 6,000, whereas today the same sack costs Rs. 12,000. He noted that despite the doubling of flour prices, they have not compromised on quality. Some owners did increase prices of bread and rusk, yet their product quality remains significantly superior even now.

He said that given the current rise in production costs, continuing business at fixed prices has become nearly impossible. They wish to continue providing the public with high-quality, clean, and hygienic items as before, but maintaining the same prices while preserving quality is no longer feasible.

He urged the government to allow prices of rusk and bread to be adjusted according to current conditions, so that traders can continue operating-even with lower profits-and maintain the supply of quality food for the public.

Expressing confidence, Chaudhry Shehzad Iqbal added that the bakery and sweets business community hopes the government will seriously consider their legitimate request and provide appropriate

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Pak-EPA Steps Up Anti-Smog Drive

he Pakistan Environmental Protection Agency (Pak-EPA), working under the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, has intensified its crackdown on winter smog in the federal capital by launching extensive inspections of vehicles and industrial units, demolishing non-compliant brick kilns and establishing new emission-testing stations as part of a multi-tier plan to curb rising air pollution.

Pak-EPA Director General Nazia Zaib Ali said the measures to control air pollution, including smog, were being implemented under the agency's short-, medium- and long-term strategy developed in close coordination with the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination (MoCC), Islamabad Traffic Police (ITP), Capital Development Authority (CDA) and the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Administration.

Smog, a hazardous mix of fog and pollutants such as nitrogen oxides, carbon monoxide, sulphur oxides and particulate matter, has worsened across northern Pakistan this season. Citing recent research, the federal environmental watchdog's head Ms Ali noted that the transport sector remains the largest contributor to deteriorating air quality, accounting for nearly 43 per cent of smog-forming emissions in Punjab, while a 2023 Urban Unit study determined that the figure for Lahore stood at a staggering 83 per cent.

According to Pak-EPA data collected by its enforcement team, since the anti-smoke drive was launched on December 1, more than 1,000 diesel-powered vehicles have been inspected at major entry points to Islamabad in joint operations with the ITP. Over 300 challans have been issued and more than 80 vehicles impounded for violating National Environmental Quality Standards (NEQS) relating to emissions and noise.

To support enforcement efforts, four new Emission Testing Stations have been set up at D-Chowk, Lake View Park, Metro Cash & Carry and F-9 Park, where vehicle owners receive compliance certificates after inspection, DG Nazia Zaib Ali

"We cannot allow non-compliant vehicles at any cost to poison the city's air and endanger public health," Ms Ali emphasised. "Our enforcement teams are in the field every day and violators are being penalised without exception. Anti-smog guns, enhanced monitoring and real-time inspections are part of our immediate response to this health emergency."

Pak-EPA Director Dr Zaigham Abbas said the crackdown on industrial pollution had also been intensified. All 30 brick kilns operating in the capital have now shifted to environment-friendly zigzag technology, while three non-compliant kilns were demolished, he said. In Sangjani, where 48 marble factories operate, 32 have been found compliant and 16 remain under scrutiny; three have already been sealed. In the I-10 Industrial Area, two steel manufacturing units have been under round-the-clock surveillance since 2018 through live camera feeds monitoring stack emissions and raw material handling. Scheduled inspections of industrial units across the capital are continuing, he added.

A State in Fear of a Prisoner

dark milestone when the cally charged press conference on 4 December 2025 in Islamabad—a briefing that signaled not professionalism, but power; not security, but political domination; not institutional neutrality, but institutional fear. The nation watched as a military spokesperson delivered a fierce ideological assault on an elderly man already locked behind bars: Imran Khan. After nearly three years of isolation, broken communication, severed organizational links, and denied legal relief, he was declared a "national security threat."

In Pakistan's political vocabulary, that term is not descriptive—it is fatal. It pushes a political opponent outside the sphere of citizenship and dangerously close to being labelled an "enemy of the state," a label historically weaponized in Pakistan to justify irreversible outcomes.

The absurdity of branding a man in solitary confinement as a threat to a nuclear state of 240 million has not gone unnoticed. Imran Khan has no access to television, no political machinery left, no communication with his party, no legal recourse, and no presence on the ground. If he still poses a threat, the threat is not him—the threat is the weakness of the system that trembles at the mere idea.

This pattern is not new. Pakistan has a long history of producing "security threats" from among its own political leaders—only to resurrect them when circumstances shift.

Nawaz Sharif was declared a security risk, jailed, exiled, stripped of political rights, and disqualified for life. The state projected him as a conspirator, a destabilizer, and a liability. Yet when his utility re-emerged, the same

akistan crossed another wiped away all convictions, and rein-tenure, renewable every five years, and decide," he is describing the institution stalled him into political respectability. DG ISPR held his politi- Benazir Bhutto was repeatedly branded a national danger, exiled, chased through fabricated cases, only to be recalled when political engineering required her. Even Zulfikar Ali Bhutto—executed under the label of being a threat—was posthumously resurrected so completely that his ideology still anchors Pakistan's largest political dynasty.

The message is clear: in Pakistan, security threats are manufactured, not discov-

ered, and resurrected. not eliminated. Their destruction and their revival carry the same signature-military necessity. But Imran Khan

represents something unprecedented: a man

who, even in chains, commands legitimacy that no amount of engineering can fully dissolve. And that is where the danger lies for the establishment. Declaring him a "security threat" is not about politics—it is about preparing public ground for permanent removal, because if imprisonment is insufficient and political erasure is incomplete, the state appears to be contemplating a solution beyond politics.

This chilling conclusion becomes sharper when placed against Pakistan's newly consolidated military architecture. The political nervousness of the DG ISPR cannot be separated from the creation of the Chief of Defence Forces (CDF) under the 27th Constitutional Amendment. This restructuring abolished the Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee and placed all armed forces army, navy, air force, cyber, intelligence, and space—under a single command state brought him back on a red carpet, held by Field Marshal Asim Munir. His

his legal status, backed by amendments to the Pakistan Army Act, have created the most centralized military command Pakistan has witnessed in half a century.

In such a system, dissent is not opposition—it is treason. Popular legitimacy is not competition—it is danger. And an imprisoned leader with the loyalty of millions becomes a symbolic threat to a command structure built on totality, continuity, and unchallenged supremacy.

The press conference also revealed another uncomfortable truth. When journalists asked pointed, probing questions—about political overreach, constitutional violations, engineered dismantling of political parties, and the legal basis for calling a

prisoner a security threat-the DG ISPR visibly lost composure. He advised reporters to "focus on other issues," "leave the army alone," and "not drag the military into unnecessary controversy." His irritation made one fact undeniable: the most powerful institution in Pakistan now lacks the confidence to face civilian

Qamar Bashir

The contradictions deepened when the spokesperson insisted, "The state is above the army," and claimed that "the state will decide the fate" of a man the army has branded a threat. This would have carried weight in a country where parliament legislates independently, courts rule autonomously, and governments govern freely. But in Pakistan's current realitywhere parliament passes military-authored amendments, courts deliver establishment-aligned verdicts, and civilian governments act as administrative arms of GHQ-the claim collapses. When the DG ISPR says "the state will

speaking through him. And when the same institution labels a defenseless prisoner as a national enemy, the fate implied is not a political one—it is existential.

Yet even this suffocating structure cannot escape the judgment of history. No authoritarian system—whether apartheid South Africa, military South Korea, communist Czechoslovakia, or pre-independence Bangladesh—has survived the moment when its people realize their rulers fear prisoners more than they fear public collapse. Every regime that declared a man in chains as the nation's greatest danger eventually fell. And the prisoner, once helpless, became the symbol of national awak-

A state does not fall because of a man in solitary confinement; it falls because of those who rule through fear and forget that nations ultimately belong to their people. When a government and an entire military hierarchy must be reengineered to contain a prisoner, it is not the prisoner who is powerful—it is the regime that is terrified. No decree, no amendment, no uniform, and no manipulated narrative can suppress the collective will of a nation once awakened. The more the state tries to erase Imran Khan, the more it exposes its own illegitimacy. And when a state trembles before a man in chains, the people eventually realize the chains are not on the prisoner—they are on the nation itself. The day those chains break, the prisoner becomes the leader, and the regime that feared him becomes a footnote in history.

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



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

Questions Surrounding Indian Government's Stability, Decisionmaking & Links to Global Scandals

ndia is portrayed as facing a a result, Indian politics stands at a crit-functional efficacy in decision-making, lence, intensified by Dr. Subravulnerable to foreign blackmail through involving a former Union minister and potential pressure on the Prime Minister. These accusations challenge the leader's cultivated moral image, trigger a polar-

ized public reaction, and reinforce doubts about ethical governance. They also reveal systemic concerns such as internal fractures, foreign interference, delays in decision-making, and erosion of public trust. Swamy's long history of criticizing economic data,

corruption handling, and policy failures is clearly under intense and multifaceted adds weight to the current claims, which now threaten not just governance but national sovereignty and institutional

The controversy connects with wider public distrust in democratic institutions like the judiciary, investigative agencies, and media, which critics argue have been weakened or politicized. Accusations of external leverage deepen skepticism and make citizens doubt the fairness and strength of accountability systems. The situation is amplified by psychological and cion spreads faster than verified facts. As government's core internal stability, its irreparable loss of trust in the global arena.

period of deep political turbu- ical crossroads, with the handling of these claims likely to determine whether demomanian Swamy's explosive alle- cratic institutions can withstand the strain. underlying implication, as suggested by gations that senior leaders may be This moment demands strong public vigilance and pressure for transparency, indecompromising material, including claims pendent investigations, and real accountability. Regardless of Swamy's motives, his allegations have opened a crucial national debate about leadership stability, foreign influence, and institutional resilience-

> culture, governance practices, and public expectations in the long term. This is not just fleeting partisan drama or standard political theat-

one that could signifi-

cantly reshape political

rics; it serves as a crit-

ical, revealing window **Abdul Basit Alvi** into a ruling system that stress, a structure torn between the operational necessity of centralized power and the severe limitations imposed by compromised credibility, all of which carry direct and immediate implications for the institutional reliability and crucial regional strategic posture of the Republic of India. Dr. Swamy has, for a significant period now, been consistently utilizing his socialmedia presence to broadcast openly on highly sensitive political and national security issues. His most recent posts have, in Prime Minister Modi and, by extension, a remarkably direct and unambiguous

and its potential exposure to vast, damaging international scandals. The Dr. Swamy and amplified by public reaction, is a simple, if politically devastating, one: that scandals often gain public traction and spread based upon a discernible degree of underlying reality. The implicit reasoning is that significant, lasting scandals do not typically disseminate widely or sustain public interest when they are exclusively targeted at genuinely innocent individuals, and therefore, it is argued, there must always be a substantial element of underlying reality and verifiable truth hidden somewhere beneath the surface of the scandalous allegations.

Dr. Swamy's comprehensive and persistent revelations have, in the eyes of critics, forcibly opened a Pandora's Box concerning the very nature of so-called Indian democracy, the claimed levels of transparency, and the deeply contested truth about Prime Minister Modi and the moral and political integrity of his governmental administration. The notion is forcefully advanced that the purported 'real face' of the regime, previously concealed beneath a carefully constructed political veil of integrity and strength, is now being exposed for the entire world to scrutinize, and that the unavoidable consequence is the uncomfortable fact that the international credibility of India itself, social-media dynamics in which suspi- manner, openly questioned the Indian have suffered a significant and perhaps

National Stability Supreme objective: Lt-Gen Sharif

G ISPR Lieutenant General Ahmed Sharif's recent press conference was not the routine institutional communiqué many expected. Delivered with composure, clarity and a deep sense of national duty, it emerged as a thoughtful intervention in Pakistan's fractured public discourse. At a moment when the country confronts political polarisation, economic anxiety and the relentless pressure of disinformation, his message served as a reminder that national stability requires maturity, restraint and responsible

communication. His briefing fulfilled a dual purpose: it clarified institutional boundaries while simultaneously articulating a broader national context. This balance is rare yet essential in an environment where narratives collide and speculation too easily eclipses substance.

General Sharif began by firmly reiterating that the Pakistan Army operates strictly within its constitutional mandate, committed solely to safeguarding national security. Politics, he stressed, is neither the institution's domain nor its aspiration.

At a time when political arguments frequently seek to drag institutions into partisan crossfire, the DG ISPR's clarity was both timely and necessary. He reminded the nation that even the perception of institutional turf wars harms a state already navigating economic fragility and security pressures. Stability, he underscored, requires every institution to respect its boundaries and perform its responsibilities without encroaching on others

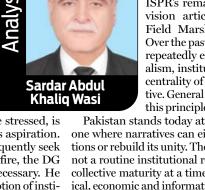
He reiterated that the Army's role in governance, elections and administrative processes remains strictly neutral and confined to the constitutional framework. Whether assisting electoral logistics or responding to civil requests, the military acts only within legal boundaries. Creating or toppling governments, he stated unequivocally, is not the Army's mandate.

Toward the conclusion of his address, General Sharif adopted a reflective tone, reminding institutions and citizens alike that Pakistan's future is a shared responsibility. The military is strong and steadfast, but it cannot alone solve governance issues, stabilise the economy or mediate political conflict. Political leaders must prioritise national interest over rivalry, the judiciary must deliver swift and effective justice, the administration must improve governance, and the media must restore credibility by grounding its work in accuracy and national commit-

ment. Citizens, too, must base their opinions on verified information rather than emotional or manipulated narratives.

It is important to view the DG ISPR's remarks within the broader vision articulated consistently by Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir. Over the past year, the Army Chief has repeatedly emphasised constitutionalism, institutional harmony and the centrality of a unified national narrative. General Sharif's statements reflect this principled institutional direction.

Pakistan stands today at a defining crossroads one where narratives can either fracture its foundations or rebuild its unity. The DG ISPR's message was not a routine institutional reminder; it was a call for collective maturity at a time when the nation's political, economic and informational landscape demands discipline, sobriety and a shared sense of purpose. If political leaders choose dialogue over confrontation, if media institutions prioritise truth over sensationalism, if state organs embrace cooperation over conflict. and if citizens commit themselves to verified information rather than digital hysteria, then Pakistan can reclaim coherence, stability and forward momentum. But if these warnings go unheeded, the resulting drift will harm not one institution or party but the entire national fabric. The choice, ultimately, belongs to all of us-whether we rise to the demands of statehood or surrender our future to the chaos of division.a



Choudary Najeeb Pioneering a New Era in US-Pakistan **Business Relations**

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Chairman of the US-Pakistan Business Alliance (USPBA), Choudary Najeeb, along with founding members of the Alliance and MBA students from Yale University, called on Pakistan's Ambassador to the United States, H. E. Rizwan Saeed Shaikh, at the Embassy of Pakistan in Washington, D. C.

During the meeting, Choudary Najeeb briefed the Ambassador on the upcoming visit of a 35-member Yale MBA delegation and USPBA representatives to Islamabad in the first week of January 2026. This will be the first official US delegation to Pakistan led by USPBA under the leadership of Choudary Najeeb.

According to the schedule shared, the delegation will visit key national institutions, including National Defence University (NDU), National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST), FPCCI, meetings with the Chairman Senate, and Speaker National Assembly Ayaz Sadiq. The delegation will also participate in the launch ceremony of the US-Pakistan Business Alliance in Islamabad, which will be attended by senior officials from the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Commerce, Board of Investment, business leaders, the President of FPCCI Atif Ikram Sheikh, and senior diplomats from the US

Pakistani Ambassador to US Rizwan Saeed Shaikh said "We welcome the nities of both countries." Yale University delegation and the



leadership of USPBA to Pakistan. USPBA said "This visit marks a mile-Such exchanges play an essential role in strengthening bilateral economic Alliance," said Choudary Najeeb. and academic linkages," Ambassador Rizwan Saeed Shaikh said.

He added, "Pakistan offers vast opportunities in technology, energy, agriculture, manufacturing, and innovation. We look forward to constructive interactions that enhance people-topeople ties and build long-term partnerships between the business commu-

Choudary Najeeb, Chairman

stone for the US-Pakistan Business

"Our mission is to create meaningful platforms for dialogue, investment, and cooperation. The Yale MBA delegation's exposure to Pakistan's economic potential will help reshape perceptions and unlock new avenues for collaboration. The upcoming launch ceremony of USPBA will further institutionalize this partnership."

Member, Chairman Pakistan chapter communities.'

of USPBA USPBA and President Hafizabad Chamber of and Industries Said "We are committed to strengthening Pak-US commercial relations through structured engagement and showcasing Pakistan's real economic strengths," said Malik Sohail Hussain.

"This delegation will help build confidence among US investors and students, highlighting Pakistan's talent, resilience, and emerging opportunities. USPBA will continue to serve as Malik Sohail Hussain, Founding a bridge between the two business

Dialogue Best Solution to National Issues: Sheikh Aftab

B Raza Nagvi Attock

ATTOCK: In a democratic set up dialogue is the best solution to all the problems. The press conference of DG ISPR was the outcome of the situation created by the leadership of a political party. MNA Sheikh Aftab Ahmad said this while addressing a press conference at his residence.. He said, when a political party is trying to disgrace its own army and its generals then must expect the words used by DG ISPR. He said, our defence forces and are giving sacrifices for Pakistan and its people thus certainly deserve respect and honour. During the recent war with India, the defence forces under the leadership of Field Martial Asim Munir proved their worth, compelled the enemy to lick the dust. Sheikh Aftab was of the opinion that a political party(PTI)has created such a scenario which reflects anti state agenda and just for personal ego wants to create lawlessness. He said, because of stubbornness of the leadership of a political party its own people have become against it. MNA sheikh Aftab said, our army chief Field Martial now Chief of Defence Forces Syed Asim Munir proved that Pakistan is a great country and its defence is invincible.. Sh Aftab While replying different questions said that all the elected members must sit in the parliament to sort out solution to all the problems for the development of the country and prosperity of its people.

A Special Holiday Tribute: Recognizing Our Heroes with Free Festive Meals

B Chaudhry Tabraiz Aurah

LONDON: Conservative Councillor Qaisar Abbas has launched the "Thank You Festive Meals" initiative to recognise and thank Veterans, Armed Forces personnel, Police Officers and Ambulance Crews for their outstanding services during the Christmas and New Year period.

Speaking at the launch, Cllr Qaisar Abbas said: "I am pleased to launch the Thank You Festive Meals initiative. These outstanding

service personnel go above and beyond to protect and support us during the most difficult and challenging times. This initiative is our small token of appreciation and a festive gift to thank them for their services. I thank all our Proud Partner restaurants, cafes and takeaways who have generously joined this initiative. They are small local businesses with big hearts."

The Thank You Meals will be available from 20 December to 30 December 2025 at 29 Proud Partner restaurants and takeaways across Thurrock. Each Proud Partner will provide one free meal per day on a first-come, first-served basis throughout this period.

COMSTECH Hosts Annual Meeting of Consortium of Excellence

 $Coordinator\ General\ Stresses\ Strengthened\ Academic\ Collaboration\ Across\ OIC\ Region$

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The OIC Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation (COMSTECH) convened the Annual Meeting of the COMSTECH Consortium of Excellence (CCoE) at its Secretariat in Islam-interactive learning programmes. abad, bringing together Vice Chancellors, Rectors, and senior representables t practices, exchange of scholars, tives from leading universities across technology transfer, and joint academic across OIC Member States. the OIC Member and Observer States programmes are vital for overcoming

international delegates representing universities from Iran, Somalia, Palestine, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Uganda, Bangladesh, Benin, Cameroon, Gabon, Côte d'Ivoire, Senegal, in addition to several prominent institutions from Pakistan.

Coordinator meeting, Muhammad Igbal Choudhary warmly welcomed the participants and higheducation institutions across the Muslim world. He stressed that one of the foremost developmental challenges pool of skilled professionals and work-

tion systems.

He noted that the global higher education landscape has evolved significantly after the COVID-19 pandemic, with new digital learning tools and hybrid education models improving access to skill-based training and short "Collaborations, knowledge sharing, This year's meeting hosted nearly 30 the educational challenges faced across the OIC region," he remarked.

Earlier in the day, the meeting featured two technical sessions focusing on character mastery, future university models, and the evolving nexus between society, economy, and industry. Delegates engaged in struc-Speaking at the opening of the tured brainstorming discussions led by senior international trainers and General OIC-COMSTECH Prof. Dr. academic leaders. The sessions highlighted the need for competency-driven education, modern pedagogical tools, lighted the significance of sustained university-industry partnerships, and academic linkages among higher collaborative training programmes to prepare graduates for emerging global challenges.

The annual meeting also included in OIC countries remains the limited a moderated open discussion on key thematic areas of CCoE cooperation, force, a gap that must be addressed covering recitation of objectives, presthrough strengthened tertiary educa- entations on COMSTECH initiatives,

brief introductory remarks by international and local CCoE universities, and consultations on the Plan of Action for 2026. Universities deliberated on expanding inter-university cooperation across faculty exchanges, student mobility schemes, senior management training opportunities, and joint research and innovation projects aimed at strengthening research ecosystems Prof. Choudhary

CCoE member universities to actively benefit from COMSTECH's flagship programmes, including the Research Fellowship Programme, Distinguished Scholars Programme, COMSTECH Forum on Environment and Ecosystem Restoration, the Centre for Training and Research on AI and Emerging Technologies, and the OIC Technology and Innovation Portal. Details of these initiatives were shared in a comprehensive COMSTECH presentation later in the meeting.

Concluding his remarks, the Coordinator General reaffirmed COMS-TECH's continued commitment to supporting collaborative ventures and capacity-building initiatives across the CCoE network. He extended his best wishes for productive discussions and strengthened partnerships among the participating institutions.



The Annual Meeting served as a identifying future priorities, and deep-

scientific excellence and sustainable vital platform for reviewing progress, ening academic cooperation to promote development across the OIC region.

New DC Multan: Public Expectations and the Urgent Need for Reforms



r. Deputy Commishaving worked closely with the Chief Minister Punjab, you have directly witnessed

her discipline, vision, and strict monitoring system. For this reason, the people of Multan have far greater expectations from you than from any ordinary government officer. We trust that you are fully aware of your effects that directly benefit the public. responsibilities, but only the citizens For instance: activating the DC Office can provide a realistic picture of the district's ground-level challenges. Therefore, we sincerely urge you to controlling prices, improving traffic acquaint yourself fully with the city's management, regulating security conditions, shortcomings, complaints, companies, the Press Law Branch, and administrative lapses so that you can formulate solutions and strategies bases, shutting down fake newspathat bring genuine transformation to pers and unlicensed printing presses, Multan's administration.

disappoint us, and through your experepairing streetlights, and ensuring

you can position this city among the best-organized districts. The citizens of Multan are looking to you with hope, and we wish for your initiatives to be recorded in the city's history as

Multan's infrastructure has deteriorated due to years of neglect, poor planning, and weak oversight. Immediate repairs or full rehabilitation are long-term endeavors that cannot be completed in a few months or by a few isolated measures. Therefore, if the current Deputy Commissioner truly wants to earn a place in the hearts of Multan's citizens, they must focus on practical and immediate solutions to everyday problems rather than merely envisioning grand projects.

While budgets, approvals, and timelines are pending for major infrastructure projects, the district administration can still implement ow-cost measures with immediate Complaint Cell, eliminating illegal markets, monitoring encroachments, unregistered organizations, and dataclosing illegal petrol sales points, We are confident that you will not addressing blocked sewage systems,

rience, integrity, and strict discipline, cleanliness. These are actions whose impact can be felt within weeks, giving citizens a tangible sense of change.

The DC Office's Press Law Branch is currently plagued by severe inefficiencies, incompetence, and administrative weaknesses, where even basic matters concerning newspapers are delayed. This not only affects media performance but also raises questions about administrative transparency in the district. The proliferation of fake. self-styled, and unregistered newspapers has weakened journalistic standards, with dummy journalists exploiting government offices. These practices openly violate the Printing and Publications Ordinance 2002. The situation is so dire that even directives from the Chief Secretary of Punjab and the Press Registrar Islamabad fail to prompt effective action in the DC office, with the Deputy Commissioner kept entirely

unaware by their own staff. During the tenure of the previous DC, Sitting Publications & Printer was issued a declaration without proper printing press ownership, a glaring administrative and legal lapse. If the current DC wishes to leave a lasting legacy, strict legal policies, fully digital records, targeted action against fake newspapers, and comprehensive reforms in the Press Branch are essential. By establishing a transparent, organized, and active media regulation system, they can not only resolve



immediate issues but also secure a place in Multan's history as a capable and memorable administrator.

The DC Office Complaint Cell currently appears completely inactive, eroding public trust. Complaints submitted via social media receive neither acknowledgment nor action. Even requests uploaded to the Pakistan Citizen Portal—the nation's most effective complaint system established by the Prime Minister—are continuously ignored. The concerned branch neither provides updates nor follows up, and no progress in resolving issues is visible. Such negligence not only undermines administrative performance but silences citizens' voices, violating basic principles of good governance. If the current DC truly wants to establish a robust public service system, fully activating the Complaint Cell with transparency and

accountability is an urgent and indis- complaints, evaluate departmental pensable step—this is the reform that performance, and hold negligent can cement their credibility for years.

Control Price Magistrate and Para-Force actions have become mere symbolic measures with no real impact on markets or relief for citizens. When magistrates initiate legal proceedings against inflation and adulteration mafias, police often refuse to register cases, paralyzing the system and emboldening criminal elements. Rates in central markets like grain and vegetable markets are not regularly monitored, allowing traders and warehouse owners to arbitrarily set prices and exploit citizens. The lack of rate monitoring, artificial shortages, and sale of adulterated food openly reflect weak governance and poor strategy. Until the DC strengthens the magistracy system, holds police accountable, and implements strict digital monitoring of markets, real results against inflation and adulteration cannot be achieved. This is the sector where decisive, consistent action can win citizens' hearts

Alongside implementing an "Open Door Policy" in the DC Office, an effective complaint tracking system with regular audits is essential. Each complaint should be assigned a unique tracking number, allowing citizens to monitor progress online and trigger automatic alerts if action is not taken within the stipulated time. Monthly audits will review

officers accountable. Transparent reporting will allow citizens to see how many complaints were received and resolved, enhancing administrative transparency, accountability, and public confidence. Despite clear instructions from

Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz and Commissioner Multan, illegal petrol sellers openly challenge the administration across every street and neighborhood in Multan. Immediate and strict action is now imperative. Calls have been made for the complete removal of illegal goat, poultry, and chicken markets operating on Sundays and Fridays from Hussain Aagahi Chowk to Daulat Gate Chowk, which create traffic congestion, noise, and sanitation problems. Similarly, illegal advertisement boards around city parks should be removed to restore the parks' aesthetics and provide citizens with a clean environment.

The Regional Public Relations office in Multan must address the irregularities involving bogus press accreditation cards and hold responsible parties legally accountable. Meetings and selfies with dummy or self-styled journalists must be banned to prevent misuse of government resources and protocol. Genuine journalists' issues should be prioritized, and the actual situation of Journalist

Bull & Bears PSX 100-Share

Index Fluctuation		
Pakistan: PSX 1	00-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close	
167,085.58	166,283.55	
Day's High	Day's Low	
167,923.45	166,369.72	
Index Value	Change	
28,450,057,135	+802.03	
Percentage	Time	
+0.48%	5 Dec, 2025 4:30 pm	
Europe: FTS	E 100 Index	
Index Value	Change	
9,667.01	-43.86	
Percentage	Time	
-0.45%	5 Dec, 4:35 pm GMT	
USA: Dow Jones I	ndustrial Average	
Index Value	Change	
47,986.78	+135.84	
Percentage	Time	
. 0.000/	5 Dec, 12:54 pm	

+0.28%	GMT-5	
Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average		
Index Value	Change	
50,491.87	+-536.55	
Percentage	Time	
1 05%	5 Dec, 3:45 pm	

· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		
Percentage	Time	
-1.05%	5 Dec, 3:45 pm GMT+9	
Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dallar	101E	100 E

•		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	184.5	188.5
Bahrain Dinar	744.5	754.5
Canadian Dollar	200.05	204.75
China Yuan	39.26	39.66
Danish Krone	43.17	43.57
Euro	327.5	330.5
Hong Kong Dollar	35.69	36.04
Indian Rupee	3.05	3.14
Japanese Yen	1.8025	1.9025
Kuwaiti Dinar	912.5	922.5
Malaysian Ringgit	67.31	67.91
NewZealand \$	158.95	160.95
Norwegians Krone	27.42	27.72
Omani Riyal	728.75	738.75
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	374.5	378
IIS Dollar	281.3	283.2

Customs foils multiple smuggling attempts worth Rs 74.4 mln in



ISLAMABAD: The Collectorate of Customs Enforcement, Peshawar, has successfully thwarted several major smuggling attempts, seizing goods estimated Rs 74.4 million during a series of coordinated anti-smuggling operations conducted across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

In a significant operation, the Enforcement Division D.I. Khan intercepted three trucks transporting 12,200 kg of smuggled betel nuts, 4,021 sleeves of foreign-origin cigarettes, and 170 tyres. The goods, along with the offending vehicles having a total estimated value of Rs. 54.5 million were

seized, said a news release. In another action, the Enforcement Division D.I. Khan confiscated various non-duty-paid cosmetics including hand and face creams, lotions, shampoos, and petroleum jellies recovered from different passenger conveyances. These goods are valued at Rs 2.4 million.

Meanwhile, the Peshawar Division seized two non-duty-paid vehicles, one Toyota Vitz and one Toyota Aqua, with a combined value of approximately Rs8 $\,$

Similarly, the Anti-Smuggling Directorate (ASD) Nowshera intercepted a JAC Pickup loaded with 2,000 sleeves of smuggled cigarettes, seizing both the goods and the vehicle. This case carries an assessed value of Rs 9.5 million.

These anti smuggling operations of Pakistan Customs in KP and across the country reaffirm the FBR's commitment to curbing smuggling and safeguarding the national economy.

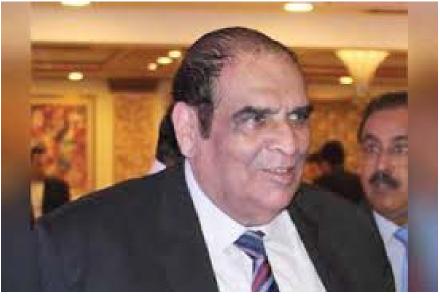
Malik for steps to expand economy, investors' participation

Example 2 Commerce Desk

LAHORE: SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry former President Iftikhar Ali Malik Sunday called for building vibrant and inclusive capital markets to support economic expansion, broaden investor participation and advance the ongoing structural reforms.

In a statement here today octogenarian popular trade leader of South Asia, said developing a modern, integrated and investor-friendly capital market ecosystem must be a key national priority, essential for improving access to finance, promoting savings, deepening market activity and strengthening Pakistan's long-term economic resilience.

Haling the judicious decision of creation of Capital Market Development Council at ministry of finance is a right step in right direction and council must also focus on meeting the genuine requirements of cross-border market integration, technology alignment, regulatory modernisation and incentives for issuers to



raise funds through debt and equity markets. importance of building high-liquidity, dynamic to strengthen the contribution of capital He said government must reaffirm the and transparent price-discovery mechanisms markets to national economic growth.

Iftikhar Ali Malik said it's good omen that government have attached great importance for commitment to creating well-functioning markets that support issuers in raising capital and offer investors secure and competitive investment avenues.

He said the ongoing structural reforms are already improving market performance and stressed the need for both the government and the private sector to make fuller use of the debt capital market.

He urged the council to identify and remove bottlenecks that limit private sector participation, noting the capital market's central role in connecting entities that need capital with those that have savings, through efficient and transparent issuance of equity and debt

Taxation remains a key factor influencing capital market attractiveness and the Tax Policy Office, SBP, SECP, DMO and Finance Division should jointly review capital market taxation, issuer-side tax incentives and measures to encourage wider listings and transparency, he concluded.

Islamabad Expo 2025

ISLAMABAD: Children are paint on plans pots during the "Islamabad Expo 2025" at Pak China Friendship Center as organized IWCCI by in Federal Capital.



'Kyrgyz President's Visit To Open New Chapter Of Economic Ties'

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: Honorary Consul Kyrgyzstan Meher Kashif Younis, Sunday said the results-oriented and highly successful state visit of Kyrgyz President Sadyr Japarov to Pakistan is set to open a new chapter of economic cooperation between the two brotherly Muslim countries.

Speaking to media here today at Kyrgyz consulate he said the visit has laid a strong foundation for scaling up bilateral trade from the existing 15 million dollars to nearly 200 million dollars within the next two years, reflecting a renewed commitment to deepen regional connectivity, commercial partnerships, and strategic collaboration.

He Pak-Kyrgyz have agreed to accelerate progress on multiple fronts, including energy cooperation, education, textile and pharmaceutical trade, industrial linkages, agriculture, and digital transformation. He said President Japarov's engagements with Pakistan's top leadership were marked by mutual trust and a shared vision for regional prosperity, especially through enhanced transport corridors to facilitate businessmen on both sides.

He further stated that Kyrgyzstan, being strategically located in Central Asia, offers Pakistan a gateway to untapped markets, while Pakistan provides a significant export base for Kyrgyz industries. He maintained that strengthening business-to-business



exchanges through joint business councils, promoting tourism, and advancing cultural cooperation would further reinforce longterm ties including collaboration, investment, logistics, bilateral trade.

Meher Kashif who was also part of joint business forum meetings in Islamabad said agreements and 15 MOUs signed in diversified sectors during the visit, will help unleash new opportunities for joint ventures, technology transfer, and capacity

Kyrgyzstan Ambassador to Pakistan

Kylychbek Sultan contributed a great role in this visit by closely establishing constant liaison with either sides. He said warm welcome and hospitality by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif including offering seaports access to Kyrgyz exporters for global markets and positive momentum generated by President Japarov's visit will transform bilateral relations into a more dynamic, sustainable, and mutually beneficial partnership, paving the way for greater regional integration and shared economic

PFC chief greets Asim Munir on his appointment as first CDF



Commerce Desk

LAHORE: Chief Executive Officer Pakistan Furniture Council and Chairperson Board of Industrial Collab- at the helm, he said, Pakioration to Enhance Fashion Exports, Mian Kashif toward improved security, Ashfaq, Sunday congratulated the Chief of the Army Staff Field Marshal Asim Munir on his appointment firmed the industry's as the first Chief of Defence Forces (CDF).

elevation marks "a new era a secure environment of strengthened leadership, is essential for boosting strategic vision, and unified exports and overall national command," adding that growth.

the appointment reflects Pakistan's commitment to enhanced national security and institutional modernization.

He hoped that the newly established position will usher in greater stability, harmony, and long-term prosperity for the country. With capable leadership stan is expected to move economic progress, and national cohesion.

Mian Kashif reafsupport for all initiatives that contribute to peace, In his congratulatory stability, and economic message he said the historic development, adding that

Shahid Imran congratulates to first Chief of **Defence Forces**

Sommerce Desk

LAHORE: Convener Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry Regional Committee on Food, Shahid Imran, Sunday felicitated Chief of Army Staff on his prestigious appointment as first Chief of Defence

Forces of Pakistan. In a greeting message he said the elevation reflects the nation's confidence in his visionary leadership, professional excellence, and unwavering commitment this historic decision would

further strengthen national security institutions and enhance coordination among the armed forces. He hoped that the newly appointed Chief of Defence Forces would continue to steer Pakistan toward lasting peace, stability, and prosperity. He reaffirmed the business community's full support for national security initiatives, adding that a strong defence framework is vital for economic progress, investment, and food sector resilience. He prayed for the Chief of Defence Forces' to safeguarding Pakistan's success in discharging his sovereignty. He added that national responsibilities with honour and dignity.

EDS abolition termed as businessfriendly move: Saif Ur Rehan

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: Coordinator to the Federal Tax Ombudsman, Saif Ur Rehan, Sunday $welcomed \, the \, government \dot{'}s$ decision to abolish the export development surcharge, terming it a timely and business-friendly move.

He said the withdrawal of this levy would significantly reduce the cost of doing business and enable Pakistani exporters to compete more effectively in global markets. The surcharge had long been a burden on export-oriented industries, affecting their pricing struc-

ture and limiting their ability to explore new markets, he added. He hoped the abolition

of the surcharge would not

only enhance export compet-

itiveness but also encourage greater investment in value-added sectors. The step, he added, aligns with the broader reform agenda aimed at boosting industrial growth and promoting sustainable economic development. He urged the government to continue introducing policies that support exporters and strengthen Pakistan's position in international trade.

Zubair Ghangra for effective utilization of development funds allocated For SITE Hyderaabad

Example 2 Commerce Desk

HYDERABAD: Chairman Hyderabad SITE Association of Trade and Industry, Zubair Ghangra, has expressed serious concern over the ineffective utilization of the Rs. 1.10 billion development funds approved by the Sindh government for the improvement of infrastructure at SITE Hyderabad. In a press statement, he said that despite the approval of this substantial amount, no meaningful progress is visible on the ground so far.

He stated that SITE Hyderabad is one of the most important industrial zones of

Sindh, housing a large number of industrial units. However, the deteriorated condition of internal roads, inadequate drainage facilities. and frequent water accumulation after rainfall have severely disrupted industrial activities, directly affecting both production and logistics operations. Concluding his statement, Mr. Zubair Ghangra expressed hope that the Sindh government would recognize the critical importance of the industrial sector and take prompt and practical steps to transform SITE Hyderabad into a well-organized, functional, and business-friendly industrial zone.

Pakistan Cricket Board Chairman Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi meets all regional presidents,

👺 Abdul Majid

Chairman Pakistan Cricket Board Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi met with all regional presidents, BOG members, and all regional head coaches across Pakistan.

Syed Umair CEO PCB, Abdullah Khurram Niazi Director Domestic Cricket, Junaid Zia Senior General Manager Domestic Cricket, Tariq Sarwar, Member POG PCB, Sheikh Shakeel President Islamabad Regional Cricket Association, Khawaja Nadeem President Lahore Regional Cricket Association, Rana Anis President Faisalabad Regional Cricket Association, Aamir Nawab President Abbottabad Regional Cricket Association, Gulzada President Peshawar Regional Cricket Association, Salman Talpur President Hyderabad Regional Cricket Association, Kamran Safdar President Rawalpindi Regional Cricket Association, Sajjad Ali Khokhar Member BOG, Zafarullah Jadgal Member BOG are among the



Regional Cricket Association, held a special meeting with Chairman Pakistan Cricket Board Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi in which he gave suggestions for the promotion of cricket and bringing

Rana Anis, President Faisalabad infrastructure and improvements at the grassroots level.

> Member BEG, President Bahawalpur Shakeel, President Islamabad Regional regional presidents across the country.

Cricket Association, Abdullah Khurram Niazi, and Junaid Zia. He said that we He was accompanied by Tariq Sarwar, thank Chairman Pakistan Cricket Board Sved Mohsin Raza Naqvi for honoring General Cricket Association, Sheikh and encouraging the organizers and

Haji Abdul Hakeem Trust Awards Scholarships to Ten Promising Students in Islamabad Ceremony

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Under the auspices of Haji Abdul Hakeem Trust (Registered), a dignified ceremony was held at the Fazaia Colony Community Center in which ten students receiving education were given financial assistance cheques.

The event was hosted by Malik Naeem Awan. Qasim Awan recited verses from the Holy Quran, and Talha Younis Awan presented a Naat.

On this occasion, detailed information was shared regarding the welfare and assistance activities conducted under the Trust.

Those who addressed the cereony included Surgeon General (R) Karamat, General (R) Riaz Chauhan, Dr. Kashif Qayyum Awan, Professor Muzaffar, former Deputy Commissioner Jameel Ahmed Khan, Secretary General of Panah Sanullah Ghumman, Dr. Anwar, Dr. Asma, and Brigadier Mansoor Ahmed Siddiqui.

Dr. Abdul Qayyum Awan expressed Ittifaq Nagar Hospital. gratitude to all donors and reiterated the commitment to continuing welfare activities under the Trust, especially ensuring the full operationalization of Abdul Razzaq, General (R) Ashoor



Prominent personalities including Sardar Babu Muhammad Irfan, Zafar Iqbal, Waqar Fani Mughal, Danish,

Nasir, Air Marshal (R) Khudadad Khan, and Dr. Ahmar attended the

ceremony. Students who received the educa- Adeeba Razzaq.

Khan, Salam Khan, Brigadier (R) tional scholarships included Bisma Faridun, Muneeba, Iqra Irfan, Abu Zar, Noor-ul-Iman, Hadiqa Iqbal, Abeera Fatima, Ahsan Rasheed, Alishba, and

Conquerors, Stars declared joint winners of National Women's One-Day Tournament after tied final



👺 Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: ors and Stars were declared joint winners of the National Women's One-Day Tournament off the first three balls as Anam 2025-26 after the final and 21st Amin's bid to take the second match of the tournament ended run on the third restricted the score of 185 before the chase tied with both teams dismissed defending champions to 218 for 218 here at the Iqbal Stadi- all out. um, Faisalabad.

the finish line with 40 required off the last 10 overs and seven Rukh (35, 51b, 6x4s) and Warda wickets in the bag before they imploded losing 7-39 in 9.3 overs. At 206-8 in 47 overs, Stars took six runs off Fatima 58b, 8x4s) and Kaynat Hafeez tion down to seven needed off the last two overs.

Left-arm spinner Saima

the previous two balls.

Joint-player of the tourna-Conquer- ment Umm-e-Hani made sure Stars don't register successive title wins giving away two runs

Stars were once cruising to target began with the 53-run opening stand between Gull Yousaf (26, 45b, 3x4s) before both fell to Hani. Best batter of the tournament Sidra Amin (51, runs for the third wicket taking their team to 151-3.

Sidra - who finished with 472 Malik's penultimate over saw runs in nine matches - became Stars' no.10 Fatima Zahra hit Hani's third victim of the day a four off the third ball as they as she finished with 3-29 in 9.3 needed three off eight balls. overs bowling one maiden as Fatima was stumped on the last well. Stars' collapse began with



went haywire.

For Conquerors, Saima Malik Stars pursuit of the 219-run finished with figures of 4-42, Ayesha Bilal picked up two wickets in her 10 overs giving away 39 runs.

Earlier, Conquerors lost Gull Feroza at the start for seven with the opening partnership curtailed to 29. Saira Jabeen Sana's over bringing the equa- (37, 69, 3x4s) then added 82 (43, 52b, 5x4s) then added 44 runs for the second wicket with Sidra Nawaz (20, 36b, 1x4). Player of the match Iram Javed (51, 70b, 5x4s) and Fatima Sana (33, 39b, 5x4s) put on 56 runs for the fourth wicket.

From 145-3, Conquerors lost seven wickets for 73 runs ball of the over before missing the fourth wicket falling at the as Stars restricted them just

above 200-run mark with their pacers Syeda Masooma Zahra (3-38) and Diana Baig (2-32) taking five wickets among them, while Anam Amin and Anosha Nasir picked up two and a solitary scalp, respectively.

Hani and Amber Kainat contributed to Conquerors' total with 17 each.

Final - Match tied -Conquerors v Stars at Iqbal Stadium, Faisalabad

Conquerors 218 all out, 50 overs (Iram Javed 51, Saira Jabeen 43, Fatima Sana 33, Sidra Nawaz 20; Syeda Masooma Zahra 3-38, Diana Baig 2-32, Anam Amin 2-44)

Stars 218 all out, 49.3 overs

(Sidra Amin 51, Kaynat Hafeez

37, Gull Rukh 35, Warda Yousuf 26, Syeda Aroob Shah 21; Saima Malik 4-42, Umm-e-Hani 3-29, Ayesha Bilal 2-39) Player of the match - Iram

Javed (Conquerors)

Player of the Tournament joint – Umm-e-Hani (108 runs and 17 wickets-Conquerors) and Syeda Aroob Shah (195 runs and 12 wickets-Stars)

Best bowler of the Tournament - Anam Amin (21 wickets in 9 matches - Stars)

Best batter of the Tournament - Sidra Amin (472 runs in 9 matches - Stars)

Best wicketkeeper-batter of the tournament - Muneeba Ali (332 runs and eight catches, one stumping-Invincibles)

The President's Cup Grade-1 2025-26 set to begin today at



👺 Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) will look to defend their title as the eight-team President's Cup Grade-I 2025-26 is set to begin from Monday, 8 December at four venues in Karachi, the Pakistan Cricket Board announced on Sunday.

The 31-match 50-over tournament is set to run till 25 December, when the winner will be crowned following the two semi-finals on 22 and 23 December. The eight teams will take on each other in a single-league round-robin format with four matches taking place in each of the seven rounds.

The PCB has also announced that the entire 50-over tournament will be live-streamed on Tapmad in Pakistan and on PCB YouTube Channel for the fans outside Pakistan. The league-stage matches will be day games. The toss will take place at 9am with first ball expected to be bowled at 9.30am.

In the first round, Ghani Glass will take on Pakistan Television (PTV) at the HPC Oval Ground, Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA) will be up against Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL) at the KCCA Stadium.

Khan Research Laboratories (KRL) and Sahir Associates will play at Naya Nazimabad Stadium, while defending champions SBP will be locking horns with Oil and Gas Development Company Limited (OGDCL) at the UBL Sports Complex. The venues for the semi-finals and final will be announced in due course.

The teams will be vying for a winner's prize money of PKR $5\,$ million, while the runners up will collect PKR 2.5 million. Best batter, bowler, wicket-keeper and player of the tournament will be awarded PKR 100,000, while player of the match in each league stage and semi-final game will get PKR 25,000 with the player of the final getting PKR 50,000.

Karachi Blues Receive Grand Welcome from Regional Cricket Association



Sports Desk

KARACHI: The Quaid-e-Azam Trophy winner Karachi Blues rrand welcome by t Cricket Association Karachi upon their arrival in Karachi. According to details, Tauseef Siddiqui, Joint Secretary RCA, Wisal Ansari, Assistant Secretary RCA, Khalid Nafees, Chairman Tournament Committee RCA, led by the Regional Cricket Association Karachi zonal officials Muhammad Saeed Jabbar, Secretary Zone 5, Zafar Ahmed, Vice President Zone 1, Naushad Ahmed Khan, Treasurer Zone 4, Imtiaz Tanoli, Shahbaz Qureshi, Ijaz Khan, Secretary Zone 6, SM Asim, Asghar Ali Khattak, Azam Khan and others gave a grand welcome to the Quaid-e-Azam Trophy champion team Karachi Blues at the Karachi Airport. They showered flower petals on the players and garlanded them. On this occasion, Khalid Nafees, Chairman Tournament Committee RCA, said that under the leadership of Nadeem Omar, President Regional Cricket Association Karachi, Karachi teams have won the Quaid-e-Azam Trophy twice in two and a half years, which is a It has a unique record, in addition to winning the National T20, Under-15, 17, and 19 tournaments, while the Karachi team was the runner-up in the ODI tournament. This shows that Karachi's cricket is progressing under the leadership of Nadeem Umar. On this occasion, Tauseef Siddiqui said that Karachi's players have proven that they are no less than anyone in the field of cricket and Insha Allah, Karachi's players will continue to make their city famous with their brilliant play in the future. He said that this tournament has given Karachi and Pakistan new stars of the future in the form of Saad Baig, Saqib Khan, Haroon Arshad, Abdullah Fazal, and Muhammad Umar, who will come and make the country and nation famous with their brilliant play.

Sheikh Abdul Waheed Applauds Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir's Appointment as Chief of Defence Forces

👺 City Desk



ISLAMABAD: Sheikh Abdul Waheed, Vice Chairman of the Central Traders Association Rawalpindi (Registered), congratulated Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir on his appointment as Chief of Defence Forces and the extension of his tenure, paying tribute to his leadership qualities.

In his important statement, he said that this decision is of immense

significance for the greater national interest, the current regional security environment, and Pakistan's economic direction. He added that the appointment to the position of Chief of Defence Forces is not only a recognition by the nation of Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir's exemplary leadership, exceptional professional abilities, and the successes achieved in Operation Bunyan-e-Marsus, but it is also crucial in the context of Pakistan's future, the evolving regional dynamics, extremist activities, and the challenges of terrorism.

Sheikh Abdul Waheed said that today, the international community acknowledges Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir's leadership vision, timely decision-making, and his services for peace and stability. His effective leadership is not only further strengthening Pakistan's defensive capabilities but also reinforcing Pakistan's stance on the global stage.

He further said that Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir's appointment as Chief of Defence Forces will mark the beginning of a new era for a stronger, safer, and economically stable Pakistan.

The Spokesman

Anti Norcotics Operation PNS YAMAMA conducted a successful anti-narcotics operation in Arabian Sea during Regional Maritime Security Patrol

Pakistan rejects India's 'baseless and inflammatory' remarks

跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Foreign Office on Sunday strongly rejected highly provocative, baseless and irresponsible remarks by India, issuing a firm condemnation.

Foreign Office spokesperson Tahir Andrabee said the remarks made by the Indian leadership reflected "an alarming disregard for peace, stability and harmony in the region".

The rebuke came a day after Indian External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar alleged that India's core challenges



tary leadership.

The spokesperson stated that Pakistan was a responsible state whose institutions particularly the armed

directly from Pakistan's milipillar of national security". He said Pakistan was fully committed to safeguarding

its sovereignty and territorial

integrity.

the "fascist and extremist Hindutva mindset" that has taken root within the country.

It added that the Indian state and its leadership had become "hostage to this radical religious narrative".

The spokesperson said Pakistan's armed forces had demonstrated their professionalism and unwavering strong in protecting its securesolve to defend the motherland in May, adding that no Indian propaganda could change this fact.

statement said attempts by the Indian leadership to malign Pakistan's

campaign aimed at destabilising the region and diverting global attention from India's own state-sponsored terrorism.

The spokesperson added that Pakistan believed in peaceful coexistence, dialogue and diplomacy, and remained united and rity, sovereignty and national

He further urged the Indian leadership to refrain from making unfounded remarks about Pakistan's armed forces and instead According to the Foreign state institutions were part introspect on its "fascist and with its neighbour stemmed forces — served as a "strong Office, India must examine of a systematic propaganda extremist Hindutva ideology."

PNS Yamama seizes 1500 kg of narcotics in Arabian Sea

E City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Navy Ship YAMAMA, while deployed on Regional Maritime Security Patrol (RMSP) in the Arabian Sea, successfully conducted an anti-narcotics operation, leading to the seizure of 1,500 Kilograms of Hashish valued at approximately 3 million US Dollars. This successful interdiction at sea tional partners, contributing signifiunderscores Pakistan Navy's unwa- cantly to a safe and secure maritime vering commitment to combating environment.

illicit activities and ensuring security in the maritime domain.

Pakistan Navy routinely undertakes RMSP missions to safeguard national maritime interests through robust vigilance and effective presence at sea. The Navy also continues to play a proactive role in collaborative and coordinated maritime security efforts with regional and interna-

President, PM pays tribute to Navy for successful anti-narcotics operation



跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari Sunday paid tribute to Pakistan Navy for successful anti-narcotics operation. In a statement, he termed the

successful seizure of 1500 kg of narcotics at sea as proof of Pakistan Navy's high professionalism and effective surveillance.

He said Pakistan Navy's timely action strengthened the state's resolve to protect national interests and curb illegal activities.

regional and international partners reflects Pakistan's effective role for a

safe maritime environment," he added. and coordinated maritime security

nate all types of illegal activities in the maritime boundaries."

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif Sunday appreciated Pakistan Navy for stopping smuggling of huge quantity of hashish in the Arabian sea.

In a message, he said, "1500 kg of hashish worth about \$ 3 million was seized as Pakistan navy's Yamama ship foiled attempt to smuggle the narcotics."

He said smuggling at sea will be completely eradicated due to Pakistan Navy's strict vigilance and profes-"Pakistan Navy's cooperation with sionalism.

"It is commendable that Pakistan Navy is playing an active role in joint He said, "The state and institutions efforts with regional and international are determined to completely elimipartners," he added.

CM Balochistan urges nation to back armed forces against enemy narrative

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Chief Minister of Balochistan Sarfraz Bugti emphasized that the nation must stand firmly with its armed forces to counter and dismantle the enemy's narrative.

He expressed these views during a press conference at the Balochistan House here Sunday. Bugti said that more than 100 militants had surrendered in Dera Bugti. These militants had been operating from the moun-

Sarfraz Bugti stated that during the past year, around 900 incidents occurred, Out of these, 205 security personnel embraced martyrdom in Balochistan, Likewise, 280 unarmed civilians, including men and women, were brutally killed.

terrorists were eliminated over the to the wider region. past year, he added.



emerged as a grave security challenge, During security operations, 760 posing risks not only to Pakistan but

He emphasized that the enemy's narratives strengthen the hands of enemy's narrative," he concluded

The Chief Minister warned that chances of victory were zero due to escalating militancy in Khyber the presence of a well-organized, Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan has disciplined, and fully prepared Pakistan Army, supported by a resilient

hostile elements. "We have witnessed how, on May 9 and 10, the Pakistan Army and the nation unitedly foiled India's nefarious designs," he added. Bugti cautioned that contin-

uous propaganda against the Pakistan Armed Forces poses a threat to national security.

"Stopping terrorist recruitment and cutting their logistical lines is the most crucial phase," Bugti noted.

He further said that instability in Afghanistan facilitates terrorist logistics. Countering such narratives, he stressed, is the fundamental national responsibility of political leadership. "This is not the army's war alone; it is a collective war of the entire Pakistani nation."

"Standing on truth is more important than claiming popularity, and the nation must stand with its forces He said that anti-state political to strengthen them and defeat the

the prime minister and the niece is the

The JI chief accuses political dynas-

He alleged that political families had

Hafiz Naeem stressed the need for

He said that the Jamaat-e-Islami

was the only party which had joined the

people to dismantle the current system.

allegedly removing banners that carried

He criticised the government for

greater public awareness about the

also taken control of the judiciary and

ties of lying to the public and tightening

their grip on institutions.

continued to grow stronger.

Local Government Act.

chief minister.

PTA clears PTCL's acquisition of Telenor **Pakistan**

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) has granted a no-objection certificate (NOC) to the Pakistan Telecommunication Company Limited (PTCL) for the acquisition of Telenor Pakistan (Pvt.) Ltd., after a comprehensive review under the applicable regulatory framework.

The PTA evaluated the transaction's impact on market competi- the process to safeguard consumer tion and consumer interests, and rights and maintain a competitive consulted relevant government and forward-looking telecom sector.

bodies to ensure full compliance with statutory requirements, said a press release on Saturday.

With this NOC, the PTCL may proceed with the acquisition, subject to completion of all legal and commercial formalities.

Both companies must ensure continuity and quality of services and uphold all licence obligations throughout the transition.

The PTA will closely monitor

Customs Marine seizes 48,932 litters smuggled HSD, three launches worth Rs42.23 mln

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Marine Unit of the Enforcement Collectorate Karachi has foiled a major attempt to smuggle High-Speed Diesel (HSD) by intercepting three wooden launches in the open sea near Hingol National Park, seizing a total of 48,932 liters of smuggled diesel along with the involved conveyances worth Rs 42.23 million.

The seized fuel is valued at Rs. 12.23 million, while the value of the three launches stands at Rs. 30 BFD-8553) with 19,720 liters on million, bringing the total worth of board. the operation to Rs. 42.23 million, said a news release.

intercepted



HSD, Launch Al-Emaan (Reg. No. BFD-16866) carrying 11,250 liters, and Launch Gul-e-Sufi (Reg. No. The successful interdiction reflects

the FBRs strengthened efforts to curb During the operation, customs illicit fuel trafficking along the coastal Launch belt and protect national revenue Al-Hammal (Reg. No. BFD-15319) from organised smuggling networks.

Jamaat-e-Islami announces nationwide sitins on Dec 21

News Desk

Jamaat-e-Islami chief Hafiz Naeem-ur-Rehman has announced that the party will stage sit-ins across Punjab and the rest of the country on December 21 in protest against the Punjab Local Government Act.

Addressing a demonstration in Lahore against the provincial legislation on Sunday, he said the government was misleading the nation by introducing laws and then challenging them. He termed the Punjab Local Govern-

ment Act a "black law", alleging that it usurped the rights of cities and union The JI chief demanded that all

powers be devolved to local govern- law. ments, saying that tehsil administrations must be empowered. "This is not a system of monarchs

and kings where favours are granted at will," he said, adding that the party



would approach the courts against the

Hafiz Naeem accused feudal elites of having hijacked the entire system and protecting what he called an oppres-

He said those in power retained

the public's voice, questioning why such benefits within their own families while political workers who struggled for decades were denied leadership roles. Hafiz Naeem said that in our political

system, a political worker works hard for 40 years but can never become the head of the party, but here the uncle is on roads and underpasses.

actions were being taken. The JI chief also questioned former prime minister Nawaz Sharif's claim of respecting the vote, asking what kind of respect it was if rulers were seen installing plaques bearing their names

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