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**Barkat Rice Mills
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Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb sworn in as Supreme Court judge

Supreme Court Chief Justice Yahya Afridi administered the oath at a ceremony held in Islamabad. The event was attended by judges of the Supreme Court and high courts, including Islamabad High Court Chief Justice and others.



PML-N leader Abid Sher Ali elected senator unopposed

Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader Abid Sher Ali was elected senator unopposed on Monday. The vacant general seat from Punjab, previously held by the late Senator Irfan Siddiqui, saw no nominations from Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI). Two other PML-N leaders, Rana Ehsan Afzal and Abdul Jabbar, withdrew their nomination papers.

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Welcome

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif welcoming the President of Indonesia H.E. Prabowo Subianto upon his arrival at Noor Khan Base on Monday.



Photo: Online

Indonesian President Subianto in Islamabad on two-day official visit

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: President of the Republic of Indonesia Prabowo Subianto arrived here on Monday to a red-carpet welcome for a two-day official visit, at the invitation of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

Upon his arrival at Nur Khan Airbase, the Indonesian president was warmly received by President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz, along with the cabinet members and senior officials.

A smartly turned-out contingent of the Presidential Bodyguard presented a static salute to the visiting dignitary, who was accompanied by a high-level delegation

comprising key ministers and senior officials.

Clad in national dresses, two children presented bouquets to the guest after a 21-gun salute boomed in the backdrop to herald his arrival.

A group of children was also lined up along the red carpet, waving the bunting of both Pakistan and Indonesia.

During his stay, President Prabowo will hold delegation-level talks with the Prime Minister Shehbaz, and meet President Asif Ali Zardari. The Chief of Army Staff and the Chief of Defence Forces, Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir will also call on President Prabowo.

Several Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) are expected to be signed during the visit.

PM approves projects to ensure uninterrupted power supply to Gwadar, GB

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday approved electricity projects for Gilgit Baltistan and Gwadar, including a 100 MW solar project in GB to ensure uninterrupted, affordable, and sustainable power supply.

Chairing a meeting on power sector initiatives in Gwadar and Gilgit Baltistan, the prime minister approved the immediate implementation of a comprehensive plan to resolve issues in the power supply to Gwadar Port City.

"All relevant institutions should work in complete coordination to ensure uninterrupted, affordable, and reliable power supply to Gwadar Port City," the prime minister directed.

Issuing special directions for the immediate initiation of the 100-megawatt solar project in GB, the prime



minister also directed that the project must ensure uninterrupted and sustainable provision of clean and environmentally friendly electricity.

"The welfare and economic development of the people of Gilgit-Baltistan is among the top priorities of the federal government," the prime minister stated.

He added that every possible measure was being taken to promote industrial activity, investment, and economic growth in GB.

PM Shehbaz Sharif appreciated the recommendations and actions proposed by the committee led by Ahsan Iqbal and the Ministry of Energy regarding the resolution of electricity issues.

Continued on Page 7

CDF Asim Munir warns India, promises more severe response next time

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) and Chief of the Defence Forces (CDF) Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir on Monday reiterated that Pakistan is a peace-loving nation; however, no one will be allowed to compromise its sovereignty, territorial integrity, or test its resolve.

Addressing officers of all three armed services in Rawalpindi, the CDF said, "Let all be aware that Pakistan is invincible, and it has been protected by faithful, courageous soldiers and the unwavering determination of a united nation."

He went on to say that India should not remain under any



illusion or self-deception — next time, Pakistan's response will be even swifter and more severe.

A clear message has also been conveyed to the Taliban

regime that they have no option but to choose between Fitna Al Khawarij and Pakistan, he added.

Field Marshal Asim Munir said that the establishment of

the newly formed Defence Forces Headquarters is a historic structural transformation.

"In view of the growing and evolving threats, it is essential that we further enhance multi-domain operations under a unified tri-services system," he said.

The Field Marshal said that the creation of the Defence Forces Headquarters is a necessary step towards this change.

Each service will maintain its distinct identity to ensure operational readiness, while the Defence Forces Headquarters will coordinate and harmonise inter-service operations.

Along with unity at the higher command level, all three services will retain their internal

autonomy and organisational structures, he said.

Earlier, a formal ceremony was held at GHQ in Rawalpindi to honour the newly appointed Chief of Defence Forces.

Field Marshal Munir was presented a guard of honour by contingents of the Army, Navy, and Air Force.

Naval Chief Admiral Naveed Ashraf and Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Babar Sidhu were also present.

The tri-services contingent first saluted the naval and air chiefs before presenting a general salute to Field Marshal Munir, marking his official induction as the country's first Chief of Defence Forces.

NA erupts in laughter as Speaker waves lost Rs5,000 notes

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: A humorous incident unfolded in the National Assembly on Monday when Speaker Ayaz Sadiq discovered ten Rs5,000 notes on the floor and waved them in the air, asking members to claim ownership.

"Whose money is this? Whoever it belongs to, please raise your hand," the speaker said, prompting not one or two, but 12 members to raise their hands, surprising the assembly.

The cash, found before opposition members entered the chamber, briefly became the centre of attention.

It was later confirmed that the notes belonged to PTI



MNA Muhammad Iqbal Afridi, who retrieved them after the mix-up.

The speaker's quip — "There are ten notes and twelve owners" — triggered laughter across the House, providing a lighthearted interlude amid the session's proceedings.

For a few minutes, the focus shifted from the legislative agenda to the comic episode, with lawmakers joining in the banter and sharing smiles over the unexpected turn of events.

Punjab CTD arrests 12 RAW-linked militants, foils major attacks

Bureau Report

LAHORE: The Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) has thwarted major terror plots in Lahore, Faisalabad and Bahawalpur following the arrest of 12 terrorists linked to India's Research and Analysis Wing (RAW).

According to a CTD spokesperson, the suspects were detained during intelligence-based operations, which also led to the recovery of a large cache of weapons, explosives, detonators, improvised explosive devices (IEDs), cash, mobile phones and 102 feet of safety fuse wire.

The spokesperson said that photos, videos and location data of "sensitive targets", including security institutions, a seminary and a local



festival, were also recovered, which would possibly be used for planning attacks.

Those arrested in Lahore were identified as Sukh Deep Singh, Azmat, Faizan, Nabeel, Abrar, Usman and Sarfaraz, while a suspect named Danish was taken into custody from Faisalabad.

In Bahawalpur, the CTD detained Rajab, Hashim, Saqib and Arif.

The department said that Sukh Deep Singh, originally a Christian by birth, had recently converted to another faith.

All suspects were receiving significant funding from RAW, it added.

According to the CTD, crucial leads came from a Facebook ID named "Adil", reportedly operated from India and believed to be facilitating the network.

The spokesperson added that the arrested militants planned to spread fear in Punjab and incite religious hatred.

Cases have been registered against the detained terrorists, who were members of "Fitna Al Hindustan", and further investigation is underway.

London court orders Adil Raja to issue public apology, pay heavy damages

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The legal pressure on Adil Raja tightened further after the London High Court ordered him to issue a public apology and pay significant financial penalties over what the court described as false and baseless claims.

Justice Richard Spearman issued the order, directing Raja to publish an unconditional apology on all his social media accounts. The apology must remain visible for 28 days. The court also ordered him to pay £50,000 in damages and £260,000 in legal costs, a combined amount exceeding Rs100 million, by December 22.

Justice Spearman further warned Raja to refrain from



"disruptive or harmful conduct" in the future.

Citing the misleading and fabricated nature of the material presented by him, the court denied Raja the right to appeal.

Raja, who had long expressed confidence in the UK legal system, failed to secure any relief despite legal representation from his wife and several barristers.

BAJK hosts farewell and appreciation ceremony for former chairman Abdul Majid Khan

Abdul Majeed Tahir

ISLAMABAD: Bank of Azad Jammu & Kashmir (BAJK) organized a graceful farewell and appreciation ceremony in honor of the former Chairman Mr. Khan Abdul Majid Khan, acknowledging his significant contributions to the Bank's progress and stability.

During the ceremony, the newly appointed Chairman of BAJK and newly elected Minister for Finance & Inland Revenue, Mr. Ch. Qasim Majeed, paid glowing tribute to the former Chairman for his visionary leadership and dedicated service. He praised the efforts of Mr. Khan Abdul Majid Khan in laying a strong foundation for BAJK's transformation and growth.

In recognition of his valuable services, Chairman Ch. Qasim Majeed presented a shield of appreciation to the former Chairman. Senior Board members and the President & CEO Mr. Shahid Shahzad Mir were also present on the occasion.

Chairman Ch. Qasim Majeed reaffirmed that the Bank will continue its



journey of progress with the same dedication, adding that the new leadership is committed to taking BAJK to new heights through accelerated strategic initiatives and enhanced service quality.

The event concluded with heartfelt acknowledgments and warm wishes for the former Chairman's future endeavors, while the Board expressed confidence in continuing BAJK's mission of innovation and financial excellence.

New Chairman sets ambitious goals for bank's progress and modernization



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The 98th meeting of the Board of Directors of the Bank of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (BAJK) was held under the chairmanship of the Minister for Finance, Inland Revenue and Chairman AJK Bank, Chaudhry Qasim Majeed. The meeting was attended by President & CEO Shahid Shehzad Mir, Secretary Finance Islam Zeb, Secretary Industries & Commerce Chaudhry Abdul Rahman, Mubashir Nabi, Dr. Adnan Ullah Khan, while Bushra Naz Malik joined online.

The management of AJK Bank briefed the new Chairman in detail on the bank's overall performance, financial indicators, strategic initiatives, and progress toward obtaining the status of a scheduled bank. Updates were also provided regarding digital transformation, service expansion, and operational enhancements.

Chairman Chaudhry Qasim Majeed expressed confidence in the direction of the bank and reaffirmed his commitment to elevating BAJK to new heights. He instructed the management to expedite the approval process for scheduled bank status, enhance operational efficiency, and introduce greater modernization in the banking system.

Board members reiterated their commitment to sustainable development, innovation, and service excellence, affirming that BAJK will continue to be a reliable, progressive, and customer-friendly financial institution.

Director Agriculture Ch. Khalid Mehmood official visit at Kamalia

Zafar Chishti

TOBA TEK SINGH: Director Agriculture (Extension) Faisalabad Division Chaudhary Khalid Mehmood, paid an official visit to the Agriculture Extension Office Kamalia where he reviewed ongoing agricultural initiatives and the overall performance of the department. During the visit, he inspected the wheat campaign, progress on Kissan Card recovery, Progress of Agri Graduate Interns, agriculture inputs inventory and various extension activities being carried out in Tehsil Kamalia. He emphasized the importance of ensuring timely delivery of services to farmers and directed the staff to further strengthen field level outreach. Chaudhary Khalid Mehmood appreciated the efforts of the local agriculture team and urged them to accelerate awareness campaigns regarding modern farming techniques, responsible use of fertilizers and disease management to increase wheat production during the current season. On this occasion, Assistant Director Agriculture (Extension) Ali Mohtisham, Agriculture Officer (Extension) Fatima Akmal, field staff and representatives from across Tehsil Kamalia were present. The officials briefed the Director about ongoing projects, challenges and future plans aimed at improving agricultural productivity in the region. The Director reiterated that the Agriculture Extension Department is committed to providing full support to farmers and ensuring the successful implementation of government initiatives at the grassroots level.

Allama Riaz Shah urges return to the spirit of knowledge and sufism at Quranic lecture gathering



City Desk

RAWALPINDI: Allama Syed Riaz Hussain Shah, Patron-in-Chief of Idara Taleemat-e-Islamia Pakistan, said that the psychology of knowledge is such that the less greed one has, the more knowledge illuminates the inner self. Greed turns the treasure of knowledge into ashes. Frequent recitation of the Holy Quran is a means of salvation for the Muslim Ummah, and that we must continue to seek knowledge at every stage of life.

A special gathering for the Quranic lecture was held yesterday, attended by scholars. The session was hosted by Deputy Director Sheikh Muhammad Qasim. The program began with the recitation of the Holy Quran and a Naat in praise of the Holy Prophet ﷺ.

In his address, Allama Syed Riaz Hussain Shah said that benefiting from experiences, keeping the company of pious people, and remaining steadfast on the path of knowledge until the last breath are the foundations of a successful life. Respecting elders and showing kindness to the young are the manners taught by the Holy Prophet ﷺ, and this is the true spirit of Sufism.

He said that the time spent in the company of the Holy Prophet ﷺ became a masterpiece in the training of the Companions — just as Salman al-Farsi (RA) was spiritually enriched through the Prophet's blessed companionship. He added that in the age of social media, believing things without research is dangerous. History bears witness that after the era of the Rightly Guided Caliphate, the Ummah lost the softness of character that the Prophet ﷺ had taught.

Sindh govt, Sukkur IBA sign agreement for e-Daftar system

KARACHI: In a major milestone toward establishing a fully paperless, technology-driven administrative system, the Services, General Administration & Coordination Department (SGA&CD), Government of Sindh, has signed an agreement with Sukkur IBA University to formally launch and implement the Sindh e-DAFTAR system.

The agreement was signed by Secretary General Administration & Coordination Department, Muhammad Ali Khoso, and the Vice Chancellor of Sukkur IBA University Prof. Dr Asif Ahmed Shaikh. The event was officially witnessed by the Chief Secretary Sindh, Asif Hyder Shah.

Speaking on the occasion the Chief Secretary Sindh Asif Hyder Shah Said that The Sindh e-DAFTAR system aims to replace conventional paper-based file movement with a modern, technology-driven digital workflow. Through this system, government offices will be able to process and track files in real time, ensuring transparency, accuracy, and efficiency in administrative operations. The initiative incorporates advanced features such as device-bound access control, digital signatures, and secure decentralized document storage.

These measures ensure that files remain protected from loss, unauthorized changes, or misplacement, and that every stage of the file's movement is fully traceable. Officers will be able to manage their tasks more efficiently through integrated dashboards that provide a clear overview of their workload and pending assignments, ultimately leading to faster decision-making and improved governance outcomes.

Underconstruction

ISLAMABAD: Laborers are busy in their working during the Construction of Shaheen Chowk Underpass, which is about to complete after the construction with full pace, in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Azad Kashmir's Health Minister demands full functionality of BHUs within 10 days amidst healthcare review

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: Azad Kashmir's Minister for Public Health, Syed Bazil Ali Naqvi, chaired a high-level meeting to review the healthcare system across the region. Senior officials, including the Secretary Health, DG Health, District Health Officers, and Drug Control authorities, presented detailed reports on facility performance, staffing shortages, medicine supply issues, infrastructure needs, and regulatory challenges.

The Minister issued strict orders to make all Basic Health Units (BHUs) fully functional within 10 days, warning that District Health Officers would be



held responsible for any shortcomings. He also announced that surgical and ward facilities at THQ Hospital Dheerkot would soon be made operational.

A major portion of the meeting

focused on drug regulation. Officials highlighted delays in licensing, absence of a Drug Court, and growing concerns over counterfeit and substandard medicines. The Minister announced a zero-tolerance policy against fake, unregistered, or expired drugs and directed Drug Inspectors to conduct regular unannounced inspections, with immediate legal action against violators.

The meeting approved steps to digitize drug licensing records, update lists of registered and unregistered pharmacies, strengthen district-level quality control, and fully activate the Mirpur Drug Testing Laboratory.

Ambassador Masood Khan Calls for Strengthened Resolve for Kashmir's Freedom

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador Masood Khan, former Ambassador to the United States, China, and the United Nations, and former President of Azad Jammu & Kashmir, delivered a wide-ranging address in Islamabad, calling for renewed national unity, collective resolve, and robust global engagement to advance the cause of Jammu & Kashmir. Opening his remarks with a firm declaration, he said: "This is a decisive moment—one that demands clarity, courage, and unity. We must not allow fatigue, division, or despair to dilute our struggle."

He also recalled U. S. President Donald Trump's recent public statements acknowledging the gravity of the conflict and the centrality of the Kashmir issue. He urged Pakistan



and the Kashmiri leadership to use this geopolitical opening to amplify international diplomatic engagement across the UN Security Council,

Human Rights Council, and global parliaments.

Ambassador Masood Khan paid special tribute to Mussarat Alam

Bhatt, describing him as "one of the most heroic, steadfast, and uncompromising leaders of the Kashmiri freedom movement." He praised Mussarat Alam for his courage in the face of decades of imprisonment, persecution, and relentless state repression, noting that he remains an inspiration to every Kashmiri striving for dignity and self-determination. "Mussarat Alam Bhatt represents the moral conscience of the Kashmiri struggle," he said. "His sacrifice, clarity, and unwavering resolve continue to guide our movement."

Ambassador Khan also recognized incarcerated leaders including Yasin Malik, Asiya Andrabi, and others suffering under India's punitive detention system. He stressed that Pakistan and Kashmiris worldwide stand united in demanding their release and honoring their sacrifices.



Islamabad

30° – 38° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr 5:31 am
Zohr 20:00 pm
Asr 3:22 pm
Maghrib 4:59 pm
Isha 6:28 pm

EMERGENCY

Rescue (Police) 15
Bomb Disposal 15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/
Islamabad 1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance 1122 &
& Rescue Services 4451122
Motorway Police 9266044
Motorway Police 9270601-20

Women Police Stations

Islamabad 9222596
Rawalpindi 9270601-20

ENQUIRY

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

HOSPITALS

CMH 561111
MH 561116
MH 561116
Cantt Hospital 9270907-11
DHQ 5556311-4
RGH 9290301-7
Holy Family 9290322-7
PIMS 9261170-79
Polyclinic 9218300-09
Shifa International 4603666

DEPARTMENTS

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

COMPLAINTS

Water Tanker Service
E-7, F-10 & F-11 9204654
G-5, G-6, G-7, G-8 9203883
G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, H-8 9266316
Wapda Islamabad 9217579-80
Sui Gas Complaint 119, 9272249
Wasa Water Tank
Rawalpindi 0331-5022125

Shakeela Zaman Advocate Triumphs in Insaf Lawyers Forum Presidential Election, Securing 29 Votes

Tariq khan Yousafzai

TAKHT BHAI: The elections of the Insaf Lawyers Forum, Tehsil Takht Bhai, have been completed. Renowned female lawyer Shakeela Zaman Advocate has been elected President of the Insaf Lawyers Forum, Tehsil Takht Bhai, while Mian Altaf Advocate has been elected General Secretary. Shiraz Khan Advocate has been elected Senior Vice President, Ejaz Khan Advocate as Vice President, and Zakar Khan Advocate as Finance Secretary. In the presidential election, there was a contest between two candidates: Shakeela Zaman Advocate and Israr Khan Advocate. The successful candidate, Shakeela Zaman Advocate, secured 29 votes, while Israr Khan received 8 votes. Three votes were rejected. The election committee comprised Chairman Aurangzeb Khan Advocate and members Nisar Safi Advocate, Jamshed Khan Advocate, Ameer Khan Advocate, Farrukh Sair Khan Advocate, and Asad Khan Advocate.

Pakistani Students to Participate in JENESYS Exchange Program in Japan

Tooba Khan

ISLAMABAD: On the invitation by the Government of Japan, five Pakistani university students will travel to Japan to participate in the JENESYS (Japan-East Asia Network of Exchange for Students and Youths) program. The students are scheduled

to visit Japan from December 16 to 23, joining a delegation of 35 high school and university students from SAARC countries. This year's program centers on the theme "Environmental Sustainability and Disaster Resilience."

The Embassy of Japan in Islamabad today held a pre-departure orientation session for the visiting



students from Pakistan to give them useful information before their departure for Japan.

H. E. Mr. Akamatsu Shuichi, the Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan, while interacting with the students, conveyed his best wishes, and expressed his hopes that the student's visit would be enriching and encour-

aged them to maximize this unique learning opportunity. He highlighted the value of the homestay experience, offering both the students and their Japanese hosts a chance to share and appreciate their respective cultural heritages.

Ambassador Akamatsu emphasized the student's role as cultural

ambassadors, fostering stronger ties and greater mutual understanding between Japan and Pakistan.

The JENESYS program is held annually and is designed to foster capacity building but also to nurture mutual understanding and collaboration between the youth of Japan and SAARC countries.

National Day of UAE

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif cuts cake at a ceremony of the national day of the United Arab Emirates on Monday.



Photo: PID

Climate resilience conference highlights collaborative action for Balochistan's future

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: A high-level conference on Sustainable Development and Climate Resilience in Balochistan, organized by the Planning and Development Department of the Government of Balochistan, was held today at the Marriott Hotel in Islamabad. The event brought together federal and provincial ministers, senior government officials, climate experts, development partners including the World Bank and UN agencies, private-sector leaders, as well as representatives from academic institutions to advance coordinated action on the province's pressing environmental and climate challenges.

The conference opened with welcome remarks by Mr. Zahid Saleem, Additional Chief Secretary (Development), who highlighted Balochistan's acute climate vulnerabilities and the province's determination to mainstream resilience into development planning. He emphasized the need for strong partnerships and evidence-driven solutions to safeguard communities and ecosystems.

This was followed by an address from Ms. Romina Khurshid, Coordinator to the Prime Minister for Climate, who underscored the federal government's commitment to strengthening climate governance and enhancing provincial capacities. She reiterated that climate adaptation in Balochistan is vital not only for local resilience but also for Pakistan's national climate goals.

The keynote address was delivered by Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti, who stressed the urgency of coordinated action for climate-resilient growth. He called for inclusive policies, investment in resilient infrastructure, and greater private-sector engagement to support livelihoods and protect natural resources.

Quality education will change the future: Jahangir Tareen



Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Jahangir Khan Tareen emphasized that quality education is the key to change the future of our children and the destiny of our country. He highlighted that in Pakistan there are two classes, those who can provide their children with education from top private institutions and those whose children attend public schools which often lack even basic facilities. "We must bridge this gap. Once this disparity is eliminated, Pakistan can progress truly" he said.

He made these remarks while addressing ceremonies held at Government Boys High School, Khanewal and Government Model Girls Higher Secondary School, Mian Channu, on the occasion of inaugurating new Science and Computer Labs. He stated that the standard of public schools must be improved so that our children can compete in today's world and contribute meaningfully to the nation's development.

Ali Khan Tareen, in his address, said, "Spending in education gives me the greatest happiness because the future of our children is dependent on it. I urge all parents, especially of girls, to ensure that their children receive quality education." The events were also attended by Chief Executive Officer Education, Khanewal, Fayyaz Ahmed Sandhu, and Chief Executive Officer, Tareen Education Foundation, Akbar Khan.

Rescue 1122 Toba Tek Singh Clinches Second Position in Int'l CERT Challenge 2025



Zafar Chishti

TOBA TEK SINGH: Rescue 1122 Toba Tek Singh team showcased exceptional performance at the International CERT Challenge 2025, securing second position, a proud achievement for the district. The victorious team was invited to the Deputy Commissioner's Office, where they were congratulated for their success. Deputy Commissioner Umar Abbas Mela lauded the team's hard work and international standard performance, calling it a matter of pride not only for Rescue 1122 but for the entire district. He also awarded the team certificates of appreciation in recognition of their outstanding achievements. The meeting was attended by District Emergency Officer Mian Faraz Munir, Rescue and Safety Officer Ramzan Qadri and team leaders. The team expressed their commitment to continue serving the public with dedication and maintaining high international standards in future endeavors.

Voices from the Roof of the World screening at Greenwich University

City Desk

KARACHI: Greenwich University, in collaboration with Aga Khan University, hosted a screening of "A Colour of Smog", an episode from Voices from the Roof of the World (VRW) — a documentary series that captures powerful climate and conservation stories from the mountain regions of Central and South Asia. The film explores the severe air pollution crisis in Lahore and how smog is reshaping daily life, health, and the future of urban communities.

Students enjoyed an exclusive preview of the upcoming Season 4 trailer, giving them a first look at the new stories set to be released later. As VRW expands its outreach, it aims to educate and inspire students through real stories that spark critical thinking and meaningful conversations on climate change.



The program featured an interactive Q&A session with Andrew Tkach, Execu-

tive Producer of VRW and an 8-time Emmy Award-winning filmmaker, who shared insights

on the role of documentary storytelling in shaping climate awareness.

on the role of documentary storytelling in shaping climate awareness.

RCCI Hosts Sudanese Trade Delegation

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) hosted the Sudanese trade and health-sector delegation during their official visit to Pakistan. RCCI President Usman Shaukat welcomed the delegation and briefed them on the close cooperation, industrial landscape, and investment potential especially in pharmaceutical sector.

Additional Secretary (Africa), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Hamid Asghar Khan, was also present on the occasion. The Ambassador of Sudan to Pakistan is H. E. Mr. Salih Mohamed Ahmed Mohamed Siddiq also in presence The Sudanese delegation included, Dr. Ali Babikir Seid Ahmed Mohamed, Secretary General, National Medicines & Poisons Board, Dr. Badreldin Mohamed



Ahmed ElGozoli, Director General, Medical Supplies Fund, Dr. Hayder Mohamed Abdel-Nabi, Director, Hospitals Department, Federal Health Ministry, Mohamed Marwan Awad, Head of Executive Office, Undersecretary of the Federal Health Ministry and Mr. Hatim Motasim Mohamed

Ali, Representative, Economic Security Discussions focused on collaboration in the health, pharmaceuticals, and medical technology sectors, with both sides exploring avenues for joint ventures, knowledge exchange, and strengthening bilateral economic ties. The delegation also visited local

pharma factory Bio-Labs as part of their visit.

The delegation appreciated RCCI's support and expressed interest in boosting cooperation between Pakistan and Sudan, particularly in the field of healthcare and pharmaceuticals.

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Syria’s future must be ‘free, sovereign and united’

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has marked the first anniversary of the collapse of Bashar al-Assad’s regime, calling the moment “a day to honour [Syrians’] sacrifices and to renew the aspirations that fueled the historic change in the country.”

In a statement, the UN chief paid tribute to the “resilience and courage of the Syrian people, who never stopped nurturing hope despite enduring unimaginable hardship.” He described the past year as proof that “meaningful change is possible when Syrians are empowered and supported in driving their own transition.”

“What lies ahead is far more than a political transition; it is the chance to rebuild shattered communities and heal deep divisions,” he said. “It is an opportunity to forge a nation where every Syrian – regardless of ethnicity, religion, gender or political affiliation – can live securely, equally, and with dignity.”

Since Assad fled Damascus last December, the UN has worked closely with Syrian authorities and civil society to stabilize the country and lay the groundwork for inclusive governance. Efforts have focused on restoring essential services, expanding humanitarian access, and creating pathways for refugees and displaced persons to return.

In another sign of progress and hope, the UN refugee agency reports that more than one million refugees have returned since December 2024, alongside some two million people inside Syria who have gone back to their communities of origin.

Transitional justice initiatives have begun to take shape, while Syrian women have emerged as key voices in shaping new institutions and demanding equality.

Humanitarian agencies’ needs remain immense, but the past year has seen progress in rebuilding local governance structures and broadening civic participation – steps the UN says are vital for an “inclusive and accountable Syria.”

The UN Independent Commission of Inquiry welcomed these steps, noting that access long denied has finally been granted, and engagement on human rights is underway. It praised the creation of national bodies on transitional justice and the missing, while cautioning that Syria’s transition remains fragile amid continuing insecurity and sporadic violence in several governorates.

In his message, Guterres urged the international community to “stand firmly behind this Syrian-led, Syrian-owned transition,” stressing that success depends on sustained funding for humanitarian appeals, removing barriers to reconstruction, and promoting economic development.

“On this anniversary, we stand united in purpose – to build a foundation of peace and prosperity and renew our pledge to a free, sovereign, united, and inclusive Syria,” he said.

Who Is a Mujaddid?

A Mujaddid is a great religious figure who, in any given era, revives the true spirit of Islam, restores the essence of its teachings, and presents its original message with a renewed intellectual strength and practical wisdom. When the Muslim community drifts away from the authentic teachings of Islam, when deviations, innovations, sectarianism, blind ritualism, and moral decay overshadow the true faith, Allah sends a personality endowed with deep knowledge, piety, foresight, and spiritual insight who takes up the task of reforming the community. The Mujaddid does not invent a new religion; rather, he rejuvenates and restores the original purity of Islam, making it relevant to the people of his time. That is why he is called a Mujaddid “the one who renews the faith.”

The concept of the Mujaddid originates from a prophetic tradition in which the Holy Prophet ﷺ said, “At the beginning of every century, Allah will send for this Ummah a person who will renew its religion.” Scholars explain that every century witnessed individuals who, through their scholarship, spiritual purity, wisdom, and moral courage, confronted the intellectual and social disorders of their time and revived the authentic teachings of Islam. A Mujaddid understands the evolving intellectual challenges, new social problems, political confusions, and moral crises of his age. With profound wisdom, he offers solutions that are both relevant to the time and fully aligned with Islamic principles. His character resembles that of a reformer, a leader, a mentor, a scholar, and a spiritual guide, someone whose vision is wide and whose understanding is deep. While holding firmly to the immutable principles of

Islam, he guides society according to its needs and circumstances and revives the collective conscience of the community.

A Mujaddid possesses certain distinct qualities. The foremost is comprehensive knowledge. He is deeply versed in the Qur’an, Hadith, jurisprudence, theology, Islamic history, Sirah, and the intellectual tradition of the Muslim world. His vast knowledge enables him to tackle complex questions and guide the community with clarity. The second essential quality is piety and spiritual purity,

for the revival of religion is not accomplished by academic knowledge alone but also by sincerity, God-consciousness, and inner purification. The third trait is practical effort. A true Mujaddid is not merely a writer or thinker; he is an active guide who ignites awareness, unites people, corrects societal wrongs, and leads a mission of moral and spiritual reform. The fourth quality is courage, as he stands firm against political pressure, societal opposition, or the resistance of rigid religious groups. The fifth essential trait is intellectual foresight, the capacity to identify stagnation, promote jihad where needed, and equip the Muslim community to respond confidently and rationally to emerging global ideas and challenges.

The work of a Mujaddid is always shaped by the needs of his era. When his age is troubled by atheism or philosophical doubt, he strengthens faith and clarifies doctrine. When the period is marked by political corruption, he revives justice, accountability, and ethical leadership. In times of moral decline, he emphasizes purification of the heart, self-discipline, and righteous conduct. In eras of intellectual confusion, he provides clarity and promotes authentic knowledge. In the modern era, those regarded as renewers of Islam responded to challenges posed by modernity, Western

philosophy, science, technology, colonialism, and global ideological conflicts by presenting Islamic principles in a rational, universal, and practical manner, enabling Muslims to remain firmly rooted in their faith while engaging constructively with the world.

The most striking sign of a Mujaddid is that his arrival sparks a new wave of spiritual and intellectual awakening in the Ummah. Thought patterns begin to change, morals improve, spiritual consciousness deepens, misinformation is corrected, and Islamic teachings regain their rightful place in society. His life becomes a living embodiment of the Sunnah and the Qur’an. Through his words and actions, he reconnects individuals, communities, and the broader Ummah with their Creator. His influence begins with individuals but gradually expands to reach entire societies.

In conclusion, a Mujaddid is a divinely gifted personality who reminds the Ummah of its true identity, resurrects the forgotten essence of faith, illuminates the darkness of deviation, and revives the religion of Allah with renewed force, clarity, and wisdom. He is a mercy for the Ummah, a blessing for the age, and a guiding light for humanity. A Mujaddid does not come to change the religion but to correct the deviations of the time and lead people back to the straight path of Islam. Now think for yourself who is the Mujaddid in this era who meets this standard at this time. Who is reviving the religion and the world is also recognizing his work. Who is also being recognized by the scholars of Arabs and non-Arabs. You may disagree with me, but according to my research, Dr. Tahir-ul-Qadri meets this standard at this time. His work is of such a standard that he should be given the title of Mujaddid al-Ma’ath al-Hadhirah, Sheikh al-Islam, may Allah bless him with His highest blessings.

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A New Horizon for Pakistan-Indonesia Relations

The Indonesian president’s two-day visit to Pakistan comes at a defining moment in the regional landscape, and for two nations whose histories, identities and ambitions intersect more deeply than often acknowledged. Pakistan and Indonesia are bound by shared faith, parallel post-colonial struggles, and a mutual desire for economic stability and strategic autonomy. This visit provides the most meaningful opportunity in decades to transform cordial ties into a structured, forward-looking partnership.

The roots of the relationship run back to the early years of independence. Both countries forged a natural bond during the anti-colonial wave of the 1950s and stood side by side at the Bandung Conference of 1955, shaping principles that later influenced the Non-Aligned Movement. Over the decades, Indonesia supported Pakistan during moments of regional tension, while Pakistan backed Indonesia internationally as it consolidated its post-independence identity. Yet despite this warmth, economic cooperation lagged behind political sentiment.

Pakistan’s defence and industrial strengths give substance to this partnership. Its position as a nuclear state with a professional, battle-tested military and a growing defence-industrial base makes Pakistan an attractive partner for Indonesia, which is modernising its forces and diversifying its procurement sources. The JF-17 Thunder, cost-effective and combat-proven, remains a strong candidate for Indonesian interest. If converted into structured cooperation—joint production, maintenance facilities, training programmes and technology transfer—the defence relationship alone could evolve

into a US\$1–1.5 billion annual ecosystem over the next decade.

Pakistan’s broader industrial and agricultural capabilities also align well with Indonesia’s needs. Pakistani textiles, sports goods, surgical instruments, leather products, halal food and pharmaceuticals all have competitive space in the Indonesian market. The IT sector, with Pakistan’s rapidly expanding pool of software developers and engineers, could capture a significant share of Indonesia’s growing demand for digital services. With supportive policies, Pakistani exports to Indonesia could realistically double to US\$1–1.2 billion within five years.

For Indonesia, the opportunities in Pakistan are equally promising. With a large consumer market and strategic access to Central Asia, western China, the Middle East and Africa, Pakistan offers Indonesian investors a broad regional gateway. Indonesia’s strength in palm oil, nickel, copper, coal, rubber and downstream manufacturing aligns with Pakistan’s industrial and energy needs. Indonesia’s mineral wealth—especially nickel, essential for electric-vehicle batteries—could support Pakistan’s emerging automotive and renewable-energy ambitions. Long-term palm oil supply agreements and joint ventures in refining and food processing could solidify a US\$2–3 billion supply chain anchored in stability and value addition.

Energy cooperation is another high-value domain. Indonesia’s substantial coal exports already support Pakistan’s

power sector, but opportunities now extend to renewable technologies, sustainable agriculture, and climate adaptation. Both nations face frequent natural disasters, rising temperatures and food-security pressures. Joint initiatives in disaster management, coastal protection, agricultural resilience and social-protection systems would translate shared vulnerabilities into shared solutions. Indonesia’s successful nutrition and social-welfare frameworks can be harmonised with Pakistan’s experience in large-scale cash-transfer programmes to create replicable models across the Muslim world.

Maritime and logistics cooperation represents an under-utilised frontier. Indonesia’s control over key shipping lanes in the Malacca and Sunda Straits complements Pakistan’s Arabian Sea ports—Karachi, Port Qasim and Gwadar. Better port-to-port coordination, enhanced shipping routes and integrated logistics corridors could turn the two nations into a bridge connecting ASEAN with the Middle East and Central Asia. Such cooperation could expand bilateral maritime trade by US\$1–2 billion and improve security collaboration against piracy and other transnational threats.

Cultural, educational and people-to-people exchanges also hold significant promise. Despite being the world’s first and second largest Muslim-majority nations, Indonesia and Pakistan still know surprisingly little about each other’s societies. Joint academic programmes, Islamic cultural exchanges, student mobility, tourism promotion and co-produced

media content could build a deeper social foundation for long-term cooperation. As both nations navigate questions of identity, governance and modernity, intellectual exchanges between their scholars, ulama and policymakers could generate meaningful dialogue.

The Indonesian president’s visit should therefore focus on more than symbolic gestures. It must articulate a roadmap built around strategic defence cooperation, balanced trade, maritime connectivity, industrial partnership and cultural exchange. A clear timeline for concluding the FTA, practical measures to reduce tariff and non-tariff barriers, and sector-specific investment frameworks could anchor economic ties at a realistic US\$8–10 billion trajectory. Defence collaboration could be formalised through joint committees and production agreements. Maritime security, food security, digital cooperation and energy transition should be placed at the centre of the agenda.

If Islamabad and Jakarta seize this moment with clarity and ambition, Pakistan-Indonesia relations could enter their strongest phase since the Bandung Conference—one defined not by nostalgia, but by shared vision, balanced opportunity and mutual strategic benefit. In a world reshaped by shifting alliances and economic competition, the partnership between these two Muslim nations has the potential not only to uplift their own populations but to contribute to a more stable and empowered Global South.

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

‘Inspiration from unexplored Gems’

Balochistan covers 44 percent of the total land area in Pakistan, which makes it the largest province and at the same time represents an unexplored expanse. Beautiful coastlines, stark mountains, canyons, and ancient archaeological sites all make a call to adventure and history seekers to come explore this land. When traveling on less popular routes such as Makran Coastal Highway one would come across unspoiled beaches and rock formations because mass tourism did not manage to reach here yet. These are real encounters with local Baloch culture and wildlife.

Unexplored Natural Areas Balochistan holds in its remoteness the natural wealth of areas like Moola Chotok, a concealed gorge and great waterfall within Khuzdar District surrounded by tall bluffs. It has access only through formidable off-road tracks that naturally filter out crowds.

Hingol National Park is located in an area more than 6,000 sq km with mud volcanoes such as Chandragup bubbling amidst bizarre rock formations. Other treasures include the green valleys of Sakran near Hub, the broad turquoise beaches of Kund Malir along dramatic cliffs, and the secluded sands of Ormara Beach on the Makran Coast. Hanna Jheel is a frozen lake in winter and Pir Ghaib waterfall falls through palm-shaded creeks near Quetta.

Neolithic flint implements and ancient trade outposts of the northern Arabian Sea period have been recorded at Ras Gadani and Phuari Headlands in Las Bela. Inland, mud-and-stone vestiges of Miri Fort relate to the legend of Sassipunnu, pre-1935 sites near Quetta such as Killi Gul Muhammad (7,000-year-old), Periano Ghundai in Zhob, and neglected Makran centers

of Indus Valley history.

The Makran Coastal Highway starts from Karachi and goes up to Gwadar for about 653 km besides hugging cliffs plus deserts past Hingol’s sphinx-like rocks, Kund Malir, and Ormara suitable for overland adventurers with small populations demanding self-dependence in fuel as well as provisions.

Off-road trails lead to the gorge of Moola Chotok, Pir Chattal Noorani’s desert oasis cave in Jhal Magshi, and Shah Noorani shrine’s narrow Khuzdar valley amidst inaccessible hills. Astola Island or Haft Talar requires a three-hour ride on a fishing boat from Pasni for its hikes on plateaus, birdwatching, and marine life. And Hub to Sonmiani offers dolphin refuges and

Churna Island scuba spots. Reasons to Visit Balochistan Tourists should visit for unparalleled biodiversity from migratory birds and turtles on 750 km of pristine beaches to rare species in Hingol-offering immersive eco-adventures absent in destinations that are crowded. The ancient heritage of the province, which includes the Hinglaj Mata Temple, a Hindu pilgrimage site, and the Zikri sacred peaks such as Koh-e-Murad, enables cultural exchange and dispels misconceptions through Baloch hospitality and handicrafts. Coming infrastructure (Rs200 million allocated in the name of tourism) promises better access for increased local economies and uncrowded sunsets at Jiwani and the views of ship breaking at Gadani, among the transformative journeys that will reshape the image of Pakistan.

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Statement by Assistant Secretary-General for Youth Affairs, Felipe Paullier on International Anti-Corruption Day

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: It weakens institutions, affecting all of us, increasing inequalities and eroding the trust that keeps societies together. When corruption spreads, tensions deepen and communities become more fragile and vulnerable to conflict.

On this International Anti-Corruption Day, we recognize that young people understand these challenges and see these realities very clearly. Across the world, they are calling for systems that are more transparent,

fair and accountable. Their demand for integrity is a broader aspiration for stability, inclusion and peace.

This message could not be more timely. This year, we mark the 10th anniversary of the UN Security Council resolution on youth peace and security, a milestone that affirmed the essential role of young people in preventing conflict and sustaining peace.

A decade ago, the international community acknowledged a simple truth. Peace is impossible without the meaningful participation of young

people. Today, that role is even more clear. Integrity and anti-corruption are central to a stability agenda that directly impacts the youth peace and security framework.

When young people push for ethical leadership, for inclusive governance, and for more just institutions, they are helping to prevent conflict before it begins. They're building the foundations of lasting peace and development. From leading community initiatives to creating innovative digital tools for transparency, young people are



shaping a future where openness and accountability are guiding principles

for public life. Their work is a reminder that where integrity grows,

peace has space to grow too.

But creating this future is a shared responsibility. It requires open dialogue, joint work, respect for diverse perspectives and a commitment from all of us to strengthen trust wherever we can. Supporting integrity, transparency and ethical behavior benefits everyone.

When we stand with young people and amplify these values, we can create communities grounded in trust, in resilience and in lasting peace—a world where every young person has the opportunity to thrive.

Sri Lanka Convention Bureau Launches B2B Roadshows in Karachi

Bureau Report

KARACHI: The Sri Lanka Convention Bureau (SLCB), functioning under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment and Tourism, in collaboration with the Consulate General of Sri Lanka in Karachi and SriLankan Airlines, is pleased to announce the launch of a two-city B2B roadshow in Karachi and Lahore. This initiative forms part of SLCB's ongoing efforts to enhance Sri Lanka's presence in one of its key source markets Pakistan.

The first roadshow will take place on 10th December 2025 at the Marriott Hotel, Karachi, followed by the second event on 12th December 2025 at the Nishat Hotel, Lahore.

In recent years, Sri Lanka has recorded a notable increase in



tourist arrivals from Pakistan. Pakistan continues to maintain its position as one of Sri Lanka's important South Asian source markets and ranks among the top 20 tourist-generating markets for Sri Lanka in 2025. The recovery of the travel and tourism

industry, strengthened outbound travel from Pakistan, improved air connectivity, and a simplified visa process have all contributed to this positive trend. In 2025 alone, 20,701 Pakistani tourists visited Sri Lanka.

Travel between the two coun-

tries remains seamless, with SriLankan Airlines operating eight direct weekly flights, four each from Karachi and Lahore to Colombo. This convenient access has supported both leisure and business travel.

The upcoming roadshows aim to highlight Sri Lanka's diverse tourism offerings and encourage potential travellers to choose Sri Lanka as their next destination. The events will showcase that Sri Lanka is fully open for leisure, business, and MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, and Exhibitions) tourism.

The target audience for the roadshows includes tour operators, media representatives, key influencers, corporate sector leaders, trade associations, and prominent tourism stakeholders in Pakistan. Their participation is vital in reinforcing Sri Lanka's

image as a vibrant destination offering a wide range of attractions and unique travel experiences.

A 12-member delegation of leading Sri Lankan tour operators will represent the country at these events. The two-city roadshow will feature B2B meetings designed to build productive business partnerships, followed by an evening networking reception to facilitate further engagement. The Sri Lankan delegation will meet with high-profile business leaders, tourism industry stakeholders, and corporate representatives in both cities.

A press conference will be held in Karachi and Lahore to ensure extensive media coverage and increased visibility for Sri Lanka as a preferred travel destination. Additionally, a performance by a Sri Lankan cultural troupe

will serve as a cultural highlight, showcasing the country's rich heritage.

Commenting on the programme, Mr. Sanjeeva Pattiwila, Consul General, Sri Lanka Consulate General of Karachi: Pakistan has always been a vital source market for Sri Lanka, not just because of proximity, but also due to the deep cultural, religious and historical ties that bind us. Through our roadshows in Karachi and Lahore, we aim to strengthen these connections and showcase Sri Lanka as a preferred, year-round destination for leisure, MICE and Business travel."

Commenting on the initiative, Mr. Dheera Hettiarachchi, Chairman of the Sri Lanka Convention Bureau, stated: "Sri Lanka is an excellent MICE destination due to its proximity, strong

connectivity, and cost-effectiveness. These roadshows will highlight Sri Lanka's strengths and contribute to fostering stronger tourism and business ties with Pakistan."

Mr. Ruwan Wijekoon, Manager Pakistan, SriLankan Airlines Ltd, Karachi stated: As the national carrier, SriLankan Airlines is proud to play a key role in expanding travel opportunities between Pakistan and Sri Lanka offering special airfares for holidaymakers, making it an attractive option for travellers looking to explore Sri Lanka's rich culture, beautiful beaches, and vibrant cities. With increasing interest in leisure, MICE, and cultural tourism, we look forward to welcoming more Pakistani travellers onboard and supporting the industry's efforts to promote Sri Lanka as a preferred destination."

Access. Ability. League 2025 – An Inclusive Cricket Exhibition by ConnectHear and Standard Chartered Pakistan

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Standard Chartered Pakistan and ConnectHear (www.connecthear.org), Pakistan's leading assistive technology start-up and pioneer in accessibility solutions, successfully organised the Access. Ability. League 2025 – An Inclusive Cricket Exhibition on Saturday at the Aga Khan University Sports Complex, Karachi. Held in honour of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, the exhibition brought together Deaf, Blind, and Wheelchair cricket teams from across Pakistan, including athletes who compete at national and international levels, to celebrate sporting excellence, champion inclusion, and affirm every athlete's right to participate fully in sports.

The aim of the exhibition was to acknowledge and elevate athletes with disabilities who have achieved remarkable success in sports, and to showcase how inclusive sporting opportunities empower individuals. The programme featured three main athletic sections: Blind Cricket, Deaf Cricket, and Wheelchair Cricket. Each team



demonstrated exceptional skill, strategy, and spirit, proving that access to sport, adaptive training, and inclusive competition platforms forge pathways for national recognition. The event also served as a critical call to action for both public and private institutions to urgently invest in inclusive sports programmes and infrastructure nationwide.

The proceedings commenced with a welcome address by Azima Dhanjee, CEO of ConnectHear, in which she highlighted the organisation's mission to make sports and technology accessible to all. Speaking at the occasion, Ms Dhanjee said: "Cricket is the heartbeat of this nation, and we believe it can also become the strongest bridge for inclusion. This league is not just a one-day exhibition; it is the beginning of

a movement. We hope that federations, institutions, and sponsors across Pakistan will join hands with us to ensure that inclusive cricket becomes a permanent part of our sporting culture, not an exception".

The opening ceremony also featured remarks from Mr. Tuaha Ahmed Faruqi, Secretary of the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPD), Government of Sindh, along with representatives from Aga Khan University, collectively emphasising their commitment to accessibility and empowerment for Persons with Disabilities (PWDs).

Commenting on the event, Yasir Khwaja, Head of HR, Standard Chartered Pakistan, stated, "As a purpose-led organisation, Standard Char-

tered continues to invest in programmes that drive meaningful, measurable impact. Supporting this inclusive cricket tournament reflects our commitment to enabling participation, equity, and empowerment through sport. We are proud to contribute to a platform that demonstrates the value of inclusion in action."

The event was supported by a strong network of partners, with Standard Chartered Pakistan taking the lead as the main sponsor. Other sponsors included Bank AL Habib, Contour Software, Louis Dreyfus Company (LDC), Habib Metro Bank, Brand & Media Learning Hub, PMYP (Prime Minister Youth Programme), and Aga Khan University Sports Complex.

The Access. Ability. League 2025 was received overwhelmingly, and over 1,000 attendees, with and without disabilities, enjoyed the event. It garnered immense encouragement, support, and appreciation from spectators, dignitaries, and PWDs alike, reinforcing the transformative power of inclusive sports in changing perceptions and creating opportunities.

Saudi Titans win inaugural match of Wing 999 Inter-Departmental Cricket Tournament

Bureau Report

KARACHI: Wing 999 will give every possible cooperation to RCA Karachi for the promotion of cricket also in the future as well, Wing 999 jointly with RCAF organize a club cricket tournament in the future. These views were expressed at KCCA Stadium by the Chief Guest Jan Sher Ashrafi, Director Wing 999 Sports, while addressing the opening ceremony of the Wing 999 Inter-Departmental Cricket League Tournament organized under the supervision of the Regional Cricket Association Karachi with the cooperation of Wing 999 Sports. On this occasion, while paying rich tribute to Nadeem Omar, the President of RCA Karachi, he said that after Nadeem Omar became president, the ground of KCCA Stadium which, due to salinity and water logging, was not playable today it is counted among Karachi's best grounds. On this occasion, Chairman Tournament Committee Khalid Nafees said in his address that today when the Wing 999 Inter-Departmental Cricket League Tournament is starting in Karachi, on the other hand in Lahore, Karachi's team



under the presidency of Nadeem Umar has, for the second time in two and a half years, become champion of the Quaid-e-Azam Trophy. We will continue our efforts for the promotion of cricket according to the vision of Nadeem Umar. He further said that without the guidance of Azam Khan these successes were impossible.

Earlier, Tournament Secretary Muhammad Tauseef Siddiqui gave details about the tournament and thanked Wing 999 for sponsoring the tournament and said that InshaAllah all matches of the tournament will be played on the best grounds. He informed that the winning team will be given 5 lakh while the runner-up team will be given 2.5 lakh rupees. Afterwards, the Chief Guest Jan Sher Ashrafi officially inaugurated the tournament by hitting the ball. In the opening match, Saudi Titans

defeated Mesol Solar by 8 wickets. Mesol Solar, batting first, made 165 runs for the loss of 8 wickets. Abdullah Danish 60 6x4, Jawadur-Rehman 48 Owais Raheem, Osama Basharat and Haris Khan got 2-2 Wickets each. In reply, Saudi Titans 166/2 in 21.5 overs. Ata Jan 53 x4 6 3x6, Basit Khan scored an unbeaten 44, Hassan Iqbal 41 runs.

On this occasion, Ajmal Naseeb President Zone One, Secretary Arif Waheed, Treasurer M Tariq Hafeez, Secretary of Zone Two Nusratullah, President of Zone Six Zia Ahmed Siddiqui, Treasurer Raees-ud-Din, former Secretary of Zone Two Rehan Siddiqui, former Treasurer Afzal Shairi, former first-class cricketer Zafar Ahmed, Zone Five's Shahbaz Qureshi, Jibran Khan, Saim Ahmed, Nizamuddin and other dignitaries participated.

LAAM Fashion Week Hosts Leadership Event in Lahore, Setting the Stage for Pakistan's Next Fashion Economy

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: LAAM Fashion Week (LFW), Pakistan's first runway-to-e-tail fashion platform, hosted its inaugural leadership event today at its headquarters in Lahore. Designed as the first formal introduction to the LFW ecosystem, the gathering brought together a confluence of designers, brands, businesses, media leaders and industry stakeholders for an afternoon focused on the future of fashion, technology and commerce.

The event underscored LFW's central purpose: to present a new blueprint for the industry by uniting creative talent, unmatched consumer reach and a digital-first retail model that makes Pakistani fashion instantly

accessible around the world.

Anchored in three core pillars, the platform's direction was brought to life through a dynamic panel discussion featuring LAAM and LFW co-founders Amir Iqbal and Arif Iqbal, Design651 CEO and LFW Co-Founder Saad Ali, LFW Creative Leadership HSY and Maheen Kardar, Designer Experience Director LFW. Moderated by Selina Rashid, CEO Lotus PR Global, the conversation highlighted:

Curation: LFW will bring together the strongest expressions of Pakistani fashion—from luxury houses and couture ateliers to high street, textile powerhouses and emerging designers—offering a diverse and thoughtfully curated representation of the industry, all in one place.

Reach: With LAAM's existing footprint spanning 120+ countries and a combined potential audience of more than 500 million fashion and lifestyle consumers and over 6 Million Active Fashion Buyers across LAAM Channels, LFW is positioned as Pakistan's first fashion platform built from day one for global discovery, global engagement and global buyability.

Commerce: LFW's runway-to-e-tail model turns what has historically been visibility into measurable, long-tail commerce. Every look presented on the runway will be photographed, catalogued, priced and made shoppable online—a shift that finally aligns the creative energy of fashion weeks with real consumer conversion and revenue.

Collectively, the session explored how a digitally powered, data-led ecosystem can unlock Pakistan's next era of fashion; one where creativity scales beyond borders.

"At LAAM, we witness millions of customers discovering and buying South Asian fashion every month from more than 120 countries. With LFW, we are connecting that demand directly to the runway to ensure creativity meets a global consumer, and where the business of fashion becomes bigger than the runway alone," said Amir Iqbal, Co-Founder & COO of LAAM, at LAAM Fashion Week.

"Technology is the backbone behind everything we are building. From AI-driven personalization to data-backed logistics

and our real-time runway-to-e-tail model, LFW is a platform that treats fashion as both culture and infrastructure. Our goal is simple: to make every designer discoverable, every look shoppable and every collection deliverable anywhere in the world," said Arif Iqbal, Co-Founder & CEO of LAAM, on LFW.

Saad Ali, CEO & Founder of Design651 and Co-Founder of LFW, added, "Over two decades, Pakistan has experienced the highs, plateaus and reinventions of Pakistan's fashion platforms. LFW represents the next evolution: a model that respects the craft, acknowledges the past and answers the future."

The networking event marks LFW's first public milestone ahead of its debut edition in



January 2026 in Lahore. With curated representation across luxury, high street, couture, textile, and emerging talent, LFW is set to position Pakistani design on the global stage through a model that is digital, scalable, inclusive, and export-focused.

LFW is built in partnership with LAAM and Design651 with HSY as the Event Director, Nabila and N-Gents as the Official Style Partners, Maheen Kardar as the Designer Experience Director, and Lotus as Strategic Communications Partner.

 **Bull & Bears**

PSX 100-Share Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
168,303.24	167,085.58
Day's High	Day's Low
168,755.18	167,386.43
Index Value	Change
39,975,468,419	+ 1217.66
Percentage	Time
+0.73%	8 Dec, 2025 4:30 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
9,645.09	−21.92
Percentage	Time
−0.23%	8 Dec, 4:35 pm GMT

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
47,726.61	−228.38
Percentage	Time
−0.48%	5 Dec, 12:54 pm GMT-5

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
50,581.94	+90.07
Percentage	Time
+0.18%	8 Dec, 3:45 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	184.5	188.5
Bahrain Dinar	744.5	754.5
Canadian Dollar	200	205
China Yuan	39.35	39.75
Danish Krone	43.25	43.65
Euro	327.5	330.5
Hong Kong Dollar	35.75	36.10
Indian Rupee	3.07	3.16
Japanese Yen	1.8025	1.9025
Kuwaiti Dinar	912.45	922.45
Malaysian Ringgit	67.35	67.95
NewZealand \$	159	161
Norwegians Krone	27.45	27.75
Omani Riyal	729	739
Qatari Riyal	76.45	77.15
Saudi Riyal	74.85	75.4
Singapore Dollar	215.5	220.5
Swedish Korona	29.45	29.75
Swiss Franc	346.7	349.45
Thai Bhat	8.62	8.77
U.A.E Dirham	76.6	77.3
UK Pound Sterling	374.5	378
US Dollar	281.35	283.2

Year in Search

2025: Google reveals top search trends of Pakistan



Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Google's Year in Search 2025 paints a vivid picture of what captured Pakistan's attention online, with searches spanning from Pakistan's ever-lasting love of Cricket and athletes to quick recipes and curious how-to queries.

Cricket on Top with Local Dramas Close Behind in Pakistan's Entertainment Searches

Cricket continues to lead Pakistan's search trends for another year, with major matchups and tournaments dominating online curiosity. Fans actively searched for fixtures like Pakistan's matches against South Africa, India & New Zealand. Among major tournaments, Pakistan's homegrown "Pakistan Super League" remained the most popular tournament alongside "Asia Cup", and the "ICC Champions Trophy", reflecting the nation's unwavering enthusiasm for cricket and particularly its local league.

As expected, cricketing athletes captured the attention of Pakistanis as well. Fans mostly searched and followed emerging talents like "Abhishek Sharma", "Hassan Nawaz" & "Irfan Khan Niazi" whose performances throughout 2025 kept fans talking.

Apart from cricket, Pakistanis switched to local dramas for some more entertainment. Dramas remained a favourite topic of interest for Pakistani viewers in 2025, with audiences eagerly following the storylines and performances that kept them hooked. Popular dramas such as "Sher", "Judwaa" & "Aas Paas" dominated search trends, reflecting the nation's love for engaging narratives, compelling characters, and memorable on-screen moments.



Zain Khan Malghani

MULTAN: the whole world is observing Anti-Corruption Day." International Anti-Corruption Day is observed every year on December 9 with the objective of eliminating corruption, injustice, and nepotism from society, while promoting transparency, merit, and the rule of law. The message of this day is clear: no individual should be above the law, and a strong state is one where justice knocks equally on every door.

A Collective War Against Corruption: The Strong Resolve of a Strong Nation: Zulfiqar Anjum

Renowned industrialist Chaudhry Zulfiqar Ali Anjum (Chairman, SM Group of Industries; Member, National Export Development Board; Member, Board of Investment) said in his message: "Corruption has become a social cancer that is hollowing out the roots of our nation. To eradicate this menace, every individual must play their part."

He further stated that merit must be promoted in all public and private institutions; Bribery and the culture of recommendations must be eliminated;

Justice should be made the foundation so that every citizen receives their due rights; National interest must be prioritized over personal gains;

And concrete collective measures should be taken to reduce the widening gap between the rich and the poor.

Addressing the citizens, Chaudhry Zulfiqar Ali Anjum added:

"We must all wage a collective war against corruption. Begin from your home, your office, and your sphere of influence. When every indi-

vidual fulfills their responsibility, only then will Pakistan become corruption-free." The industrialist emphasized that the rising hopelessness and frustration in the country cannot be eradicated without the rule of law. When justice becomes swift and transparent, corruption will die its own death.

"Say No to Corruption"

This simple yet powerful message is not just a slogan—it is a pledge. If we act upon it, Pakistan will become stronger, and every Pakistani will become more prosperous.

Group Photo

Chairman Senate, Syed Yousaf Raza Gillam in a group photo with President of the Senate of Malaysia, His Excellency Senator Dato Awang Bemee Bin Awang Ali Basah, in Kuala Lumpur on Monday.



Photo: PID

Asia Energy Transition Summit 2025 Concludes at LUMS with Strong Regional Participation



Commerce Desk

LAHORE: The second Asia Energy Transition Summit, jointly organised by the LUMS Energy Institute (LEI), the Alliance for Climate Justice and Clean Energy (ACJCE) and the Pakistan Renewable Energy Coalition (PREC), concluded at LUMS on December 7. The two-day event brought together federal ministers, parliamentarians, civil servants, climate and energy

experts and practitioners, academics and activists from across South Asia and South-east Asia. The summit reaffirmed Asia's growing political, financial and technological role in shaping regional and global trends towards a clean and just energy transition. It also emphasised the need for stronger regional cooperation and collaboration within Asia to expedite and smooth-

en this transition.

Delivering his keynote address during

the summit, Prof. Ahsan Iqbal, Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, highlighted the central role of energy transition in Pakistan's future development. "Clean, reliable and affordable energy is essential for our economic revival," he said. "By bringing together regional experts, Asia Energy Transition Summit has also helped Pakistan determine its role and contribution in shaping an Asia-wide fair, future-oriented energy agenda."

New Partnership Between Meezan Bank and Etihad Airways Brings Added Travel Savings

Spokesman Report

KARACHI: Meezan Bank has signed an agreement with Etihad Airways, the Abu Dhabi-based international carrier, to offer travel-related discounts to Meezan Bank Debit Cardholders. The signing ceremony took place at Meezan Bank's Head Office in Karachi and was attended by Mr. Ahmed Ali Siddiqui, Group Head of Consumer Finance, Meezan Bank, and Mr. Ahmad Zahoor, General Manager, Etihad Airways Pakistan. Senior Meezan Bank officials, including Mr. Rahil Sayani, Head of Acquiring, Loyalty & Alliances, and Mr. Abid Malik, Head of Cards, Unsecured Financing & New Initiatives, were also present.

Through this partnership, Meezan Bank Debit Cardholders will be able to access exclusive discounts on flight bookings made using their debit cards on Etihad Airways. The collaboration is intended to provide customers with added value and facilitate more affordable travel options.

The collaboration enhances the customer travel experience by aligning Meezan Bank's value-driven banking with Etihad Airways' world-class hospitality, providing more accessible and cost-effective options for business and leisure travelers.

Speaking at the occasion, Mr. Ahmed Ali Siddiqui highlighted Meezan Bank's commitment to providing world-class Islamic banking



services along with meaningful benefits and added convenience for its customers. He noted that the collaboration with Etihad Airways will further support customers' travel needs through exclusive discounts and seamless payment options.

Mr. Ahmad Zahoor welcomed the partnership and expressed Etihad Airways' intent to strengthen its relationship with Meezan Bank, aiming to offer enhanced and rewarding travel experiences for customers in Pakistan. This partnership represents

another milestone in Meezan Bank's journey towards delivering innovative, customer-focused solutions and reflects its commitment to building alliances that align with its mission of providing Shariah-compliant, value-based banking services.

SECP Moves to Enforce Mandatory Motor Insurance via Repository

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has issued a circular directing all registered non-life insurers, including general takaful operators engaged in underwriting motor vehicle insurance, to participate in the Motor Insurance Repository (MIR).

The MIR is a centralized electronic database established under a Memorandum of Understanding between insurance companies, takaful operators, and the Central Depository Company (CDC). It enables the secure storage, validation, and accessibility of

motor insurance policies and claims data. Insurers underwriting motor vehicle insurance are now required to sign a Service Level Agreement (SLA) with the CDC within 60 days and share complete and accurate policy data in accordance with the SLA. This data may be shared with relevant federal and provincial authorities for policy validation, while maintaining strict confidentiality and security requirements.

The SECP remains committed to promoting digital transformation, strengthening compliance, safeguarding public interest, and enhancing the integrity and efficiency of Pakistan's insurance ecosystem.

A new era will begin in Pakistan with General Asim Munir's new responsibilities: Malik Khuda Bakhsh



Commerce Desk

KARACHI: President of Pakistan Business Forum (PBF) Karachi Region, Senior Vice Chairman Pakistan Petroleum Dealers Association (PPDA), Convener FPCCI Standing Committee on Energy, and Chairman Malik Group of Companies, Malik Khuda Bakhsh, congratulated Field Marshal General Syed Asim Munir on assuming the position of Chief of Defence Force, and Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Babar on taking over his new responsibilities as Chief of the Pakistan Air Force.

He said that the Pakistan Army and Pakistan Air Force have always rendered exemplary services for the defense of the beloved homeland, and the entire nation is proud of the bravery and contributions of its armed forces.

Malik Khuda Bakhsh said that the new responsibilities assigned to Field Marshal Asim Munir and Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Babar will further strengthen the country's defense system. With these new appointments, a new era will begin in the country—one marked by peace, development, and stronger national unity.

Punjab bag gold medal in National Games fencing event

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: The interesting competitions are in progress on Monday in the 35th National Games being organized at Karachi.

Punjab bagged the gold medal in fencing when M Naeem defeated his opponent from Higher Education Commission in the individual fencing competition without much trouble. In total, Punjab clinched 4 medals in fencing, including one gold, one silver and 2 bronze medals.

Punjab also won a silver medal in rugby girls' event when they suffered defeat against Wapda in the final after tough competition. In gymnastics boys' event, Punjab pocketed a silver and a bronze medal while in taekwondo, Punjab's Tayyab Sarwar won a silver medal. In the taekwondo team event, Maryam Aslam and Tayyab Sarwar won silver while Sundas Zahra won a bronze medal.

Punjab women also won two bronze medals in karate in 68+ category and kata category. Punjab won another bronze medal in the badminton women's team event. Punjab picked up a bronze medal by defeating Police by 29-0 in the rugby boys' third and fourth position match. Punjab's Maimoona secured



a bronze medal in the women's athletics shot put event.

Punjab also qualified for the 800m and 400m races while Punjab women's team booked the semi-final place in National Games squash event. In basketball girls' event, Punjab defeated Balochistan by a

huge margin of 106-20.

In National Games women hockey event, Punjab girls toppled Balochistan by a massive margin of 19-0 in a one-sided match on Monday. Punjab women hockey team was ruthless right from the beginning and did not give any

room to their opponents to settle down. Sharika and Laraib Abid were the top scorers for Punjab with 7 and 5 goals respectively while the remaining seven goals were shared by Mehak Rashid (3), Maleeha Younis (2), Saira Younis (1) and Laiba Yaseen (1) goal.

Arshad Nadeem claims javelin gold at National Games



KARACHI: Pakistan's Olympic hero Arshad Nadeem reaffirmed his supremacy in javelin on Monday, clinching the gold medal at the 35th National Games with a commanding 81.1m throw.

Representing WAPDA, the Paris 2024 Olympic champion surged to the top of the leaderboard with his very first big effort, and no competitor came close to threatening his mark for the remainder of the competition. His throw stood unchallenged as the winning distance.

The silver medal also went to WAPDA through Yasir Sultan, whose best attempt of 70.77m placed him comfortably ahead of the rest but well short of Arshad's benchmark. Pakistan Army's Abrar secured bronze with a throw of 67.68m.

Arshad, who became Pakistan's first-ever individual Olympic gold medallist last year, is also serving as the flag-bearer for the National Games.

"Honoured to be the Flag Bearer at the National Games 2025 in Karachi," he wrote on social media, lauding the electric atmosphere. "Amazing crowd and unforgettable energy."

The star athlete performed a ceremonial throw at the glittering opening ceremony attended by Governor Sindh Kamran Tessori, Chief Minister Sindh Murad Ali Shah, Sindh Sports Minister Sardar Muhammad Bakhsh Mahar, and several prominent political figures, including PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari.

Asian American Sports Club expands to Pakistan, targets youth grooming & international pathways

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: Asian American Sports Club (AASC), a prominent organisation led by overseas Pakistanis, has formally launched its Lahore chapter, unveiling an expansive plan to provide world-class training, scholarships, and international exposure to talented and deserving athletes across the country.

Speaking at a high-profile media briefing, AASC Chairman Sid Siddiqui, who specially travelled from New York, along with President Amir Rasul and Mian Usman of Urban Developers, outlined the club's far-reaching vision. Siddiqui announced that the organisation is expanding its footprint across South Asia by affiliating with institutions in China, India, the UAE, Bangladesh and other regional nations, aiming to uplift the standards of sports, education, health, and youth development.

Siddiqui said: "Our mission is

simple, identify deserving Pakistani athletes, train them professionally, support them academically, and prepare them for global success. We are already working at a national level, but my ultimate destination is the international stage." He added that Pakistani communities in the United States are eager to contribute through structured, sustainable models, and AASC provides exactly that platform.

One of the most significant announcements came when Sid Siddiqui revealed that Central Park Lahore has become the first formal affiliate of AASC in Pakistan, providing its state-of-the-art sporting infrastructure for training camps, athlete development programs and future international events.

Mian Usman, Managing Director of Central Park and President of AASC Pakistan Chapter, welcomed the partnership, saying: "Seventeen modern sports facilities have already been inau-

gurated at Central Park. Under Vision 2030, we aim to transform this venue into Pakistan's premier Sports City. With AASC's global expertise, we will groom future stars, sponsor deserving players, and even send them abroad for high-level training." He added that Central Park will extend maximum support to sports bodies and talented athletes across multiple disciplines.

The Asian American Sports Club announced that it will actively support, train and develop athletes in tennis, cricket, snooker, badminton, arm wrestling, kabaddi, padel tennis and pickleball.

AASC President Aamir Rasool reaffirmed the club's regional ambition. "We are grateful to Central Park and Urban Developers for providing one of the finest sports arenas in Pakistan. We have added several Asian countries to AASC because our purpose is to uplift sports and athletes across Asia. We will hunt promising talent and fully



develop it."

AASC also announced leadership for its Pakistan and tennis chapters, Usman Anwar, MD Urban Developers, President of AASC Pakistan Chapter, Sania Naeem and Musa

Haroon, Vice Presidents, while Imran Ahmad Siddiqui, President and Khalid Siddique, Vice President. Faisal Khan, Vice President of Arm Wrestling Division.

Faisal Khan of arm wrestling

disclosed: "We were approached by Sid Siddiqui because we have been organizing a good number of arm wrestling events in Pakistan and our recent event was participated by over 4,000 active participants. Under Vision 2026, the 'Fakhre Pakistan Open Challenge' will be hosted at Central Park. A full-scale training camp will be held before the event, with strong participation from female athletes."

AASC confirmed plans to hold international tennis and multi-sport events next year, along with long-term training camps designed to groom athletes for global competitions. Scholarships, academic assistance, mentorship, and social support will be extended to deserving players. With AASC's arrival, Central Park's world-class infrastructure, Vision 2030 roadmap, and the involvement of overseas Pakistanis, Lahore is poised to become a dynamic hub for youth development and regional sports excellence.

Chief Manager SBP Multan Zaheer Sabir inaugurated the 21st Governor State Bank Cup Inter-Bank Regional Cricket Tournament

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Chief Manager State Bank of Pakistan Multan Zaheer Sabir inaugurated the 21st Governor State Bank Cup Inter-Bank Regional Cricket Tournament organized by Bankers Club Multan by hitting the ball. Senior officers of various banks, players and media representatives attended the opening ceremony. Talking to the media after the inauguration, Zaheer Sabir said that the State Bank and the banking community are not only playing an important role in financial activities but are also taking vigorous steps to promote healthy activities. He said that the aim of this tournament is to promote teamwork, sportsmanship and an atmosphere of positive competition among the employees of the banks. He added: "Such



sports events are the best way to increase harmony between institutions and provide a healthy environment to young employees. Bankers Club Multan has always organized the best sports activities, and we are happy that this tournament is being organized in a better manner every year. Zaheer

Sabir expressed his best wishes to all the teams participating in the tournament and hoped that this event will not only prove to be memorable for the players but will also promote positive trends in the banking sector. The opening ceremony was attended by Senior Deputy Chief Manager Umar

Shahzad, Deputy Chief Manager Adeel Ahmed Khan, Faheem Arshad, Ibtisam Khalid, Imran Sadaf, Waqar Ahmed, Hamza Allied Bank Regional Head Business Umar Ilyas, Regional Head Operation Zeeshan Haider, Unit Head Adnan Haider, Manager East Jawad Saleem, GM Oper-

ations Habib Bank Ali Haid-er Gardezi, Regional Manager Muhammad Muzammil, Branch Manager Kamran Khalil, GM Muslim Commercial Bank Atiqur Rehman, Regional Head Muhammad Fahad Siddiqui, Regional Operation Manager Muhammad Wasif Chughtai, Arslan, Coordinator Hafiz Usman and others. Two matches were played on the opening day. In the first match, Allied Bank defeated Meezan Bank by 28 runs. Batting first, Allied Bank scored 212 runs for the loss of 7 wickets. Allied Bank showed excellent batting performance. Rehman scored 113 runs, Aziz scored 30 and Sameer scored 26 runs. Ali Ahmed scored 3, Ali Murtaza scored 2 and Arif Gurmuni took one wicket for Meezan Bank. In reply, Meezan Bank team was bowled out for 184 runs. Ali Haider scored 36, Mustanir

Naqvi scored 32, Ali scored 28 runs. In bowling, Saad Qureshi scored 2, Hassan scored 1 and Rehman took one wicket for Allied Bank. Rehman was the man of the match in this match. In the second match, Habib Bank defeated Muslim Commercial Bank by 17 runs. Batting first, Habib Bank scored 9 wickets in the stipulated overs. Abdullah Chand scored 196 runs, Adnan Khan 50, 44 and Ali Umar 15 runs were outstanding. In bowling, Tayyab 2, Ahmed 2, Faraz took one wicket for Muslim Commercial Bank. In reply, Muslim Commercial Bank could score 179 runs for 7 wickets. Tayyab Mukhtar 61, Zakaulah 41, Ahmed Khilji 23 runs were outstanding. In bowling, Abdullah Chand 2, Samiullah took 2 wickets for Habib Bank. Abdullah Chand was declared the man of the match. Wasim Shah was

the umpire in the match, Abdul Rauf was the scorer. Qalandar Hussain was the scorer. Today, Tuesday, December 9, there will be two matches: Bank Habib and Muslim Commercial Bank. The second match will be between State Bank and National Bank.

Multan. The 21st Governor State Bank Cup Inter-Bank Regional Cricket Tournament organized by Bankers Club Multan was inaugurated by Chief Manager State Bank of Pakistan Multan Zaheer Sabir by hitting the ball. Umar Shahzad, Adeel Ahmed, Ibtisam Khalid, Faheem Arshad, Shafaqat Ali, Umar Ilyas, Zeeshan Haider, Adnan Haider, Jawad Saleem, Habib Bank Ali Haider Gardezi, Muhammad Muzammil Kamran Khalil, Rao Noman and others are present. Group photo with the teams on the other side.

PM approves projects to ensure uninterrupted power supply to Gwadar, GB

Continued from Page 1

He instructed the Ministry of Energy to ensure effective implementation of the immediate, short-term, and long-term projects included in the comprehensive strategy.

"Uninterrupted electricity supply in Gwadar will certainly enhance national economic activity and investment," the prime minister said.

He also emphasized that electricity supply for industries and investors in Pakistan should meet regional and international standards.

He added that uninterrupted power and other facilities will transform Gwadar Port into one of the world's best ports and a future hub of economic activities.

Minister for Energy Sardar Awais Ahmad Khan Leghari, briefing the meeting, said that due to the ministry's prompt actions, power supply disruptions in Gwadar had already been reduced by 42%.

After resolving outages, a comprehensive plan has also been prepared to stabilize the voltage of supplied electricity in Gwadar within the next six months, the minister said adding that effective and productive steps were being taken to ensure electricity supply to domestic and commercial consumers in Gwadar.

Among short-term projects, 9.7 megawatts of solar capacity will be installed in major government institutions within the next 8 to 12 months, while in the long-term projects for Gwadar, a 40-megawatt project will be installed to ensure sustainable power supply.

The meeting was informed that due to ongoing industrial and economic development, expansion of Gwadar Port, and growth in urban areas, electricity demand in Gwadar was expected to increase by 30% in the coming years.

The 100-megawatt solar project in Gilgit-Baltistan consists of two components:

an 18-megawatt rooftop solar program and an 82-megawatt utility-scale solar project.

The rooftop and utility-scale solar projects in Gilgit-Baltistan will be completed by 2027, the briefing said adding that joint projects between the Government of Gilgit-Baltistan and the Ministry of Energy will save the government Rs 1 billion annually.

The government of Gilgit-Baltistan will ensure timely provision of land, communications, infrastructure, and other facilities for the electricity projects, the briefing added.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Muhammad Ishaq Dar, Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb, Minister for Energy Sardar Awais Ahmad Khan Leghari, Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar, Minister for Economic Affairs Ahad Khan Cheema, Minister for Petroleum Ali Pervez Malik, and other relevant government officials.

Govt achieves 27% revenue growth;

Continued from Page 8

He said digital production monitoring had already begun in the sugar and cement sectors, resulting in Rs7 billion and Rs10 billion additional collections respectively between July–November.

"These reforms will continue. Technology is the equalizer," he said, urging Syed Hafeezuddin and other members to share intelligence on suspected evasion so enforcement could be further tightened.

Aurangzeb also acknowledged a point raised earlier by Minister for National Food Security Rana Tanveer Hussain regarding access to finance in agriculture.

He highlighted that the government had launched a collateral-free loan programme for farmers holding less than five acres and engaged in subsistence-level livestock farming.

He said the first-loss guarantee and subsidy would be provided by the Government of Pakistan through the State Bank, and the scheme had already been operationalised.

Responding to various supplementary questions, Aurangzeb said he had already clarified Pakistan's position on the IMF Governance Diagnostic Report on the floor of the Senate, but was reiterating it for the Lower House.

He said the report was based on input from 100+ meetings

involving 30+ departments, and that IMF had explicitly acknowledged Pakistan's progress in several areas—including fiscal performance, primary surplus, inflation moderation, reserves building, State Bank strengthening, FATF exit, digitalisation reforms, and alternative dispute resolution mechanisms.

Aurangzeb emphasised that the report's 15 recommendations were technical in nature and not a judgment on any government or administration.

He said that Pakistan was required to submit its action plan by 31 December, and that the plan would be made public and shared with the Standing Committee on Finance.

Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs meeting on power sector initiatives in Gawadar and Gigit Baltistan on Monday.



Photo: PID

PM Shehbaz for accelerating timely completion of development projects

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday underscored that the transparent and timely completion of nationally important development projects remains the government's top priority, as he chaired a high-level meeting to finalize a comprehensive roadmap for accelerating project delivery.

Addressing the meeting at the Prime Minister's House,

the prime minister directed officials to devise an across-the-board reform strategy covering all stages of development projects, from approval and planning to procurement and human resource deployment.

He announced that he would personally chair a steering committee comprising federal and provincial stakeholders to oversee reforms in the development planning and execution framework.

Prime Minister Shehbaz

Sharif thanked development partners, particularly the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank (ADB), for their support and technical assistance in advancing reforms aimed at ensuring the timely completion of projects critical to national development.

During the briefing, representatives of the World Bank and ADB presented detailed proposals to improve project readiness and execution timelines. The meeting was

informed that misalignment of human resources with project objectives, delays in procurement processes, and multiple layers of approvals were among the primary reasons for cost overruns and delayed completion of development schemes.

The meeting was attended by Federal Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar, Federal Minister for Climate Change Dr. Musadik Malik, Federal Minister for Economic Affairs Ahad Khan Cheema, Federal Minister for Finance

and Revenue Muhammad Aurangzeb, Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar, Federal Minister for IT and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja, Federal Minister for Power Division Sardar Awais Ahmed Khan Leghari, Minister for Petroleum Ali Pervaiz Malik, Minister for Railways Hanif Abbasi, senior government officials, and country directors of the World Bank and Asian Development Bank.

Tarar reaffirms enduring Pak-China friendship

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar on Monday described China as Pakistan's "second home," stressing that Pakistan holds the same place for China.

Speaking as chief guest at an event organized by the China Chamber of Commerce, Tarar highlighted the growing strength of bilateral ties, noting that the bond between the two nations continues to deepen with time. He reaffirmed that Pakistan values its enduring friendship with China and pledged continued

efforts to expand cooperation across all sectors.

Tarar said China has supported Pakistan through every challenging moment, describing the friendship between the two countries as unmatched. He expressed gratitude to the Chinese leadership for its consistent backing and noted that people-to-people exchanges have enabled Chinese culture to flourish in Pakistan, further reinforcing bilateral relations.

He remarked that China has consistently stood by Pakistan during difficult times, adding that the passage of time has affirmed the two nations as



true "iron brothers," with a partnership that continues to grow in strength and trust.

Tarar also pointed out that Pakistan contributes less than one percent to global carbon

emissions yet faces some of the most severe consequences of climate change. He stressed that the country ranks among the top ten most vulnerable nations despite its minimal

role in the crisis, underscoring the urgent need for greater international support to help Pakistan address climate-related challenges.

Minister Counsellor at the Chinese Embassy in Islamabad, Mr. Yang Guangyuan extended gratitude to the information minister on behalf of the Chinese Embassy for joining the event, and appreciated his commitment with the China-Pakistan relations.

He said the presence of the information minister on the occasion showed the importance attached by the Government of Pakistan to the Chinese business community.

Govt achieves 27% revenue growth; digital monitoring, anti-evasion enforcement expanded: Aurangzeb



Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Finance and Revenue Muhammad Aurangzeb on Monday informed the National Assembly that Pakistan recorded a 27 percent increase in federal revenue collection last fiscal year, driven by structural reforms, digital monitoring of key sectors, and stricter enforcement against tax evasion.

Responding to a Calling Attention Notices raised by Syed Hafeezuddin and Muhammad Jawed Hanif Khan regarding rampant tax evasion and the devastating condition of revenue collection, the minister said the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) collected Rs11.7 trillion compared to Rs9.2 trillion in the previous fiscal year—an unprecedented increase of nearly Rs5 trillion.

He said that withholding tax grew

by 28%, sales tax by 26%, federal excise duty by 33%, and customs duty by 16%, terming the overall performance "strong and structurally driven rather than one-off."

Aurangzeb said Pakistan's tax-to-GDP ratio had already improved from 8.5% to 10.3%, and expressed confidence that it would reach 11% this year, supported by automation and technology-led reforms monitored weekly by the Prime Minister.

The minister informed the House that enforcement efforts were now focused on widening and deepening the tax net.

He said nearly Rs 200 billion was collected from retailers and wholesalers this year, with around 400,000 non-null returns filed—"a real compliance gain."

Continued on Page 7

PM Rathore and Opp Leader Qadir discuss Chief Election Commissioner appointment



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister of Azad Jammu & Kashmir, Faisal Mumtaz Rathore, met with the Leader of the Opposition, Shah Ghulam Qadir. During the meeting, both leaders discussed matters of mutual interest and reviewed the overall political situation of the state.

The two leaders held consultations regarding the appointment of the Chief Election Commissioner of Azad Kashmir. It was mutually agreed that consultations with all political parties will be completed within a week, after which the

proposed names for the Chief Election Commissioner will be forwarded without delay.

Both leaders affirmed that the upcoming elections in Azad Kashmir will be held on schedule and emphasized that the government and the opposition will fulfill their respective responsibilities to ensure free, fair, and impartial elections.

It is pertinent to mention that the meeting took place in response to a letter written by Opposition Leader Shah Ghulam Qadir to the AJK Prime Minister, urging initiation of the process for the appointment of the Chief Election Commissioner.

Sindh Assembly unanimously backs Pakistan Army, condemns critical statements

Bureau Report

KARACHI: The Sindh Assembly on Monday unanimously passed a resolution expressing solidarity with the Pakistan Army and condemning statements deemed critical of the country's security forces.

The resolution was moved by Provincial Law Minister Ziaul Hasan Lanjar, who said the House strongly rejects any remarks against the military and stands firmly with the armed forces.

"This Assembly condemns statements that undermine national security," he said.

"Our security forces have played a major role in safeguarding Pakistan's reputation."

Lanjar added that unfounded crit-

icism is often directed at the security institutions, despite their continued sacrifices for the country's stability.

Opposition Leader Ali Khursheedi endorsed the resolution, saying the Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) fully supports the



move.

"We stand with the Pakistan Army," he said. "Every Pakistani is proud of our armed forces, who have made the country resilient and strong."

The resolution was passed without objection, reflecting rare cross-party consensus in support of the military.

Hearing in Imaan Mazari, Hadi Chatha tweet case adjourned till 15th

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The District and Sessions court of Islamabad on Monday adjourned proceedings in the controversial tweet case against Imaan Mazari and Hadi Ali Chatha, citing a pending petition before the Islamabad High Court.

Additional District and Sessions Judge Afzal Majoka presided over the proceedings.

Both Mazari and Chatha appeared before the court. During the hearing, the defence counsel informed the judge that a related petition is still pending before the Islamabad High Court.

The counsel argued that further proceedings should wait until the High Court issues its decision.

After reviewing the update, Judge Majoka noted that the court will resume the case once the High Court clarifies the matter.

He then ordered that the hearing be adjourned and fixed December 15 as the next date of hearing.

Maryam orders province-wide CCTV upgrade, tighter checks at schools and public places

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif on Monday ordered a sweeping upgrade of surveillance and security across the province, directing authorities to install CCTV cameras outside all schools and educational institutions.

Chairing a review meeting, the chief minister instructed Punjab Police to conduct mock security exercises with the School Education Department and enforce strict entry checks, deployment of trained guards and fully functional CCTV coverage at all institutions.

She also ordered registration of drivers and staff of inter-provincial buses entering Punjab and called for enhanced coordination between Punjab Police, Motorway Police and



other law-enforcement agencies.

CM Maryam directed the Punjab Safe City Authority to assess camera functionality across the province and ensure complete coverage in major cities, including Lahore and Rawalpindi.

She also ordered that CCTV systems installed in markets and homes be linked with the Safe City network to help identify suspects

more quickly.

She instructed district administrations to compile computerised data of residents from other provinces living in Punjab, working with community elders, and to identify illegal Afghan residents. Combing operations would continue across sensitive areas, she added.

"No major public place should be without digital surveillance," the chief minister said, vowing that she would "not rest until Punjab is made the safest province." She urged citizens to stay vigilant and report suspicious activity to helpline 15.

CM Maryam expressed satisfaction over the province's overall law and order situation and directed police and security agencies to continue working with what she called a "missionary spirit."