

UK deports Pakistani YouTuber Rajab Butt

The United Kingdom deported Pakistani YouTuber Rajab Butt, who departed for Pakistan on a morning flight on Tuesday following the cancellation of his UK visa. According to reports, Butt's visa was revoked after he allegedly failed to disclose recent legal cases against him in his visa application.



Arab League condemns Israeli forces' raid on UNRWA HQs in East Jerusalem

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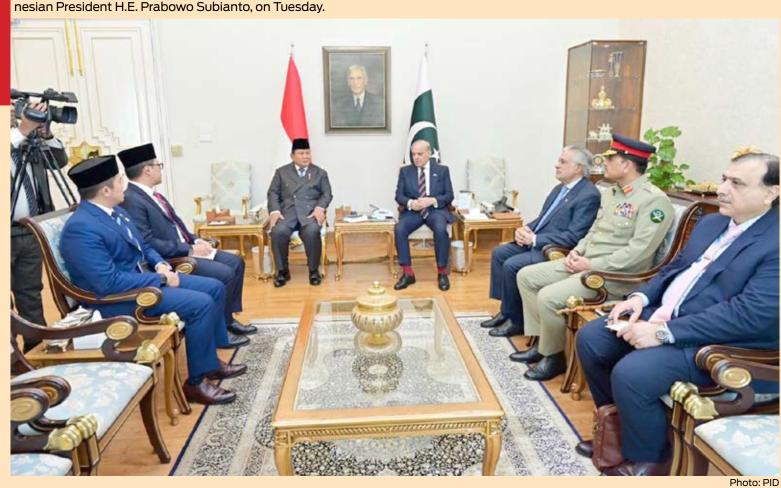
🔰 @daily_spokesman 📑



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Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in a bilateral meeting with the delegation from Indonesia led by the Indo-



Pakistan, Indonesia agree to boost bilateral trade, expand cooperation in health, IT, education

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD,: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto on Tuesday agreed to enhance bilateral trade, expand cooperation in Technology, science, and educa- from Indonesia to Pakistan. tion, and deepen coordination on regional and global issues, including Palestine.

PM House, Shehbaz Sharif said Pakistan and Indonesia were committed to boosting bilateral trade, which currently stood at US\$4.5 billion, noting that over 90 percent of the total trade health, agriculture, Information comprised of palm oil import

> He said both sides discussed corrective measures to help balance trade between the two

The prime minister also offered to send doctors, dentists, medical professors, and other health experts to Indonesia to help meet the needs of Indonesian medical universities and hospitals.

"I want to assure you that whatever is possible for us in this regard, we will do it without any

nesia Prabowo Subiato at the ture, IT-led initiatives, and other bilateral relations between the international community to act two countries span over 75 years, noting that their ties predate Pakistan's independence. He recalled that Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah had supported Indonesia's independence movement and said Indo-

> during the 1965 war. Referring to regional and global issues, the prime minister

to stop the ongoing bloodshed. He expressed confidence that the bond between the two countries would continue to grow and that President Prabowo's visit would take relations to "new heights."

President Prabowo Subianto nesia stood firmly with Pakistan thanked the government and people of Pakistan for the warm reception, noting that his aircraft was escorted by Pakistan Air

Continued on Page 7

In a joint press stakeout countries, including increasing delay," he said. praised Indonesia's stance on Force JF-17 Thunder jets. PM Shehbaz highlighted that along with President of Indo- Pakistan's exports in agricul-Gaza and said it was time for the Economy cannot run on force, taxpayers need facilitation: Bilawal

👺 Bureau Report

LAHORE: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari on Tuesday said the country's economy cannot be stabilised through coercive measures, stressing that genuine reform requires facilitation for taxpayers and greater transparency in revenue collection.

Addressing a ceremony at the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) in Lahore, Bilawal said the government must abandon approach to economic managethe long-practised "force-first" ment.



"The economy cannot run on

through fear and pressure," he

Bilawal noted that business confidence improves when taxpayers are supported rather than penalised.

"The economy can recover only when we provide facilities to taxpayers," he added.

The PPP chairman emphasised that provinces have outperformed the federal government in tax collection since the 18th Amendment, particularly in collecting sales tax on services.

He urged that the collection of sales tax on goods should also be tions in economic policymaking. sticks. Tax cannot be collected

handed over to provinces, arguing that provincial systems have demonstrated stronger results.

He said transparency within the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) is essential for restoring

"Tax must feel like a responsibility, not a burden," he remarked. Bilawal highlighted PPP's longstanding ties with the business community and praised its contributions to boosting exports. He said PPP would continue addressing traders' concerns and incorporate their recommenda-

IHC declares fake degree case against Justice Jahangiri admissible

High Court (IHC) on Tuesday declared the fake degree case Justice Tariq Mehmood Jahang-

iri admissible. Chief Justice Sardar Muhammad ments opposing the petition. Sarfraz Dogar and comprising Justice Azam Khan, issued notices to Justice Jahangiri and response from Karachi University

The court directed that all ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad responses be submitted within three days.

Barrister Zafarullah Khan, against Islamabad High Court's who acted as amicus curiae, supported the admissibility of the case, while the Islamabad A division bench, headed by District Bar submitted argu-

During the hearing, petitioner Mian Dawood argued that the for judicial office are separate

confirmed that Justice Jahangiri's degree was fake, and that the quash petition against an IHC judge could be heard in the same

Lawyer Ahmed Hassan, representing the Islamabad Bar, coun- Council Raja Aleem Abbasi, also tered that the petitioner was not an affected party in the case.

Chief Justice Dogar remarked that misconduct and eligibility

Hassan added that an intracourt appeal against judges' transfers is currently pending, and requested that Justice Dogar not hear the case.

Member of the Islamabad Bar suggested transferring the case to another bench, citing a stay order issued by the Sindh High Court.

Barrister Zafarullah Khan reiterated his support for the case's admissibility.

The division bench declared the case admissible and issued notices to Justice Jahangiri, the federal government, the President, Secretary of the Judicial Commission, Parliamentary Committee for Judicial Appointments, the Higher Education Commission (HEC), and Karachi University.

All parties have been directed to submit their replies within three days.

CDF Field Marshal Asim Munir, Indonesian president discuss defence cooperation



Naveed Ahmad Khan

RAWALPINDI: Field Marshal $Syed \, Asim \, Munir, NI \, (M), HJ,$ Chief of Army Staff & Chief of Defence Forces called on President of the Republic of Indonesia, His Excellency Prabowo

Subianto at Islamabad. During the meeting, matters of mutual interest, regional security, and bilateral defence cooperation were discussed. existing ties between the domains.

armed forces of the two broth erly countries.

The visiting dignitary appreciated the professionalism of the Pakistan Armed Forces and acknowledged Pakistan's role in promoting regional peace and stability. The COAS & CDF reiterated that Pakistan values its longstanding relations with Indonesia and is committed to expanding defence collabora-Both sides reaffirmed their tion in training, counter-terresolve to further strengthen rorism, and capacity-building

Naqvi discusses counter-narcotics, extradition issues with British counterpart



Chaudhry Tabraiz Aurah

LONDON: Interior Minis-British Minister of State for the Home Office Alex Norris and British Deputy Foreign Secretary for Pakistan and Afghanistan Hamish Faulkner.

During the meeting,

counter-narcotics and extradition of criminals.

The joint measures to ter Mohsin Naqvi called on promote bilateral relations were also discussed in the meeting.

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi reiterates Pakistan's commitment to further strengthen Pak-UK relations. The meeting emphasized the detailed consultations were need for stronger coordinaheld on enhancing Pak-UK tion between Pakistan and relations. Pakistan and the UK on broader bilateral Britain top officials discussed and regional issues.

Strict security in place around Adiala Jail ahead of PTI founder's meeting with lawyers

跨 City Desk

RAWALPINDI: Authorities in Rawalpindi shut down shops, markets and petrol pumps around Adiala Jail on Tuesday as part of security measures ahead of PTI founder Imran Khan's meeting with lawyers.

Educational institutions in the vicinity have also been closed as Section 144 remains in force across the city.

The main route leading to the prison, Adiala Road, has also been closed.

Security officials warned that any violation of the order

will be dealt with strictly. Lawyers are scheduled to meet the PTI founder in Adiala Jail today, and a list of six lawyers has been sent to the

jail administration.

names of PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan. lawyer Salman Akram Raja, Intezar Panjutha, Lal Badshah, Mubasher Rehman and Abdul Rehman Ranjha. The party has directed its

The list included the

lawmakers, office-bearers and workers to gather outside the jail to show strength. As part of security meas-

ures, a water cannon has also been placed to take immediate action in case of violations of Section 144. Additional police personnel

have been deployed at Gorakhpur and Dahgal checkpoints, and barricades outside the jail have been reinforced.

SSP Operations Tariq Malik said that no one would be allowed to break the law.

Ameer Muqam meets AJK PM Rathore to address Kashmir politics and development initiatives

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan, Engineer Ameer Muqam, called on AJK Prime Minister Faisal Mumtaz Rathore here today. During the meeting, the duo discussed in detail issues of mutual interest, including the prevailing political and human rights situation in Indian-occupied Kashmir and the status of ongoing development projects in Azad Kashmir. Both leaders agreed to promote the Kashmir cause and highlight human rights violations effectively at international forums. Prime Minister Faisal Mumtaz Rathore, on the occasion, thanked the federal minister for his cooperation in the development budget and public efforts to accomplish developmen- lating PM Rathore on assuming office, opment in the liberated territory. The welfare projects. He also thanked the Centre for its all-out support to the region. The federal minister, Engi-ment's continued support to accelerate in the sectors of energy, infrastructure, government of Azad Kashmir in its neer Ameer Muqam, while congratu-the process of construction and devel-health, and tourism.



tal and public welfare projects in the assured him of the federal govern- meeting also discussed joint initiatives

PTI is spreading chaos; No talks with terrorists: Chairman WASA

👺 Raza Naqvi Attock

tation Agency (WASA), Nawabzada Chaudhry Sher Ali Khan, has accused the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leadership of promoting chaos in the country, stating that Pakistan cannot afford political instability and lawless-

he said that the campaign being run ATTOCK: Chairman Water and Saniagainst state institutions aligns with the agenda of Pakistan's enemies and is intolerable. He added that patriotic political forces are always prepared for dialogue, but negotiations with terrorists are impossible and they will be dealt

Sher Ali Khan said that the possibility

Addressing a press conference, of imposing governor's rule in Khyber for its valuable services and sacrifices Pakhtunkhwa cannot be ruled out, as the federal government and security institutions are carefully reviewing the situation. All options are on the table, he added, and the government will take every possible step within the framework of the Constitution and law to restore peace and eliminate terrorism.

He paid tribute to the Pakistan Army

for the country's defense and security, stating that the entire nation stands united with its armed forces. The WASA chairman further alleged that PTI is attempting to create instability by spreading unrest, but such conspiracies will not succeed. He strongly condemned the slogan "Khan nahin to Pakistan nahin," declaring it anti-state.

APHC leader

occupation of

Jammu and

Kashmir as a

severe violation

condemns India's

Kashmir Corner

ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq and Federal Minister Rana Muhammad Qasim Noon talking to Kashmiri leaders after inaugurating the Kashmir Corner at the National Assembly Library.



On the occasion of Human Rights Day, Ghulam Muhammad Safi, Convener of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC), stated that India's continued denial of the right to self-determination to the people of Jammu and Kashmir remains the most severe, systematic, and enduring human rights violation of the modern era. He said that India's obstinate and rigid policies constitute the greatest obstacle to a just and peaceful resolution of the Kashmir dispute.

Ghulam Muhammad Safi noted that for over seven decades, India has maintained its unlawful occupation of Jammu and Kashmir through the persistent suppression of the fundamental human rights of the Kashmiri people. He said that Indian-occupied Jammu and Kashmir has effectively become the world's largest militarised prison, with nearly one million Indian troops deployed across the region, turning it into a landscape defined by fear, repression,

and pervasive surveillance. He highlighted that daily raids on homes, markets, educational institutions, and workplaces; arbitrary arrests; violations of privacy and dignity; extrajudicial killings; restrictions on freedom of expression; and severe curbs on the media have become an inseparable part of life for the people of Kashmir. He stressed that a systematic environment of fear and intimidation has been imposed to force Kashmiris into abandoning their legitimate struggle.

Kashmir Issue Globally Amid Diplomatic Challenges

AJK Leaders Unite to Promote



 $ISLAMABAD: Chairman\ of\ the\ Parliamentary\ Kashmir\ Committee\ (KC)$ Rana Qasim Noon called on AJK Prime Minister Raja Faisal Mumtaz Rathore on Tuesday, where the two leaders discussed a broad range of issues concerning the region's social-political, developmental and diplomatic priorities. The meeting focused on promoting the Kashmir issue at the international level, reinvigorating parliamentary diplomacy, and exposing Indian atrocities on global platforms. They reviewed proposals to strengthen the education system in Azad Kashmir and examined measures to make the Muzaffarabad and Rawalakot airports functional through public-private partnership. They also stressed the need to expedite the feasibility study for the proposed Mirpur Airport. Promotion of tourism in AJK remained another key point of discussion, where both leaders explored options for launching a helicopter service to facilitate tourists' access to various rest houses across the region to boost tourism-driven economic development. They further agreed to jointly host a conference on Kashmir aimed at drawing global attention to the deteriorating situation in occupied Kashmir. The AJK premier reaffirmed that the ongoing struggle for the Kashmiri people's right to self-determination would continue despite all odds. Chairman Noon assured the Prime Minister that the Kashmir Committee would intensify its efforts to project the Kashmiri people's voice at international forums. He also felicitated Rathore on assuming the office of AJK Prime Minister.

PML-N Leaders Convene to Advance Development Goals in Azad Jammu & Kashmir

Spokesman Report



ISLAMABAD: PML-N Political Committee Meeting Discusses Development and Strengthening Party Organization in Azad Jammu & Kashmir A meeting of the Political Committee of Pakistan Muslim League (N) was held under the chairmanship of Prime Minister's Advisor on Polit-

ical Affairs, Rana Sanaullah Khan, and Federal Minister for Kashmir, Gilgit-Baltistan, and Overseas Pakistanis, Engineer Amir Maqam. The meeting was attended by key leaders, including Shah Ghulam

Qadir, President and Opposition Leader of PML-N Azad Jammu & Kashmir, former Prime Minister Raja Farooq Haider Khan, General Secretary Chaudhry Tariq Farooq, Central Vice President Dr. Najeeb Naqi, Senior Vice President Mushtaq Minhas, Secretary Information Barrister Iftikhar Gilani, and other prominent party leaders. Federal Minister Engineer Amir Maqam stated that the development

Azad Jammu & Kashmir and provision of facilities to its peor central components of PML-N's manifesto. He emphasised that the leadership of PML-N Azad Jammu & Kashmir should play a proactive role in organising and energising the party, assuring that the leadership of PML-N Pakistan will extend full support in this regard.

Engineer Amir Maqam reaffirmed that the federal government will continue to provide all possible support to accelerate the development and progress of Azad Jammu & Kashmir.

DC Dadu visits special education ਈ rehabilitation centers, reviews facilities and services

Azad Baloch

DADU: Deputy Commissioner Dadu, Syed Murtaza Ali Shah, visited the Government Special Education & Rehabilitation Center for Visually Impaired and Hearing-Impaired Children (VI & HIC) and the Government Special Education & Rehabilitation Center for Physically and Intellectually Disabled Children (PD & ID) in Dadu today.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner reviewed the educational, therapeutic, training, and rehabilitation activities being provided to the special children enrolled in both centers. He also met with the students and inspected the quality of food, cleanliness, and other essential facilities available to them. The Deputy Commissioner examined the transportation system, condition of vehicles, and arrangements related to the pick-and-drop service for the children. He issued necessary instructions to the concerned officers for further improvements.

Principals Muneer Ahmed Dahot and Mushtaq Ahmed Aalmani briefed the Deputy Commissioner in detail regarding the education, therapy, attendance, transportation, nutrition, and overall administrative affairs of both centers.

Acknowledging the efforts of teachers and administrative staff, Syed Murtaza Ali Shah said that special children deserve special attention, and further improvement in the facilities provided to them remains a priority of the government.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the staff to utilize all available resources to make the education and training of special children more effective and of higher quality.

SBP BANKING SERVICES CORPORATION

Invitation No. GSD(PROC-III)/353273/Bulletproof Jackets/2025-26

Date: December 08, 2025

INVITATION TO e-BIDS

- 1. SBP Banking Services Corporation (SBP BSC) invites electronic bids from the suppliers who are registered with PPRA for E-Procurement on the "e-Pak Acquisition and Disposal System (EPADS)," having Income & Sales Tax registration, and are on the Active Taxpayers List (ATL) of FBR.
- 2. The SBP BSC has reserved the funds for the procurement of Bulletproof Jackets planned during the financial year 2025-26. It is intended that part of the proceeds of the funds will be used to cover eligible payments under the contract for the procurement.
- For using the EPADS, unregistered bidders may first register on the website https://eprocure.gov.pk, in case of any technical difficulty in registration or using EPADS, the prospective bidders may contact PPRA's technical team.
- The bidding shall be conducted in line with Rule 36 (b)—Single Stage Two Envelope Procedure of the Public Procurement Rules, 2004, and any Regulations, Regulatory Guides, Procurement Guidelines, or Instructions issued by the Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (from time to time) and is open to
- 5. The e-bidding documents as per regulations, containing detailed terms and conditions, specifications, and requirements, etc., are available for the registered bidders on EPADS at (https://portal.eprocure.gov.pk).
- All electronic Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in an acceptable form, either Call Deposit/ Demand Draft/Payment Order amounting to PKR 60,000 (Rupees Sixty Thousand only) in favor of SBP BSC. The prospective bidders shall upload a scanned copy of the Bid Security on EPADS.
- Original bid security must be submitted to the procuring agency on or before the closing time of the bid submission; failing to which the bid shall be rejected.
- The electronic bids must be submitted by using EPADS on or before Friday, December 26, 2025, 11:00 AM. Manual bids shall not be accepted. Electronic Bids will be opened by using EPADS publicly on the same day, on Friday, December 26, 2025, 11:30 AM at the Meeting Room, General Services Department, 4th Floor, BSC House, SBP Banking Services Corporation, I.I. Chundrigar Road, Karachi, Pakistan.
- 9. In case the bid opening date falls on a public holiday, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and at the same venue.

Senior Joint Director

Procurement Division III, General Services Department, SBP Banking Services Corporation (SBP BSC), 4th Floor, BSC House, I.I. Chundrigar Road, Karachi.

Phone: (92-21)-33115480 & 33115462, Facsimile: (92-21)-99221176 Email: gsd.proc-iii@sbp.org.pk, Website: www.sbp.org.pk

PID (K-2007/25)

'Raja Najabat arrives in UK to advocate for Kashmir in Upcoming Parliament Debate"

跨 Abdul Majeed Tahir

LONDON/ MUZAFFARABAD: Founder Chairman of Jammu & Kashmir Self-Determination Movement International (JKSDMI) and recipient of the Sitara-e-Pakistan, Raja Najabat Hussain, has arrived in the United Kingdom on an emergency basis to participate in the highly significant Kashmir Debate scheduled in the British Parliament.

Raja Najabat Hussain cut short his visit to Pakistan to join MP Barrister Imran Hussain in strengthening ongoing diplomatic efforts for the Kashmir cause. Upon his arrival in the UK, he immediately directed the office-bearers of

JKSDMI to accelerate the signature tome MP, Kim Johnson MP, Mary campaign initiated by Barrister Imran Hussain. He also intensified his outreach to community representatives, parliamentary leaders and aides, human rights activists, Kashmiri leaders, and various active Kashmiri organisations to ensure maximum participation of Members of Parliament in the upcoming debate.

So far, the following distinguished MPs have signed the motion for the Kashmir Debate:

Barrister Imran Hussain MP, Tahir Ali MP, Richard Burgon MP, Ian Byrne MP, Ayub Khan MP, Apsana Begum MP, Andy McDonald MP, Jim Shannon MP, Brian Leishman MP, Iqbal Mohammed MP, John McDonnell MP, Nadia Whit-

Kelly Foy MP, Bell Ribeiro-Addy MP, Neil Duncan Jordan MP, Mohammad Yasin MP, Chris Hincecliffe MP, Ibtisam Mohammed MP, Yasmin Qureshi MP, Adnan Hussain MP, Gill Furness MP, Oliver Ryan MP, Grahame Morris MP, Steve Witheldean MP. Ian Lavery MP. Jon Trickett MP, Brendan O'Hara MP, Diane Abbott MP, Rebecca Long-Bailey MP, Clive Lewis MP, Lorraine Beavers MP, Jeremy Corbyn MP, Olivia Blake MP, Andrew Gwynne MP, Dr Simon Opher MP, Kate Osamor MP, Chris Law MP, Zarah Sultana MP, Kate Eccles MP, Kate Osborne MP, Rosie Duffield MP, Will Forster MP, and Rachael Maskell





Namaz Timings Maghrib .. 6:28 pm

EMERGENCY

| Rescue (Police) 15 |
|----------------------------|
| Bomb Disposal 15 |
| Fire Services Rawalpindi/ |
| Islamabad1122 & 16 |
| Emergency Ambulance 1122 & |
| & Rescue Services 4451122 |
| Motorway Police9266044 |
| Motorway Police 9270601-20 |
| Women Delice |

Women Police **Stations**

| Islamabad | 922259 |
|------------|-----------|
| Rawalpindi | 9270601-2 |
| ENQU | IRY |

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

HOSPITALS

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

DEPARTMENTS

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

COMPLAINTS

Water Tanker Service G-5, G-6, G-7, G-8, G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, H-8 ..9266316 Wapda Islamabad......9217579-80 Sui Gas Complaint..... 119, 9272249 ...0331-5022125

Govt committed for providing protection international, national investors $in\, Balochistan:$ Governor

QUETTA: Balochistan Governor Jaffar Khan Mandokhel on Tuesday said that the current governmen is committed to providing complete protection to all international and national investors for development of the province's economic.

He said that we could use the available minerals and resources to put the country and the province on the path of economic development and prosperity.

He expressed these views while talking to Pakistani Ambassador to Sudan Behroz Reki and Sved Fateh Shah called on him at the Governor House, Quetta.

The meeting discussed the steps taken for investment in the province, protection of lives and property of mine owners, provision of necessary facilities by the government and provision of loans to mine owners. The Governor said that Balochistan is a province of great importance in the entire region due to its geographical location and

valuable minerals. He said that it is certain that all the long-standing problems of mine owners would be resolved immediately by giving the mining sector the status of an industry at the federal level.

PM Shehbaz lauds NAB's anti-corruption drive, reaffirms govt's commitment to transparency

跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday praised the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) for its "extraordinary efforts and remarkable achievements" in combating financial corruption across the country.

Addressing the ceremony at the Prime Minister's House in connection with International Anti-Corruption Day as chief guest, the prime minister paid tribute to NAB Chairman Lt Gen (R) Nazir Ahmed and the Bureau's entire team for their effective actions against financial crimes. He stressed that NAB enjoys full institutional independence to carry out its mandate transparently, adding that the federal government "does not believe in political victimization through NAB."

The prime minister said Pakistan marks International Anti-Corruption Day this year with renewed resolve to intensify its fight against financial corruption. The 2025 theme "United with Youth Against Corruption: Building an Honest and Dignified Future" highlights the crucial Umrah as a reward.

role of Pakistan's youth in shaping a transparent and prosperous society.

NAB Chairman Lt Gen (R) Nazir Ahmed also addressed the ceremony, briefing the prime minister and participants on the Bureau's performance in recent years, particularly in 2025. He revealed that through enhanced cooperation with state institutions, NAB achieved "extraordinary recoveries amounting to over Rs 5.1 trillion in 2025." He added that urgent reforms undertaken since 2022 have brought significant improvements to NAB's overall effectiveness.

The chairman said the hosting of the International Anti-Corruption Day ceremony at the Prime Minister's House reflects the government's strong commitment to transparency, accountability and the fight against corruption.

The ceremony concluded with the distribution of honorary shields to NAB officers for their outstanding performance. The PM further directed that high-performing NAB officials be granted three honoraria or the opportunity to perform



National Dav of Qatar

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister of Pakistan Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif cut the cake along with Ambassador of State of Qatar to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan Ali Bin Mubarak Al-Khater and others during ceremony to celebrate the "Qatar National Day" at local hotel in Federal Capital.

Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Anti-Corruption Establishment Multan arrests revenue board clerk after bail rejected

跨 Zain Khan Malghani

MULTAN: The Circle Officer/ Assistant Director Investigation, Anti-Corruption Establishment (ACE) Multan, Zaheer Ahmad, on Monday arrested Iftikhar Hussain of the Lahore Revenue Board after his bail was dismissed by the Lahore High Court, Multan Bench.

According to officials, Director General ACE Punjab, Sohail Zafar Chattha, has instructed all Regional Directors to apprehend corrupt officials "at any cost" and ensure they are brought before the court so they may serve as a



Basharat Nabi, the Circle Officer/Assistant Director lently secure the allotment of Investigation executed the state land for Qadir Bakhsh. arrest in FIR No. 21/24. The The value of the land involved

accused, Iftikhar Hussain, a Acting on special directives clerk at the Board of Revenue from Director ACE Multan, Lahore, allegedly conspired with accomplices to fraudu-

is estimated at Rs 49.225 million. Following the rejection of his bail today, Hussain was taken into custody, and further investigation is

The Regional Director ACE Multan Bisharst Nabin stated that the department is committed to building a corruption-free Punjab. He urged citizens to report corrupt elements without fear, assuring that such individuals "will be made an example." He added that ACE Punjab is strictly enforcing the provincial government's zero-tolerance policy under the vision of the Director General.

RPO Faisalabad Holds Open Court at TT Singh, Issues On Spot Orders

👺 Zafar Chishti

TOBA TEK SINGH: Regional Police Officer (RPO) Faisalabad Sohail Akhtar Sukhera paid an official visit to District Toba Tek Singh, where he undertook a series of important activities aimed at strengthening policing standards, improving public service delivery and ensuring accountability within the force. During the visit, he held an Open Court (Khuli Kachehri) at Police Station Sadar Toba Tek Singh to address the grievances of citizens directly. He was accompanied by DPO Toba Tek Singh Ibadat Nisar, the SDPO Toba Circle, SHOs officers. A large number of citizens,



of Sadar Circle and other senior police including members of civil society ed the event. The RPO listened careand media representatives attend- fully to complaints from the public

and issued immediate orders for their resolution on the spot. Taking serious notice of undue delays in addressing a complainant's issue, he ordered the forfeiture of two years of service of the SHO Sadar Gojra for failing to provide relief within the timeframe outlined

Following the Open Court, RPO Sohail Akhtar Sukhera presided over a Police Darbar at Police Lines Toba Tek Singh, attended by SDPOs, SHOs and investigation officers. In his address, he issued strict instructions for a result oriented crackdown on drug dealers and gamblers, emphasizing that such criminal elements must be eliminated through sustained and practical action.

Punjab Environment Protection agency launches help desk at Multan Chamber of Commerce

S Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: The Punjab Environment Protection Agency has set up a help desk at the Multan Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The help desk was inaugurated by Parliamentary Secretary for Environment, Forests, Wildlife and Fisheries Ms. Kanwal Liaquat along with Senior Vice President of the House Mohsin Khawaja, Vice President Azhar Baloch and members. Former Senior Vice President Sohail Tufail, Former Vice President Naveed Iqbal Chughtai and Secretary General Muhammad Shafiq were also present on the occasion, while Liaquat Advocate, Deputy Director of the Environment Department Multan Tahir Abbas Sial and Assistant Director Sawira Hassan were also present with the Parliamentary Secretary. Talking to the media after the inauguration, Ms. Kanwal Liaquat said, "No compromise is acceptable for the improvement of the environment. Be it the government or the private sector, all institutions are bound by the laws." She said that Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has included the improvement of the environment among her top priorities, under which large-scale steps are being taken to monitor the air quality index in the province.

"The Environment Department alone cannot achieve the goal of improving the environment, the public, industry and the business community all have to play their role in this," Senior Vice President Mohsin Khawaja appreciated the steps taken by the Environment Department to combat pollution and said that the establishment of the help desk was the need of the hour.

"Punjab Assembly's historic resolution establishes committee to combat human trafficking and smuggling of migrants"

LAHORE: A resolution presented in the Punjab Assembly has been widely appreciated at both national and international levels, following the establishment of a Special Parliamentary Committee on Trafficking in Persons (TIP) and Smuggling of Migrants (SOM). The initiative has been recognized as a major step forward, with the United States Department of State's Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report 2023 highlighting it as a significant achievement for Pakistan.

The resolution paid tribute to the Chief Minister of Punjab and the Speaker of the Punjab Assembly for their leadership, vision, and commitment, under whose guidance the historic committee was established. The committee aims to strengthen legislative oversight, enhance institutional coordination, and ensure timely policy interventions to combat human trafficking and irregular migration across the province.

The resolution also acknowledged the pivotal role of the Sustainable Social Development Organization (SSDO), appreciating its years of research, technical assistance, legislative support, and capacity-building efforts. SSDO's consistent contribution, the Assembly noted, laid a strong foundation for Pakistan's progress in combating human trafficking. The House further recognized that SSDO's work continues to play an essential role in national efforts against trafficking in persons.

Economic Impact on Faisalabad: Ānjuman Tajran Urges Government to Support Struggling Shopkeepers

👺 Bureau Report

FAISALABAD: Strongly condemning the alleged abuse of shopkeepers residing on Circular Road for the past forty (40) years, Anjuman Tajran City Registered Faisalabad Khawaja Shahid Razak Saka has asked the district administration that it would have been better if the big organizations of Faisalabad had been taken into confidence before demolishing the shops. He has demanded from the Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner that the current owners of the encroached shops be provided with an equivalent alternative place. So that the affected shopkeepers can do their business and not stumble in the wilderness. The Patron-in-Chief of the Central Organization of Traders of Pakistan has asked the Prime Minister of Pakistan Mian Shahbaz Sharif and the Chief Minister of Punjab Ms. Maryam Nawaz to formulate policies for traders during this period so that the vote bank of your party Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz is not affected and traders can also open their mouths, which will improve the economy of Pakistan. Faisalabad traders have always supported the PML-N. But I don't know why the $\,$ Punjab government is facing the problem of ending the traders' businesses. We appeal to the founder of Pakistan Muslim League-N, Mian Nawaz Sharif, to issue orders to the federal and Punjab governments to be lenient towards the traders and industrialists of Faisalabad. This will benefit not only Faisalabad but also Pakistan as a whole.

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Champions of national league will be awarded caps by the Prime **Minister**

■ he Prime Minister's Youth Programme in collaboration with Lahore Qalandars formally launched the PM Youth Cricket National League 2025 at the Capital Smart City Cricket Ground in Islamabad. The opening ceremony was attended by Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan Chairman Prime Minister's Youth Programme, Atif Naeem Rana Owner & CEO of Lahore Oalandars, as well as the participating players and their team officials.

Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan highlighted the government's continued commitment to creating sports opportunities for youth both within Pakistan and abroad. He emphasized that the young athletes selected for the league represent the future of the country and noted that their participation reflects the trust placed in them at the highest levels of national leadership.

Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan highlighted that the teams and players who become champions of this Cricket national league will be awarded caps by the Our Honorable Prime Minister, reflecting the government's commitment to honoring outstanding youth talent in sports.

He acknowledged the exceptional determination of female athletes present at the ceremony, recognizing the additional challenges they often face. Their participation was described as a significant achievement and an important indicator of the growing role of women in Pakistan's sports landscape.

During his visit, the Chairman commended the high-quality sports infrastructure at the venue. He stated that the facilities at the Capital Smart City Cricket Ground are at par with several international stadiums he has observed in countries such as Australia, New Zealand, and Sri Lanka. He expressed confidence that, in collaboration with organizers, efforts will be made to bring new and international-level cricket matches to the stadium in the future.

Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan encouraged all participating players to showcase their full potential during the Cricket National league, noting that the progress and development of Pakistan are directly linked to the energy, talent, and dedication of its youth. He emphasize the government's commitment to supporting young people in reaching new heights in sports and national development.

The PM Youth Cricket National League 2025 aims to provide a professional platform for emerging talent from across Pakistan, enabling young players to compete, grow, and gain exposure to national and international opportuni-

NFC Award: The Fiscal Future of Pakistan

Muhammad Sohail

stan has continued to focus on the sharing of the fiscal funds between the central government and the provinces. The National Finance Commission (NFC) Award is another major institutional mechanism that has been developed to attain fiscal equity, as well as, strengthen the federal system. The Award resurfaces every so often as a major topic of discussion at the national level, because it reflects not only in monetary compromises but also in terms of political and constitutional balance between the centre and the federated units. A critical evaluation of the NFC Award throws light on its meaning, achievements, failures, and the perpetual controversy on its future orientation in the Pakistani political economy.

The NFC Award is a constitutional article of the 1973 Constitution, Article 160. It outlines how the federal government through taxation will distribute the fiscal resources accrued between the federation and the provinces. This is to make sure that every province has enough funds to provide the much needed publicly-provided services which include healthcare, education and the development of infrastructures.

Pakistan used to be historically governed by a highly centralised governance model with the federal government having a dominant role in the fiscal power. As a result of this, the NFC Award was established in order to counterbalance the inequities by providing a higher weight in resource distribution according to the local needs by the provinces.

However, the NFC Award is still a very competitive one. One of the main arguments is about the financial ability of the

he state machinery of Paki- federal state. The critics argue that the motivation to be efficient and innovate ments, and obstacles to meet changing increase in provincial ratio has left the in revenue creation. By investing in the developmental demands. The lack of centre short of resources to serve national-level functions, such as defence, inter- cultural, property taxes etc, the provincial national relations, payment of debts, and significant development projects in the country. The economic climate in Pakistan, including low tax collection, high amount of debt and a rising military spending has put pressure on the state of Islamabad, forcing it to heavily depend most dominant factor, Punjab therefore

on external borrowing. One more critical issue is based on the provincial government's efficacy. Analysts are doubtful as to whether provinces have made good use of their new-found financial independence. The news of the poor use of money in vital social

sectors, management inefficiency and imbalanced development results create suspicion on the quality of governance at the provincial level. City taxpayers have often claimed that their taxes are redistributed unequally to less affluent areas without some similar improvement in services provided where the taxes are paid in practice. Such complaints are part of a wider debate on accountability and transparency in provincial expenditure.

Another substantive dispute is the revenue collection. The centre continues to be the leading collector of taxes since provinces have weak and ineffective revenue collection structures. Relying on federal handouts discourage provinces from having their own tax base. The economists opine that dependency on the NFC pool creates an atmosphere of fiscal dependency, thus eliminating the

strengthening of internal taxation: agrigovernments would be able to reduce the of cooperative federalism. pressure on the centre and strengthen their local financial control.

Moreover, there are still contradictions and reducing provincial autonomy. in terms of the inter-provincial distribution formula. Though population is the

gets the highest share. Balochistan also claims that regardless of the developmental gains, it has a large geography and a low population density, which requires special attention. Sindh demands to compensate the central contribution of its part to the national revenue in

Hassan ports and trade. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa needs to know the long-term security liabilities and rehabilitation costs. These antagonistic needs are indicators of real economic inequalities and it is hoped that resource distribution cannot be completely complete.

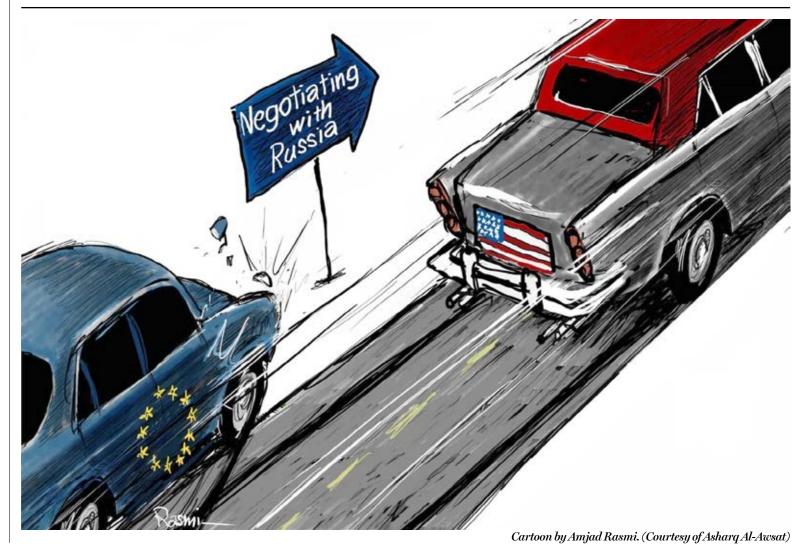
> One of the institutional issues is the inability to change the NFC Award in the given time frame. There has not been any new award since 2009 but the Constitution requires an update undo decentralisation but economic at least once every five years. This is a lag that is based on political differiority ioint decision-making is the priority. It is ences as well as economical limitations. Federal government will assert that poor financial states do not allow having a new package that can further boost provincial allocations, but provinces will consider the postponement as a breach of constitutional require-

uniformity undermines the confidence in the federation and devalues the spirit

The answer will not be found in revoking the process of decentralising

Rather, the changes in governance systems need to be done to enhance fiscal capacity on every level. Enhancing the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), increasing the use of digital taxation instruments, fighting with corruption, and enhancing transparency may increase the revenue of the federal and provincial governments. The strongly functioning accountability mechanisms can make sure that the concern of citizens is at stake through the utilization of the public funds instead of

The NFC Award is among the pillars of the federal organization of Pakistan. It does not only make financial payments, but also political confidence among the federating units. Although the existing system has further solidified decentralisation and enabled a more balanced allocation of funds, it is also facing the problem of fiscal sustainability, dependence on revenues and performance in governance. An objective evaluation shows that Pakistan does not need to reform, strengthening of institutions and only at that point that the centre and the provinces can be financially strong and democratically empowered. To achieve equity, unity, and secure stability in the future, the NFC Award has to keep up with the evolving socioeconomic reality



Migration Due to Climate Change: Implications for International security

Laiba Afzal Khan

limate change has increasingly become a defining factor in global security debates, not merely as an environmental issue but as a significant driver of human migration and geopolitical instability. The growing frequency and intensity of environmental disruptions-ranging from droughts and floods to rising sea levels and ecosystem collapse are forcing millions to leave their homes. As these environmental pressures mount, climate-induced migration has emerged as a central issue for policymakers concerned with international security. Understanding the interplay between climate stressors, migration dynamics, and global stability is essential for developing effective, long-term responses

Climate-induced migration occurs through two broad mechanisms: suddenonset disasters and slow-onset environmental degradation. Sudden events such as cyclones, floods, wildfires, and heatwaves can displace communities overnight, pushing populations into temporary shelters or across borders, in contrast, slow-onset processes such as desertification, salinization of agricultural land, water scarcity, and sea-level rise-erode livelihoods gradually, pushing communities to migrate out of necessity rather than choice. The United Nations estimates that by 2050, climate change could displace more than 200 million people globally, a number that highlights the urgency of coordinated international action. The security implications of climate migration are broad and interconnected. One key dimension is resource competition. As arable land diminishes and water resources shrink, communities increas-

ical patterns already illustrate how drought and environmental degradation in regions such as the Sahel have contributed to conflict between farmers and pastoralists. Climate change intensifies such tensions, increasing the likelihood of local conflicts escalating into broader regional instability. These pressures also strain the security apparatus of states struggling to manage competing needs.

One critical challenge in addressing climate migration is the absence of legal recognition for climate-displaced people within international law. The 1951 Refugee Convention defines refugees as individuals fleeing persecution, not environmental disasters. As a result, millions displaced by climate change do not receive legal protections afforded to political refugees. This gap leaves people vulnerable to exploitation, unsafe migration routes, and lack of access to asylum procedures. The absence of a clear legal framework also complicates international cooperation, creating uncertainty for states responding to climate-induced migration. Regional examples underscore the significance of climate migration for international security. In South Asia, Bangladesh's vulnerability to cyclones, flooding, and sea-level rise has created large scale displacement. India, sharing a long and politically sensitive border, faces migration pressures that affect security policy. In Africa's Horn and Sahel regions, climate change interacts with poverty, food insecurity, and governance failures to fuel displacement, conflict, and extremism. These regions illustrate how climate migration is not merely a humanitarian issue but a strategic concern with global security implications.

Addressing the security risks associated with climate-induced migration requires

ingly compete over scarce resources. Histor- comprehensive, multi-level strategies. First, countries must invest in climate adaptation and resilience-building initiatives. Improved water management systems, drought-resistant agriculture, coastal defenses, and sustainable land use policies can reduce displacement pressures. Second, early warning systems for dimate disasters must be strengthened to minimize sudden displacement and support timely evacuations. Third, international legal frameworks need to evolve to recognize and protect dimate-displaced populations. Developing new protocols or amendments that include climate refugees would help ensure safer, more orderly migra-

Regional cooperation is also essential. Shared ecosystems, such as river basins and coastal zones, require coordinated management to prevent resource-based conflicts. Humanitarian assistance must be integrated with long-term development plans to support both displaced populations and host communities. Finally, climate change considerations should be embedded in national defense strategies, diplomatic policies and international development programs.

In conclusion, climate-induced migration represents one of the most complex and urgent challenges facing the international community. As environmental pressures intensify, migration flows will continue to rise, reshaping demographic patterns and influencing global security dynamics. While migration can serve as an adaptation strategy, unmanaged climate migration risks escalating resource conflicts, political instability, humanitarian crises, and geopolitical tensions. A proactive, cooperative, and inclusive approach is essential to safeguard human security and promote global stability in an era of accelerating climate change.

When Silence Becomes Safer: The War on Free Speech

He drank the poison, but he did not remain silent. Whenever I delve into any chapter of history. I notice that the right to express one's thoughts was once consid-

ered a freedom, but now, it's treated as a crime. Why? The very words that formed the foundation of our thoughts, the tools we used to defend the oppressed,

have now become a threat to our lives. Journalists have lost their lives, their families, and their jobs. Students have been expelled from institutions. Social media accounts have been banned. And countless mechanisms, supposedly created for public welfare, have become instruments that suppress freedom of expression.

Freedom of expression is a fundamental right of every citizen of Pakistan. According to Article 19 of the

Constitution of Pakistan (1973), "Every citizen shall have the right to freedom of speech and expression, and there shall be freedom of the press, subject to any reasonable restrictions imposed by law in the interest of the glory of Islam, the integrity, security or defense of Pakistan, friendly relations with foreign states, public order, decency or morality, or in relation to contempt of court, commission of or incitement

Secondly, take the example of a university student named Ali. He posted an article on public policy, and within hours, authorities began trolling him and issuing warnings. A student is not only discouraged from speaking on national matters but is also denied basic academic rights. In many institutions, student councils are banned, leaving students with no formal platform to raise their concerns. Peaceful protest, a fundamental democratic right, is often not allowed. And in the rare instances where students are permitted to speak out, they are met with pressure, threats, and harassment from authorities.

Thirdly, in Pakistan, it is not only journalists or

espite being condemned to death, students or writers who are under pressure—ordi-Socrates always stood for the truth. nary citizens must think twice before speaking the truth. Especially women. When a woman dares to take a stand, she is often met not with respect but with mental and physical harassment. This has created an atmosphere of fear, where people hesitate to speak not just publicly but even in private conversations.

However, the crisis of free speech is not limited to Pakistan—it is a global issue. Voices raised for the oppressed in Gaza, Kashmir, and other conflict zones

have been silenced. Any country that takes a stand against Israel often faces backlash from powerful allies of Israel, who claim to do so in the name of peace and security. In other words, self-interest governs all: everyone demands their own freedom, but few defend the right of others to speak. If someone dares to raise their voice, power finds a way to silence them—sometimes forever.

In such an environment, people begin to compromise. Silence becomes a survival strategy. Students, who are the light of hope for their families, choose silence over protest. Journalists stop exposing the truth-not because they lack facts, but because they fear for their lives. This leads to widespread anxiety, insecurity, and even physical health issues.

Free speech is essential—not only for peace and justice but for accountability in any democratic society. Suppressing the voices of the youth is like denying justice itself, for they are the future. The courts are meant to be the guardians of public rights, and freedom of expression is one of the most fundamental among them. In conclusion, we must raise our voices—not just for ourselves, but for the next generation, and for those who look to us with hope. We must learn from history. From Socrates' stand for truth to the silence we witness today, the journey has been long and costly. Many lives have been lost, but the struggle to speak must continue.

The writer is law student at the University of Sargodha

Prime Minister Sharif celebrates UAE's 54th National Day highlights economic partnerships with emerging technologies



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan is ready to welcome investment from the United Arab Emirates across emerging technologies and resource sectors, Prime Minister as both countries marked the 54th National Day of the Gulf country in Islamabad.

attended by senior ministers, diplomats and business leaders,

key economic partner for Pakistan and continued to lend "critical support" to the country's stabilizing economy.

"Pakistan takes great pride in its strategic partnership with the UAE, which continues to deepen Shehbaz Sharif said on Monday, across every domain of life," he said. "With Pakistan's economy stabilizing, we stand ready to welcome Emirati investment in Speaking at the ceremony renewable energy, AI, fintech, agriculture and minerals."

Sharif praised the UAE's lead-Sharif said the UAE remained a ership and recalled his earliest

memories of the Gulf nation as "a land that believed in possibilities long before they became realities," saying the country's progress under President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan commanded "profound admi-

UAE Ambassador Salem Al Bawab Al Zaabi said the Emirates was committed to strengthening ties with Pakistan in areas including the economy, energy and artificial intelligence.

He said the two countries



shared a "deep-rooted friendship built on mutual respect, shared values and a common vision for regional peace and development."

"We see tremendous potential for collaboration in renewable energy, artificial intelligence, sustainability and economic diversification," the ambassador said, adding that the UAE aimed to broaden the scope of its economic relations with Pakistan.

The UAE hosts around 1.8 million Pakistani expatriates, one of the country's largest overseas communities, who Sharif said contributed "tirelessly" to

the Gulf state's development. Sharif and Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar also joined the UAE ambassador in a cake-cutting ceremony to mark the occasion.



Luncheon Reception

ISLAMABAD: Group photo of Honorary Consular Corps of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Salim Saifullah Khan-Turkiye, Ammad Rasheed-Tunisia, Amer Faruque-Brazil, Asad Ansari-Finland, Assad Saifullah Khan-Czech and Nawabzada Fazal Karim-Japan at Luncheon reception hosted by, Barrister Assad Saifullah Khan The DEAN Honorary Consular Corps KP / Honorary Consul General of the Czech Republic KP at the Club of EIGHTEEN-Islamabad.



S UMT Holds its 28th Convocation

Pakistan's bright future depends on educated, skilled and principled youth; Ibrahim Hasan

LAHORE: University of Management and Technology (UMT) held its 28th Convocation on Tuesday, December 9, 2025, at UMT Main Campus, Johar Town, Lahore.

A total of 4050 degrees were conferred across various disciplines. The breakdown is as follows: 3248 Bachelor's degrees, 51 Master's degrees, 693 MS/MPhil degrees, and 59 PhD degrees.

Additionally, several medals and awards were presented during the ceremony, including: 65 Patron's Gold Medals, 65 Rector's Silver Medals, 14 Rector's Academic Excellence Awards (Gold), 11 Certificates of Excellence, 04 Certificates of Merit, 09 Research Publication Awards for MS/MPhil students, 02 Dr Medal Award, 01 Mubarak Muhammad Ahmed Medal Award, 02 Greenair Medal



Award, 01 Dr. Yasir Memorial Award, 04 Rector's Award for Entrepreneurship and Innovation, 01 Best University Teacher Award, 10 Best School Teacher Awards, 03 University-Level Best Researcher Awards, and 01 School-Level Best Researcher Award.

The convocation was graced by Provincial Minister Mujtaba Shuja-ur-Rehman, Hasan Sohaib Murad Medal as Chief Guest. Other distin-Awards, 01 Khurram Murad guished attendees included Chairman ILM Trust / Board un Nisa Medal Award, 01 Dr of Governors and President UMT Ibrahim Hasan Murad, Rector UMT Air Vice Marshal Awards, 01 Fast Excellence (R) Dr. Asif Raza, Chief

(R) Javed Hasan, Chairman LOTTE Chemicals (Pvt.) Ltd. Dr. Imtiaz Ahmed, Provost UMT Prof. Dr. Asghar Zaidi, Director General UMT Ahmad Abdullah, Director Research & Innovation Prof. Abid Sherwan, CEO FAST Cables Kamal Amjad Mian, along with registrars, controllers of examinations, deans, directors, graduating students for Finance, Punjab, Mian and their families also partic-

Addressing the convocation, Chairman and President UMT Ibrahim Hasan Murad thanked the Chief Guest for his presence and congratulated the graduates, their families and faculty members Award, 01 Fast Sustaibability Advisor UMT Lt General on this momentous achieve-

ment. He urged graduates to always respect their parents and serve humanity, emphasizing that these values define true success.

He stated that Pakistan's greatest strength lies in its talented youth, who possess the potential to take the country to new heights of development and stability. He added that Pakistan is a land of immense opportunities and that with dedication and hard work, young people can achieve any goal. "Success ultimately comes from Allah and hard work is the only path to reach it," he added.

Mian Mujtaba Shuja-ur-Rehman, Provincial Minister for Finance, congratulated President UMT Ibrahim Hasan Murad on the successful convocation. In his address, he said that before $me\,stand\,the\,future\,architects$ of Pakistan, equipped with the capability to steer the country toward progress. He stated that all policies of the Punjab Government are focused on empowering youth through education, training and skills development.

LHCBA appoints Barrister Shafaqat Ali Sandhu as Chairman Foreign Affairs Committee

Chaudhry Tabraiz Aurah

LONDON: The Lahore High Court Bar Association (LHCBA) has announced the appointment of Barrister Shafaqat Ali Sandhu, Solicitor (England & Wales and the Republic of Ireland), Barrister (UR), and Advocate High Courts of Pakistan, as Chairman of its Foreign Affairs Committee for the term 2025-

The appointment was formally confirmed through an official memorandum issued by Mr. Farukh Ilyas Cheema, Secretary of the LHCBA. cross-jurisdictional expertise.



portfolio, including engagement with oreign bar associations, global legal senting the LHCBA at international will oversee the Bar's international concerning foreign legal affairs and within the global legal community.

international professional relations. Expressing gratitude on his appointment, Barrister Sandhu said he was "honoured to undertake this responsibility and committed to advancing the Association's international outreach in accordance with its constitutional mandate and professional objectives." He also thanked Secretary Farukh Ilyas Cheema for the confidence placed in him and reiterated his commitment to expanding the Bar's global presence through collaborative international initiatives. The LHCBA, one of Pakistan's most prominent and historic legal According to the notification, Barrister institutions, and professional bodies. institutions, continues to enhance its Sandhu was selected in recognition of His responsibilities include facilitating international engagement strategy. The his distinguished legal credentials, cross-border cooperation, strength- appointment of a multi-jurisdictional extensive international exposure, and ening institutional partnerships, repre-legal professional is widely viewed as a strategic step toward strengthening In his new role, Barrister Sandhu legal forums, and advising on matters the Bar's outreach and representation

Aik by Bankislami partners with SBP to promote digital financial literacy

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: As part of the State Bank of Pakistan Digital Village Enablement initiative, aik by BankIslami conducted a digital financial literacy awareness and engagement session in Maira Bagwal, a village near Islamabad. The session brought together local merchants, vendors and small business owners to promote a digital Islamic financial system and support the region's transition toward digital payments.

Officials from the State Bank of Pakistan, including Chief Manager Adnan Imran, and the Capital Development Authority participated in the event along with local community members. The session introduced



residents, focusing on local merchants stan with global digital trends. and small businesses and showing how digital payments make everyday transactions easier, safer, and more trans-

This initiative is part of the wider cashless economy vision of the Government of Pakistan, led by the Prime Minister, which aims to promote a modern digital financial ecosystem, secure digital financial services for reduce reliance on cash, and align Paki-

Commenting on the initiative, Ashfaque Ahmed, Chief Officer of aik, said: "Through aik we are helping drive the growth of Islamic banking by giving communities simple access to Shariah-compliant digital financial services. When people adopt digital banking, financial inclusion improves, and more families are able to participate in a fair and transparent financial system."

Adventure Foundation Pakistan elects New Council at Annual General Meeting

跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Adventure Foundation Pakistan (AFP) held its Annual General Meeting at the Adventure Complex in Islamabad, during which a new Council was elected for the forthcoming term. Syed Abu Ahmad Akif was unanimously elected President.

The meeting was chaired by outgoing President Ali Hasan Habib, who acknowledged the contributions of AFP members and volunteers. The minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting held on October 26, 2024 were presented and approved by the general body.

A performance review covering the period from July 2024 to June 2025 was presented, outlining progress in



youth engagement, and environmental responsibility. The audited financial statements for the financial year 2024-25 were also presented and unanimously approved. The proposed activity plan for 2025–26 was discussed, with a recommendation to include additional winter programmes.

The general body elected the new Nawaz, and Huma Mustafa.

elected office bearers are Syed Abu Ahmad Akif as President; Col (R) Abbas Hussain Naqvi, Dr. Adnan Latif, and Ms. Jahan Ara Mueen as Vice Presidents; and Brig (R) Ghulam Haider as Honorary Secretary (Public Relations). Council members include Dr. Tasnim Azim, Azal Zahir, Bushra Javed, Rab

Bull & Bears PSX 100-Share

| Index Fluctuation | | |
|-------------------|------------------------|--|
| Pakistan: PSX 1 | 00-Share Index | |
| Current | Prev. Close | |
| 169,456.38 | 168,303.24 | |
| Day's High | Day's Low | |
| 169,601.03 | 168,880.21 | |
| Index Value | Change | |
| 36,454,449,922 | +1153.14 | |
| Percentage | Time | |
| +0.69% | 9 Dec, 2025 4:30 pm | |
| Europe: FTS | E 100 Index | |
| Index Value | Change | |
| 9,642.01 | -3.08 | |
| Percentage | Time | |
| -0.032% | 9 Dec, 4:35 pm GMT | |

| 0.00270 | GMT | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|--|
| USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average | | |
| Index Value | Change | |
| 47,773.86 | +34.54 | |
| Percentage | Time | |
| . 0.0700/ | 9 Dec, 12:20 pm | |

+0.072%

| Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|--|
| Index Value | Change | |
| 50,655.10 | +73.16 | |
| Percentage | Time | |
| +0.14% | 9 Dec, 3:45 pm GMT+9 | |

Open Market Forex Rates

| Currency | Buying | Selling |
|-------------------|--------|---------|
| Australian Dollar | 185 | 189 |
| Bahrain Dinar | 743.3 | 753.3 |
| Canadian Dollar | 202 | 205.5 |
| China Yuan | 39.35 | 39.75 |
| Danish Krone | 43.25 | 43.65 |
| Euro | 327 | 330.35 |
| Hong Kong Dollar | 35.75 | 36.10 |
| Indian Rupee | 3.07 | 3.16 |
| Japanese Yen | 1.7950 | 1.8950 |
| Kuwaiti Dinar | 911 | 921 |
| Malaysian Ringgit | 67.35 | 67.95 |
| NewZealand \$ | 159 | 161 |
| Norwegians Krone | 27.45 | 27.75 |
| Omani Riyal | 728 | 738 |
| Qatari Riyal | 76.45 | 77.15 |
| Saudi Riyal | 74.80 | 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 | 76.45 | 77.1 |
| UK Pound Sterling | 374.55 | 378.05 |
| US Dollar | 281.4 | 283.25 |

$Dubai {\it International}$ Chamber launches new representative office in Karachi

Example 2 Commerce Desk

KARACHI / DUBAI: Dubai International Chamber, one of the three chambers operating under the umbrella of Dubai Chambers, has officially launched a new international representative office in Karachi, with the goal of strengthening bilateral trade and investments between Pakistan and Dubai.

The office was inaugurated during a ceremony held in Karachi in the presence of His Excellency Dr. Bakheet Ateeq Alremeithi, Consul General of the United Arab Emirates in Karachi, together with officials and representatives from the Pakistani business community. His Excellency Mohammad Ali Rashed Lootah, President and CEO of Dubai Chambers, stated: "The inauguration of our new office marks a strategic step that reflects our firm commitment to strengthening the robust economic partnership between Dubai and Pakistan.

The inauguration comes at a time of notable growth in business relations between the two markets. Pakistan's non-oil trade with Dubai reached over PKR 1.74 trillion in 2024. Between early 2022 and end of Q3 2025, the number of Pakistani companies registered as active members of Dubai Chamber of Commerce increased by 161% to reach 33,110. A total of 6,850 new Pakistani companies joined the chamber during the first nine months of 2025 alone.

TEVTA job fair attracts thousands of job seeking students

RAWALPINDI: The Technical Education and Vocational Training Authority (TEVTA) Punjab successfully hosted Job Fair 2025 at Government College of Technology where thousands of students and graduates from various TEVTA institutes across Rawalpindi district visited. The event, marked by excellent arrangements and unprecedented attendance, featured participation from over 50 national and international companies, providing on-the-spot interviews, registrations, screenings, and hiring opportunities in diverse trades.

Pakistan, Indonesia sign accords to boost Halal trade, education, health cooperation

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Indonesia on Tuesday signed multiple accords to strengthen bilateral cooperation across different sectors, including Halal trade, small and medium enterprises, higher education, anti-narcotics and health.

The accords were signed at a ceremony held at PM House as part of the ongoing two-day visit of the Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto, following his one-on-one meeting and delegation-level talks with Prime Minister Shehbaz

The two leaders witnessed the ceremony as ministers from both sides formally exchanged the pre-signed documents of agreements and Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs).

The documents were exchanged by Minister of Federal Education and Professional Training Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui and his Indonesian counterpart Brian Yuliarto.

Another agreement between the governments of Pakistan and Indonesia was signed



for the grant program on "The Indonesian" Aid Scholarships" and the documents were exchanged by Indonesian Foreign Minister

Sugiono and Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui.

Pakistan and Indonesia signed an MoU on cooperation in Halal trade and certification and Foreign Minister Sugiono and Commerce Minister Jam Kamal Khan exchanged the docu-

Minister for National Food Security Rana Tanveer Hussain and the Indonesian foreign minister exchanged the MoU documents on facilitation and business development for Small and Medium Enterprises.

Two countries also signed an MoU on archives cooperation, with the documents exchanged by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar and the Indonesian Foreign Minister Sugiono.

They also exchanged the documents of another MoU on cooperation in preventing and combating illicit drug trafficking.

Both sides signed an MoU on cooperation in the field of health, and the documents were exchanged by the Indonesian foreign minister and Minister of National Health Services, Regulation Syed Mustafa Kamal.

Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for National Food Security & Research, Rana Tanveer Hussain meeting with Ambassador of Tajikistan H.E. Yusuf Sharifzoda on Tuesday.



PPL recognized by MAP at 40th Corporate Excellence Awards

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Pakistan Petroleum Limited (PPL) bagged second position at the 40th Corporate Excellence Awards recently organized by Management Association of Pakistan (MAP) in Karachi. The company received the recognition amongst the Oil and Gas Exploration sector in the Industrial Category.

Sindh Minister for Labour, Human Resources and Social Protection, Saeed Ghani presented the award to PPL. Being a prestigious award, it recognizes and honors companies demonstrating outstanding performance and enlightened management practices. There were three broad categories of Awards; Industrial, Financial and Not-For-Profit. Companies are assessed in four phases;



Screening Dividend Payment, Detailed Financial Evaluation, PPL's strong performance Appraisal of Management and sustained demonstra-Practices and Top Management Interviews.

tion of excellence in corporate management within busi-

The recognition underscores ness landscape. This accolade reinforces PPL's long-standing commitment to operational excellence, innovation, and high-quality standards.

\$3.5 million disbursement to Kashf **Foundation marks** new era for financial inclusion in Pakistan

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Standard Chartered Pakistan and British International Investment (BII), the UK's development finance institution and impact investor, made their first disbursement of \$3.5 million to Kashf Foundation under their unfunded Risk-Participation Agreement. This disbursement marks a significant milestone for both institutions' commitment to supporting financial inclusion, empowering underserved communities, and catalysing private sector-led growth.

Through such partnerwill be able to drive financial inclusion across traditionally underbanked sectors and ensure access to financing while creating opportuni- of Standard Chartered's

Commenting on the occa-Head of Coverage, Standard Chartered Pakistan, said:

"Our partnership with BII reflects our shared ambition to strengthen access to finance for segments that form the backbone of Pakistan's economy.

Stepen Priestley, MD and Head of Financial Services Group, BII, stated, "Our partnership with Standard Chartered Pakistan on this innovative risk-sharing programme will ensure that MFIs like Kashf Foundation can access vital resources needed to grow their portfolios.

Roshaneh Zafar, Founder & Managing Director, Kashf Foundation, stated: "Investing in women's entreships, Standard Chartered preneurship is critical to the growth and development of Pakistan's economy

The unfunded risk participation programme is part ties for sustainable growth. broader commitment to sustainable finance and sion, Rehan Shaikh, CEO & partnerships that unlock capital for positive social and economic impact.

Datarocx, **Data Vault** AI join forces to build Pakistan's AI powerhouse

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: A US-based data center operator Datarocx and Data Vault, Pakistan's first dedicated AI data center, have signed a strategic partnership aimed at transforming Pakistan into a regional hub for artificial intelligence and high-performance computing.

"We are committing meaningful, long term capital into Pakistan's AI infrastructure," said Baber Saeed, CEO of Datarocx. "By combining STZA's vision with Datarocx's global operating model

and Data Vault's in country strength, we are creating an AI platform that international customers can trust from day one — for performance, security and compliance."

"Pakistan has the talent, the ambition, and now, with Data Vault and Datarocx, the infrastructure to compete at the highest level of AI," said Mehwish Salman Ali, Founder and CEO of Data Vault. "This is not just another data center deal this is a strategic bet on Pakistan's future as an AI nation and on our ability to serve the

Fauji Fertilizer Company holds Extraordinary General Meeting

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Fauji Fertilizer Company Limited (FFC) convened its Extraordinary General Meeting (EOGM) on December 08, 2025, successfully establishing a quorum of 57.38%. The meeting was attended through physical presence, video conferencing, and proxy representation from individual shareholders FFC's plan2 to acquire the as well as major equity holders, including the Government of Pakistan, Fauji Foundation, State Life Insurance, Citi Bank, Deutsche Bank,

bodies and institutions. The meeting commenced

 Brig Khurram Shahzada, SI(M) (Retd), Company Secretary, FFC, who welcomed the participants and presented the special business before the shareholders. During the proceedings, shareholders were briefed on key strategic proposals, including remaining 25% shareholding in FFBL Power Company Limited through a non-cash share-swap of 214.7 million FPCL shares for 15.9 million PIDC, NAFA, UBL Funds, new FFC shares, making and various other corporate FPCL a wholly owned subsid-

iary; the Company's proposed additional investment in Agritech Limited to support its growth and diversification strategy; and amendments to the Articles of Association aimed at ensuring a modern, efficient, and compliant governance framework.

All special resolutions were unanimously approved by the shareholders through balloting.

The meeting was graced by Chairman, Mr. Saad Amanullah, along with members of the Board of Directors. They addressed shareholder queries and reaffirmed FFC's commitment to main-



taining high standards of sustained earnings to its prevailing economic and performance and delivering valued shareholders despite operational challenges.

Solution Celebrating Excellence

'PMYP and Lahore Qalandars unveil trophy and honor rising cricket stars on December 9'

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: The Prime Minister's Youth Programme (PMYP), in partnership with Lahore Qalandars, will host the official trophy unveiling and talent recognition ceremony on December 9 in Islamabad, marking a major milestone in Pakistan's biggest-ever nationwide cricket talent identification initiative.

The ceremony celebrates the young cricketers who progressed through a rigorous multi-stage process, advancing from open trials to the provincial tournament and into the ongoing national

The PMYP Talent Hunt National League 2025 is currently underway with 18 teams—10 male and 8 femalecompeting concurrently across two venues in Islamabad. The ceremony honours both male and female athletes who progressed through a rigorous and stage.

merit-based pathway, beginning with open trials held across all provinces and extending into an intensive 25-day provincial tournament.

These trials, conducted from the southernmost districts of the country to the far northern regions, drew the participation of hundreds of thousands of players aged 15 to 25, making it one of the most extensive youth sports exercises in Pakistan's history.

Following the trials, 100 provincial matches were staged in 25 days, with men's and women's fixtures running simultaneously on separate grounds. From this competitive pool, five men's and five women's squads were formed from each region-Punjab, Sindh, Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and GB/Federal/Kashmir—leading to the selection of the finest talent now representing their provinces at the national

development commitment, the top 12 of aspiring cricketers across Pakistan. male and top 12 female performers from the Lahore Qalandars High Perfor- based pathway that is now clearer, mance Center, where they will receive elite training, structured development before.' support and professional coaching to advance their cricket careers make them ready for international cricket.

Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan, Chairman of the Prime Minister's Youth Programme on the occasion, said the initiative reflects a major national investment in youth empowerment, structure, direction and opportunity

national investment in youth empowerment," said Rana. "We have been able to offer structure, direction and genuine in Pakistan."

As part of the programme's long-term opportunity to hundreds of thousands It makes me proud to see young talent the national league will be enrolled into from every province compete on a meritstronger and more accessible than ever

Atif Naeem Rana, CEO Lahore Qalandars, said: "Our partnership with the Prime Minister's Youth Programme has created a meaningful and far-reaching platform for player development. The quality and depth of talent uncovered through this nationwide effort is remarkable, and it shows noting that the programme has offered how powerful the impact can be when opportunities are expanded at the grassto hundreds of thousands of aspiring roots level. With the national matches underway and the trophy set to be "This initiative reflects a major unveiled on December 9, this league is shaping into a defining step forward for structured youth cricket development

Celebrating Excellence

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Prime Minister's Youth Programme, Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan at the inaugural ceremony of PM's



Major Upset in Women's Hockey at National Games

Pakistan WAPDA and Sindh Match Ends in a Draw — Cash Prizes Announced by Shehla Raza and Murtaza Wahab

➣ Sports Desk

KARACHI: A major upset took place in the women's hockey competitions of the 35th National Games as the match between Sindh and Pakistan WAPDA ended in a draw. For the first time in the history of national women's hockey, a provincial team managed to draw a match against a leading departmental team. Pakistan WAPDA, known for its dominant and one-sided victories against opponents, had to face this setback for the first time.

In the match played at the H. A. Sports Complex Karachi, as part of the 35th National Games women's hockey event, both teams scored one goal each. Due to the outstanding performance of Sindh captain Iqra, Sundus, and goalkeeper Shahzam Naseem, Sindh Hockey Association representative Murtaza Wahab



rupees each for the players. Member of for the Sindh team. the National Assembly and President of Sindh Hockey Association (Women's Wing) Shehla Raza also announced a cash announced prize money of fifty thousand reward of one hundred thousand rupees Sindh's goalkeeper Shahzam Naseem hockey officials from interior Sindh.

In the National Games hockey competition, Sindh forward Maheen scored the first goal, giving her team an early lead.

saved multiple attempts including a penalty stroke from WAPDA. Pakistan WAPDA's Humaira scored the equalizer, bringing the match to a draw. International player Muhammad Naeem is serving as coach of the Sindh women's team. Olympian and legendary left-in Hanif Khan appreciated Muhammad Naeem's efforts and congratulated the

A large number of hockey enthusiasts attended the match, along with Sindh Hockey Association Secretary Akbar Ali Qaimkhani, Olympian Hanif Khan, Olympian Khalid Hameed, Olympian Danish Kaleem (Tournament Director), and Hasim Khan. Also present were Sindh Hockey Association Coordinator Zulfigar Hussain, Syed Hassan Askari, Dr. Majid, Imtiaz Ahmed, office bearers of Karachi Hockey Association, and various district

Punjab's gold medal tally reaches to five in 35th National Games

跨 Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: The gold medal tally of Punjab athletes has reached to five on Tuesday amid exciting competitions of 35th National Games being organized at Kara-

Punjab athletes have so far won gold medals in karate (2), gymnastics, fencing and wrestling. In karate, Punjab's Zara won gold medal in minus 55 kg category and Hamna Javed clinched gold medal in minus 60 kg category.

in the 70 kg category while M Waqas also bagged a gold medal in gymnastics event at the National Games.

Punjab won a silver and 4 bronze medals in swimming. The boys won a silver medal in the 4x100 freestyle relay, and a bronze medal in the 200 meter breaststroke.

In wrestling, Punjab's M freestyle, while Punjab's girls Abdullah won a gold medal also won a bronze medal in the 4x100m freestyle relay. Punjab athletes have won so far 8 silver and as many bronze medals in taekwondo event of National

Faraz Khan won a silver medal in wrestling, while Iman Fatima won a bronze medal in weightlifting 53 kg category.

In badminton, Raza Ali Abid Rania Adnan Khan won a defeated Army's Sadid Anjum bronze medal in the girls' 50m Bashir 3-0, Jalis Konain defeated butterfly, Shazna Shahid won Gilgit-Baltistan's Ikramullah a bronze medal in the 100m 2-0, Aimal Muneeb defeated



Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Laiba and Kashmir's Madiha Ilyas 2-0 Mushtaq 2-0, and Humaima to qualify for National Games

Usman defeated Azad Jammu badminton event quarterfinals.

PCB Chairman expresses gratitude over PSL London Road Show success

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Super League (PSL) 11 has taken flight to new heights, capturing unprecedent attention in the home of the cricket. For the first time in history, a highly successful PSL roadshow was organized at the historic Lord's Cricket Ground.

A large number of investors attended the London roadshow and expressed keen interest in purchasing two new teams, said

Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Chairman Mohsin Naqvi expressed his gratitude for the success of the PSL London Roadshow and also thanked the administration of Lord's Cricket Ground.

Chairman Mohsin Naqvi said that the strong investor interest in acquiring two PSL 11 teams is extremely positive and encouraging. He added that PCB is determined to transform PSL into a major international brand.

This milestone is not only an achievement for PCB but also an honour for a peaceful and sports-loving Pakistan.

Rock & Sport Climbing Competition held to celebrate Int'l Mountain Day

Sports Day

ISLAMABAD: The Alpine Club of Pakistan (ACP) and National Mountaineering and Sport Climbing Federation commemorated International Mountain Day 2025 with great enthusiasm by organizing a Rock and Sport Climbing Competition here at the Pakistan Sports Complex Climbing Wall on Tuesday.

The event aimed to celebrate mountain culture, promote healthy sporting activities, and raise awareness about environmental conservation, in line with this year's United Nations theme, "Glaciers matter for water, food and livelihoods in mountains

The opening ceremony was graced by prominent guests Shahid Islam, Deputy Director General, Pakistan Sports Board, and Nobukuni Shinohara, First Secretary, Embassy of Japan. They were warmly welcomed by Karrar Haidri, Senior Vice President, Alpine Club of Pakistan, and Najeeb Khattak, Convener & Head Coach, Pakistan National Sport Climbing Team. Souvenirs were

presented to the guests, who inaugurated the competition.
In his welcome address, Karrar Haidri noted that the Alpine Club of Pakistan has been observing International Mountain Day continuously for the past 19 years. He recalled that the United Nations designated 11 December as International Mountain Day in 2003, following the observance of 2002 as the International Year of Mountains, to raise awareness about the critical importance of mountain ecosystems and the impacts of climate change.

Highlighting the theme of 2025, he emphasized that under the dynamic leadership of Major General Irfan Arshad Khan, HI(M), President of the Alpine Club of Pakistan, the federation is actively promoting climate awareness, athlete development, and sustainable mountain tourism across Pakistan.

Activities such as climbing competitions are an essential part of this outreach, engaging youth while spreading conservation awareness. He also expressed special gratitude to the Pakistan Sports Board and the Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC) for their institutional support in making the event possible.

The competition featured men's and women's categories in Speed Climbing and Rock Climbing, where athletes demonstrated outstanding technical ability, discipline, and sportsmanship. A notable highlight was the participation of Mr Karel of the Netherlands, emphasizing the growing international interest in Pakistan's sport climbing ecosystem.

Addressing the closing ceremony, Najeeb Khattak congratulated the participants and reiterated that, under the guidance of Mai Gen Irfan Arshad Khan, ACP is working consistently to strengthen competitive climbing nationwide. He announced that a National Sport Climbing Championship will be organized soon and that the national climbing team is being prepared for participation in upcoming international competitions.

The event was successfully conducted by a professional technical team of former international athletes, including Sajid Aslam, Mushahid, Hanzala Hussain, and Ahmed Mujtaba (SNGPL).

The leadership of the Alpine Club of Pakistan expressed appreciation to the athletes, officials, organizing staff, and partner institutions for their valuable contributions and reaffirmed ACP's commitment to promoting safe, inclusive, and environmentally responsible mountain sports throughout Pakistan.

Pakistan, Indonesia agree to boost bilateral trade

Continued From Page 1

The Indonesian president said the bilateral meeting was productive and resulted in agreements across several areas of cooperation, including trade, education, agriculture, science and technology. He described Islam as a moderate religion that promotes inclusivity and tolerance, adding that Pakistan and Indonesia shared historic and brotherly relations.

President Prabowo welcomed Pakistan's offer to assist in the health sector, saying Indonesia had vast needs for doctors, dentists, and medical experts, and enhance bilateral cooperation.

termed Pakistan's support strategic and critical. He said he had instructed Indonesian ministers to expedite practical cooperation with Pakistan in multiple fields.

He also said both countries were closely coordinating their foreign policies, particularly on Palestine and Gaza, reaffirming Indonesia's support for a two-state solution. He added that the foreign ministers of both sides remained in close contact.

Expressing optimism about future ties, President Prabowo invited Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to visit Indonesia to further

Induction of 8 HANGOR class submarines to give formidable boost to Navy: CNS

"This day stands as a reminder of the courage, perseverance and devotion of the HANGOR crew. Their remarkable achievement symbolizes ALLAH SWT's blessings and reflects the highest standards of professionalism, dedication and equanimity.

The inspirational role and valour of our veteran submariners created a proud historical legacy for our submarine service which continues to enrich our precious heritage," the message

Regarding this day, Chief of

Army Staff and Chief of Defence Forces Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir said: "On December 9, 1971, the

crew of Hangor created a glorious history of valor and courage, which is still etched in the minds of the enemy.

"Even in 1971, the Pakistan Navy was a leaden wall in the sea for the enemy, and even today it is an iron wall on the country's maritime borders, Chief of Army Staff and Chief of Defence Forces

"This day convinces us that Pakistan desires peace but is determined to defend its sovereignty and homeland."

THE SPOKESINAN Wednesday, December 10, 2025



Nishan-e-Pakistan conferred on Indonesia's President **Abowo Subianto**

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has honour, the Nishan-e-Pakistan, upon Indonesia's President Abowo Subianto during a special ceremony held at Aiwan-e-Sadr in Islamabad.

Tuesday's event brought together the country's top leadership, marking a signifigure ident Subianto. Earlier, the for the victims and wishing rise in bilateral trade, with change, disaster management icant moment in Pakistan-In- two leaders held a detailed a swift recovery for those emphasis placed on main- and sustainable development donesia relations. Presi- meeting, exchanging views injured. The expression of taining trade balance and were highlighted as essential

the ceremony.

The formal ceremony celepeace, stability and prosperity. brated the strengthening of historic bilateral ties as President Zardari presented the floods and landslides in inclusive development. Satis-Nishan-e-Pakistan to Pres-

Minister Shehbaz Sharif, between the two nations. stan's support for Indonesia engagement. the Chairman Senate, the Both sides expressed full Speaker of the National agreement on shared values conferred its highest civilian Assembly and senior mili- and decades-long goodwill, tary commanders attended reaffirming their intention ated their commitment to enhance cooperation for

> deep sorrow over the recent Sumatra, offering prayers faction was expressed over the

during humanitarian crises. During the discussions,

presidents reiterto promoting interfaith harmony and tolerance. They Prsident Zardari conveyed agreed to shape future partnerships around principles of

The leaders described the Pakistan-Indonesia Joint Trade Committee as an effective platform for advancing business-to-business linkages. They also agreed to strengthen cooperation in information technology, agriculture, energy and tourism. Joint efforts on climate areas for future collaboration.

dent Asif Ali Zardari, Prime on long-standing relations solidarity underscored Paki- expanding sector-to-sector Induction of 8 HANGOR class submarines to give formidable boost to Navy: CNS

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS) Admiral Naveed Ashraf has said that the induction of eight HANGOR Class submarines will give a formidable boost to our offensive punch and provide operational flexibility to Pakistan

In his message on eve of 54th HANGOR Day (Dec 9), he said that Pakistan Navy places special emphasis on sub-surface offensive capability and our ongoing submarine acquisition programme with China bears testimony to this vision.

"As we celebrate our triumph, let us also not forget the Shuhada of PNS/M GHAZI, who sacrificed their lives for the said a message issued by Direc- (Pak Navy). He said Pakistan inspiration from their ultimate



defence of their motherland," torate General Public Relations Navy will continue to draw

sacrifice as well as exemplary feat of PNS/M HANGOR.

'54 years ago, on this day, PN Submarine HANGOR created history by sinking INS KHUKRI and crippling INS KIRPAN, the first submarine engagement against a warship post WW-II and the only successful attack by a conventional submarine in modern history.

This moment remains etched in the annals of our naval history and a ghastly reminder for the enemy. It was not just a tactical victory but also a strategic demonstration of Pakistan Navy's resolve to counter aggression and defend our maritime frontiers against all odds," the message said.

Continued on Page 7

Transporters split over strike against challan fines

👺 Bureau Report

LAHORE: The protest announced by the Pakistan Transporters Joint Action Committee against the traffic ordinance turned controversial as the Mini Mazda Association refused to suspend their protest. They said that their protest will continue until the Punjab government issues a notification in this regard.

Earlier, on December 9, 2025, the transporters called off their strike against heavy fines after reaching an agreement with the Punjab government.

The sources said that the transporters had reached an under-Bilal Akbar Khan, following which it was agreed that implementation to comply with the rules.

of the new traffic rules would be halted and the wheel-jam strike would be called off. This was the second round of talks after the first round had failed.

Punjab Senior Marriyum Aurangzeb, however, dismissed reports of any order suspending the implementation of the Traffic Ordinance 2025.

"Such speculations completely false. Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has once again ordered strict and effective enforcement of traffic laws across the province," she wrote in an X post.

The minister noted that CM standing with Transport Minister Maryam has directed authorities to deal firmly with anyone failing

Corruption still a major public concern in Pakistan, finds new survey

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Transparency International has released its National Corruption Perception Survey (NCPS) 2025, showing that corruption remains a major issue for citizens across Pakistan, directly affecting trust in government performance and state institutions.

The survey was conducted from 22 to 29 September 2025 across 20 districts in all four provinces, with 4,000 respondents, 55% men, 43% women and 2% transgender persons. Around 59% participants were from urban areas and 41% from rural areas. It marks a significant expansion from the NCPS 2023, which covered 16 districts with 1,600 respondents.

TI Pakistan Chairman Justice (R) Zia Pervez said the survey records citizens' perceptions and experiences rather than reforms.

measuring actual corruption levels, adding

that such feedback guides future reforms. According to the report, the 2025 exercise is more comprehensive and representative, ensuring wider inclusion of women, rural populations and persons with disabilities. Sixty-six per cent of citizens said they were not forced to give bribes for any public service over the past year, indicating that bribery is not a universal daily issue for all Pakistanis.

Nearly 60% respondents fully or partially agreed that the government contributed to stabilising the economy through the IMF programme and by exiting the FATF grey list.

Institutional perception showed improvement, with police seeing a 6% positive shift, attributed to behavioural changes and better service delivery under

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PM praises economic team's efforts, field marshal's role as IMF approves \$1.2b tranche

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday commended his economic team for the effective implementation of the government's reform agenda, following the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) approval of a \$1.2 billion tranche under the ongoing programme.

The prime minister, in a statement, lauded the supportive and pivotal role played by Chief of Army Staff and Chief of Defence Forces Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, in implementation of reforms which paved the way for Pakistan's economic

He also praised Finance Minister nation," he remarked.

Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb and his team for their tireless efforts, noting that the IMF's expression of satisfaction with Pakistan's performance was a testament to their competence and dedication.

"The disbursement of this tranche proves that Pakistan is steadfastly implementing the structural reforms essential for economic stability and sustainable growth. Steering the country away from the brink of default and placing it firmly on the path of stability and progress has been an extraordinarily challenging journey which was overcome consequent to efforts by political parties which sacrificed their politics and the economic difficulties endured by the

PM Shehbaz Sharif to visit Turkmenistan on December 11

跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif will visit Turkmenistan on December 11 to participate in an international peace forum, officials said on Tuesday.

The prime minister will be accompanied by Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar, Federal Information Minister Atta Tarar, and other senior officials.

During his stay, the prime minister is expected to meet Turkmen President Serdar Berdimuhamedow and review progress on the TAPI gas pipeline project.

The forum is likely to be attended

by leaders from Russia, Iran, and

Central Asian countries.

During his stay, Prime Minister Shehbaz is likely to hold meetings with other world leaders.

with discussions centred on bilat-

eral cooperation, regional stability,

economic partnerships and energy

projects. The visit highlights Pakistan's efforts to deepen its diplomatic ties and work closely with regional countries on shared regional and

economic priorities.

Ishaq Dar, Iranian FM discuss regional developments



跨 City Desk

discussed bilateral ties and regional week.

developments.

Appreciating frequent high-level ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime exchanges on matters of mutual Minister and Foreign Minister interest, they looked forward to Senator Ishaq Dar held telephonic engaging during the upcoming Interconversation with Iranian Foreign national Forum of Peace and Trust in Minister Abbas Araghchi and Ashgabat, Turkmenistan later this

Danyal Chaudhry declares economic turnaround as Pakistan returns to stability



跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Parliamentary Secretary for Information and Broadcasting, Barrister Danyal Chaudhry, held a press conference in Islamabad today to brief the nation on the government's achievements on the economic and security fronts, highlighting efforts that have strengthened stability across Pakistan.

Barrister Danyal Chaudhry said that leading international institutions are now reporting a visible improvement in Pakistan's economic stability. He said this positive shift reflects the hard work of the incumbent government and the constant, round-the-clock efforts economic team.

He highlighted that the country's recovery is not accidental but a result of deliberate policies and sustained focus. According to him, the government's performance has begun to restore confidence in key sectors that had faced years of uncertainty.

Citing the latest Transparency International report, Barrister Danyal said 66 percent of the people have expressed greater trust in Pakistan's state institutions. He said this increase in public confidence is a strong signal that the nation has rejected false narratives and baseless claims being pushed.