**Barkat Rice Mills** (Pvt) Limited



#### Senator Hafiz Abdul Karim calls on Nawaz Sharif

Senator Hafiz Abdul Karim has met with Pakistan Muslim League (PML-N) President Nawaz Sharif. The overall political situation of DG Khan and matters of mutual interest were discussed in the meeting. Osama Abdul Karim and Anas Abdul Karim were also present on the occasion.



State within state created on Sindhi **Cultural Day, alleges MQM leaders** 

Addressing a Press conference in Karachi, Faroog Sattar said nany incidents of agitation and torture were reported on Sindhi Cultural Day. He emphasized that MQM-P will never allow any

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Jamadi-us-Sani 19, Thursday, December 11, 2025





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# National Ulema Conference ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Chief of the Army Staff and Chief of Defence Forces Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir in National Ulema Conference on Wednesday Islam: A Religion of Peace

## Terrorism is India's pattern, not Pakistan's: Field **Marshal Asim Munir**

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Chief of Defence Forces and Chief of Army Staff, Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, on Wednesday, said terrorism was a trademark of India, asserting that Pakistan confronts its enemies openly and with resolve.

"Terrorism is not Pakistan's pattern; it is India's," he remarked.

He made the remarks while

and Mashaikh Conference in Islamabad.

Field Marshal Munir said Pakistan did not operate "from the shadows," adding that the country challenges its enemies "head-on."

He noted that "Riyasat-e-Tayyiba" and the State of Pakistan share a deep ideological connection and stressed that national strength is built on unity,

addressing the National Ulema knowledge and hard work rather chaos, saying that research, or group can assume that right. than division.

Calling the Pakistan-Saudi defence agreement "historic," he said Allah had granted Pakistan the honour and responsibility of safeguarding the Haramain. a distinction not shared by any other Muslim country.

The Field Marshal cautioned that nations which abandon knowledge and the pen fall into

learning and discipline were the foundations of stability and

Field Marshal Munir emphasised that honour and strength do not come through division, but through unity, education and

In an Islamic state, he said, only the state has the authority

Pakistan's victories in decisive

Photo: PID

battles, he added, were achieved with divine support, and the journey of resilience would continue through unity.

He urged religious scholars to keep the nation united, broaden public thinking and strengthen their role in guiding the youth.

"Long Live Pakistan, Always,"

## Bilawal says country facing economic and security challenges

👺 Bureau Report

LAHORE: PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has said that said Pakistan was going through hard times as Lahore's Baghbanpura area on Wednesday where she visited PPP worker Zubeda Jafri's house to condole her death, PPP leader said Pakistan Army success-

fully defeated eight-time bigger enemy India in Marak-e-Haq. He said Pak Army's feat against India were acknowledged worldwide.

Bilawal said Modi was planning to country was facing economic and secu- revenge his crushing defeat as Pakirity challenges. Talking to media in stan Air Force had destroyed six Indian planes including Rafel.

PPP Chairman also lauded the service of PPP worker Zubeda Jafri and prayed for her high ranks in Jannah.

## Supreme Court notifies policy for same-day fixation of delisted cases

Islamabad: The Supreme Court of Pakistan has notified policy for same-day fixation of delisted cases in order to ensure greater facilitation for litigants and improved efficiency in the fixation and

on Wednesday, it has been notified that henceforth, whenever cases are required to be delisted due to non-availability of requisite Bench or Judge, such cases shall, so

far as practicable, be redistributed among available Benches for hearing on the same

Where, however, redistribution on the same day is not practicable, the cases shall be delisted and automatically fixed for hearing in the following week.

The policy represents commitment of the Supreme Court to strengthen case management, enhance judicial accessibility, and promote a litigant-friendly envi-

# to declare "jihad"; no individual

## hearing of cases. Through a circular issued in Islamabad

short term plan has been formu-

lated for Climate Action. She said fourteen key interventions, to be implemented over a two hundred and forty-day time-

upgrading flood forecasting and warning systems, establish emergency logistics system and integrate flood control, water management and climate adap-

The House has now been

## Pakistan cannot progress without eliminating terrorism, extremism, sectarianism: PM **Shehbaz** 跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday said that the country could not achieve sustainable economic development without the complete elimination of terrorism, extremism and sectarianism from the country.

Addressing the National Ulema Convention in Islamabad, the prime minister urged religious scholars to play a proactive role in discouraging sectarianism and promoting unity, harmony and brotherhood among all schools of thought.

He said creating an atmosphere of national cohesion was essential for ensuring the country's prosperity and future progress.

The convention was

attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, Field Marshal Chief of Defence Forces Syed Asim Munir, ministers, parliamentarians, and a large number of religious scholars from various schools of thought.

The prime minister said that Allah Almighty has blessed Pakistan with a great victory in Marka-e-Haq against India, which, he said, was due to the professionalism and bravery of the armed forces, as well as the prayers of the nation.

He said Field Marshal Asim Munir had led the war with courage and unwavering resolve, while all services, the Pakistan Army, Pakistan Air Force and Pakistan Navy, contributed equally to the

## UAE envoy, UK Minister call on DPM Ishaq Dar



跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of the UAE to Pakistan, Salem Mohammed Salem Al Bawab Al Zaabi, paid a courtesy call on the Deputy Prime Minister/ Foreign Minister of Pakistan, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar today in Islamabad.

The DPM/FM extended warm felicitations on the 54th Eid Al Etihad of the UAE, reaffirming the historic fraternal ties and strategic partnership between Pakistan and the UAE, which continue to grow across all domains.

He conveyed best wishes to the Ambassador for a as both nations work to further efforts related to Gaza.

deepen their enduring bilateral relationship for mutual progress and prosperity.

Meanwhile, Baroness Jenny Chapman, UK's Minister of State for International Development, called on the Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister of Pakistan, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar. The two sides discussed cooperation in key areas of mutual interest. The DPM/FM highlighted the important role of Pakistani-British community. which serves as a vital bridge between the two nations.

They also exchanged views on regional & international developments, successful tenure in Islamabad, ongoing international peace

## Naqvi meets UK Foreign **Secretary Yvette Cooper** in Brussels

Chaudhry Tabraiz Aurah

LONDON: Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi held

a productive meeting with UK Foreign Secretary Yvette Cooper on Wednesday during his visit to Brussels.

The discussion was also joined by Alex Norris, the UK Minister of State at the Home Office.

In message on Social Media platform X, Naqvi described the exchange as "a good chat," noting that it was a pleasure to meet Cooper again,

as on past occasions. The meeting reflects ongoing engagement between Pakistan and the United

Kingdom on issues of mutual interest, including security cooperation, migration, and regional developments.



The minister is in Brussels for a series of high-level meetings aimed at strengthening Pakistan's international partnerships and advancing collaborative initiatives with European counterparts.

## Aseefa Bhutto flays acting NA speaker's non-professional attitude **Spokesman Report** call attention notice."

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) leader and Member of National Assembly (MNA) Aseefa Bhutto Zardari has expressed her disappointment over the non-professional atti-

National Assembly. In a statement on Wednesday, Aseefa Bhutto Zardari said that the NA session being repeatedly adjourned, despite the completion of quorum which has become a joke.

tude of the acting speaker of the

She said "We are seeing NA session is being adjourned which unabled me from responding to

Postponing the NA session is a very petty and political ploy, she remarked.

On the other hand, PPP leader Shazia Marri, while talking to media persons outside Parliament, said that members of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) adopted non-professional behaviour in the National Assembly.

The National Assembly was informed on Wednesday that 3.9 million beneficiaries have been enrolled nationwide in "Nashonuma Program" over the last five years to deal with the issue of stunting.

Minister for Poverty Allevia-



tion and Social Safety Syed Imran Ahmad Shah told the House during Question Hour that these included two million children and one point eight million pregnant women.

He said the program has a

huge impact on stunting reduc-According to a study, there

has been six point four percent reduction in stunting within children under age of two years and an enormous twenty percent reduction in stunting in children within age range of six months. The Minister for Poverty Alle-

viation said the nutrition support program is operationalized in one hundred and fifty-seven districts of the country through five hundred and forty-two facilitation centers. Minister of State for Climate

Change Shezra Mansab Ali Khan Kharal told the House that a

line, will enhance resilience ahead of next year's monsoon season. Shezra Mansab Ali said the interventions include designing and piloting monsoon ponds in priority flood prone districts,

tation into provincial plans.

prorogued.

## Amir Muqam calls for collective action on Kashmir amid ongoing human rights violations

跨 Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: On the occasion of International Human Rights Day, a significant seminar titled "Kashmiris Are Rights-Holders, Not Subjects" was jointly organized by the Kashmir Institute of International Relations (KIIR) and the Kashmir Policy Research Institute (KPRI) at the Jammu & Kashmir House, Islamabad. The event brought together political leaders, former diplomats, human rights experts, researchers, media representatives and students.

Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs, Gilgit-Baltistan and SAFRON, Engr. Amir Muqam, attended the seminar as Chief Guest. Distinguished speakers included former President of Azad Jammu & Kashmir Sardar Masood Khan, Minister for Kashmir Cause, Arts and Languages Nabeela Ayub Khan, former Federal Minister for Law Ahmer Bilal Soofi, Spokesperson of the Ministry of Foreign



Hussain Wani, Dr. Raja Muhammad Sajad Khan, and Aima Afraz.

Federal Minister Amir Mugam emphasized the need for a coordinated and collective approach on the Kashmir issue. He noted that while the world celebrates Human Rights Affairs Ambassador Tahir Andarabi, Day, grave violations continue in

Ambassador Zamir Akram, Altaf Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu stan's armed forces have proven their & Kashmir (IIOJK). He stated that Kashmir holds a deep emotional connection for him and that for 77 years Kashmiris have faced oppression and tyranny, with many losing their lives in prisons. He paid tribute to the courage and steadfastness of the Kashmiri people, adding that Paki-

capability by defeating much larger adversaries.

Minister Nabeela Ayub Khan expressed deep concern over the grave human rights violations in IIOJK and reaffirmed the commitment to improving the lives of the people of Azad Jammu & Kashmir.

## Human Rights Day

MUZAFFERABAD: Activists of Civil Society hold placards during demonstration at Azadi Chowk regarding the oppression



## Ambassador Masood terms Pakistan's Repulsion of Afghan Provocations a 'Major Diplomatic and Strategic Success'

**Spokesman Report** 

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador Masood Khan, Pakistan's former Ambassador to the United States, China, and the United Nations, stated that Pakistan's decisive response to the Chaman-Spin-Boldak attack constiany assault on Pakistan's sovereignty would be met with "zero tolerance and an immediate, punitive response." He praised Pakistan's armed forces, intelligence agencies, and civilian leadered incursion, noting that the political

message to Kabul is "clear, firm, and damage on both countries. "Pakinon-negotiable: Pakistan seeks peaceful neighbourhoods, but never at the cost of its national security."

Discussing the escalating provocations from Afghan soil. In a statement here on Wednesday, Ambassador Khan described the Taliban regime tuted "a major success," affirming that as "delusional and disconnected from their own population," adding that their internal dysfunctions and ideological rigidity have made Afghanistan "a proxy extension of India." He warned that the Taliban's refusal to ship for their seamless coordination regulate borders, curb terrorism, or in repelling the latest Afghan-initiat- acknowledge Pakistan's legitimate security concerns has inflicted severe

stan tried tirelessly to rehabilitate the Afghan Taliban into the international system," he said, "but the surge of terrorism emanating from their territory has undermined any prospect of

Concluding his remarks, Ambassador Masood Khan stated that Pakistan seeks peace—but is fully prepared for deterrence. "Every war ultimately ends at a negotiating table," he said. "But until the Afghan Taliban show sincerity, abandon terrorism, and free themselves from India's influence, the responsibility for this crisis rests squarely on their shoulders."



## India and Afghanistan are jointly pushing Pakistan towards instability: Hanif Abbasi

跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: A grand ceremony was  $held\,under\,the\,auspices\,of\,the\,Anjuman$ e Tajran Commercial Market Rawalpindi to pay tribute to the everlasting sacrifices of the Pakistan Armed Forces. Federal Minister for Railways Hanif Abbasi was the chief guest. Upon his arrival, a large number of traders and citizens accorded him a warm welcome. The venue echoed with national songs and slogans of "Long Live Pakistan Army," "Long Live General Asim Munir," and "Long Live Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif."

During the event, traders and citi-



shoulder with the Pakistan Army and Office-bearers of the Traders Assoto firmly counter every move of anti-

The ceremony formally began with zens pledged to stand shoulder to the recitation of the Holy Quran.

ciation Commercial Market Rawalpindi—including Raja Zafar Yousaf (General Secretary), Raja Asad Hameed (Patron-in-Chief), Naqi Shah (Group

Leader), Raja Aslam (Senior Vice President), Mumtaz Ahmed (Member Executive Council), Chaudhry Javed Ahmed (Chairman), Ziaullah Shah, Muhammad Hanif Advocate, Sardar Naseem, Haji Pervez, Lubna Rehan, Rahat Qudoosi-and a large number of PML-N leaders were present.

In his address, Hanif Abbasi appreciated Malik Suhail Awan's services for the trader community. He urged everyone to join hands in expressing solidarity with the Pakistan Army and defeating the designs of the enemies. He thanked Malik Suhail Awan and his team and congratulated them for organizing the ceremony in honor of the armed forces.

### Saghar seeks UN intervention to protect the human rights of the Kashmiri people

ISLAMABAD: Acting President Jammu and Kashmir Democratic Freedom Party, Mehmood Ahmed Saghar has called upon the world community, particularly the United Nations, to discharge its moral and legal responsibilities to protect the human rights of the people

In his statement issued on Human Rights Day, he said that the Indian government was brazenly violating the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), which was adopted by the UN on this day in 1948.

Sagar said Indian troops were continuously violating human rights in the restive region, adding Kashmir was the most unfortunate place on earth where the people are denied basic human rights.

He appealed the international organisations to help settle the lingering Kashmir dispute according to the United Nations resolutions and aspirations of the Kashmiri people.

#### International Human Rights Day marked with major rally in Kotli



**Bureau Report** 

KOTLI: On the occasion of International Human Rights Day, a large protest rally and public gathering was held in Kotli to express solidarity with the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IIOJK) and to draw global attention to ongoing human rights violations in the region.

The rally commenced from Abshar Chowk and proceeded through key markets and main thoroughfares before culminating in a mass gathering at Shaheed Chowk. A large number of citizens, including students, lawyers, traders, refugees, civil society representatives, and social activists, participated in the demonstration. Participants wore black armbands and carried placards calling for the protection of human rights and an end to Indian oppression in Kashmir. Chanting slogans such as "Go India Go Back," "Stop Human Rights Violations in Kashmir," and "UN Wake Up," demonstrators voiced strong condemnation of ongoing abuses.

The rally was led by Ghulam Muhammad Safi, Convener of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) AJK Chapter; General Secretary Advocate Parvez Shah; President Anjuman-e-Tajran Malik Muhammad Yaqoob; President Bar Association Aftab Anjum; Councillor Faisal Hassan; political leader Malik Rizwan; Jamaat-e-Islami Deputy Secretary General Habib-ur-Rehman Afaqi; Muslim Conference leader Yasin Qaiser; Hurriyat leader Advocate Mahmood Akhtar Qureshi; PPP Kotli President Advocate Parvez Akbar; District Councillor Ch. Shah Nawaz Yasin; Professor Ghulam Bani; retired Professor Iftikhar Butt; PPP leader Muhammad Ali Rathore; Pasban-e-Hurriyat representative Imtiaz Kashmiri; and Advocate Naseer Rathore, among others.

### Dozen of political parties workers joined Muslim Conference



RAWALPINDI/DHEERKOT-: A significant political development emerged in Azad Jammu & Kashmir as President of the All Jammu & Kashmir Muslim Conference and former Prime Minister Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan welcomed several political figures who resigned from various parties and formally joined the Muslim Conference. Those joining included Raja Akbar Hussain, Raja Riaz Khan, Raja Syed Afsar, Raja Azeem Khan, Raja Taazeem Aziz, Abdul Razzaq Khan, Raja Khursheed Khan, Raja Siyam Taazeem, along with a large number of local workers.

At a large public gathering held in Union Council Rangla Haari Cheer, Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan greeted the new entrants by presenting them with traditional garlands and congratulated them on starting their political journey with the Muslim Conference.

Sardar Attique praised the spirit and commitment of the new members, stating that the Muslim Conference continues its dedicated struggle for the Kashmir Freedom Movement and the mission of completing Pakistan. He said that the people of Kashmir are fighting a decisive battle, and the sacrifices of hundreds of thousands of martyrs will one day bear fruit, InshaAllah.

He reaffirmed that the Muslim Conference has always represented the aspirations of the people, upholding ideological politics, the Kashmir freedom movement, and public service. The large number of new ideological members joining the party in Mohra Sangrah reflects that people are once again returning to value-based and principled politics.

Addressing the youth, Sardar Attique stated that the Muslim Conference is the party of young people and that they will be given central leadership roles. He said the responsibility of the Kashmir freedom movement would ultimately be transferred to the younger generation.

At the end of the ceremony, the newly joined workers expressed full confidence in Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan's leadership and pledged to spread the message of Mujahid-e-Awwal (the First Freedom Fighter) to every village, neighborhood, and household.

#### Police enforced Section 144 as protest near Adiala Jail turned violent

RAWALPINDI: The Rawalpindi Police Tuesday said a violent protest by members of a political party on Monday night, aimed at storming the sensitive area around Adiala Jail and threatening public order and security, left them with no option but to let the law "take its course".

A spokesman for the Rawalpindi Police said Section 144 was in force in the city and its enforcement was the responsibility of the police to maintain security and ensure smooth traffic flow in the highly sensitive and densely populated area around Adiala Jail.

There is no visiting time at night and no one is allowed to meet detainees without a court order," the spokesman said, adding that the police had exercised "maximum restraint" despite attempts at vandalism and resistance during the sit-in.

He said the protesters resorted to stone-throwing and arson attacks on police. "To prevent subversive activity and avert a possible attack, water cannons were used with great restraint and strategy to disperse

the miscreants." The spokesman said violations of the law would not be tolerated and warned that the sensitive status of the Adiala Jail area meant such activities would not be allowed under any circumstances.

He reaffirmed that the police remained committed to maintaining peace and protecting public and state property.





## **Namaz Timings** Maghrib ... 6:29 pm

#### EMEDGENCY

EMIERGENCI	
Rescue (Police) 1	5
Bomb Disposal 1	5
Fire Services Rawalpindi/	
Islamabad1122 & 1	6
Emergency Ambulance 1122	8
& Rescue Services 445112	2
Motorway Police926604	4
Motorway Police9270601-2	0

## **ENOUIRY**

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 Metropolitan
Corporation 9209224
Potohar Town 9209224
Rawal Town 5773343

#### **COMPLAINTS**

G-5, G-6, G-7, G-8, .....9203883 G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, H-8 ..9266316

Wapda Islamabad......9217579-80

USP Supply Chain Students Gain Insight at MEPCO *Headquarters* **Visit** 

#### **Asim Tanveer**

MULTAN: Students of the Department of Supply Chain of the University of Southern Punjab (USP) visited the MEPCO headquarters where they were given a lecture by senior MEPCO officials on the company's affairs and supply chain. Director General HR & Admin MEPCO Waqas Masood Amjad Chughtai and Director HRM Wajahat Bacha gave a briefing on MEPCO's organizational structure, operational system and technical processes. More than 50 students led by Head of Department Southern Business School Dr. Azeem Ahmed, Lecturers Nida Akhtar, Khadija Hassan, Saddam Rasool and Imran Farooq visited MEPCO headquarters. On this occasion, Chief Supply Chain Management Officer MEPCO Abdul Rehman gave a comprehensive lecture to the students, highlighting all the stages, importance and practical challenges of the supply chain and said that the supply chain is the foundation of any large organization, especially the departments providing utility

## UNFPA Pakistan, Group Development Pakistan, and the Embassy of the Netherlands Conclude

ISLAMABAD: The two-day residential Experience Sharing Workshop was conducted under The Learning Network (TLN), a flagship project by UNFPA Pakistan, implemented by Group Development Pakistan (GDP), and supported by the Embassy of the Netherlands. The workshop brought together 25+ youth-led, women-led, transgender-led, and minority-led community-based organizations who had completed the three-day Training of Trainers (ToT) earlier in November.

Participants representing regions including Islamabad, Lahore, Bahawalpur, Multan, Chiniot, Peshawar, Buner, Swat, Quetta, Hyderabad, and Skardu returned for this workshop to reflect on their learning, share transformation stories, and deepen their understanding of how rights-based approaches shape community realities.

Grounded in TLN's human rights framework, the workshop created a

Education, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, Gender Based Violence, Mental Health, HIV and STI awareness, and community resilience. Participants explored how these themes intersect with the lived realities of the communities they serve and how their learning can strengthen organizational responses.

Reflecting on the workshop, Sameen Sheikh, Executive Director, Group Development Pakistan, shared, Hearing participants share how they have applied their learning since the ToT reinforces why TLN exists.

Shahzad S. Mithani, Master Trainer, emphasized the value of collective learning, stating, "When participants revisit their work, question it, and connect it with the experiences of others, they build richer insight.

Speaking on the progress of the participating organizations, Faiza Mir, Project Manager, GDP, added, "The Learning Network is not only a space for collective reflection, peer training programme. It is an evolving



learning, and applied sense making space where organizations understand their challenges better, learn from one another, and reconnect with the purpose behind their work.

## Meeting

ISLAMABAD: December 10, 2025: Federal Minister for National Food Security & Research, Rana Tanveer Hussain meets Canadian High Commissioner H.E. Tarik Ali Khan to discuss enhanced agricultural cooperation.



## CPO vows to 'nip corruption in the bud' at Multan NAB ceremony

#### 跨 Zain Khan

MULTAN: A dignified ceremony was held at the NAB office in Multan on the occasion of International Anti-Corruption Day, attended by City Police Officer Multan, Sadiq Ali Dogar, as the chief guest.

The event was also attended by SP Cantt Kainaat Azhar, SP Sadar Dr. Khadija Umar, SP City Owais Ali Khan, and SP Gulgasht Saifullah Gujar, along with NAB officers, civil society representatives, and prominent

figures from various sectors. In his address, CPO Sadiq Ali Dogar said that corruption is a grave societal menace, and eliminating it requires close cooperation among all institutions. He emphasized the importance of transparency, integrity, and strengthening the rule of law, noting that the fight tive responsibility that must at every level.



against corruption is a collec- be pursued with seriousness

At the conclusion of the ceretheir strong commitment to mony, participants reaffirmed eradicating corruption.

## Digital Safety for Individuals Take Center Stage at Human Rights Day Event

ISLAMABAD: Recognizing digital violence as one of the fastest-growing threats to individuals, especially women and girls in Pakistan, a high-level event titled "H. E. R. Digital Shield: Healing, Empowerment, and Resilience Against Digital Violence" was held here today on Wednesday. The gathering marked Human Rights Day and concluded the global campaign of 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based

Mr. Abdul Khalique Shaikh, Federal Secretary for Human Rights while sharing his thoughts on the occasion reiterated the Government's equal, safe access to online platforms.

Ambassador of the Royal Norwegian digital violence against every indi-



resolve to strengthen digital rights of Embassy in Islamabad underscored vidual requires collaborative policy every individual and to safeguards Norway's long-standing commitand ensure that women and girls have ment to promoting gender equality, digital rights, and human dignity. H. E. Mr. Per Albert Ilsaas, The The Ambassador said, "Combating

dialogue, state action, and multisector partnerships to ensure safer online ecosystems.

Earlier, Haya Emaan Zahid, Chief Executive Officer LAS, welcomed racy), and Asim Ghaffar.

participants and emphasized the urgent need to invest in protective mechanisms, stronger laws, and survivor-centric digital safety solutions. She highlighted that women in Pakistan face 27 times more online abuse than men on social media platforms, a disparity driven not by chance but by algorithmic amplification of gendered attacks.

A series of awareness videos showcasing real-life challenges and consequences of digital violence was presented, followed by a comprehensive panel discussion—moderated by Myra Imran, Independent Journalist, Pari Gul (Islamabad Police), Nargis Raza (National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency), Nadia Tariq Ali (UNDP), and Technical Specialist UNFPA Dilshad Pari, Maliha Zia, Anam Baloch (Digital Rights Foundation), Usama Khilji (Bolo Bhi), Sadaf Khan (Media Matters for Democ-

## UMT Lahore Organized 6th International Conference



Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: The University of Management and Technology (UMT) Lahore successfully organized the 6th International Conference (ICIC) on 10th December 2025. The event was held with the valuable technical sponsorship of the IEEE Lahore Section and the IEEE ComSoc Lahore Chapter. During the conference, Mr. Kashif Bashir, Chair of the IEEE ComSoc Lahore Chapter and Senior Manager Trainings at KICS UET Lahore was presented with a souvenir by Prof. Dr. Atif Alvi, Dean of SST, UMT Lahore. The gesture acknowledged his significant contributions as a session chair and as a technical sponsor of the ICIC conference. On the last day today Prof. Abid H. K. Shirwani, Chief Advisor on Innovation, UMT, Prof. Dr. Asghar Zaidi Provost UMT, Dr S Sohail H-Naqvi, Director EdTech Solutions, and Services, and Mr. Ayub Ghauri, Ceo Nora Technologies and Executive Director Netsol Technologies Ltd will give the closing remarks. A large number of students joined the 3 session of the conference and appreciated the technical session and idea's of the presenter.

### Multan police crackdown against criminals

#### S Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: City Police Officer Multan DIG Sadiq Ali Dogar, SSP Operations Multan Haider Ali and SP Saddar Division Dr. Khadija Umar, while holding a press conference, said that Multan Police is continuing its vigorous operations to eradicate crime from the city. During these operations, Saddar Division arrested 30 members of 12 gangs wanted in cases of robbery, extortion



and motorcycle and vehicle theft and recovered loot and stolen goods worth more than Rs 41.5 million. These include 02 tractor trolleys with disks and lasers, O1 Shehzore Dala, O1 inverter, O1 battery, 14 goats, 06 cows, 09 gold ornaments, 29 motorcycles, 02 mobile phones and more than Rs 1.679 million in cash. While the weapons used in the incidents were 61 pistols, 08 repeaters, 05 guns, 01 rifles, 01 knives, and more than 80 bullets. 127 cases traced

During the same operations, the Sadar Division recovered more than 36 kilograms of hashish, more than 20 kilograms of heroin, more than 10 kilograms of ice, 190 grams of opium, 2251 liters of alcohol, and 350 liters of alcohol from 73 drug cases.

#### Law and Order situation in city has improved: KATI President

KARACHI: Korangi Association of Trade and Industry (KATI) President Muhammad Ikram Rajput has said that the timely completion of the Safe City Project is crucial for a vast and densely populated industrial hub like Karachi. Despite the challenges faced by the world's seventh-largest city, he noted that the use of advanced technology and surveillance cameras has significantly helped curb crime, resulting in an overall improvement in the law-and-order situation.

According to a press release issued by a KATI, He stated this while leading a KATI delegation during a meeting with Additional Inspector General (AIG) Karachi, Javed Alam Odho. Leaders of the United Business Group (UBG), including Khalid Tawab, Hanif Gohar, Mazhar Nasir, former KATI President Sheikh Umer Rehan, Israr Ahmed, and other industrialists were also present.

Rajput highlighted the success of the Neighborhood Care Security Project, noting that crime rates in several sectors of Korangi have effectively dropped to zero.

Welcoming the delegation, AIG Javed Alam Odho discussed the city's security landscape, industrial zone protection, and avenues for strengthened collaboration. He said that the hosting of major events in Karachi such as the National Games, expo exhibitions, cultural festivals, and international business activities signals improved security, growing economic confidence, and a positive outlook for the national economy.

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## Pakistan to receive next generation Weather Alert System on Islamabad to **Lahore Motorway**

akistan is preparing to deploy one of its most advanced road weather alert systems on the Islamabad to Lahore Motorway through the 'Weather on the Way' initiative. This flagship partnership between Weather Walay and ONE Network is the first of its kind in the region, offering hyperlocal weather intelligence on a major travel corridor that sees millions of passengers every year and spans multiple microclimate

The system is designed to give travelers precise, real-time information so they can make safer and more informed decisions on the road.

The technology network brings together 14 automated weather stations, 5 dedicated air quality sensors, 4 visibility sensors, satellite feeds, and weather forecasts. These inputs are processed through a decision support engine that tracks evolving hazards such as fog, rain, wind, and reduced visibility, along with other rapidly changing conditions that affect travel. Information is then delivered to travelers through smartphone applications, web platforms, and SMD display screens placed at toll plazas across the

The initiative marks a major leap in Pakistan's road weather intelligence. For the first time, road operators, public agencies, and drivers will access the same real time meteorological data for route planning, hazard preparedness, and informed decision making. This approach mirrors international best practices where granular, ground verified observations are central to road safety and traffic management.

The broader value of installing dense weather and sensor networks extends far beyond motorway travel. These systems enhance microclimate mapping, agriculture planning, fog forecasting, logistics operations, tourism insights, energy modeling, and environmental monitoring. The data supports farmers in planning irrigation and sowing, improves the management of fog prone segments of the motorway, strengthens air quality tracking, and captures hyperlocal signals of dengue conducive environments, crop pests, plant diseases, and related risks. Built on locally developed software with select imported components, the system is tailored for Pakistan's terrain and can support agencies such as the Motorway Police, NDMA, and other public sector organizations in planning and executing their operations with greater efficie and confidence.

WeatherWalay's work extends nationwide, where it continues to strengthen early warning systems and climate intelligence. Its modeling suite blends European, German, US, Swiss, and indigenous weather models that are configured for Pakistan's complex terrain. The resulting datasets support a wide range of sectors including agriculture, tourism, energy, health, and transport, along with microclimate research, urban planning, environmental monitoring, and several other data-driven applications that rely on precise, localised weather intelligence.

# How Trump's Tariffs Handed Beijing the Strategic Advantage

Qamar Bashir

entered office with a renewed conviction that China was the central threat to America's economic supremacy. During his campaign he promised to impose the "highest tariffs ever placed on another nation," and within weeks of taking office he announced a broad tariff package that lifted the average rate on Chinese imports to levels not seen in modern U.S. history. The administration framed it as a strategic correction that included meetto decades of unfair Chinese trade practices, but what unfolded over the first months of the new tariff war revealed a very different picture: China absorbing the shock, recalibrating supply chains, walk among Chinese and emerging stronger, while the United States confronted rising costs, diplomatic fractures, and strategic vulnerabilities it had underestimated.

The backbone of the 2025 tariff package was a sweeping 50 percent levy on a wide category of Chinese industrial goods, consumer electronics, batteries, EV components, and machinery. This instantly reshaped the cost structure for American importers. U.S. Customs data for the first half of 2025 showed Chinese imports dropping sharply, falling from \$427 billion in 2024 to an annualized pace below \$300 billion. The White House celebrated this as proof of success. But a closer look by the Federal Reserve and private research groups painted a darker reality: the tariffs did not revive American manufacturing; they simply diverted sourcing to Vietnam, Mexico, India, and Malaysia, often for the very same Chinese-made components routed through partner countries. Prices for

Oonald Trump American consumers rose, corporate not seen in decades. America's traditional higher costs, consumers encountered returned to the costs increased, and inflationary pres-White House in sure resurfaced at a moment when the January 2025, he administration hoped to claim victory over rising prices.

As economic tensions intensified, geopolitical dynamics shifted dramatically. Europe, long America's foundational ally, began charting a more independent course. The most symbolic moment came in December 2025, when French President Emmanuel Macron indicated a similar trajectory despite

undertook a multi-day state visit to China ings with Xi Jinping in Beijing and Guangzhou, cultural engagements, and a highly publicized citizens—an unprecedented gesture of diplomatic warmth. Germany

deepened EV and battery cooperation ulus, targeted high-tech investment, and with Chinese firms, while the European Commission resisted U. S. requests to impose parallel tariffs on Chinese goods, arguing that Europe needed stability, not retaliation. The message was unmistakable: Washington's unpredictability was driving Europe to diversify its strategic relationships.

Canada's recalibration was more subtle but equally significant. Diplomatic disagreements over minerals, technology cooperation, and U.S. extraterritorial trade measures strained relations. Ottawa expanded trade dialogues with Beijing and pursued independent access to Chinese markets for agriculture, wood products, and minerals. By mid-2025, Canadian officials publicly emphasized the need for "balanced engagement" with both global powers—a diplomatic signal

through conflict but through erosion of trust in Washington's long-term policy consistency.

While the United States confronted inflationary pressure and strained alliances, China's macroeconomic position continued strengthening. MOFCOM reported a trade surplus of \$798 billion in 2024, and the first six months of 2025

> United States. The explanation was simple: China expanded exports to Southeast Asia, Africa, Latin America, and Europe, partially compensating for the American market. Beijing also increased domestic demand stim-

reduced exports to the

pushed forward EV, robotics, and solar manufacturing expansions. Far from weakening, China's export engine rebalanced toward new partners, reinforcing capability, and recognizing that leaderits status as the world's manufacturing

Even more significant was the perception shift globally. Nations increasingly viewed China as the more predictable partner in long-term economic planning. The U.S. political cycle—with sharp reversals every four years-introduced uncertainty that businesses, governments, and investors found destabilizing. China, by contrast, offered continuity. Whether one agrees with its political system or not, Beijing delivered reliability, and in global commerce, reliability is currency.

Inside the United States, the consequences became visible. Importers faced

sphere of influence was shrinking, not rising prices, farmers saw shrinking access to China, manufacturers struggled with supply chain bottlenecks, and strategic allies questioned American dependability. The tariff war, intended to reassert American power, instead exposed structural weaknesses that had been growing for vears: inequality, fragile supply chains, political polarization, and an economic model increasingly dependent on global components that America no longer produced.

> Yet the lesson is not that the United States is in decline. It remains an extraordinary nation with vast resources, unmatched innovation, and resilient institutions. But the 2025 tariff confrontation with China revealed a profound strategic miscalculation. China did not defeat America; America undermined itself by acting without a full appreciation of the interconnected global systems on which its own prosperity depends. A course correction is still possible, but it requires rebuilding alliances, stabilizing economic policy, investing in domestic ship is earned not through confrontation alone but through consistency, partnership, and trust.

In 2025, China won the tariff war not by overpowering the United States but by understanding the world better than Washington understood itself. The question now is whether America can learn quickly enough to avoid repeating the

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

## DG ISPR's Fully Security-Oriented & Non-Political Presser

detailed engagement that I was honored to participate in, specifically a comprehensive Talk Show broadcast across a prominent online media platform, was fundamentally and absolutely catalyzed by an extraordinary and meticulously planned press briefing delivered by the Director-General of Inter-Services Public Relations (DG ISPR). This singular event, by its influenced but has irrevocably shifted the entire civilian installations. This egregious, anti-state

national discourse in Pakistan into a critically severe and previously unprecedented realm of national security. The entire thrust, the central argument, and the comprehensive focus of the DG ISPR's extensive and meticulously prepared address was dedicated exclusively and exhaustively to dissecting the complex personality and the

ongoing, highly problematic conduct of the incarcerated founder of the Pakistan Tehreeke-Insaf (PTI) political party, Imran Khan. This address was immediately recognized by political and security analysts across the entire spectrum as truly "unprecedented," with people commentators marking it as a "historic GHQ press conference" precisely because of its direct and singular focus on the actions, statements, and psychological state of a major political figure.

Consequently, a pervasive, strong national consensus is rapidly solidifying among the vast majority of patriotic Pakistani citizens and independent security commentators. This consensus reflects the stark, unforgiving reality that Imran Khan has willfully and definitively abandoned the accepted, standard norms of democratic political leadership and now stands as an undeniable existential risk to the country's stability and

he recent, profound, and intensely future. The horrific, destructive, and deeply antistate incidents of May 9th, 2023, which Pakistan has formally designated as a "Black Day," serve as the unassailable, publicly verifiable and comprehensively documented evidence of this perilous transformation. The extensive collection of video footages, photographic clips, and documented intelligence clearly demonstrates how a radicalized, violent faction of PTI supporters orchestrated widespread, coordinated riots, deliberately sheer gravity and focused content, has not just targeting and vandalizing crucial military and

behavior included the shocking and sacrilegious desecration of martyrs' monuments—an act universally considered by the state and the populace alike to be the absolute height of anti-national betrayal and a profound dishonor to the immense sacrifices made for the nation's defense. The functional, strategic impact of these orches-

trated riots was, in every measurable and strategic sense, functionally equivalent to the subversive operations typically conducted by hostile foreign adversaries—a strategic act of internal self-wounding that rival nations like India or Israel had been historically unable to inflict upon the country over its entire 78-year existence. For the patriotic Pakistani and the rational security analysts, there is little functional or moral difference between the malevolent intent of these internal agitators and the intent of external enemies, as both exhibit a profound, active disregard for the integrity, institutions, and sovereignty of Pakistan. The events of May 9th were not an exercise in democratic politics or peaceful protest; they constituted a coordinated terrorist attack carried out by elements now firmly classified as anti-state. Critically, no sovereign nation on Earth can afford to grant political amnesty or

freedom of operation to individuals who engage in or facilitate acts of terrorism; the very thought of allowing the perpetrators of events like the 9/11 attacks to participate freely in US politics underscores the sheer absurdity of the claims of political freedom being made for the May 9th rioters. Thus, it is abundantly and tragically clear to the nation that the operational tactics of the PTI have moved far beyond acceptable political boundaries and directly into the severe realm of national security threats.

The Army is believed as the protector of the nation, tasked with defending Pakistan from both internal and external threats. Actions against those seen as rioters, terrorists, or antistate actors are taken as security responsibilities, not political interference. Imran Khan and PTI have moved beyond conventional politics, with their activities amplified through social media networks that allegedly spread harmful propaganda and may be influenced by hostile foreign actors. Efforts to distinguish criticism of a few military leaders from attacks on the institution are seen as disingenuous, and repeated inflammatory messages originating from Khan's prison visitors are considered a destabilizing factor.

Khan's behavior is obvious as driven by personal ambition and a "delusional mindset," with PTI opposing key national security and policy decisions, including handling Afghan refugees and negotiating with terrorist groups. Recent security operations have reportedly shifted public opinion to strongly value national unity and a strong military, viewing any perceived threats to these pillars as betraval. Events like the Marka Huq victory reinforced this perspective, fostering a collective resolve to guard against divisive narratives and maintain institutional loyalty. The DG ISPR's press conference is therefore reflecting this widespread sentiment, resonating with those who prioritize the country's stability and defense.

## Pakistan Strengthens Strategic Posture with Asim Munir as CDF

defence strategy, commandand-control structure, and national security paradigm a new dimension. This appointment reflects the state's forward-looking vision in the face of evolving global dynamics, regional tensions, and the rapid technological era. President Asif Ali Zardari

has approved the appointment of Syed Asim Munir as Chief of Defence Forces. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif forwarded the summary to the President after approving the elevation of Field Marshal Asim Munir as both Chief of Army Staff and Pakistan's first Chief of Defence Forces. Following presidential approval, the official notification was issued. Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir has

now assumed the role for a five-year tenure. Field Marshal General Asim Munir is counted among Pakistan's most respected military leaders. Throughout his career, he has demonstrated exceptional command not only on the battlefield but also in intelligence, administrative reforms, and sensitive national security matters. His achievements and distinctions have solidified his reputation as a strong and exceptional commander.

Under Field Marshal Munir's command, the "Battle of Haq" and various other successful operations helped establish Pakistan as a stronger, safer, and more modern military power in the eyes of the world.

Following his appointment as Chief of

n Pakistan's military history, certain Defence Forces, celebrations were witnessed moments not only alter the course of across Pakistan. The public widely welcomed present events but also shape the directhe decision, expressing approval that a brave tion of future decades. The appoint- and fearless commander who had proven his ment of Field Marshal General Asim strategic brilliance against India was entrusted Munir as the country's first Chief of Defence with such a vital responsibility. During his Forces (CDF) is one such defining moment, tenure as Army Chief, Field Marshal Asim an event with the potential to give Pakistan's Munir taught India a lesson it would not forget,

leading Pakistan to significant victories against adversaries.

After the issuance of the CDF notification, Indian media reacted with visible anxiety and panic, launching propaganda campaigns. Indian newsrooms and pro-government YouTubers erupted in agitation following the approval of the new appointment.

For the first time in Pakistan's history, the position of Chief of Defence Forces has been created. This role will not only streamline the national decision-making system but also ensure greater efficiency, speed, and coordination within the defence structure. In the context of South Asia's shifting geopolitical landscape particularly India's military expansionism, Afghanistan's uncertain environment. and the re-aligning of global blocs this decision strengthens Pakistan's strategic standing.

This landmark development will likely be counted among the key milestones in Pakistan's defence evolution, one that provides a new direction to national interests, military progress, and long-term strategic planning. For Field Marshal Asim Munir, this position is not merely a designation; it represents the beginning of a new defence vision for Pakistan. A vision defined by strong command, modern strategy, and unified decision-making. A vision designed to make Pakistan more powerful, effective, and resilient against the challenges of the future.

## The Spokesman 5

## Imran Hussain MP Intensifies Parliamentary Pressure on Kashmir ahead of Human Rights Day

跨 Chaudhry Tabraiz Aurah

LONDON: In a powerful intervention ahead of Human Rights Day, Imran Hussain MP, Member of Parliament for Bradford East and Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Kashmir, has led a high-profile Westminster Hall debate urging urgent international action on escalating human rights abuses in Indian-administered Jammu and Kashmir

Hussain warned that the situation in the region "demands immediate global attention," highlighting enforced disappearances, arbitrary detentions, media blackouts, restrictions on civil liberties, and the silencing of political voices. He stressed that these abuses-regularly documented by international human rights organisations represent clear violations of international law and "can no



longer be ignored."

Wider Parliamentary Push for Justice in Kashmir

The debate forms part of Hussain's broader parliamentary campaign, which includes tabling Early Day Motion (EDM) 2184 to mark Kashmir Black Day. The motion draws attention to decades of political repression and reaffirms the Kashmiri people's long-denied right to self-determination under UN Security Council resolutions. More than 40 MPs across parties have already signed in support.

Hussain has also coordinated a cross-party letter (with 50 parliamentarians signing) to the Prime Minister, urging the UK Government to adopt a stronger, principled position on Kashmir. The letter its commitment to UN resohuman rights violations,

Grant independent observers merely as a bilateral matter access to the region, Prioritise any UK-India trade negotiations, Lead renewed diplomatic efforts for a peaceful, just, and lasting resolution

Imran Hussain: can no longer be ignored"

Hussain delivered a powerful message:

"On Human Rights Day, message: the suffering of the ignored any longer. After decades of enforced disappearances, arbitrary detentions, media blackouts and political repression, the people of the most fundamental demolutions, for an end to ongoing criticised successive UK governments for treating Kashmir must act.

between India and Pakistan, human rights protections in insisting the crisis is - and always has been — an international issue of human rights, justice, and self-determination.

"The UK has a moral, historic

"The and legal duty to ensure that suffering of the Kashmiri people UN resolutions guaranteeing an no longer be ignored" a free and fair plebiscite are Speaking during the debate, finally honoured," he added.

"The time for silence has passed — the UK must act"

Hussain asserted that peace Parliament must send a clear in South Asia is impossible without justice in Kashmir, Kashmiri people cannot be and justice cannot be achieved without acknowledging the voices of the Kashmiri people.

"My debate today, the EDM marking Kashmir Black Day, and the cross-party letter to Kashmir are still being denied the Prime Minister are part of a renewed effort to put Kashmir calls on the UK to: Reaffirm cratic right of all — the right to back where it belongs: on the determine their own future."He international agenda. The time for silence has passed. The UK

**Tourism Promotion** 

## Sri Lanka Convention Bureau Launches B2B Roadshows in Karachi and Lahore

👺 Bureau Report

tion Bureau (SLCB), functioning recovery of the travel and tourism under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment and Tourism, travel from Pakistan, improved air in collaboration with the Sri Lanka connectivity, and a simplified visa High Commission in Islamabad. Sri Lanka Consulate General in Karachi and SriLankan Airlines, is pleased to announce the launch of a and Lahore. This initiative forms part source markets-Pakistan.

The first roadshow held on 10th business travel. December 2025 at the Marriott

continues to maintain its position as ences, and Exhibitions) tourism. one of Sri Lanka's important South

Asian source markets and ranks among the top 20 tourist-generating LAHORE :The Sri Lanka Conven- markets for Sri Lanka in 2025. The industry, strengthened outbound process have all contributed to this positive trend. In 2025 alone, 20,701 Pakistani tourists visited Sri Lanka.

Travel between the two countries two-city B2B roadshow in Karachi remains seamless, with SriLankan Airlines operating eight direct weekly of SLCB's ongoing efforts to enhance flights, four each from Karachi and Sri Lanka's presence in one of its key Lahore to Colombo. This convenient access has supported both leisure and

The upcoming roadshow in Lahore Hotel, Karachi, followed by the aims to highlight Sri Lanka's diverse stakeholders in Pakistan. Their 12th December 2025 at the Nishat potential travellers to choose Sri Sri Lanka's image as a vibrant desti-Lanka as their next destination. The recorded a notable increase in tourist fully open for leisure, business, and arrivals from Pakistan. Pakistan MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Confer-

The target audience for the road-



shows includes tour operators, media representatives, key influencers, corporate sector leaders, trade associations, and prominent tourism nation offering a wide range of attrac-

A 12-member delegation of leading Sri Lankan tour operators will represent the country at these events. The Lahore roadshow will feature B2B

meetings designed to build productive business partnerships, followed by an evening networking reception to facilitate further engagement. The Sri Lankan delegation will meet with high-profile business leaders, tourism industry stakeholders, and corporate representatives in Lahore.

A press conference will be held in Lahore to ensure extensive media coverage and increased visibility for Sri Lanka as a preferred travel destination. Additionally, a performance by a Sri Lankan cultural troupe will serve as a cultural highlight, showcasing the country's rich heritage.

Commenting on the programme: H. E. Rear Admiral Fred Senevirathne, The High Commissioner of people-to-people ties with Sri Lanka. tries. Pakistan remains an important dous potential to further strengthen the Sri Lanka Convention Bureau, beneficial tourism growth.

tourism flows, particularly in the This roadshow is a testimony to Sri Lanka's commitment to the Pakistan market and our continued efforts to build meaningful collaborations with the travel trade. We warmly welcome Pakistani travellers to experience Sri second event, which will be held on tourism offerings and encourage participation is vital in reinforcing Sri Lanka to Pakistan: We are pleased to our warm hospitality. We look Sri Lanka as their preferred destito bring the Sri Lanka Tourism Road- forward to deepening our engage- nation. The strong engagement we show to Lahore, a vibrant city that ment and opening more avenues for In recent years, Sri Lanka has event will showcase that Sri Lanka is tions and unique travel experiences. shares deep historical, cultural, and partnership between our two coun-

stated: Sri Lanka's presence in Lahore areas of leisure and MICE travel. through this tourism roadshow marks another important step in strengthening our longstanding ties with Pakistan, As we showcase Sri Lanka's diverse offerings in leisure, culture, and MICE tourism, our objective is to deepen collaborative opportuni-Lanka's diverse attractions—from our ties and inspire more Pakistani travpristine beaches and rich heritage ellers and corporates to consider have witnessed in Lahore reflects the growing confidence and interest in Sri Lanka, and we remain committed Commenting on the initiative, Mr. to working closely with our partners partner for us, and we see tremen- Dheera Hettiarachchi, Chairman of here to build sustainable, mutually

## NCCIA's Tarnished Reputation: The Fallout of Internal Corruption and Negligence

Cybercrime Awareness, Training



n the wake of a corruption scandal last month, the National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency (NCCIA) has undergone a sweeping restructuring. Syed Khurram Ali has been appointed as the agency's Director General, accompanied by major transfers and postings across its regional offices in Multan, Lahore, and other cities.

On August 13, 2025, the Ministry of Interior and Narcotics Control issued the National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency (Functions) Rules, 2025, outlining the agency's overall structure and operational procedures. Formally established in April 2025 as an autonomous body, NCCIA was tasked with investigating cyber-related crimes nationwide. Following its creation, the FIA's cybercrime wing was dissolved, and all cybercrime investigations, complaints, and related powers were transferred to NCCIA. According to Business Recorder, citizens must now approach NCCIA directly for any cybercrime-related matters.

The agency was established under Section 29 of the Pakistan Electronic Crimes Act (PECA) 2016 and holds the authority to investigate, inquire into, and even prosecute cases under PECA. Relevant

Code also fall within its jurisdiction. The rules empower NCCIA to & Outreach Unit, International

assistance government administrative authorities," including enforce ment and intelligence agencies.

the agency is tasked with as assigned by the DG on behalf of the federal government."

NCCIA's operational structure comprises several dedicated wings: Cyber Crime Reporting Centers & Public Relations Unit, Anti-On-

line Child Abuse Unit Online Financial Fraud & Integ-

"seek assistance from or provide Operations & Liaison Unit

Development Unit, Internal Accountability NCCIA Digital Forensics Unit, Digital

Media Unit

Addition-

Research &

ally, the agency performing "other relevant duties maintains accounts and legal wings. Officers are authorized to freeze movable and immovable assets of suspects under cybercrime investigation, with prior approval from the DG required for freezing or releasing assets. NCCIA has also been directed to establish an internal accountability unit to

misconduct against its employees.

Recently, Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi submitted a document to the National Assembly revealing that NCCIA received 142,272 complaints in 2025, of which 112.663 were verified. Formal inquiries were initiated in 26,036 cases. The agency registered 1,955 cases, arrested 2,445 suspects, convicted 32, and acquitted 122.

Yet, in a stunning twist, officers of the very agency mandated to fight corruption were found to be involved in bribery scandals, tarnishing its credibility. Seven officers were arrested for accepting bribes in connection with YouTuber Saad-ur-Rehman, aka Ducky Bhai, and other social media influencers. Officers tasked with delivering justice became either complicit in corruption or facilitators of a corrupt

215/2025 in Multan further highlight the severe reputational damage suffered by the agency.

For Director General Sved Khurram Ali, restoring NCCIA's credibility must be the top priority. The agency's reputation has been deeply harmed due to revelations of corruption among its officers. The current climate demands not only stricter accountability but also transparent internal oversight to rebuild

The reputation of any institution is shaped by the conduct of its officers and staff. Citizens cannot harm an organization as long as its personnel perform their duties complainants or provide them with responsibly, avoid abuse of power, information. It is imperative that and remain free from corruption. When officers adhere to honesty, put an end to such practices in all transparency, and professional principles, the institution natu-

provisions of the Pakistan Penal rity Unit, Special Investigation Unit handle complaints of corruption or network. Cases such as FIR No. rally becomes strong, respected, and credible. Conversely, if officers violate laws for personal gain, foster favoritism, or act unjustly toward the public, the institution's foundation erodes, public trust breaks down, and its reputation suffers.

> It is with great regret that I must state that the credibility of this national agency was severely undermined immediately after its establishment. Observations reveal that the NCCIA office in Multan was turned into a no-go area, where only individuals with specific recognition could access the officers' rooms. Even investigation officers were reluctant to meet the Director General immediately agency offices to restore public and complainant trust.

## AlHuda CIBE Concluded Int'l Exposure Visit Showcasing Pakistan's Islamic Finance Industry

**Spokesman Report** 

DUBAI, UAE: AlHuda CIBE exclusively organized the Islamic Finance Immersion and Exposure Program from December 01 to 06, 2025, welcoming an international delegation representing nine (9) countries. The program concluded successfully in Islamabad and Karachi, offering an insightful, practice-based immersion into Pakistan's Islamic finance ecosystem. Over the week, participants engaged with leading institutions, regulators, Shariah scholars, and financial firsthand exposure to Pakistan's advancements in Islamic banking, Shariah governance, microfinance, fintech, capital markets, Zarai Taraqiati Bank Limited

and agricultural finance.

The program's Islamabad leg on December 02, 2025 began with a visit to the Pakistan Microfinance Network, where Chief Executive Officer Syed Mohsin Ahmed briefed the participants on Pakistan's microfinance landscape, digital transformation, and outreach models supporting low-income and underserved communities. The delegation then met with the Pakistan Fintech Network, where CEO Fahad Sajid explained the rapid evolution of digital payments, sector professionals, gaining innovation hubs, and Pakistan's emerging fintech start-up ecosystem. This was followed by a detailed discussion at

with Group Head of Islamic sure in Karachi, beginning with Banking, Abdul Jabbar Karimi, a session at Habib Metropolwho emphasized the importance of Shariah-compliant agricultural financing and Pakistan's leadership in supporting rural development. The delegation later visited the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan, where Tariq Naeem, Additional Director of the Islamic Finance Department, highlighted regulatory reforms, Shariah supervision protocols, and capital market governance supporting the Islamic finance industry. Before concluding the day with an industry visit to Aitemaad Islamic Banking of the National Bank of Pakistan. On December 04, 2025, the delegation continued the expo-

itan Bank Limited. Ahmed Shah Khattak, Head of Shariah Compliance and Secretary to the Shariah Board, discussed the bank's Shariah governance structure and internal controls. This was followed by a visit to Meezan Bank Limited, where Muhammad Faraz Haleem from the Shariah Compliance Department elaborated on coordination processes, Shariah audits, and the pioneering efforts that positioned Meezan Bank as a global leader in Islamic banking. The delegation also visited Jamia Darul Uloom Karachi, where Dr. Mufti Muhammad Imran Ashraf Usmani highlighted Pakistan's contributions to

contemporary Islamic jurisprudence and the central role of Darul Uloom in shaping global Shariah standards. The day concluded at BankIslami Pakistan Limited with a session led by Muhammad Irfan Ahmed. Head of Shariah Compliance, who outlined the bank's digital initiatives, compliance mechanisms, and product development aligned with Islamic principles.

The final engagements of the exposure visit took place in Karachi. The delegation met with Mr. Saleem Ullah, who discussed Pakistan's regula-

tory vision, the rapid growth of Islamic banking in the country, and the central bank's commitment to strengthening Shariah governance and innovation within the financial system, Mr. Farrukh Sabzwari, Chief Executive Officer of the Pakistan Stock Exchange, who explained the workings of the capital market, Sukuk listings, and Shariah-compliant investment frameworks. At Faysal Bank Limited, Muhammad Faisal Shaikh, Head of Shariah Compliance and Advisory, shared insights into

the bank's complete transfor-

mation to Islamic banking and the strategic, operational, and governance milestones achieved during this transition. This was followed by an executive session with Omar Mustafa Ansari. Secretary General of AAOIFI Bahrain, who underscored the importance of adopting AAOIFI standards to harmonize global practices and enhance transparency and credibility across Islamic financial institutions. As a distinguished conclusion to the visit, the delegation met with Deputy Governor of the State Bank of Pakistan.



Index Fluctuation			
Pakistan: PSX 1	00-Share Index		
Current	Prev. Close		
169,451.86	169,456.38		
Day's High	Day's Low		
170,697.74	169,239.23		
Index Value	Change		
34,033,732,351	-4.52		
Percentage	Time		
-0	10 Dec, 2025 4:30 pm		
Europe: FTS	E 100 Index		
Index Value	Change		
9,655.53	+13.52		
Percentage	Time		
-0.14%	10 Dec, 4:35 pm GMT		
	GIVII		
USA: Dow Jones I	ndustrial Average		
USA: Dow Jones I Index Value	<b>C</b>		
	ndustrial Average		
Index Value	ndustrial Average Change		

	GIVI 1-5			
Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Averag				
Index Value	Change			
50,602.80	-52.30			
Percentage	Time			
-0.10%	10 Dec, 3:45 pm GMT+9			

#### **Open Market Forex Rates**

Openiviarket	· O.CA	10100
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	184.5	188
Bahrain Dinar	743.3	753.3
Canadian Dollar	201	204
China Yuan	39.35	39.75
Danish Krone	43.25	43.65
Euro	326.85	330
Hong Kong Dollar	35.75	36.10
Indian Rupee	3.07	3.16
Japanese Yen	1.7900	1.8900
Kuwaiti Dinar	911.25	921.25
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	74.8	75.4
Singapore Dollar	215	220
Swedish Korona	29.45	29.75
Swiss Franc	346.7	349.45
Thai Bhat	8.62	8.77
U.A.E Dirham	76.5	77.15
UK Pound Sterling	374	378
US Dollar	281.2	283.3

#### Sudan's Health Ministry delegation visits IČCI

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

ISLAMABAD: A five-member high-level delegation from Sudan's Ministry of Health, led by Ali Babikir Seid Ahmed, Federal Secretary and Secretary General of the National Medicines & Poisons Board visited the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) to explore avenues of collaboration in pharmaceuticals, medical supplies, and manufacturing.

In his welcome address, ICCI President Sardar Tahir Mehmood reaffirmed Pakistan's deep regard for its brotherly ties with Sudan, appreciating Sudan's keen interest in building strong cooperation with Paki-

stan in the health sector. The delegation comprised Dr. Hayder Mohamed Abdel-Nabi, Director Hospitals Department; Mohamed Marwan Awad, Head of Executive Office; Hatim Motasim Mohamed Ali; and Ihab Abdulrazig, Counselor at the Embassy of Sudan in Islamabad. ICCI Vice President Irfan Chaudhry and several chamber members from the pharmaceutical sector were also present at the meeting.

#### Gold price drops by Rs1,200 per tola

ISLAMABAD: The price of per tola 24-karat gold on Wednesday decreased by Rs1,200 to Rs440,662 compared to Rs441,862 on the previous day, according to the All Pakistan Sarafa Gems and Jewellers Asso-

The price of 10 grams of 24-karat gold fell by Rs1,029 to Rs377,796



Rs378,825, while the rate of 10 grams of 22-karat gold dropped by Rs943 to Rs346,325.

In the international market, gold prices declined by \$12 to \$4,207.

Meanwhile, per tola silver increased by Rs265 to Rs6,367, and the price of 10 grams of silver rose by Rs227 to Rs5,458. International silver prices went up by \$2.65 to \$60.95.

## Federal Minister Shaza Fatima Khawaja inaugurates Zong's Advanced Data Center

ISLAMABAD: Zong, Pakistan's leading Information Services and Technology Innovation company, proudly hosted an exclusive high-level event at its Headquarters in Islamabad today mark a milestone in the nation's digital journey. Ms. Shaza Fatima Khawaia, Federal Minister for IT & Telecommunication graced the ceremony as Chief Guest and officially inaugurated Zong's state-of-the-art Tier-III Certified Data Center, a landmark development in Pakistan's evolving digital infrastructure. Senior government officials, industry leaders, and distinguished guests were also in attendance.

Speaking at the ceremony, Federal Minister for IT & Telecommunication said: "Today's inauguration reflects the momentum of Pakistan's digital transformation. Strengthening our national digital infrastructure is essential for economic growth, innovation, and job creation. We highly value the role of partners like Zong, whose continuous investment in advanced technologies aligns with the Government's vision of a connected and digitally empowered Pakistan."

IT & Telecommunication, government dignitaries and present our vision for a truly digital AI-enabled platform, and our Cloud solutions Pakistan. At Zong 4G, we remain committed to delivering world class information services Mr. Huo Junli, CEO of Zong 4G, added: "It and technological innovation that build incluis an honor to welcome Federal Minister for sive and effective digital ecosystems. The launch aim to accelerate Pakistan's transition toward Cloud, IoT, and network modernization.

of our Cloud Intelligent Computing Center, our a robust digital economy."

Alongside the inauguration, the event are key steps toward realizing this digital dream. featured technology showcases and presenta-We are grateful to the Federal Minister for her tions from Zong leadership, highlighting the leadership and encouragement. Together, we company's latest advancements across AI,

## Group Photo

In the dinner hosted by Chairman AKD Group, Founder Chairman of Pakistan Association of Exhibition Industry, Muhammad Khurshid Barlas, is presenting a shield to Aqeel Karim Dhedhi. Federal Minister Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh, Fahad Birlas, Ahmed Chinoy and others are also present.



## CASS Experts Outline Path to Reviving Pakistan's Aviation Sector

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

ISLAMABAD: As part of its ongoing Lecture Series on Competition Law, the Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) hosted a special session featuring Air Marshal Javaid Ahmed, HI (M) (Retd), President Centre for Aerospace and Security Studies (CASS), and Dr. Usman W. Chohan, Advisor CASS, on the theme "Role of Aviation Industry in Economic Affairs and National Development." CASS is Pakistan's premier centre for strategic research on aerospace, emerging technologies, security, and national policy.

Welcoming the speakers, CCP Chairman Dr. Kabir Sidhu said that regulatory frameworks across major sectors in Pakistan remain outdated and require urgent modernization to meet the demands of rapidly evolving markets. He highlighted that CCP's Centre of Excellence is conducting in-depth sectoral studies to identify regulatory gaps, market inefficiencies, and provide evidence-based recommendations for reforms. The Centre has completed studies in over fifteen key sectors, including LNG, Power, sugar, Insurance, Fertilizer, Road Infrastruc-

Air Marshal Javaid Ahmed (Retd) delivered a comprehensive lecture on the dynamics of the global and domestic aviation industry. He cautioned that Pakistan's aviation sector needs urgent modernization to unlock its potential in tourism, cargo movement, technology development, skilled employment, and national security, as highlighted under the Signifi-



cance of Aviation Industry framework in his presentation. He outlined Pakistan's aviation challenges, including high operational costs, weak governance structures, security constraints, sectoral inefficiencies, limited private sector participation, and shortage of skilled workforce.

Highlighting opportunities, he expressed that Pakistan possesses strong aeronautical capabilities and will "soon be able to manufacture a passenger aircraft," given its advanced fighter aircraft ecosystem. He also briefed the audience about the National Aerospace Science and Technology Park (NASTP), a multi-site initiative equipped with high-end laboratories in AI, avionics, cyber, robotics, composites, and satellite technologies. NASTP aims to build Pakistan's first integrated aerospace ecosystem, expand dual-use technologies, and position the country as a regional innovation hub.

Dr. Usman W. Chohan presented key economic indicators, noting that aviation contributes \$5.6 billion to Pakistan's GDP (1.7%), supports 684,000 jobs, and generated 22 million passengers in 2023, a figure expected to rise under the National Aviation Policy 2023. He underlined that Pakistan's flight market revenue is projected to grow from \$6.04B in 2025 to \$8.17B by 2030, with users rising to 48.5 million. He emphasized aviation's critical role in trade, connectivity, tourism, and broader economic competitiveness.

The session concluded with an engaging question-and-answer discussion, attended by senior officials, researchers of the CCP, and industry stakeholders.

## PQFTL book-building starts 11th December

#### Commerce Desk

KARACHI: The book building process of Pak Qatar Family Takaful Limited's IPO will start on 11th December and continue till 12th December where high net worth individuals and institutional investors will subscribe to 100 percent of the issue size. The successful bidders,

however, will be provisionally allotted only 75 percent of the issue size; i.e., 37,500,000 shares, and the company will offer the remaining 25 percent or 12,500,000 shares to the Takaful meet minimum retail investors through the general public subscription. its digital channels, and

approx. Rs. 1.1 billion. The book building would start at Rs.14.00 per share and it can go up to Rs. 21.00 per share with a maximum price band of up to 50% (PKR 21.00 per Share).

Shahid Ali Habib, CEO of Arif Habib Ltd., the lead manager for the IPO said that country's first-ever IPO of any dedicated Family Takaful Company is all set to make historic debut at PSX which is receiving strong interest from institutional investors

Proceeds from the IPO will help Pak-Qatar Family capital requirements, expand Through this IPO, develop more customer-fo-PQFTL is aiming to raise cused products, Habib said.

## FBR issues new valuation rates for residential and commercial plots in Islamabad

#### Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) has issued new valuation rates for residential and commercial plots at 68 locations in Islamabad, bringing the updated rates into immediate effect.

Real estate developers, investors, buyers, and sellers

impact property buying and

selling, capital gains tax, and

withholding tax. Officials

said the new rates would

help improve transparency

in real estate transactions and are likely to increase tax

With the implementation of the revised valuation tables, the fair market value of immovable properties in residential, commercial, and rural areas of the federal capital will now

be assessed under the new rates. The move is expected to change the landscape of tax regulations in line with property transactions in the

According to the FBR, the revised valuation will directly

**FBR** 

have been advised to strictly follow legal procedures and the updated valuation tables, as the days of under-reporting values are coming to an end.

## Only 41% of Pakistani Professionals Trained Against Cyber Threats: Kaspersky Survey

#### Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: A recent Kaspersky survey in the Middle East, Turkiye and Africa (META) region entitled "Cybersecurity in the work-41% of professionals in Pakistan received a training on digital threats. This knowl-

cially given that the majority of cybersecurity breaches are attributed to human error. The findings underscore a need for IT departments to provide clear guidance and for organplace: Employee knowledge izations to implement strucand behavior", found that just tured, practical cybersecurity training that reaches employees at every level.

bypass digital defenses by exploiting human psychology. "Social engineering" schemes, like phishing emails, manipulate trust and urgency to trick employees into sharing sensifraudulent transactions. 68.5% as messages from their organ-Many cyberattacks today

edge gap is significant, espe- are deliberately designed to ization, colleagues or suppliers within the past year, while 40% suffered negative consequences after such deceptive communication. Other cybersecurity issues closely linked to the human factor include tive information or initiating compromised passwords, the leakage of sensitive data, of surveyed professionals unpatched IT systems and encountered scams disguised applications, unlocked and unencrypted devices.



## Rashid Malik and Khurram **Imtiaz clinch** singles titles at ITF MT200 in Khao Lak

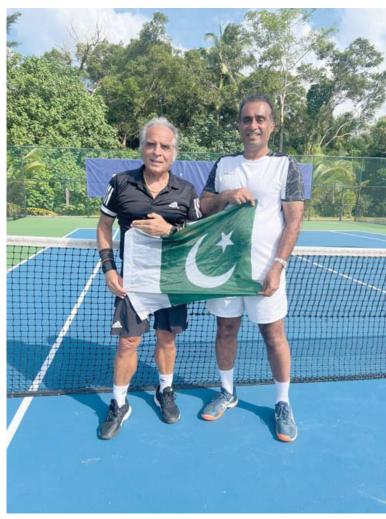
#### **15** Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: The Bank of Punjab-sponsored veteran tennis stars, Rashid Malik (60+) and Khurram Imtiaz (55+), captured the singles titles in their respective age categories at the ITF World Masters Tour MT200 Tournament, being played on the hard courts of the Robinson Hotel Khao Lak.

In the Men's Singles 60+ final, Rashid Malik delivered a commanding Khurram's second ITF title in the 55+ performance to defeat Switzerland's

Hannes Aeberhard 6-1, 6-1. Despite the straight-set scoreline, Malik was made to work hard as both players engaged in long baseline rallies, with Malik effectively using his serve as a decisive weapon throughout the match.

In the Men's Singles 55+ final, Khurram Imtiaz secured the title after receiving a walkover against Switzerland's Oliver Marjanovic, who withdrew due to illness. This victory marks



of Waqar Nisar (PAK) and Boguslaw but fell short in the semi-finals of the mann.

Earlier in the day, the doubles pair Men's Doubles 55+ category, losing 0-6, 7-6, 6-10 to the Swiss-German duo of Stachurski (POL) put up a strong fight Oliver Marjanovic and Andreas Peter-

## Karachi Blues cricket team players to be awarded Rs 2.5 million by winning Quaid-e-Azam Trophy-Nadeem Omar

#### **Sports Desk**

KARACHI: Karachi players have brought joy to the people of their city by winning the Quaid-e-Azam Trophy. Karachi players deserve congratulations and I congratulate the team players and support staff who have proved that there is no shortage of talent in Karachi by winning the trophy of the country's biggest tournament thanks to their brilliant play. Nadeem Omar, President Regional Cricket Association Karachi, expressed these views in a meeting with the players of Karachi Blues, who won the Quaid-e-Azam Trophy. He praised the performance of head coach Iqbal Imam and said that in two and a half years under his coaching, Karachi teams have won the Quaid-e-Azam Trophy twice, which is a unique achievement. He said that soon the CR Regional Cricket



announced a prize of Rs 2.5 million for Association Karachi Academy consisting head coach, said that along with the play-mad Ahmed Naqvi, team manager, said a cash prize of Rs. 25,000 to the players of under-17 players will be set up at the ers, I had the full support of Nadeem that thanks be to Allah Almighty that who performed in every match. Hassan Naya AzimAbad ground. In the academy, Omar Bhai, due to which we were able the Karachi team won this tournament, Omar, Azam Khan, Faizan Najeeb and PCB coaches will address the shortcom- to win the trophy and many young play- which is a testament to the hard work of others were also present on the occasion.

including Saad Baig, Haroon Arshad,

ings of the players. On this occasion, he ers have emerged from the tournament, the players and team support staff. He said that for the first time in the history of the team. He announced and said that a Saqib Khan, Muhammad Umar, Abdul- Karachi, a president like Nadeem Omar grand ceremony in honor of the Kara- lah Fazal, who will come and make the Sahib has come who respects the players chi Blues players will be held soon at a name of their country and city shine. and coaches in every way. In addition to local hotel. On this occasion, Iqbal Imam, Speaking at the ceremony, Syed Muham-Rs. 25 lakh, Nadeem Omar Sahib gave

## Ufone Customers Can Now Enjoy Exclusive English Premier League Streaming Offers Through MyCO

#### Sports Desk ■

ISLAMABAD: Ufone customers can now enjoy special access to English Premier League (EPL) streaming through an exclusive collaboration with MyCO, the official digital home of the Premier League in Pakistan. With its exclusive EPL rights and



a range of new customer-focused options, MyCO offers Ufone users a seamless way to follow every match, highlight, and moment of the world's most-watched football league.

Through this partnership, Ufone subscribers can access discounted EPL streaming plans designed around flexibility and affordability. Customers can choose between weekly streaming for PKR 100 or monthly streaming for PKR 300. For comparison, the standard monthly rate on MyCO has been PKR 600, and a weekly plan was not available earlier. These revised prices give Ufone users convenient, budget-friendly ways to stay connected to their favourite clubs. To further enhance the experience, MyCO is offering 15 free EPL streaming days exclusively for Ufone customers. By entering a promo code, users can enjoy live Premier League matches at no cost during this period, giving them the opportunity to explore match coverage, platform features, and high-quality streaming without any upfront payment.

For effortless onboarding, Ufone has integrated a dedicated  $banner\,within\,the\,UPTCL\,app\,for\,both\,iPhone\,and\,Android\,users,$ directing customers straight to the MyCO offer page. This ensures a smooth journey to subscription without requiring multiple steps or external links. The partnership will remain active throughout the Premier League tenure, running until May 2026, offering Ufone customers long-term access and consistent value across the season.

This collaboration marks a significant step forward in enhancing digital sports engagement in Pakistan. With football viewership steadily increasing, Ufone users now have a complete, accessible solution to enjoy premium EPL content with unmatched ease and affordability.

### National Games: Pakistan Army wins 113 Gold Medals

#### **Sports Desk**

KARACHI: Pakistan Army has crossed the historic 100-gold milestone at the 35th National Games, securing a total of 113 gold medals to further strengthen its lead at the top of the medals table. WAPDA holds second place with 46 golds, while Pakistan Navy remains in third position with 24 gold medals.

According to the medals table issued by the Pakistan Olympic Association (POA), the Army contingent leads with 113 gold, 50 silver, and 34 bronze medals. WAPDA athletes stand second with 46 gold, 43 silver, and 34 bronze, and Navy ranks third with 24 gold, 21 silver, and 20 bronze medals.

Punjab is placed fourth with 7 gold, 23 silver, and 32 bronze medals, followed by HEC in fifth position with 6 gold, 29 silver, and 37 bronze medals. Sindh stands sixth with 6 gold, 15 silver, and 38 bronze, while Pakistan Air Force holds seventh place with 6 gold, 11 silver, and 14 bronze medals.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has won 4 gold, 8 silver, and 30 bronze medals, Balochistan 2 gold, 6 silver, and 11 bronze, Islamabad 1 gold, 3 silver, and 4 bronze, Railways 2 gold, 5 silver, and 17 bronze, Police 17 bronze, Gilgit-Baltistan 3 bronze, and Azad Jammu & Kashmir 1 bronze medal. Meanwhile, in the badminton singles quarterfinals, WAPDA's Irfan Saeed, KP's Murad Ali, Punjab's Raza Ali Adil, and WAPDA's Ali Larosh advanced to the men's singles semifinals. In women's singles, WAPDA's Ghazala Shafiq, Army's Alja Tariq, WAPDA's Mahoor Shahzad, and Army's Amara Ishtiaq won their matches to book their places in the semifinals.

#### Targeting Glory

## Mohsin Nawaz revolutionises long-range shooting in Pakistan

#### **Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: The shooting range at Pakistan Ordnance Factory in Wah is a world away from the roar of packed cricket stadiums. Here, success is measured not in sixes and wickets, but in millimeters and breath control. It was in this atmosphere of disciplined silence that Mohsin Nawaz, a young man from Faisalabad, discovered his life's calling in 2004.

Twenty years later, Nawaz has become something unprecedented in Pakistani sport: the country's most decorated F-Class shooter, a trailblazer who has won 10 international medals without the institutional support that typically accompanies such achievement. In March 2026, he will become the first civilian shooter to receive the Tamgha-e-Imtiaz, a recognition that feels both overdue and revolutionary.

P. G. Wodehouse once quipped that shooting's fascination depends entirely on whether you're at the right Nawaz, staying at the right end has meant rewriting the rules of what's possible for Pakistani athletes competing on their own

Nawaz's journey has been marked by independence rather than institutional backing. Competing largely as a selffunded shooter, he has navigated a landscape where import taxes on essential equipment remain prohibitively high and proper training facilities are scarce. Yet these obstacles have only sharpened his resolve. He stands today as the first Pakistani to earn Life Membership with the National Rifle Associations of both the UK and the USA, distinctions

institutions that guard their standards jealously.

His international breakthrough came in 2016 at Montana's Rocky Mountain Championship, where he secured second place in the 800-yard category. But it was 2018 that marked Pakistan's arrival on the global long-range shooting stage when Nawaz won the country's first gold medal in NRA US long-range shooting, a victory that went largely unnoticed in a nation transfixed by cricket scores and political theater. The medals kept coming with remarkable consistency.

In 2019, he claimed silver at the CIHPRS Shooting Championship in Indianapolis, demonstrating that his breakthrough was no fluke. The following year brought another silver at the prestigious Bisley competition. Then came 2021 and a bronze at the South Africa Long Range Open, each medal adding to a tally that no Pakistani shooter had ever approached.

But 2022 marked Nawaz's or wrong end of the gun. For most dominant performance on the international stage. At the 68th Western Bisley Long Range Championship, he hauled an extraordinary three gold and two silver medals in a Unlike most elite athletes, single competition, a feat that announced his arrival among the sport's elite. This wasn't just success; it was dominance at a level that demanded global recognition

> His European campaign has been equally impressive. At the 2023 European Long Range Shooting Championship, he won silver in the 800-yard category, cementing his reputation across multiple continental circuits. The 2024 season saw him maintain this standard with a silver medal at the 155th

ship in the 300-yard category, followed by both a silver in the Day One Aggregate and bronze in the 1000-yard event at the European Championship. That bronze marked his 10th international podium finish, the highest tally for any Pakistani in F-Class

and Kahles Optics, roles that position him as Pakistan's representative in a global community that values precision and consistency above all else.

Domestically, Nawaz has been equally formidable, though his achievements have received far

Long Range Shooting Chamstani shooters. His performance quality of our life." in the 200-meter.22 ELR event and the FTR 300-meter cate-

2025 at the 3rd F-Class National real weapon," he told officers at a recent ICT Police Shooting pionship in Jhelum, Nawaz set Competition, where he appeared two new national records that as a guest of honor. "The quality from following his path. He redefined the standards for Paki- of our thoughts determines the advocates passionately for the

This philosophy has not only guided his own career but is

Yet Nawaz remains acutely aware of the structural barriers

that prevent more Pakistanis creation of accessible 50-meter ranges in major cities and reform of import policies that make equipment costs prohibitive. These aren't abstract concerns but lived realities for a shooter who has largely funded his own international campaigns.

As Pakistan's sporting landscape continues to evolve, Nawaz's journey offers an alternative narrative to the federation-backed model. His success suggests that excellence, particularly in niche sports, can emerge from individual determination and self-investment. The question is whether the country's sporting infrastructure will evolve to support such athletes before or after they achieve international recognition.

For now, Nawaz continues his preparations for the 2026 World Championship, training in South Africa, refining his mental approach, and carrying the weight of representing a country that is only beginning to understand what he has achieved. In the quiet intensity of the shooting range, far from the noise and spectacle of mainstream sport, he is building something that may prove more enduring: a template for how Pakistani athletes can compete at the highest levels on their own terms.

The fascination of shooting, Wodehouse suggested, depends on which end of the gun you're on. Mohsin Nawaz has spent two decades proving that from the right end, you can hit targets that seemed impossibly distant and in doing so, expand the boundaries of what's possible



shooting history.

To maintain this elite standard, Nawaz has been training in South Africa under the mentor ship of 2023 World Champion Hermann Rolfes, a partnership that speaks to the respect he commands in international shooting circles. His credentials extend beyond competition through ambassa-

less attention than they merit. He claimed gold at the 35th PARA Army Shooting Championship, then repeated the feat at the 39th edition, establishing himself as the dominant force in Pakistani shooting. His victory at the 2nd Muhammad Ali Jinnah All Pakistan Shooting Championship further solidified this status.

for years to come.

What sets Nawaz apart is not understanding of the psycho-A seasoned sports psychologist and emotional well being coach, he approaches shooting as much as a mental discipline as a phys-

gory established benchmarks now shaping how he mentors that will challenge competitors the next generation. His dual credentials as a certified sports psychologist and nutritionist just his technical skill but his inform an approach that treats athletes as complete systems logical landscape of elite sport. rather than simply physical performers. At competitions, he spends as much time counseling younger shooters on mental preparation as he does refining for Pakistani sport.

# The Spokesman



## UK to strengthen investment, education, climate change partnership with Pakistan

**E** City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The United Kingdom (UK) announced to promote and strengthen its partnership with Pakistan in investment-focused cooperation, education programs, and a bilateral climate compact during a visit by UK Minister for Development Jennifer Chapman.

The trip marks the first federal-level development dialogue between the two governments in eight years and growth. reflects London's shift from a nerships. The British governaims to use UK expertise to Pakistan, an increase London help partner economies build says signals growing two-way

Pakistan-UK trade has also for the UK. We work together traditional aid-donor role reached a record high, crossing to tackle the drivers behind toward investment-based part- £5.5 billion (\$7.3 billion) for organized crime and illegal the first time, with more than migration, keeping both our ment said the new approach 200 British firms now active in countries safer," Chapman was Pak-UK Education Gateway, quoted as saying in a statement developed with the British by the British High Commis- Council and Pakistan's Higher

"Our strong bilateral trading relationship brings jobs and growth to us both. And we're working together to tackle climate change, a global threat."

The minister and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif jointly launched a package of business regulatory reforms aimed at improving Pakistan's investment climate and making it easier for UK firms to operate. British degrees without trave-Officials said the initiative ling abroad. supports Pakistan's economic new commercial avenues for British companies.

A second key announcement was the next phase of the

Education Commission. The expanded program will enable joint research between universities in both countries, support climate- and technology-focused academic collaboration, and introduce a startup fund to help commercialize research. The Gateway will

also promote UK university courses delivered inside Pakistan, giving students access to Accompanied

"Pakistan is a crucial partner recovery agenda and creates stan's Minister for Climate Change Dr. Musadik Malik, Chapman also launched a Green Compact, a framework for climate cooperation, green investment, environmental protection and joint work at global climate forums.

## \$1.25b EXIM Bank financing to prove game-change for Balochistan: US envoy

**Spokesman Report** 

ISLAMABAD: US Chargé d'Affaires Natalie Baker has announced that with a new commitment of \$1.25 billion financing from EXIM Bank, the US-Pakistan partnership will drive economic growth in Balochistan.

In a video message uploaded on US Embassy's X social platform account on

maintained this financing will be a game-changer for US businesses and local Pakistani communities.

The US envoy said "I am pleased to highlight the US Export-Import Bank has recently approved financing of \$1.25 billion to support the mining of critical mineral at Reko Diq in Pakistan."

She further said "In the \$2 billion in high-quality ners by bringing employment mining sector."



coming years, EXIM's project financing will bring in up to services needed to build and operate the Reko Diq mine along with creating estimated 6,000 job in US and 7,500

jobs in Balochistan, Pakistan." The US envoy remarked "The Reko Diq project serves as the model for mining projects that will benefit US exporters as well as local Paki-

and prosperity to both our nations.

"The Trump administration has made the forging of deal exactly like this one central to American diplomacy," Natalie Baker said and added "We look forward to seeing further agreements between US companies and their Pakistani counterparts stani communities and part- in the critical mineral and

regarding financial matters.

According to police, the

adding toxic substances to

Yaseen

The victims were identi-

#### PTI decides to invite PPP for 'national conference' on *Dec* 21

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The opposition alliance — Tehreek-e-Tahaffuze-Aain Pakistan (TTAP) — has decided to reach out to the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) for political reconciliation, sources said on Wednesday.

A decision to this effect was taken during a meeting of the TTAP, which resolved to invite the PPP to the two-day national conference, which will be held in Islamabad on December 21-22.

The TTAP meeting, chaired by TTAP President Mahmood Khan Achakzai, was attended by prominent leaders, including Allama Raja Nasir Abbas, Asad Qaiser, Mustafa Nawaz Khokhar, and

## Karachi triple murder: Father, son confess to killing mother, daughter, and daughter-in-law

**Bureau Report** 

KARACHI: The mystery surrounding the death of three women whose bodies were found in a flat in Karachi's Gulshan-e-Iqbal area has been solved, police said on Wednesday.

Authorities confirmed that the head of the household, Iqbal, and his son Yaseen, have confessed to the murders.

Police officials stated that the motive behind the killings was financial stress.

The police have registered a formal case, with the father and son named as accused.

carrying debts of over Rs1.65 crore, adding that complaints had been filed



regarding a Rs75 lakh loan.

played a key role in solving the case.

Sources said that the family was will, gave directions for burial arrangeoutstanding debts and instructions suspects regarding the killings.

Investigators revealed that a letter recovered from Iqbal's possession The letter, written in the form of a

Maha and confined her body to a room. Investigations are ongoing to uncover further details and to gather ments. It also provided details about complete information from the

ter-in-law Maha, and 19-year-old

daughter Samreen. Authorities said

that Yaseen first poisoned his wife,

While

Published by: Almass Ayoub Sabir from Zero Point Printers Rawalpindi

## Nation unites against corruption: NAB Leads Anti-Corruption Awareness Walk in **Islamabad**

跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The National Accountability Bureau (NAB), in connection with the observance of International Anti-Corruption Day, organized an anti-corruption awareness walk in Islamabad today, spearheaded by NAB Rawalpindi/ Islamabad. The walk's objective was to raise public awareness regarding the consequences of corruption and to highlight the commitment to promoting transparency.

The dignified walk was led by the Speaker of the National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, the Chairman NAB, Lieutenant General (Retd) Nazir Ahmad, and the Director General NAB (Islamabad/Rawalpindi), Waqar Ahmad Chauhan.

The event saw participation from members of all walks of life, including prominent politicians, Members of the Parliament, diplomats, senior government officials (bureaucrats), a delegation from the Ruet-e-Hilal Committee and Ulema-e-Karam,

leadership of the Islamabad and Rawalpindi Business Chambers, leading members of civil society, media representatives, students, and senior NAB officers and officials.

Addressing the gathering on this occasion, Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq lauded NAB's efforts, stating that due to NAB's reformative policy, the fear and intimidation associated with the institution have ended, and the confidence of the public, business community, politicians, and officials in the institution has been restored.

Chairman NAB, Lieutenant General (Retd) Nazir Ahmad, expressed his gratitude for the overwhelming turnout and support of the participants. He stated that NAB is making every possible effort to fulfill its constitutional mandate.

He emphasized that today's walk is proof that the entire nation desires to get rid of this menace. "We appeal to the public to stand against corruption and strengthen the hands of

## Faisal Mumtaz Rathore vows to strengthen health and education sectors for a better future in Azad Kashmi



Bureau Report

MUZAFFARARAD: Prime Minis ter Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Faisal Mumtaz Rathore, has reaffirmed his government's commitment to improving the quality of life of citizens and safeguarding their fundamental rights. Speaking to various public delegations that called on him here on Wednesday, the AJK premier said the PPP-led government represents the aspirations of the common people and continues to place public service and welfare at the heart of its priorities. The mission of public welfare, he added, is being pursued in line with the vision of Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and Shaheed Benazir Bhutto. PM Faisal Mumtaz Rathore said his government is work-

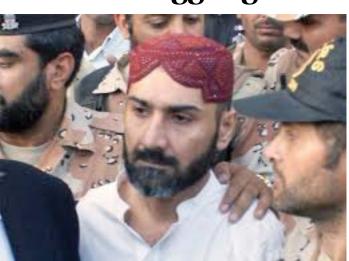
ing to strengthen the health and education sectors and is focused on ensuring the timely completion of ongoing development and public welfare projects.

Reiterating the basecamp government's unwavering support for the Kashmiris' ongoing freedom struggle, the prime minister said the sacrifices of Kashmiri martyrs would not be allowed to go in vain.

He vowed that the government would continue to highlight the Kashmir cause and expose Indian oppression in occupied Kashmir at the international level.

The AJK premier also underscored the importance of unity and solidarity at all levels of society during this critical phase of the region's political struggle.

## **Uzair Baloch acquitted** in arms smuggling case



👺 Bureau Report

KARACHI: A court in Karachi on Wednesday acquitted alleged Lyari gang war kingpin Uzair Jan Baloch in a case involving the smuggling of a large quantity of weapons and ammunition from Balochistan,

citing a lack of evidence. During proceedings, Uzair them. Baloch's lawyer argued that the charges against his client were baseless and that the prosecution had no

evidence linking him to the crime. Uzair Baloch should be acquitted of all charges," said defence counsel Haider Farooq Jatoi.

The prosecution maintained that on May 7, 2012, police had arrested the charges against Uzair Baloch.

a suspect named Shamsuddin and recovered a substantial cache of weapons and ammunition.

According to the investigation, Shamsuddin had confessed to procuring the weapons and ammunition from Balochistan for Uzair Baloch and another Lyari gang leader, Baba Ladla, and supplying

Uzair Baloch was nominated in the case in 2021, following his arrest through Interpol from Dubai.

After hearing arguments from both sides, the court concluded that the prosecution had failed to provide sufficient evidence to prove