. (صحيح بخارى: مديث نمبر 6035) **Barkat Rice Mills** (Pvt) Limited

The Spokesman

Islamabad Bar Association announces strike today

The Islamabad Bar Association announced a strike for today (Friday) in support of former Justice Tariq Jahangiri who was removed from his office in a forged degree case. According to the strike notice, "the Bar believes in the rule of law and the independence of the judiciary, and "we always stand against anything that is contrary to the Constitution and the law.



Section 144 extended in Rawalpindi until December 24

Rawalpindi authorities have extended Section 144 until

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Jamadi-us-Sani 28, Saturday, December 20, 2025





(a) @daily spokesman



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Call on

ISLAMABAD: Ms. Sattoriyon Matlubakhon Amonzoda, Minister for Culture of the Republic of Tajikistan calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Friday.



PM reiterates Pakistan's commitment to strengthen multifaceted Pak-Tajik cooperation

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday said that Pakistan was committed to multifaceted cooperation with Tajikistan, including in trade, connectivity, energy, and culture, for the mutual benefit of both nations.

a meeting with Tajikistan's underscoring the deep-rooted wishes to President Emomali keen interest in expanding joint attended the meeting.

Matlubakhon Amonzoda here, expressed satisfaction over the ongoing positive trajectory of bilateral relations and discussed ways to deepen collaboration in the field of culture.

a warm welcome to the visiting The prime minister, in minister and her delegation,

tional ties between Pakistan and

The prime minister noted that such exchanges would foster greater mutual understanding and strengthen the bonds of The prime minister extended friendship between the peoples of both countries.

He also conveyed his best

Minister of Culture Sattoriyon historical, cultural, and civiliza- Rahmon and hoped to welcome cultural programs, including him to Pakistan for an official visit next year.

The Tajik Minister of Culture conveyed the warm greetings of President Emomali Rahmon and appreciated Pakistan's hospitality and commitment to cultural Minister for National Heritage

diplomacy.

artist exchanges, festivals, and exhibitions.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, Minister for Information Attaullah Tarar, and Culture Aurangzeb Khichi, She expressed Tajikistan's SAPM Syed Tariq Fatemi also

Brave soldiers sacrifice lives in defense against Fitna al Khwarij terrorists in Boya

跨 City Desk

RAWALPINDI: On 19 December 2025, in a heinous and cowardly terrorist act, Khwarij belonging to Indian proxy Fitna al Khwarij attacked security forces camp, in general area Boya, North Waziristan District.

the perimeter security, however, troops. In their desperation, the a mosque. Besides damaging of soil Havildar Muhammad



Khwarij attempted to breach attackers rammed an explosive laden vehicle on outer perimeter their nefarious designs were wall, resulting in its collapse and swiftly foiled by the vigilant considerable damage to adjacent and resolute response by own civilian infrastructure including fire exchanges, four brave sons

barbarism by khwarij inflicted severe injuries to fifteen local civilians including innocent children and women.

Displaying courage and professional excellence, own troops engaged the intruders with precision, resultantly all four khwarij belonging to Indian proxy, Fitna al Khwarij were sent to hell.

However, during the intense

of District Kotli), Naik Khanwaiz (age: 38 years, resident of District Mansehra), Sepoy Sufyan Haider (age: 25 years, unwavering resident of District Vehari) and Sepoy Riffat (age: 32 years, resident of District Leyyah) having fought gallantly, paid the ultimate sacrifice and embraced Shahadat.

This hideous act of terrorism, planned and orchestrated by Afghanistan based Khwarij is in contrast to assertions made

their homes this blatant act of Waqas (age: 42 years, resident by Afghan Taliban Regime, claiming non presence of these terrorist groups operating from

their soil. Pakistan expects from Interim Afghan Government to fulfil its obligations and deny use of its soil by Khwarij against Pakistan as the safety and security of people of Pakistan comes first and foremost. Pak reserves the right to hunt these khwarij down and eliminate their facilitators and affiliates to ensure safety of own people.

Finance minister reviews sectoral issues with telecom, VC firms

Example 2 Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister operators, as well as venture capital for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb on Friday, held a meeting with a delegation comprising telecommunication infrastructure companies (TOWERCO Pakistan) and Venture Capital Firms (VCs) to discuss and review key sectoral issues, with a particular focus on taxation, investment climate, and growth prospects.

The visiting delegation represented a broad spectrum of stakeholders, including telecom infrastructure companies that build,

own, and operate mobile network towers leased to mobile network firms actively investing in Pakistan's startup ecosystem and wider business ventures.

During the meeting, the participants shared an overview of their respective business models, operational dynamics, and on-ground challenges, particularly those related to physical infrastructure deployment and regulatory compliance.

Members of the delegation presented a number of proposals aimed at rationalizing and relaxing elements of the existing tax regime



enhance investment flows, and The proposals were shared in the support expansion in both the context of strengthening digital telecommunications infrastruc- connectivity, improving service to help facilitate further growth, ture and venture capital sectors. delivery, and fostering innova-

Federal Minister for IT & Telecommunications, Shaza Fatima Khawaja; Chairman Federal Board

tion-led economic activity in the

The meeting was attended by of Revenue (FBR); Chairman Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP); senior officials of the Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication and representatives of telecom infrastructure companies (TOWERCO Pakistan), venture capital firms, legal and regulatory advisory firms, and relevant public sector organizations, including

President welcomes UN expert's findings on India's rogue behaviour

👺 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari on Friday welcomed the report issued by United Nations human rights experts, which raised serious concerns over India's military actions against Pakistan in May this year and its wider conduct affecting global peace and stability.

The president, in a statement, said the report reinforced Pakistan's long-standing position that the unilateral use of force across international borders constituted a violation of the United Nations Charter and a grave breach of Pakistan's sovereignty. He said that the findings

relating to civilian deaths, damage to populated areas and religious sites of Pakistan in May, and the heightened risk of escalation caused by India were deeply disturbing.

the report's observations on rights consequences.



India's unilateral declaration of "holding in abeyance" its obligations under the Indus Waters Treaty, its aggressive posture and statements and the serious civilian losses resulting from Indian aggression.

He said the Treaty remained a binding international agreement and a cornerstone of regional stability, and stressed that bypassing agreed dispute-resolution mechanisms and actions affecting water flows violated Pakistan's rights and The president appreciated risked creating serious human

May 9 violence case: Shah Mahmood Qureshi acquitted

👺 Bureau Report

LAHORE: An anti-terrorism court (ATC) in Lahore on Friday sentenced Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leaders Dr Yasmin Rashid, Ijaz Chaudhry, Omar Sarfraz Cheema and Mian Mahmoodur Rasheed to 10 vears' imprisonment each in the May 9 violence case related to the attack on the Club Chowk GOR Gate.

The court acquitted PTI leader and former foreign minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi due to a lack of evidence.

In total, 13 accused, including Qureshi, were acquitted, while eight were convicted and sentenced. ATC Judge Manzar Ali Gill announced the verdict inside Kot Lakhpat Jail.

The court had reserved the decision on December 18 after completing trial proceedings.

The court also ordered the arrest and production of four proclaimed offenders. They were identified as Farooq Anjum, Habib Ahmed, Arsalan rioting.



According to the verdict, final statements of 21 accused, including Dr Rashid, were recorded during the trial. The prosecution produced

56 witnesses. The case named

25 accused, and challans were

submitted before the court. Race Course police had registered the case over the attack at the Club Chowk GOR Gate

during the May 9 unrest. The FIR stated that attackers damaged security cameras installed at the gate, broke police wireless sets, vandalised government property and assaulted police personnel.

The prosecution maintained that the nominated PTI leaders played a role in inciting workers during the May 9 incidents, including acts of violence and

Sindh govt slams Jamaat-e-Islami over protests in Karachi

👺 Bureau Report

KARACHI: Saadia Javed, spokesperson for the Sindh government, strongly criticized Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) following the party's recent statements and protests in Karachi. In a statement, she said that the party is "selling political confusion" and that Karachi residents suffered due to sit-ins at thirteen locations, causing widespread

disruption. She added that hundreds of people were inconvenienced, even though only small groups of ten people were participating in the protests.

Saadia Javed accused Jamaate-Islami of misunderstanding the purpose of politics and stressed that in a civilized society, fines and municipal taxes are not considered a burden.

She claimed that the party's real fear stems from ongoing development projects in Karachi, as their political relevance would decline once these projects are completed. She added, "Funds from

municipal taxes are being used to construct major roads such as Natha Khan and Jahangir Road, along with other vital infrastructure, benefiting the residents."

She also criticized JI's past policies, stating that those who converted large parts of Karachi from residential to commercial areas are now shedding crocodile tears.

Saadia Javed asserted that Jamaat-e-Islami's political and protest activities violate the Constitution and law, urging the party to reconsider its disruptive tactics in the city.

Prime Minister assures support for bar council's demand for legal reforms and enhanced protection

Spokesman Report

Azad Jammu and Kashmir Bar Council, led by its Vice Chairman key challenges faced by the legal to lawyers' representation.

Dhirkot tehsil, and an additional district court in Barnala tehsil. More-ISLAMABAD: A delegation of the over, during the meeting with the Prime Minister, the delegation raised issues regarding the non-appoint-Muhammad Tariq Bashir, called ment of lawyers to various tribunals, on Prime Minister Faisal Mumtaz the procedure for appointing govern-Rathore today and briefed him on ment law officers, and matters related

The delegation stressed that On the occasion, the delegation resolving administrative and professtressed the need for the establish- sional issues confronting lawyers ment of a permanent seat for the would enhance the effectiveness of Bar Council, effective implementathe justice delivery systemPrime tion of the Lawyers Protection Act Minister Faisal Mumtaz Rathore to ensure the safety of lawyers, an attentively listened to all the suggesincrease in the grant-in-aid for the tions and demands put forth by the Bar Council, the establishment of a visiting delegation and assured them



judicial complexes in Haveli district, that the government would take serious steps to address the legiti- mate issues of the legal community.

Describing the legal community as

the backbone of the judicial system, the Prime Minister said that the resolution of their issues is indispensable for the delivery of speedy justice. The delegation included Muhammad Nadeem Khan, Advocate, Chaudhry Waseem Sabir, Advocate, Ms. Taazim Aziz, Advocate, Shujaat Ali Rathore, Advocate, Syed Asim Masood Gilani, Advocate, Syed Ashfaq Hussain Kazmi, Advocate, Haroon Riaz Mughal, Advocate, Mir Tanveer, Advocate, Saghir Haider Jaral, Advocate, Is htiaq Ahmed Raja, Advocate and other members of the Bar Council. Minister Chaudhry Qasim Majeed and DG Political Affairs Aamir Zeeshan Jaral were also present on the occasion.

Human rights violation in India

KARACHI: Members of civil society holds protest against India Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar, for pulling down Muslim woman's hijab.



Minister for Public Health Enforces Zero-Tolerance Policy on Patient Referral System in AJK

跨 Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: On the directives of the Minister for Public Health, Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Syed Bazil Ali Naqvi, the Director General Health, Government of the State of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, has taken strict notice of an incident circulating on social media regarding the referral of patients by an ENT specialist from District Headquarters Hospital Athmuqam to a private clinic.

In this regard, the Director General Health has issued immediate instructions to the Medical Superintendent concerned to conduct a prompt inquiry into the matter and submit a comprehensive, fact-based report to the higher authorities within three days.

Speaking on the occasion, the



Director General Health stated that under the zero-tolerance policy, the clinic.

referral system is being made effective and fully operational in all government hospitals across Azad Jammu and Kashmir. According to this system, patients will be referred in a timely and proper manner from Basic Health Units (BHUs), Rural Health Centers (RHCs), and Tehsil Headquarters Hospitals to larger District and Teaching Hospitals strictly in accordance with established procedures for treatment purposes.

On the directives of the Minister for Public Health, Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Syed Bazil Ali Naqvi, the Director General Health, Government of the State of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, has taken strict notice of an incident circulating on social media regarding the referral of patients by an ENT specialist from District Headquarters Hospital Athmuqam to a private

Bihar incident a 'grave rights violation,' says Khaliq Wasi

Spokesman Report

RAWALPINDI: Former Member of the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Council, Sardar Abdul Khaliq Wasi, has strongly condemned the disturbing incident in the Indian state of Bihar where a Muslim woman was mindset that seeks to allegedly forced to remove her veil, terming it a blatant violadignity, and women's rights.

statement, Abdul Khaliq Wasi said that compelling a woman to abandon her religious attire under any pretext reflects an alarming

marginalize minorities and suppress their identity. and democratic society. "When

troubling pattern phobia in India. He emphasized

that respect for women's autonomy and freedom of belief is a cornerstone of any civilized

broader and deeply message of fear and exclusion an impartial investigation and to entire communities," he said, concrete action against those adding that such actions erode social harmony and undermine mental rights of minorities and the principles of equality and constitutional rights.

Calling for accountability, Sardar Abdul Khaliq Wasi urged the international community, human rights organizations, and advocates of religious liberty to isolated incidents but part of a humiliated in public, it sends a incident. He stressed the need for and moral clarity.

responsible, so that the fundathe dignity of women are safeguarded.

He concluded by stating that protecting religious freedom and human dignity is not merely a domestic obligation but a universal responsibility tion of religious freedom, human He noted that such acts are not a woman's faith-based choice is take serious notice of the Bihar that demands global vigilance

Delegation from PPP Commends New PM for Trust-Building Initiatives

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Peoples Party Punjab President Chaudhry Fakhar-uz-Zaman. former SSP Irfan Saleem, and overseas leader Raja Ashfaq Kayani separately called on AJK premier Faisal Mumtaz Rathore

minister Faisal Mumtaz Rathore the government.

on assuming the office and extended their good wishes to him. Principal Secretary Zafar Mahmood Khan, DG Political Affairs Aamir Zeeshan Jaral and PSO Sahibzada Muhammad Younis were also present on the occasion.

The delegation appreciated the PM for the initiatives being under-They congratulated prime taken to restore people's trust in

To develop the Smart Closet Organizer

Fatima Zahid

apid advancements in digital technology and the Internet of Things (IoT) have transformed how individuals manage everyday activities. From smart homes to wearable devices, technology increasand personalization. One area that has received growing attention is personal wardrobe management. Many individuals struggle with issues such as forgetting what clothes they own, repeatedly wearing the same outfits, inefficient closet organization, and making poor outfit choices due to time constraints or lack of planning. These challenges contribute not only to daily stress but also to unnecessary clothing purchases and waste.

The Smart Closet Organizer is an innovative solution that combines a mobile application with sensor-enabled hangers to help users manage their wardrobes intelligently. The system tracks clothing usage suggests outfits based on user preferences and context, and reminds users about items they have not worn in a long time. By integrating data analytics, IoT sensors, and artificial intelligence (AI), the product aims to improve wardrobe utilization, track wear frequency, receive outfit support sustainable fashion practices, and enhance user convenience.

Smart closet technologies align with the broader trend of personalized digital services, where systems adapt to individual behaviors and preferences. Smart, connected products create new value by collecting and analyzing data to improve user experiences and decision-making processes

[9]. In the context of fashion and life- management tools. style management, such technology can significantly reduce decision fatigue, enhance organization, and promote mindful consumption.

This paper discusses the concept of the Smart Closet Organizer in detail. It explores the underlying technology, key features, benefits to users, sustainability implications, and challenges ingly supports convenience, efficiency, related to adoption and implementation. The discussion is supported by relevant academic literature on IoT, smart systems, consumer behavior, and sustainability. The paper concludes by highlighting the potential of the Smart Closet Organizer as a practical and innovative solution for modern lifestyle management.

Discussion

The Smart Closet Organizer is designed as an integrated system consisting of two main components: a mobile application and smart hanger sensors. Each hanger is equipped with lightweight sensors capable of detecting when an item of clothing is removed or returned. This data is transmitted to the mobile application, where it is processed and stored. Over time, the system builds a usage history for each clothing item. The mobile app serves as the user interface, allowing users to view their wardrobe digitally, suggestions, and get reminders about underutilized items.

IoT systems enable everyday objects to communicate and generate meaningful data, making them ideal for applications such as wardrobe tracking [1]. By combining physical sensors with software intelligence, the Smart Closet Organizer bridges the gap between physical clothing and digital

The effectiveness of the Smart

Closet Organizer relies heavily on IoT and data analytics technologies. The hanger sensors function as IoT devices, collecting real-time data on clothing usage. These sensors may use technologies such as RFID, Bluetooth Low Energy (BLE), or motion detection to record interactions. The data is then transmitted securely to the mobile application through a wireless network. A typical IoT architecture includes sensing, communication, data processing, and application layers [5]. In the Smart Closet Organizer, the sensing layer consists of hanger sensors, the communication layer handles data transmission, and the processing layer analyzes usage patterns, while the application layer presents insights to users through the app. This layered architecture ensures scalability, reliability, and efficient data handling.

Artificial intelligence and machine learning algorithms further enhance the system by identifying patterns in user behavior. For example, the app can learn which outfits a user prefers for specific occasions or weather conditions. Such intelligent systems increase operational value by enabling datadriven personalization and automa-

One of the most valuable features of the Smart Closet Organizer is its outfit recommendation capability. Choosing an outfit can be time-consuming and mentally exhausting, especially for individuals with busy lifestyles. The system reduces this burden by suggesting $out fits\ based\ on\ factors\ such\ as\ previous$ choices, frequency of use, season, weather, and user-defined preferences. Personalization is a key success factor

for digital products, as customized experiences enhance user satisfaction and perceived value [8]. By analyzing historical data, the Smart Closet Organizer provides tailored recommendations rather than generic suggestions. This feature not only saves time but also encourages users to explore clothing combinations they may not have previ-

ously considered. Another important function of the Smart Closet Organizer is tracking how often each item is worn. Many individuals unknowingly underuse a significant portion of their wardrobe. Research on consumer behavior shows that people tend to repeatedly wear a small percentage of their clothing while neglecting the rest [6]. The system addresses this issue by reminding users about items they have not worn for an extended period. These reminders encourage better wardrobe utilization and reduce impulsive shopping behavior. By promoting awareness of existing clothing, the Smart Closet Organizer supports more conscious consumption habits.

The fashion industry is one of the largest contributors to environmental pollution, with excessive consumption and textile waste posing serious challenges. Sustainable fashion emphasizes reducing waste, extending product life cycles, and promoting responsible consumption [7]. The Smart Closet Organizer aligns with these goals by helping users make better use of their existing wardrobe. By reducing unnecessary clothing purchases and encouraging reuse, the system indirectly lowers demand for fast fashion. Behavioral change at the consumer level is essential for achieving sustainability in fashion, and digital tools can play a key

role in influencing such behavior [4]. The Smart Closet Organizer facilitates this change by providing data-driven insights that guide user decisions.

User experience is a critical factor in the success of any smart product. The Smart Closet Organizer is designed to be intuitive, visually appealing, and easy to use. Features such as visual wardrobe displays, drag-and-drop outfit planning, and push notifications enhance user engagement. Technology acceptance research suggests that perceived usefulness and perceived ease of use strongly influence whether users adopt new technologies [3]. By delivering clear benefits such as time savings, improved organization, and personalization, the Smart Closet Organizer increases the likelihood of user acceptance. Seamless integration with smartphones further enhances accessibility and convenience.

Despite its benefits, the Smart Closet Organizer raises concerns related to data privacy and security. The system collects personal data about clothing habits, preferences, and routines. If not properly protected, this data could be misused. IoT systems face unique security and privacy challenges due to their distributed nature and continuous data collection [10]. To address these concerns, the Smart Closet Organizer must implement strong security measures such as data encryption, secure authentication, and transparent privacy policies. Building user trust through responsible data management is crucial for the long-term success of the product.

The Smart Closet Organizer has strong market potential, particularly among urban professionals, fashion-conscious consumers, and environ-

mentally aware users. The increasing adoption of smart home and lifestyle technologies indicates a growing willingness among consumers to invest in products that enhance convenience and efficiency. However, challenges such as cost, technical reliability, and resistance to changing habits may affect adoption. Some users may perceive sensor-based systems as unnecessary or complex. To overcome these barriers, manufacturers should focus on affordability, robust system design, and clear user education.

Overall, the Smart Closet Organizer represents an innovative application of IoT, artificial intelligence, and mobile technology in personal lifestyle management. By combining smart hanger sensors with an intelligent mobile application, the product addresses common wardrobe challenges such as outfit selection, clothing underutilization, and poor organization. The system enhances convenience. personalization, and sustainability, making it highly relevant in today's technology-driven and environmentally conscious society.

The discussion demonstrates that the Smart Closet Organizer not only improves individual user experiences but also contributes to broader sustainability goals by encouraging mindful consumption and reducing fashion waste. Although challenges related to privacy, cost, and adoption exist, these issues can be mitigated through effective design, transparent data practices, and continuous technological improvement. In conclusion, the Smart Closet Organizer has strong potential to transform how people interact with their wardrobes and represents a meaningful step toward smarter and more sustainable living.





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|-----------|----------|
| Namaz Tiı | mings |
| Fajr | |
| Zohr | 12:04 pm |
| Asr | 3:24 pm |
| Maghrib | 5:02 pm |
| Isha | 6:31 pm |

EMERGENCY

| Rescue (Police) | 15 |
|---------------------------|----------|
| Bomb Disposal | |
| Fire Services Rawalpindi/ | |
| Islamabad1 | 122 & 16 |
| Emergency Ambulance | 1122 & |
| & Rescue Services | 4451122 |
| Motorway Police9 | 266044 |
| Motorway Police9270 | 0601-20 |
| | |

Women Police Stations

| 21411111 | | |
|------------|------------|--|
| Islamabad | 922259 | |
| Rawalpindi | 9270601-20 | |
| | | |

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

HOSPITALS

| CMH | 5611111 |
|----------------|------------|
| MH | 561116 |
| MH | 561116 |
| Cantt Hospital | 9270907-11 |
| DHQ | 5556311-4 |
| RGH | 9290301-7 |
| | |

CUIAttock Campus Hosts Successful Open House and Job Fair 2025

👺 Raza Naqvi

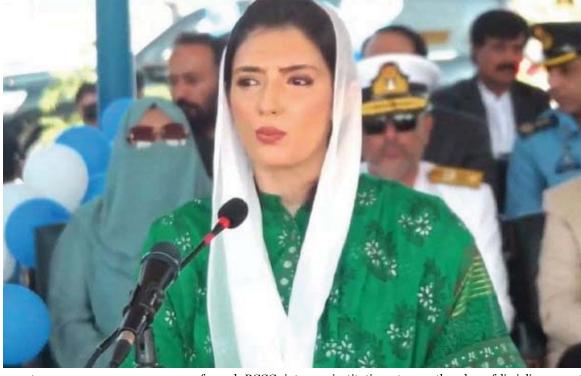
ATTOCK: The Open House and Job Fair 2025 was held in a highly dignified and successful manner at the of COMSATS Univer $sity \, Islamabad \, (CUI)$ Attock Campus. The event saw participation from 36 renowned companies of the country, while 165 students from various departments not only showcased their final-year projects impressively but also participated in interviews with company representatives. The outstanding performance of the students left everyone impressed, and several students received job offers on the spot. Company representatives highly praised the students' professional skills, the quality of their projects and their preparation, while also appreciating the efforts and hard work of the faculty members. The chief guest of the event was Professor Dr. Liaq Khan, Director, COMSATS University Islamabad, Attock Campus. In his address, he extended special thanks to all the participating companies and described their participation as the fulfillment of a national duty. He shed light on the challenges faced in professional life for the students and congratulated them on their excellent performance. He also paid tribute to the Open House and Job Fair Committee for the splendid organization of the event. On this occasion, Dr. Saddam Hussain, Convener of the Open House and Job Fair Committee, stated that such events are regularly held twice a year at the campus, as a result of which hundreds of students have

First Lady attends 5th Passing Out Parade and Annual Parents' Day

Correspondent

NAWAB SHAH: First Lady, Bibi Aseefa Bhutto Zardari, Member of the National Assembly of Pakistan, graced the 5th Passing Out Parade and Annual Parents' Day at Bakhtawar Cadet College for Girls (BCCG) as the chief guest today.

The First Lady inaugurated the college's newly completed gymnasium and swimming pool, participated in a tree plantation ceremony, and officially opened the "Art & Science Exhibition 2025-26". She later inspected the guard of honour and met the college



parents.

In her address, Bibi Aseefa Bhutto Zardari highlighted the college's historic role as Pakistan's first girls' cadet college, established to empower young women through education, discipline, and leadership training. She praised the cadets' dedication, the faculty's guidance and the Sindh Government's support, noting faculty before addressing the cadets and that these combined efforts have trans-

formed BCCG into an institution producing confident, disciplined and globally competitive young leaders.

Reflecting on the legacy of prominent women leaders, she reminded the cadets of the example set by Mohtarma Fatima Jinnah and Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto, emphasising that education and leadership of girls is essential for Pakistan's future. She encouraged the cadets

to carry the values of discipline, respect and resilience into every endeavour, and to always uphold the honour of their families and their country.

Bibi Aseefa Bhutto Zardari's participation underscored the continuing commitment to empowering young women and highlighted the critical role of education, discipline, and leadership in shaping Pakistan's future.

<u>Inauguration</u>

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar along with Ambassador of Uzbekistan to Pakistan Alisher Tukhtaev and others cut the ribbon to inaugurates Photo Album and Exhibition entitled "Uzbekistan Through the Lens of Pakistani Photographers" at Pakistan National Council of Arts in Federal Capital.



RPO Faisalabad Sohail Akhtar Sukhera visited Bait Qasmi

👺 Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: RPO Faisalabad Sohail Akhtar Sukhera said that the Ulema have played a positive role in social peace. Ulema should also play a more effective role in promoting religious harmony in the city. More religious harmony and tolerance should be promoted in Rabi-ul-Awwal, Muharram-ul-Haram, and December like in the past.

Council Pakistan Sahibzada Zahid Mahmood Qasmi in the city and on the law and



Chairman Central Ulema order situation. He thanked the role of educational instithe RPO and CPO and other tutions. The scholars have assured full cooperation in visit and tour will strengthen ment of the message of Pakiensuring religious harmony the relations between reli-stan. Religious schools and reli-

police officers and said that this issued a unified national stategious leaders and understand gious forces stand shoulder to

shoulder with their state insti-

SP Lvallpur Town Zafar Abid, ASP Gulberg, SHO Ghulam Muhammad Abad, Security Incharge Syed Aun Shah, Security Incharge RPO Office Khurram Iqbal, Sahibzada Pir Ji Khalid Mahmood Qasmi, Allama Hafeez-ur-Rehman, Maulana Yousaf Farooqi, Maulana Rab Nawaz, Maulana Azam Farooq, Maulana Abid Farooqi, Maulana Naeem Talha, Maulana Altafullah Farooqi, Qari Karam Dad Huzaifi, Qari Saqib Aziz, Qari Akhtar Usmani, Sahibzada Hussain Ahmed Qasmi were also present in the meeting.

fairness and merit-based selec-

Addressing the ceremony,

Chairman PEC Engr. Waseem

Nazir described the GET

program as a flagship initiative

aimed at providing hands-on

training to newly graduated

engineers. He stated that he

personally visited all four prov-

inces, as well as Azad Jammu

and Kashmir and Gilgit-Balti-

stan, where meetings were held

with chief secretaries to secure

their participation. He said the

involvement of leading govern-

ment organizations reflects

all those parents who supported the polio vaccination teams and ensured that their children received polio drops. DDHO Dr. Asim Ijaz praised the performance of the polio workers, stating that despite harsh cold weather, the teams carried out their duties with commitment and professionalism. He said that by working in difficult conditions, the polio teams proved that protecting children from polio is a shared responsibility and a top priority. The Deputy District Health Officer also extended special appreciation to all polio teams, supervisors and health staff for their tireless efforts in making the campaign successful. He emphasized that continued cooperation from parents and the community is essential to completely eradicate polio and ensure a healthy future for children.

FAISALABAD: Shield of Honour being presented to DG

PHA Dilawar Chadhar on arranging a fabulous Flower

show for the citizens of Faisalabad & also providing PHA

staff assistance for tree plantation in the industrial area.

Polio vaccination campaign target successfully achieved across the Tehsil Kamalia:

TOBATEK SINGH: Deputy District Health Officer (DDHO) Kamalia, Doctor Asim Ijaz said that the

target of the polio vaccination campaign have been

successfully achieved across the Tehsil Kamalia. He

said that the campaign was completed with the dedi-

cated efforts of polio teams and the full cooperation

of parents. The DDHO expressed his gratitude to

Christmas celebrated in DC office at TTSingh

Zafar Chishti

Dr. Asim

Zafar Chishti

TOBA TEK SINGH: In line with Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif's vision to promote interfaith harmony and religious tolerance, the district administration of Toba Tek Singh took a commendable initiative by organising a Christmas celebration for Christian employees at the Deputy Commissioner's Office lawn. Deputy Commissioner Umar Abbas Mela and District Police Officer Ibadat Nisar attended the event along with Additional Deputy Commissioner General Zeeshan Labbha Masih, members of the Christian community, district officers and other dignitaries. During the event, gifts were distributed among the Christian employees and a cake was cut to mark the joyous occasion.

Addressing the gathering, Deputy Commissioner Umar Abbas Mela said that the Christmas celebration serves as a practical example of interfaith harmony, tolerance and mutual respect. He emphasised that protecting the rights of minority communities and ensuring their equal participation in national affairs remain top priorities of the Punjab government and such initiatives strengthen brotherhood and social unity. District Police Officer Ibadat Nisar stated that foolproof security arrangements had been put in place across the district to ensure that the Christian community could celebrate the festival without any fear.

Federal Minister Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh holds open court in Chiniot

CHINIOT: Federal Minister for Investment Board Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh on Friday held an open court in Chiniot, which was attended by a large number of people. District representatives of all federal institutions and relevant in-charge officers were also present in the

On this occasion, Federal Minister Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh listened to the problems of the citizens in detail and took practical steps on the spot for their immediate resolution. On several requests, he contacted the district officers on the telephone and got the public problems resolved immediately, on which the citizens expressed satisfaction.

PEC launched First Batch of 6-month Paid **GET Program**

City Desk

secured quality jobs so far.

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) conducted the digital balloting of its ambitious Graduate Engineer Trainee (GET) Placement Program, marking the placement of the first batch of 600 engineers in various industries for six months of training. The digital balloting ceremony was held at the PEC Regional Office Lahore, where Chairman PEC Engr. Waseem Nazir inaugurated the program by pressing the digital balloting button. Vice Chairman PEC Punjab Engr. Dr. Sohail Aftab Qureshi, PEC Governing Body members, and senior PEC officials attended the event, while representatives from PEC HQs and all PEC regional and branch offices



According to PEC, around shortlisted, out of which 600 3,000 engineers applied online engineers were selected through for the first batch of the GET Placement Program. After PEC officials stated that in case parent digital balloting mecha-

the digital balloting process. on the waiting list. The transacross the country joined online. scrutiny, 1,587 candidates were any selected candidate does nism was introduced to ensure

be offered to candidates placed

not join, the opportunity will

confidence and trust in PEC. He also announced that PEC plans to place 1,400 engineers in the second batch of the program in March 2026, adding that the initiative has been appreciated by federal and provincial governments.

Saturday, December 20, 2025

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China's open-source AI models represent structural shifts to global AI economy

n the heart of Silicon Valley, a counter-intuitive trend is taking root. Martin Casado, general partner at Andreessen Horowitz (a16z), recently estimated that 80 per cent of open-source artificial intelligence (AI) start-ups pitching to the firm are now building upon Chinese models. This represents a structural shift in the global AI economy.

From public sectors in Southeast Asia to enterprise developers in Latin America, the adoption of Chinese large language models (LLMs) is accelerating - driven less by ideological alignment than by a pragmatic calculation of cost, performance, and digital sovereignty.

According to a December study by a16z and OpenRouter, Chinese open-source models now underpin nearly 30 per cent of total global AI usage. Between August 2024 and August 2025, Chinese developers captured 17.1 percent of all Hugging Face downloads, surpassing their US counterparts (15.8 per cent). Furthermore, data from Stanford's Human-Centred Artificial Intelligence (HAI) indicates that since January 2025, derivative models based on Alibaba's Gwen and DeepSeek have outpaced those built on major western foundations. The migration toward Chinese infrastructure is fuelled by two reinforcing factors: radical cost reduction through engineering innovation, and the Global South's growing demand for data residency.

The rapid ascent of models like DeepSeek and Qwen is largely a function of resource constraint. Denied access to the most advanced Nvidia silicon, Chinese labs were forced to innovate at the architectural level.

The economic implications are stark. DeepSeek's V3/R1 model launched with pricing at \$0.55 per million input tokens and \$2.19 per million output tokens – a 90 to 95 per cent discount compared to OpenAI's GPT-40 at launch. This pricing floor eventually collapsed further, with the R1 model becoming effectively free for many users.

While OpenAI reportedly invested over \$100 million training GPT-4 on clusters of approximately 25,000 A100 GPUs, DeepSeek trained its V3 model for just \$5.6 million using just 2,048 older-generation Nvidia H800 GPUs.

The technical driver is the innovative use of mixture-of-experts (MoE) architectures and sparse attention mechanisms. By activating the neural pathways relevant to a specific query routing a calculus problem to a "math expert" node rather than engaging the entire model – these systems achieve frontier-level performance with significantly lower computational overhead.

For developing economies, this efficiency is transformative. A study by Greenspector found that DeepSeek discharges smartphone batteries 67 per cent more slowly than comparable proprietary models. In markets plagued by unstable power grids and reliant on older hardware, this efficiency metric is often the deciding factor in deployment, CEN reported.

Trump's Naval Gamble on Venezuela

Illusion of Control: Why Trump's Naval Embargo on Venezuela Risks Repeating History

President Donald Trump's decision to impose a naval embargo on sanctioned Venezuelan oil tankers marks one of the most dramatic escalations in U.S.-Latin America relations in decades. Framed as a national-security response to drug trafficking—after the administration classified fentanyl and its precursors as "weapons of mass destruction" through an executive order—the move signals a fundamental shift: from counter-narcotics cooperation to maritime coercion. While officially described as a limited action targeting sanctioned vessels, the practical effect resembles a partial blockade, carrying economic, geopolitical. and humanitarian consequences far beyond its stated purpose.

Had the United States extended this naval action to all Venezuelan shipping, it would have amounted to a de facto declaration of war. Even in its current form, the message is unmistakable: Washington is prepared to use sea power to choke Venezuela's primary economic lifeline—oil exports—under the banner of law enforcement. Caracas, unsurprisingly, responded by ordering its navy to escort oil tankers through territorial and international waters, asserting sovereignty through symbolism rather than strength. The imbalance is stark. Venezuela's modest naval capabilities—largely coastal patrol vessels and a handful of aging combatants—cannot be meaningfully compared to the global reach of the U.S. Navy, with its aircraft carriers, nuclear submarines, destroyers, and unmatched logistical infrastructure. The escort order is not about deterrence; it is about dignity and survival.

defense of American security may intensify pressures on U.S. borders. Colombia, already hosting millions of Venezuelan migrants, lacks the capacity to absorb another wave without destabilization. Other regional economies, strained by inflation and debt, would struggle as well. Migration does not occur in isolation; it cascades. When one country collapses, the shock ripples across continents.

Geopolitically, the naval embargo also accelerates Venezuela's alignment with U. S. rivals. Russia and China have already condemned the move, framing it as a violation of sovereignty and maritime norms. While neither is likely to

engage militarily, diplomatic, financial, and logistical support to Caracas could deepen, transforming Venezuela into another node in a growing network of states resisting U.S. pressure. Even traditional U.S. partners are uneasy. Canada and several Latin American countries, themselves affected by trade disputes and tariffs, see the normalization of gunboat diplomacy as a dangerous precedent. Rather than strengthening alliances, Washington risks reinforcing the perception that it creates more enemies than partners.

This raises a fundamental question: does maritime coercion actually reduce drug trafficking into the United States? Evidence suggests otherwise. The narcotics trade is demand-driven. As long as millions of Americans consume cocaine, fentanyl, and other drugs, suppliers will find routes—by sea, land, air, or digital networks. Interdiction may raise prices temporarily, but it rarely

profitability, incentivizing smugglers corridor, and another emerges.

The United States has alternatives more effective, less destructive, and more humane. The first is demand reduction. Large-scale investment in prevention, education, and treatment can shrink the market that fuels trafficking. Decades of research show that reha-

bilitation and publichealth approaches are more cost-effective in reducing drug use than interdiction alone. Recent declines in overdose deaths, though fragile, demonstrate that progress is possible without militarization. The second option is

dismantling domestic trafficking infrastructure. Drugs do not distribute themselves. They rely on financial networks, logistics hubs, corrupt intermediaries, and money-laundering systems operating within U.S. borders. Aggressive enforcement against these networkscombined with financial transparency and asset seizures-would strike at the heart of the trade without destabilizing foreign societies.

The third is smarter border security integrated with humanitarian policy. Borders can be controlled without turning neighboring countries into failed states. Technology, intelligence sharing, and legal migration pathways reduce chaos far more effectively than economic strangulation abroad.

By contrast, collapsing Venezuela's economy would likely increase, not decrease, drug flows over time. Unemployment and desperation are fertile ground for illicit activity. When formal

Ironically, the very policy justified as a eliminates supply. Instead, it increases economies implode, informal and criminal ones expand. Smuggling becomes to innovate and diversify. Destroy one not just profitable but necessary for survival. The result is a vicious cycle: sanctions breed collapse, collapse breeds crime, crime justifies further sanctions.

> At its core, the naval embargo reflects an old reflex dressed in a new language. The rhetoric has changed-from communism to drugs, from ideology to security—but the method remains coercion. History warns where this path leads. Iraq was once sanctioned into ruin in the name of global safety; the outcome was regional instability, humanitarian catastrophe, and longterm insecurity.

Sovereignty is not a privilege reserved for powerful states. Small and weak nations possess it as well, along with the right to economic survival. Using drug smuggling as a pretext to weaponize hunger, unemployment, and migration risks undermining the very international order the United States claims to defend.

If Washington's objective is fewer drugs, fewer refugees, and a safer hemisphere, it must look inward as much as outward. Gunboats can seize tankers, but they cannot cure addiction. Blockades can choke economies, but they cannot build stability. Real security lies not in dominating seas, but in addressing the human systems—demand, inequality, governance-that drive crises in the first

The choice before the United States is not between strength and weakness, but between wisdom and repetition. History is watching.

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



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

Quality Management Issues in Ideal Sweets and Bakery

Fatima Zahid

uality management plays a crucial role in the success and sustainability of food-related businesses, particularly bakeries, where product lygiene, customer satisfaction, and regulatory compliance are essential. Bakeries operate in a highly competitive environment where customers have high expectations regarding taste, freshness, appearance, and safety. Any compromise in quality can result in customer dissatisfaction, reputational damage, and even legal consequences. Therefore, effective quality management systems (QMS) are fundamental to ensuring operational excellence and long-term business growth.

Ideal Sweets Bakery, like many small and medium-sized bakery enterprises, faces several quality management challenges as it strives to meet customer expectations while maintaining cost efficiency. Although the bakery may be known for its traditional recipes and popular sweet products, issues such as inconsistent product quality, inadequate hygiene practices, limited staff training, lack of standard operating procedures, and weak quality control mechanisms can negatively affect overall performance. These issues are common in small food businesses that often rely on informal management practices rather than structured quality systems.

Standard operating procedures are essential for reducing errors, improving efficiency, and ensuring consistent quality. Without SOPs, employees may follow different methods, increasing the likelihood of defects makes it difficult to train new employees effec- and customer feedback. This reactive approach

tively, resulting in longer learning curves and increased operational risks.

Hygiene and food safety are critical quality dimensions in the bakery industry. Ideal Sweets Bakery faces challenges in maintaining strict hygiene standards due to limited awareness, inadequate infrastructure, and lack of formal food safety systems. Issues such as improper hand hygiene, cross-contamination, poor cleaning practices, and inadequate storage conditions can compromise food safety.

Food safety failures not only affect product quality but also pose serious health risks to consumers. Implementing food safety management systems such as HACCP is essential for identifying and controlling potential hazards in food production [5]. However, small bakeries often struggle to adopt these systems due to limited resources and technical knowledge.

Employee competence is a vital component of quality management. In Ideal Sweets Bakery, many employees learn through observation and experience rather than formal training programs. While this approach may preserve traditional skills, it often results in inconsistent practices and limited understanding of quality standards.

Training is a key element of quality improvement, as employees are directly responsible for executing processes [3]. Lack of training in areas such as hygiene, equipment handling, quality inspection, and customer service can lead to errors, inefficiencies, and customer complaints. Continuous training programs are necessary to align employee performance

with quality objectives. Quality control involves monitoring and evaluating products to ensure they meet defined quality standards. Ideal Sweets Bakery often lacks systematic quality inspecand waste. This lack of standardization also tion methods, relying instead on visual checks

allows defects to reach customers before corrective action is taken.

Effective quality control requires planned inspections, clear quality criteria, and corrective action mechanisms [1]. Without proper quality control, the bakery may experience higher rates of product returns, waste, and customer dissatisfaction. Implementing basic quality checks at critical stages of production can significantly reduce defects.

The quality of raw materials directly influences the final product quality. Ideal Sweets Bakery often depends on local suppliers for ingredients such as flour, sugar, butter, and flavorings. Variations in supplier quality, delivery reliability, and storage conditions can affect product consistency and safety.

Supplier quality management is an essential part of the overall quality system [6]. Lack of supplier evaluation and performance monitoring can expose the bakery to quality risks. Establishing long-term relationships with reliable suppliers and setting clear quality specifications can help improve raw material quality.

Bakery equipment such as ovens, mixers, and refrigeration units must operate efficiently to ensure consistent quality. In Ideal Sweets Bakery, equipment maintenance is often reactive rather than preventive. Breakdowns and malfunctioning equipment can disrupt production schedules and affect product

In conclusion, addressing quality management issues in Ideal Sweets Bakery is essential not only for meeting customer expectations but also for ensuring food safety, regulatory compliance, and long-term competitiveness. A strong commitment to quality at all levels of the organization will enable the bakery to build a positive reputation, reduce operational risks, and achieve sustainable growth in an increasingly competitive market.

Pakistan and Democracy: From Formation to Stability

political instability that have affected not only economy ensures that governments can deliver governance but also public consciousness, services, maintain law and order, and imple-

social stability, and the institutional structure of the state. The concept of democracy is rooted in public participation, transparent decision-making, constitutional supremacy, and the protection of fundamental rights. However, in Pakistan, this journey has rarely been smooth. While the weaknesses of political leadership, institu-

tional conflicts, and economic crises have challenged democratic continuity, the people's desire for democratic representation has always kept the system alive. Every phase of Pakistan's democratic evolution carries lessons of both hope and difficulty, guiding the future course of the nation.

The political awareness and education of citizens play a vital role in sustaining democracy. In countries like Pakistan, where literacy rates are low and economic hardships are widespread, political participation often becomes limited to emotional slogans and personal loyalties. Voters are frequently influenced by regional, ethnic, or familial affiliations, diverting attention from genuine national issues. If citizens are provided with political education, access to information, and awareness, they will not only make better electoral choices but also hold leaders accountable. Media, educational institutions, and civil society organizations can play a transformative role in this regard.

Economic stability is also a fundamental pillar of successful democracy. Pakistan's repeated economic crises have weakened governance,

he political history of Pakistan is reduced public trust, and fueled political polara continuous struggle between ization. When unemployment, inflation, and democracy and authoritarianism. poverty rise, democratic promises begin to lose Since its creation, the country credibility. Political instability and economic has witnessed multiple phases of decline are deeply interconnected. A strong



Muhammad Asif

are essential for democratic stability. In the contemporary era, democracy in Pakistan stands at a turning point. With a growing youth population, expanding

digital access, rising literacy, and widespread use of social media, public awareness has increased significantly. Citizens today are more informed, more empowered, and more engaged in national affairs than ever before. This shift offers hope for a stronger democratic culture. If state institutions respect constitutional boundaries, political parties implement reforms, and citizens exercise their responsibilities wisely, Pakistani democracy can emerge

stronger, more stable, and more representative. In conclusion, democracy is not merely a governing system for Pakistan; it is essential for the country's survival, stability, and development. Without democracy, neither the distribution of power nor sustainable solutions to public problems can be achieved. For a prosperous future, Pakistan must prioritize democratic values, constitutional supremacy, transparency, and public participation. The journey may be difficult, but it is the only path that can lead the nation toward a better and more stable

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The Spokesman 5

President Zardari inaugurates Tajikistan Cultural Week in Islamabad

Naveed Ahmad Khan

President Asif Ali Zardari inaugurated Tajikistan Cultural Week at Pakistan National Council of Arts, Islamabad today.

Addressing the inaugural cere-

Matlubakhon Amonzoda reflects traditions. The President under- members of regional organizathe strong bonds of friendship and cooperation between the two brotherly countries.

He said for centuries, our regions were linked through the Silk Road, which connected South mony, the President said the visit Asia with Central Asia. These of Tajik Cultural Delegation led routes carried not only trade, but by Minister for Culture Sattoriyon also ideas, languages, poetry and

scored that Persian language has played a special role in this shared history as it remained a language of learning, poetry and administration in the region now Pakistan.

He mentioned that Pakistan placed great importance on cultural diplomacy.

The President noted that as

tions like ECO and SCO, Pakistan and Tajikistan also share a broader vision of regional cooperation, connectivity and harmony.

Earlier, in his opening remarks Minister for National Heritage and Culture, Aurangzeb Khan Khichi said Pakistan and Tajikistan share centuries-old deep

cultural ties and affinity which is the foundation of their longterm partnership. The Minister for Culture of Tajikistan expressed her pleasure and said Pak-Tajikistan bilateral ties are old, spiritual,

linguistic, historic and cultural

that was expanding in political,

economic, security and cultural fields served as a strong expression of strategic partnership and continuous strength.

The Tajik Minister extended the gift of Tajik Zarduzi Coat and led by Tajik musical chorus and Tajik Toki Cap which the President

The President presented the gift of a portrait bearing Persian verses to the Tajik Minister.

The inaugural ceremony ended with musical dance performances singers and play of traditional Tajik musical instruments.

Pakistan-Tajikistan Cultural Week continues with vibrant performances celebrating shared heritage





Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: The second day of the Tajikistan Cultural Week in Pakistan was celebrated with a colorful and captivating cultural evening at the Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA), show-standing, friendly, and brotherly casing the rich artistic and cultural heritage of Tajikistan and further

Tajikistan.

The prestigious event was graced by the President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Asif Ali Zardari, as the chief guest, underscoring the high importance accorded by Pakistan to its longrelations with Taiikistan.

tional ties between Pakistan and National Heritage and Culture, eminent artists, cultural practiciation.





Mr. Huzaifa Rehman, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Culture and Heritage, and Ms. Sattoriyon Mattubakhon Amonzod, Minister of Culture of the Republic of Tajikistan.

The ceremony was also attended by Mr. Asad Rehman Gilani, Federal Secretary, National Heritage and Culture Division, Mr. Avub Jamali, Director General.

tioners, and a large and distinguished audience.

The Tajik cultural troupe enthralled the audience with a series of outstanding performances featuring traditional folk dances, classical and contemporary musical renditions, and soulful songs. The performances offered a vivid and authentic portraval of Taiikistan's rich



In their remarks, the digni- deeper cultural understanding. taries emphasized that cultural initiatives such as the Taiikistan and Taiikistan share centuries-old The ceremony was also Pakistan National Council of the cultural traditions, artistic diver- Cultural Week serve as an effec- historical, linguistic, and civiliza- as a lasting symbol of friendship, strengthening the deep-rooted attended by Mr. Aurangzeb Arts (PNCA), along with senior sity, and historical legacy, and were tive and enduring platform for tional linkages, and that cultural harmony, and shared cultural historical, cultural, and civiliza- Khan Khichi, Federal Minister for government officials, diplomates, warmly received with great appre- promoting people-to-people cooperation remains a cornerstone values between the peoples of

They highlighted that Pakistan

The presence of the President of

Pakistan, alongside senior federal and state leadership, reaffirmed Pakistan's strong commitment to cultural diplomacy as a vital instrument for strengthening bilateral relations and fostering closer cooperation with Tajikistan through meaningful cultural engagement.

The cultural evening concluded with renewed expressions of goodwill and a shared resolve by both sides to further enhance cultural cooperation, strengthen institutional linkages, and expand artistic exchanges, ensuring that the Taiikistan Cultural Week stands contacts, mutual respect, and of the broader bilateral relation- Pakistan and Tajikistan.

Training of a New Batch of Four Palestinian Medical Trainees Successfully Underway at Ayesha Bashir Trust Hospital (Cleft Hospital Pakistan), Gujrat

№ News Desk

"We had the opportunity to observe surgeries and learn from expert professionals in the operation theater at Cleft Hospital," said the Palestinian trainee batch in a joint statement.

"We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to the entire Cleft Hospital team for their exceptional dedication and selfless support," stated the Palestinian trainee batch.

A new batch of four Palestinian medical trainees is currently under-



going training at Ayesha Bashir Trust Hospital (Cleft Hospital Pakistan). The batch includes batch leader Dr. Roba H.

Samva G. A. Ammar, Hala M. A. Saed. and Farah H. M. Abuamer. The trainee batch members also met with their hosts, Patron-in-Chief of the Pakistan Cleft Lip and Palate Association, Dr. Ijaz Bashir, and General Secretary Mirza Ashfaq Bashir. During the meeting with Dr. Ijaz Bashir and Mirza Ashfaq Bashir, batch leader Dr. Roba H. M. Abuamer, in a joint statement on behalf of the batch, expressed gratitude for being provided with the training opportunity, saying, "We would like to express our heartfelt thanks to the entire Cleft Hospital

M. Abuamer and three medical students, team for their exceptional hard work and also look forward to building meaningful selfless cooperation. During our stay at the hospital, we had the opportunity to observe surgeries and learn from expert professionals in the operation theater."

Expressing expectations from the training, Dr. Roba H. M. Abuamer stated, "Our expectations from this training are to gain deep and hands-on experience in cleft lip and palate treatment procedures, to better understand comprehensive care, and to witness firsthand how these medical services bring positive changes to the lives of parents, especially those of young children. We

connections and contributing positively to the community."

On this occasion, Dr. Ijaz Bashir said that the Pakistan Cleft Lip and Palate Association, along with providing quality cleft treatment, is also at the forefront of training medical professionals.

Mirza Ashfaq Bashir stated that any deserving patient from anywhere in the world who legally comes to Cleft Hospital Pakistan for cleft treatment is provided treatment free of cost, and that the welfare services of Cleft Hospital Pakistan transcend borders.

A nation that forgets its elders forgets its roots; Kashmiris must honor those who paved the way

News Desk

RAWALPINDI: A delegation of overseas Kashmiri diaspora visited the Kashmir Center Rawalpindi (Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Cell). The delegation included Dr. Ghulam Nabi Fai, Chairman, World Forum for peace & Justice; Nazir Ahmed Qureshi, Chairman, Mercy Universal; Muzammil Ayub Thakur, President, World Kashmir Freedom Movement; Zafar Ahmed Qureshi, Chairman, Kashmir Campaign Global; Dr. Waleed Rasool, noted Kashmiri scholar: Professor Sved Rashid Shah (educationist): Sardar Zubair Khan; Sardar Zulfiqar Roshan Khan; Nadeem Khokhar; Sardar Imran Aziz, prominent businessman; Professor Waris Ali; and senior journalist Raja Bashir Usmani.

Dr. Fai received a comprehensive briefing on the recent activities, programs, and strategic initiatives of the Kashmir Center

Rawalpindi, particularly its efforts to project the narrative of Kashmir's freedom struggle through social media and other platforms. He lauded the Center's exceptional performance and proactive strategy in advancing the Kash-

Najeeb Ul Ghafoor Khan explained that the primary objectives of the Kashmir Liberation Cell (KLC) are to promote awareness of the Kashmir issue at national and international levels; to uphold the right to self-determination of the Kashmiri people; to coordinate with political and social organizations for unified efforts; to engage diplomatically in highlighting human rights violations in the region; to facilitate dialogue and negotiations among stakeholders for a peaceful resolution; and to mobilize public opinion and grassroots support for Kashmir.

Addressing the gathering, Dr. Fai stressed that the sacrifices

leaders must never be forgotten. He underscored the historic leadership role of veteran Hurriyat leader Syed Ali Shah Geelani, stating that his contribution to the Kashmir freedom movement is indelible. He further noted that the Government of Pakistan rightly represented the sentiments of the Kashmiri nation by conferring a national award upon Syed Ali Shah Geelani.

Paying glowing tribute, Dr. Fai said that Geelani Sahib demonstrated unwavering commitment and love for Kashmir until his last breath and kept the freedom movement alive despite relentless repression, including twelve long years under house arrest. He also described Syed Ali Shah Geelani as an "incorruptible and conscientious" leader who stood firm against Indian oppression with unmatched moral clarity.

Dr. Fai proposed that special seminars and academic events

and contributions of Kashmiri be organized at the university level to highlight the invaluable services rendered to the Kashmir cause by Syed Ali Shah Geelani, Dr. Ayub Thakur, Mohammad Magbool Butt and Ambassador Muhammad Yusuf Buch. He praised Dr. Ayub Thakur for his crucial role in conveying Kashmir's position to the international community at the diplomatic level. He described Dr. Ayub Thakur as a man with a mission-a great thinker, scholar, intellectual, and well-known expert on Kashmirremembered for his integrity, honesty, and sacrifice. Dr. Ayub Thakur was also the first Muslim nuclear scientist from the state of Jammu and Kashmir. Dr Fai quoted Sunil Gupta

who wrote in his 'Black Warrant: Confession of a Tihar Jailer' that "As a last wish, Maqbool Butt was allowed to leave a will. A Sikh magistrate was called a day before the hanging. Butt got his will recorded in English. He said,

"There will be many Maqbool Butts that will come and go, but the freedom struggle in Kashmir should continue. Today, Fai stressed, the whole of Kashmir is following the footsteps of Magbool Butt for the liberation of their motherland: Jammu & Kashmir.

Dr. Fai further paid tribute to Ambassador Muhammad Yusuf Buch, describing him as a captivating personality endowed with foresight, sound judgment, and wisdom. He termed Buch Sahib a legendary diplomat and a living encyclopedia on Kashmir, who devoted his life to upholding the human and political rights of the Kashmiri people. Dr. Fai recalled that Ambassador Buch's long association with the United Nations paved the way for his appointment to the Cabinet of the UN Secretary-General from

1978 to 1991. Ambassador Buch stated reso-



We have miscalculated. We have Foundation (SAS Geelani Founnot organized our campaign with the care it deserved. These mistakes can be corrected. But we cannot forsake our goals. They have been sanctified by the blood of our martyrs and the tears of the bereaved, placing them beyond

compromise." Dr. Fai recalled that the headstone at the mausoleum compound of Mirwaiz Yusuf Foundation has to be to preserve Shah and K. H. Khurshid in and institutionalize the intellec-Muzaffarabad, Azad Kashmir bears the words: "Ambassador Muhammad Yusuf Buch resisted the Indian occupation of Kashmir empower youth and scholars; and till his very last breath and never

compromised." Dr. Fai proposed the establish-

dation) under the auspices of the KLC. He noted that Geelani Sahib authored nearly 42 books and more than 20 pamphlets and delivered thousands of speeches an unparalleled intellectual legacy that urgently requires professional archiving, translation, cataloguing, and preservation. The mission of the SAS Geelani

tual contributions of Sved Ali Shah Geelani; strengthen research and policy discourse on Kashmir; enhance Pakistan's national and international engagement on the right of self-determination for the lutely: "Yes, we have made errors." ment of the Syed Ali Shah Geelani people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Saturday, December 20, 2025

Bull & Bears PSX 100-Share **Index Fluctuation**

| Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|--|
| Current | Prev. Close | |
| 171,404.48 | 171,960.64 | |
| Day's High | Day's Low | |
| 172,674.65 | 171,149.07 | |
| Index Value | Change | |
| 29,824,616,285 | -556.16 | |
| Percentage | Time | |
| -0.32% | 19 Dec, 2025 4:30 pm | |
| Europe: FTSE 100 Index | | |
| | | |

| Europoi i foe foo muox | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|--|
| Index Value | Change | |
| 9,897.42 | +59.65 | |
| Percentage | Time | |
| +0.61% | 19 Dec, 4:35 pm GMT | |

| USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average | | |
|--|---------------------------|--|
| Index Value | Change | |
| 48,222.38 | +270.53 | |
| Percentage | Time | |
| +0.56% | 19 Dec, 12:11 pm GMT-5 | |

| Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| Index Value | Change | |
| 49,507.21 | +505.71 | |
| Percentage | Time | |
| +1.03% | 19 Dec, 3:45 pm GMT+9 | |
| Open Market Forex Rates | | |

| Open Market Forex Rates | | |
|-------------------------|--------|---------|
| Currency | Buying | Selling |
| Australian Dollar | 184 | 188 |
| Bahrain Dinar | 743.5 | 753.5 |
| Canadian Dollar | 202 | 204.85 |
| China Yuan | 39.39 | 39.79 |
| Danish Krone | 43.81 | 44.21 |
| Euro | 329.5 | 332.5 |
| Hong Kong Dollar | 35.8 | 36.15 |
| Indian Rupee | 3.02 | 3.11 |
| Japanese Yen | 1.7875 | 1.8775 |
| Kuwaiti Dinar | 911.15 | 921.15 |
| Malaysian Ringgit | 67.75 | 68.35 |
| NewZealand \$ | 161.43 | 163.43 |
| Norwegians Krone | 27.6 | 27.90 |
| Omani Riyal | 728.1 | 738.1 |
| Qatari Riyal | 76.47 | 77.17 |
| Saudi Riyal | 74.85 | 75.35 |
| Singapore Dollar | 216.1 | 221.1 |
| Swedish Korona | 30.11 | 30.41 |
| Swiss Franc | 351.34 | 354.09 |
| Thai Bhat | 8.73 | 8.88 |
| U.A.E Dirham | 76.35 | 77.35 |
| UK Pound Sterling | 376 | 379.5 |
| US Dollar | 281 | 283.1 |

Pakistan-Kuwait Business Expo to Promote Pakistani Products, Tariq Haleem

Example 2 Commerce Desk

KARACHI: The Pakistan-Kuwait Business Expo will be held in Kuwait from December 11 to 13, with the aim of promoting Pakistani products and further strengthening economic relations between Pakistan and

Former Vice President of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) and former Chairman of the Pakistan Shipping Agents Association, Tariq Haleem, while appreciating the organization of the Kuwait-Pakistan Business Expo 2025, said that this platform will provide an excellent opportunity for Pakistani investors, industrialists, and traders to $\,$ strengthen ties with their Kuwaiti and Gulf counterparts.

Tariq Haleem stated that efforts should be made to establish a strong market for Pakistani products in Kuwait, and in this regard, the Kuwait-Pakistan Business Expo 2025 will prove to be a golden opportunity for Pakistani traders to showcase their capabilities to the world and strengthen their foothold in the Gulf market.

PM Shehbaz hails FBR's anti-smuggling drive, orders tougher action against tax evasion

Example 2 Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister, Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Friday chaired a weekly performance review meeting of the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), lauding recent anti-smuggling operations and directing authorities to further intensify action against tax evasion and illic-

During the meeting, the prime minister was briefed on progress made by the FBR in curbing smuggling and related enforcement measures. He said that smuggling annually causes losses of billions of rupees to the national exchequer, stressing that decisive action was essential to safeguard the country's economic interests, a Prime Minister's Office news release said.

The officials informed the meeting that an integrated customs enforcement system was now operational across the country to prevent smuggling. It was further briefed that petrol pumps nation-



wide had been registered through the Rahguzar App, while legal action against illegal outlets was ongoing. District administrations have been empowered under the new Petroleum Act to seize illegal machinery, and a GPS-based tracking system has been enforced for the transportation of petroleum products.

According to the briefing, measures taken between July and November 2025 to curb petroleum smuggling resulted in an 82 percent increase in revenue compared to the same period last year. Significant revenue gains were also recorded over the past five months following actions against the illegal smuggling of cigarettes, tyres, garments, electronics, and other goods.

The meeting was attended by Federal Ministers Muhammad Aurangzeb and Ahad Khan Cheema, Minister of State for Finance Bilal Azhar Kayani, the Chairman FBR, and senior officials from relevant departments.

Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan held a consultative meeting with traders, community leaders, and representatives of the Chaman Chamber of Commerce & Industry to discuss challenges and facilitation of Pak-Afghan border trade at Chaman.



Inauguration of Irfan Siddiqui Center for Advancement of Islamic Finance at NIPA

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: A landmark initiative aimed at supporting the continued development of Islamic banking and finance in Pakistan was marked with the inauguration of the Irfan Siddiqui Center for Advancement of Islamic Finance at the National Institute of Public Administration (NIPA).

The Center has been established to commemorate Mr. Irfan Siddiqui, widely recognized as a pioneer and leading architect of modern, full-fledged Islamic banking in Pakistan, in recognition of his visionary leadership, institution-building role, and exemplary contributions to the

The Irfan Siddiqui Center for Advancement of Islamic Finance is envisioned as a dedicated platform for education, research, and professional development. It aims to contribute to the long-term growth, cred-



finance in Pakistan, while standing as a formational leadership and distinguished ibility, and global relevance of Islamic lasting tribute to Mr. Irfan Siddiqui's transservice to the industry.

Engro celebrates 133 billion landmark Islamic financing deal to advance Pakistan's **Digital Transformation**

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Engro has marked a historic milestone in Pakistan's landscape with the execution of a Rs 133 billion transaction entirely through 100% Islamic financing, to grow its telecom infrastructure vertical. This funding has enabled the addition of Deodar (and its 10.000+ telecom towers) to Engro's portfolio. This underscores Engro's commitment to driving digital transformation while supporting Pakistan's determination to fully transition to an Islamic bank-

brought together all particcluding the presidents of banks, legal and financial advisors, Engro's teams, and Bank of Pakistan, Mr. Jameel Ahmed. He commended reiterated the State Bank's emphasising the critical role of telecom connectivity



Dawood family and Engro.

the Islamic bankers and

conventional banks (through

their Islamic windows) on being able to put together a deal of this size. This is a great achievement which has been supported by the banks - but is also owed to the conviction of Hussain Dawood and his family in getting it funded A celebratory event through Islamic banking." Chairman of Engro, Mr. ipants of the transaction, Hussain Dawood, said at the occasion. "These incredible achievements have been brought about by the blessthe Governor of the State ings of the Creator. He is the

one who helped us make our decisions and created the collaborative effort and the environment to succeed - and we were able to achieve vision for digital finance, this transaction by demonstrating character-driven

Pak Qatar Family Takaful IPO **Public Portion** Oversubscribed by 3.8x

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: The public subscription of Pak Qatar Family Takaful Limited's IPO witnessed strong investor demand, with applications received for 47.84 million shares against an issue size of 12.50 million shares, resulting in an oversubscription of approximately 3.8x. The public offering was held on 17-18 December 2025.

A total of 7,942 applications were received, amounting to PKR 862 million. As per the allotment criteria, applica-

tions for up to 2,000 shares will receive full allocation, while applications above this threshold will be allotted on a pro-rata basis

Earlier, the book-building portion of the IPO was also met with strong demand, being oversubscribed by 3.2x and priced at a 29% premium over the floor price.

Congratulations to the Pak Qatar Family Takaful Limited team and Arif Habib Limited, Consultant to the Issue, on the successful completion of the public offering and the strong participation from investors.

Coca-Cola rolls out Waste Wise Management Bins in 10 Educational Institutions with EPA Punjab

Example 2 Commerce Desk

partnered for the Waste Wise Manageaimed at promoting waste segregation at source across Puniab.

LAHORE: Coca-Cola Pakistan has is supporting the Waste Wise Certification program, through which ten ment Bins with the Environmen- model schools will each receive five tal Protection Agency (EPA) Punjab color-coded bin systems (paper, glass, and the Environment Protection organic, metal, and plastic), enabling and Climate Change Department to efficient segregation, improved recysupport Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz cling, and environmentally responsible Sharif's province-wide "Waste Wise disposal along environmental educa-Management Process", an initiative tion boards to teach students how to separate waste at source.

Under this collaboration, Coca-Cola support more sustainable waste management initiatives," said Dr. Faisal Hashmi, Senior Director, Public Affairs, Communications and Sustainability, Coca-Cola Pakistan. "Coca-Cola continues to invest in innovative environmental solution, including our Maidaan Saaf campaign during the ICC Champions Trophy."

Director General of the Environment Protection and Climate Change

"Coca-Cola Pakistan is proud to Department, Dr. Imran Hamid Sheikh, praised the private sector's role in strengthening environmental governance in Punjab. "Effective waste management requires collective effort from government, the private sector, and citizens," he said. "We appreciate Coca-Cola's leadership in supporting this initiative under the guidance of Senior Minister for Environment and who is personally overseeing its imple-



Climate Change Marriyum Aurangzeb, mentation. Clear targets have been tion Ministry, and other agencies to assigned to our department, the Educaensure timely and measurable results."

Diamond Paints, MP Black, FG/ Asean record victories in Lahore **Open Polo Championship**

LAHORE: FG/Asean, Diamond Paints and Master Paints Black recorded victories through exhilirating contests on the fourth day of the 14th Lahore Open Polo Championship 2025 for the Patrons Cup at the Lahore Polo Club here on

In the opening match of the day, FG/Asean clinched a hard-fought 5-4 victory over BN Polo after an intense contest. Saqib Khan Khakwani delivered a standout performance for FG/ Asean by scoring all five goals for his team. For BN Polo, Hamza Mawaz Khan netted three goals, while Saim Abbas added one.

The second match saw Diamond Paints overpower FG/Din Polo by 6-4 in an entertaining encounter. Raja Jalal Arsalan led the scoring for Diamond Paints with four goals, while Raja Temur Nadeem contributed two. FG/Din Polo's resistance came through Juan Cruz Greguoli, who scored two goals, while Sheikh Muhammad Raffay and Agha Musa chipped in with one goal each.

The highlight of the day came in the third match, where Master Paints Black once again demonstrated their nerve and resilience by defeating Rijas/ Sheikhoo Steel 9-8 in extra time through sudden death. Ignacio was the top scorer for Master Paints Black with four goals, followed by Mohammad Ali Malik with three and Syed Turab M Rizvi with



Samiullah scored four goals, Mumtaz Abbas Niazi added two, while Osman Aziz Anwar and Mohib Faisal Shahzad scored one goal each.

A large number of spectators and utive committee members, sponsors gathering of polo players and officials.

two. For Rijas/Sheikhoo Steel, Raja families turned up at the Lahore Polo and patrons including Taimur Ali Malik Club to witness the action-packed encounters. Prominent among those of Happy Cow Cheese, Babar Naseem present were Lahore Polo Club Pres- of BN Polo, Club Secretary Major (R) ident Malik Azam Hayat Noon, exec-

(Director, Guard Group), Nafees Barry Amjad Ghafoor, along with a sizeable

KPK's Danish Sikandar, WAPDA's Mehwish Ali Claim Junior Squash Titles

Sports Desk

KARACHI: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Danish Sikandar and WAPDA's Mehwish Ali clinched the boys' under-15 and girls' singles titles respectively at the 4th McDonald's National Junior Squash Championship.

In other categories, Pakistan Air Force's Abdul Rehman Riaz won the boys' under-11 title, while Sindh's Muhammad Aban emerged champion in the under-9

Organised by the Sindh Squash Association, the championship concluded at the Venus Jahangir Khan Squash Academy, PSB Karachi Centre, The tour nament carried a total prize money of Rs 800,000, and finals in all categories were played on the concluding day.

ceremony was Chief Information Officer Abdul Rehman, who, along with Sindh Divisional Manager Marketing Muaz Sikandar defeated fellow Khyber Pakh-



Asad, distributed trophies and prize Tournament Referee Muhammad The chief guest at the finals and closing money among the winners. Also present Naseem, and other officials. were Director Finance Iftikhar Ahmed,

Squash Association President Adnan Hanif, SSA Secretary Naveed Rehman, title.

According to the results, Danish

tunkhwa player Abdul Hadi Gul in the boys' under-15 final in straight games, winning 11-6, 11-8, 11-0 in a 17-minute

In the girls' under-19 final, top seed Mehwish Ali of WAPDA overcame Sindh's Damiya Khan 3-0. Damiya put up a strong fight in the opening game, but Mehwish dominated the next two to seal the title with scores of 13-11, 11-4, 11-8.

The boys' under-11 final witnessed a tough contest as PAF's Abdul Rehman Riaz defeated his departmental teammate Anas Rafi 3-2. The match score read 11-6, 11-8, 8-11, 12-14, 11-6.

The under-9 final was equally exciting, ith Sindh's Muhammad Aban defeating M. Bin Naseem 11-7, 11-9, 11-8to lift the

It is worth mentioning that the main draw in all categories consisted of 32 players, while McDonald's Pakistan was the main sponsor of the championship.

Pakistan to lock horns with India in Asia Cup U 19 final

Sports Desk

LAHORE: Pakistan U19 booked their place in the final of the ACC Men's U19 Asia Cup 2025 with a commanding eight-wicket win over Bangladesh U19 in the semi-final at the Sevens Stadium in Dubai on Friday. Pakistan will now face India in the final on Sunday, 21 December at the ICC Academy Ground. The first ball of the final will be bowled at 9am local time.

The rain-affected contest was reduced to 27 overs per side following overnight showers and a wet outfield, with play getting underway after a delayed start. Pakistan captain Farhan Yousaf won the toss and elected to field, a decision that paid rich dividends as the bowlers combined to restrict Bangladesh to 121 all out in 26.3 overs.

Right-arm pacer Abdul Subhan led the charge with an impressive four- wickets, while Ali Raza, Mohammad



wicket haul, applying the brakes through the middle overs. He was well supported by Huzaifa Ahsan, who picked up two

Sayyam and Ahmed Hussain chipped in with a wicket apiece to keep Bangladesh in check.

Samiun Basir top-scored for Bangla-

desh with 33 runs.

In turn, Pakistan achieved the target in just 16.3 overs, losing two wickets in process. Opener Sameer Minhas anchored the run-chase with an unbeaten 69 off 57 balls, striking six fours and two sixes to ensure there were no hiccups.

Usman Khan provided brisk support with a 27-run knock which included two fours and as many sixes, while Ahmed remained not out on 11 to see Pakistan

Scores in brief:

(Pakistan U19)

Pakistan beat Bangladesh by eight

Bangladesh 121 all out, 26.3 overs (Samiun Basir 33; Abdul Subhan 4-20, Huzaifa Ahsan 2-10)

Pakistan 122-2, 16.3 overs (Sameer Minhas 69 not out, Usman Khan 27) Player of the match - Abdul Subhan

Rising Star CC qualify for Semi Final of S. M. Adil Zone-IV Inter Club Cricket *Tournament*

₿ Sports Desk

KARACHI: Rising Star Cricket Club qualify for the Semi Final of the S. M. Adil Zone-IV Inter Club Cricket Tournament after beating Malir Gymkhana by 7 wickets in the 3rd Quarter Final at Landhi Gymkhana



The highlights of the days play was dashing batting by Opener Abdullah Fazal 66 with the help of 4 boundaries and 8 huge Sixes, Danyal Ahsan 62, Atif Ali Zaidi 58, Unbeaten 48 by Musa Azad and deadly bowling by off Spinner Kashif Iqbal 4/35.

The Tournament is being organized by Regional Cricket Association Karachi Zone-IV.

Scores in Brief:

Malir Gymkhana 212/6 in 35 overs. Daniyal Ahsan 62 6x4 1x6, Atif Ali Zaidi 58 8x4, Test Cricketer Khurram Manzoor 31. Kashif Iqbal (ob) 4/35.

In reply Rising Star CC 216/3 in 22.5 overs. Abdullah Fazal 66 4x4 8x6, Musa Azad 48 5x4 3x6, Afnan Khan 40 3x4 2x6, Asad Iqbal 22 3x4 1x6, Hanif Azad 20 3x4 1x6 not out. Later Abdullah Fazal of Rising Star Cricket club declared Markhor Man of the Match.

Vet Institutes Sports gala begins at UAF

Sports Desk

FAISALABAD: Dean Veterinary Sciences University of Agriculture Faisalabad (UAF) Dr Shahid Mahmood said that promotion of sports culture is imperative for physical and mental development of the young generation because today's youth unfortunately is confined to screens and sports grounds are presenting

He was inaugurating three-day Veterinary Institute Sports Gala where Chairman Veterinary Medical Society Dr. Muhammad Kashif Saleemi, Dr. Bilal Aslam, Dr. Sohail Sajid and others also spoke on the occasion.

Students from four veterinary universities participated in the sport gala, which included cricket, badminton, table tennis, chess, athletics, basketball, long tennis, squash and others.

Dr. Shahid Mahmood said that a few decades ago, sports fields across the country were crowded and youth were used to prefer spending evening time while playing, but now this trend has shown a sharp decline.

He said that sports play an important role not only in physical but also in mental development.

Dr. Kashif Saleemi said that it is imperative to inculcate sportsmanship among the young generation providing spirit of hardworking and patience even in difficult situations. Such competitions are a tradition of the university in order to encourage sports activities, he added.

PSL 11: Registration opened for foreign players



LAHORE: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) on Friday announced the opening of the registration window for foreign players for the upcoming Pakistan Super League (PSL) season 11.

PSL 11 is scheduled to run from March 26 to May 3, 2026, a timeline earlier confirmed by PCB chairman Mohsin Naqvi during the league's second global roadshow in New York on December 14. In an official press release, the PCB invited international cricketers from around the world to register for what it described as the largest edition of the tournament to date.

"As the league enters a historic new era of expansion, cricketing talent from around the world is welcome to join for what promises to be the biggest season yet," the PCB stated.

"With the addition of two new franchises, the league has expanded to eight teams, creating significantly more roster spots and earning opportunities for international players.'

The board further clarified that both player agents and independent overseas cricketers must complete their registration by January 20, 2026, in order to be included in the official player

"Agents and independent players are encouraged to complete their registration before the 20 January 2026 deadline to be included in the Player Pool. Interested players and agents can register through the link available here," the PCB added.

PSL, which began in 2016 with five teams and expanded to six in 2018 with the addition of Multan Sultans, is set to grow further in the upcoming season 11.

Two new franchises will be auctioned in Islamabad on January 8, with the proceedings to be broadcast live.

Yalda Night: A Winter Celebration That Connects Iran with the Region

Dr. Mehdi Taheri

Imagine stepping into an Iranian home sun after the longest night. In ancient Cheleh, in Tajikistan with poetry gathon a cold winter night: a table filled Iranian belief, light symbolized hope glowing softly, and a recitation from Hafez. This is Yalda Night—the longest night of the year and one of Iran's most beloved cultural traditions, shared in watermelon represent various forms across neighboring countries, including parts of Pakistan.

festival, but its message is universal: Even the darkest night gives way to

The Birth of the Sun and the Cele-

bration of Family The word Yalda comes from Syriac

the sound of family laughter, candles keep their homes bright, and stay awake to welcome the victory of

light over darkness. Pomegranates and brightness and warmth, nuts symbolize abun-Yalda may appear to be a winter dance, and reading the poetry of Hafez is one of the night's most cherished

> customs. A Tradition Shared

Across the Region Beyond Iran, versions of Yalda are nuity. UNESCO has highlighted the and means "birth"—the rebirth of the celebrated in Afghanistan as Shab-e festival's role in strengthening social

erings, and in parts of Uzbekistan, Azerwith pomegranates and watermelon, and life. That is why families gather, baijan, Iraqi Kurdistan, and northern Pakistan—regions historically shaped by Persian-Kho-

rasani culture. A Celebration With Global Iden-

Iranian communities worldwidefrom Europe to North America celebrate Yalda

every year as a symbol of identity and cultural conti-

harmony and respect for family bonds. A Cultural Bridge Between Pakistan

For Pakistani readers, the spirit of Yalda feels familiar: family gatherings, respect for elders, storytelling, poetry, and communal joy—values deeply rooted in Pakistani society as well. Just as local festivals and celebrations bring people together in Pakistan, Yalda does the same for Iranians.

In this way, Yalda is not merely an ancient Iranian tradition-it is a cultural bridge connecting neighboring nations through shared values of warmth, unity, and hope

The writer is Director General of the Iran Cultural Center, Rawalpindi)



Group Photo Group photo of faculty members of NUST Pakistan Navy Engineering College with Chief Minister Sindh Sved Murad Ali Shah during 37th Convocation NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCES & TECHNOLOGY PAKISTAN NAVY ENGINEERING COLLEGE

India's weaponization of water could trigger humanitarian crisis in Pakistan: Dar

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Ishaq Dar on Friday said that India's unlawful and unilateral abeyance of the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) clearly exemplified the weaponization of water, which had all the potential to trigger a humanitarian crisis in Pakistan.

addressing the members of release of water in the River the diplomatic corps here, Chenab by India twice this water, at a critical time of expressed serious concerns year during April 30 to May our agriculture cycle, directly over the "unusual and abrupt" 21, 2025 and in the past week threatens the lives and live-



The deputy prime minister, variations and unilateral from December 7 to 15.

lihoods, as well as food and tion of international law, economic security of our citizens... Such illegal and irresponsible Indian conduct has all the potential to trigger a humanitarian crisis in Pakistan," Dar said.

He told the diplomatic community that India had also halted sharing advance information, hydrological data, and joint oversight required by the Treaty, which had exposed Pakistan to floods and droughts.

Highlighting India's unilateral abeyance of the Pakistan, as required under Treaty in gross contraven-

especially Article 26 of the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties, the deputy prime minister said that Pakistan was currently witnessing "material breaches" by India striking at the heart of the IWT with escalating conse-

stability and sanctity of international law. He said that India had released water without any prior notification or any data or information sharing with

quences both for regional

Over 1,150 trainees graduate from PAF Airmen Academy in grand parade

"India's manipulation of

👺 Bureau Report

KARACHI: The passing out parade of Trainees from Entries No 2306, 2406, and 2412 was held today at the PAF Airmen Academy, Korangi.

The event was graced by the President of the NASTP Advisory Board as Chief Guest, who was received by the Air Officer Commanding of the Academy.

A total of 1,155 trainees, including members of the Pakistan Air Force, Pakistan Navy, and allied nations, successfully completed their rigorous training programme.

In his address, the chief guest praised the professionalism, combat readiness, and international recognition of the Pakistan Air Force. He highlighted the Academy's commitment to imparting modern, future-oriented training, in line with the vision of Air Chief Marshal Chief of Air Staff, ensuring that trainees are prepared to meet emerging challenges in modern

The chief guest also under-



to conduct multi-domain operations effectively.

their exceptional perfor- Trophy. Aircraftman Ahmed Trophy was awarded to LAC cation and professionalism.

Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, of the PAF, including its ability Ahmed Hussain Arif won the Chief of Air Staff Trophy for trainees were honoured for Ali secured the Asghar Khan

the Nur Khan Trophy, and

scored the operational success mance. Aircraftman Sergeant Hussain Arif also received THGND Herath of Sri Lanka. The chief guest congratu-Academy Sergeant Aircraftman lated the graduating airmen Overall Best Performance, Shafaat Noor clinched the Air and their families, while During the ceremony, several while Aircraftman Hamza Officer Commanding Trophy. commending the Academy The Best Foreign Trainee stafffor their unwavering dedi-

Pakistan, Portugal step up cooperation on youth jobs, labour mobility

№ News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister's Youth Programme (PMYP) Chairman Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan has held a high-level meeting with H. E. Manuel Frederico Pinheiro da Silva, Ambassador of Portugal to Pakistan, at the Embassy of Portugal in Islamabad, to advance Pakistan-Portugal cooperation on youth employment, overseas labour mobility, skills development, and trade, with a shared focus on creating safe, legal and sustainable opportunities for young people.

The meeting focused on strengthening bilateral collaboration in productive employment and overseas workforce engagement, particularly aimed at empowering youth through structured labour mobility frameworks.



Both sides exchanged views on facilitating mutually beneficial employment pathways, skills recognition, and workforce development initiatives to meet evolving market demands.

Chairman Rana Mashhood emphasized the Government of Pakistan's strong commitment to deepening relations with Portugal, both at the bilateral level and within the broader European Union framework.

The two sides reaffirmed their shared resolve to work together at multilateral forums in support of global peace, prosperity, and stability.

Recalling the longstanding friendship between the two countries, the meeting noted that Pakistan and Portugal established diplomatic relations on November 7, 1949, and have enjoyed cordial and friendly ties for more than 75 years.

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37th Convocation of NUST-Pakistan Navy Engineering College held in Karachi

Bureau Report

KARACHI: 37th Convocation of Pakistan Navy Engineering College (PNEC) was held at Bahria Auditorium, Karachi. Chief Minister Sindh, Mr. Syed Murad Ali Shah was the Chief Guest for the occasion.

A total of 353 graduates were awarded degrees, including 4 PhD, 41 MS, and 308 Bachelor's graduates. The Chief Guest also awarded 39 medals to outstanding position holders, comprising 7 President's Gold Medals, 4 Chief of the Naval dignitaries, as well as the parents of Staff Gold Medals, 8 Chancellor's graduating students.

Silver Medals, 18 Rector's Gold Medals and 2 Quaid-e-Azam Gold

Chief Guest, while extending his heartiest felicitations to the graduating students and parents, highlighted that NUST PNEC is providing quality engineers to Pakistan's evolving industry. He also acknowledged that the foreign students are a testimony to the college's credentials in the engineering sector.

The convocation was attended by a large number of civil and military

Irrigation department conducts monitoring data of Chenab River flow



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Irrigation Department of Punjab on Friday conducted a monitoring of the Chenab River flow at Marala (excluding Jammu and Manawar Tawi) and the data indicated that the discharge of Chemab River (mainstem) have successfully stabilized following a significant period of volatility.

The Irrigation Department shared the monitored data with the office satellite imagery of December 8, of Pakistan Commissioner for Indus 2025 which was increased as per Waters, said a press release.

alf of December 2025 confirmed December 10 to December 16, 2025. by its refilling.

During this window, the river flow frequently dropped and the lowest flow observed were 870 cusecs, which was significantly below the historical 10-year minimum range of approximately 4.018 to 4.406 cusecs for those dates.

In order to assess the reason for extraordinary reduction in flows of Chenab Main at Marala, a significant reduction in surface area of Baglihar has been observed on a the imagery of December 13, 2025. Hydrological records from the first This reduction followed by increase in the surface area of Baglihar reserthat an extraordinary reduction in voir leads to believed that India has flows was observed, persisting from emptied Baglihar reservoir followed

Karachi records hundreds of deaths in traffic accidents this year



跨 Bureau Report

KARACHI: Karachi has witnessed a high toll of deaths from traffic accidied, and more than 11,800 were children. injured in road accidents.

shooting incidents, including others were injured.

clashes between citizens and robbers during thefts.

Among those killed in traffic accidents, 650 were men, 85 women, dents and shooting incidents so far and 85 children. The number of this year. According to traffic depart- injured reached 11,037, including ment data, over 830 people have 9,267 men, 1,853 women, and 717

In shooting incidents, 89 people During the same period, 407 died resisting robberies, 14 robbers people lost their lives in various were killed during looting, and 35

Student dies after falling from roof at Lahore private university

News Desk

LAHORE: A student of a private university in Lahore died after allegedly falling from the roof of a campus building on Friday, police said.

According to sources, the victim of the Pharm-D programme. He is underway.

reportedly fell from the fourth floor of the building.

The student was rushed to the hospital in critical condition but

Police said the incident is being investigated to determine whether was identified as 22-year-old Awais it was a case of suicide, an acci-Sultan, a Semester Five student dent or homicide. Further inquiry

succumbed to his injuries.