



# Daily The Spokesman



## Winter aid delivery continues in war-hit Gaza despite continuing Israeli strikes

This has resulted in casualties and disruptions to aid operations over the past 24 hours, UN Spokesperson Stephane Dujarric told reporters at Headquarters, in New York. Still, efforts to deliver assistance to the most vulnerable families continue during the cold and wet winter season.



## China-Pakistan educators join hands to empower youth through AI, STEM

The second "Belt and Road" Youth and Science Teacher Capacity Improvement Workshop concluded recently, bringing together educators and students from China and Pakistan to explore the frontiers of artificial intelligence (AI) and project-based learning in science education.

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## NDU Visit

ISLAMABAD: Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, NI (M) HJ, COAS and CDF pose for a group photo with participants during their visit to National Defence University (NDU) Islamabad.



Photo: ISPR

## Field Marshal visits NDU, discusses evolving global, regional and internal security challenges

By Naveed Ahmad Khan

Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), HJ, COAS & CDF, visited the National Defence University (NDU), Islamabad today, where he was briefed by panel of civil and military participants of ongoing National Security and War Course on their academic perspective about challenges to national security and imperatives for overcoming them.

In his interaction, the Field Marshal outlined the complex and evolving global, regional and internal security environment, emphasizing that the country faces broad and persistent challenges. He noted that these challenges span conventional, sub-conventional, intelligence, cyber, information, military, economic and other domains, requiring comprehensive and multi-domain preparedness,

continuous adaptation and synergy amongst all elements of national power.

The Field Marshal highlighted that hostile elements increasingly employ indirect and ambiguous approaches, including the use of proxies to exploit internal fault lines, rather than overt confrontation. He stressed that future leaders must be trained and remain alert to recognize, anticipate, and counter such multi-layered cognitive challenges.

Concluding his address, the Field Marshal appreciated the panels' sharp analysis and conclusions and urged the participants to remain vigilant, adaptive, and steadfast in upholding the values of integrity, discipline, and selfless service.

Upon arrival, the COAS & CDF was warmly received by the President NDU.

## Arif Habib consortium acquires PIA with Rs135bn bid

By Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: The Arif Habib Group-led consortium secured Pakistan International Airlines in the privatisation process on Tuesday with a top bid of Rs135 billion, ahead of the Lucky Cement-led consortium's Rs134 billion offer.

The final bids were opened in Islamabad in the presence of government officials, consortium representatives and the media, concluding a staged and publicly televised process for the sale of a 75% stake in the national carrier.

Under the deal, PIA employees will receive job protection for one year. Officials said salaries and existing benefits of around 6,500 employees will remain intact during this period.

The successful bid follows earlier rounds in which the Arif Habib consortium had led with offers of Rs115 billion and

Following the announcement, Shahid Habib of the Arif Habib consortium termed the outcome "a win for Pakistan," describing the transaction as the country's largest to date.

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Airblue was the third bidder in the process.

According to the Privatisation Commission, the winning bidder will also have the option to acquire the remaining 25% stake within 90 days at a 12% premium, with payment allowed after one year.

Officials reiterated that the successful investor would be required to inject at least Rs80 billion over the next five years to stabilise operations and improve the airline's performance.

Continued on Page 7

## Federal Cabinet approves PIA privatisation decisions

By City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The federal cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, on Tuesday approved key decisions related to the privatisation of Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) and reiterated the government's firm commitment to transparency, political dialogue and economic reform.

A special meeting of the federal cabinet was held here at the Prime Minister's House, during which the cabinet formally endorsed the decisions taken earlier in the day by the Cabinet Committee on Privatisation regarding PIA, a Prime Minis-



ter's Office news release said. The cabinet also offered prayers for the smooth and successful

completion of all stages of the privatisation process.

Addressing the cabinet, Prime

Minister Shehbaz Sharif underscored that the PIA privatisation would be carried out in a transparent, credible and reliable manner, noting that the bidding process would be broadcast live on television. He said sealed bids would be placed in see-through boxes, with envelopes opened only after price determination, and the award would be made through a competitive process to the highest bidder.

"This is one of the largest financial transactions in Pakistan's history, and therefore the entire process must be transparent and credible," the prime minister said, adding that the outcome of the bidding would

be brought back to the cabinet for final approval. He urged cabinet members to actively participate so decisions could be taken with collective wisdom.

The prime minister appreciated the efforts of the relevant ministries and cabinet members in advancing the privatisation agenda, particularly commanding the roles of the deputy prime minister, defence minister and finance minister. He described the day as significant for PIA's future and expressed confidence that a transparent process would improve economic management and boost private-sector confidence.

## Strategic leadership, national resilience drive Pakistan's global successes: Khawaja Asif

By City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif on Tuesday Pakistan's achievements over the past two and a half years in diplomatic, economic, and military spheres were attribut-

ed to strategic leadership and national resilience.

While speaking to a private news channel, he commented to the recognition of Chief of Defence Staff Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir's role by the British journal Financial Times.

He said the acknowledgment underscores Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir's exceptional contribution to advancing Pakistan's diplomacy and defense interests. "Over the past two and a half years, Pakistan has achieved significant diplomatic, economic,

and military successes, and Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir has played a central role in steering these achievements," the minister added.

He added that leadership efforts to revive and strengthen

partners, along with fostering new alliances, have yielded tangible results.

Khawaja Asif emphasized that Pakistan's victories against external threats have further enhanced the country's stature on the global stage.

## Mohsin Naqvi visits Shaheen Chowk Underpass Project in Islamabad

By City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Tuesday visited Shaheen Chowk Underpass project in Islamabad and conducted a detailed inspection of the ongoing construction activities on the site.

Mohsin Naqvi reviewed the progress of Shaheen Chowk Underpass project on the spot.

Talking on the occasion, Mohsin Naqvi said that traffic flow will be restored on main highways as soon as Shaheen Chowk Underpass opens.

Interior Minister directed that to ensure modern landscaping and tree plantation around the project located at a central location.

Minister about the progress in work completed so far.

Mohsin Naqvi was briefed that 90 percent work of Shaheen Chowk Underpass project has been completed and will be opened for traffic next week.

The structural work of the underpass of the project has been completed, while road work and finishing work are in progress.

Mohsin Naqvi directed that there will be no compromise on quality in construction work.

Interior Minister directed that to ensure modern landscaping and tree plantation around the project located at a central location.

Chairman CDA, IG Islamabad, CDA members, Additional Deputy Commissioner Islamabad and other concerned officers were also present on the occasion.

# CISS AJK researchers engage students across Poonch and Sudhnuti in strategic policy outreach

By Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: The research faculty of the Center for International Strategic Studies, Azad Jammu and Kashmir (CISS AJK), conducted academic sessions across the districts of Poonch and Sudhnuti as part of its Strategic Outreach Program 2025, engaging students in structured discussions on contemporary strategic, security, and policy-relevant issues.

The outreach activities were held at Cadet College Pallandri (Sudhnuti), Mohammadan Science College Hajera (Poonch), and the University of Poonch Rawalakot, where students from Matric, FSC, BS, and International Relations programs participated actively. The sessions were delivered by Abdul Basit (Associate



Research Officer), Hira Bashir (Associate Research Officer), Tayaba Khurshid (Research Officer), and Abdul Rehman (Research Officer), who

collectively covered topics including the introduction and mandate of CISS AJK, peaceful uses of nuclear technology, fundamentals of arms control

and disarmament, strategic stability and escalation dynamics in South Asia, and environmental security challenges in AJK.

Students and faculty across the institutions responded enthusiastically, demonstrating keen interest and engagement during interactive discussions and Q&A sessions. Particular appreciation was expressed for the academic discourse on Pakistan's peaceful applications of nuclear technology and the environmental and climate-related challenges facing AJK, reflecting a strong appetite among youth for informed debate on strategic and developmental issues. Faculty members commended CISS AJK's initiative for strengthening policy awareness and strategic thinking among students in diverse regions of AJK.

## Beautiful view

ISLAMABAD: An Ariel view of the Capital City after the first rain of winters as the weather is very pleasant and refreshing.

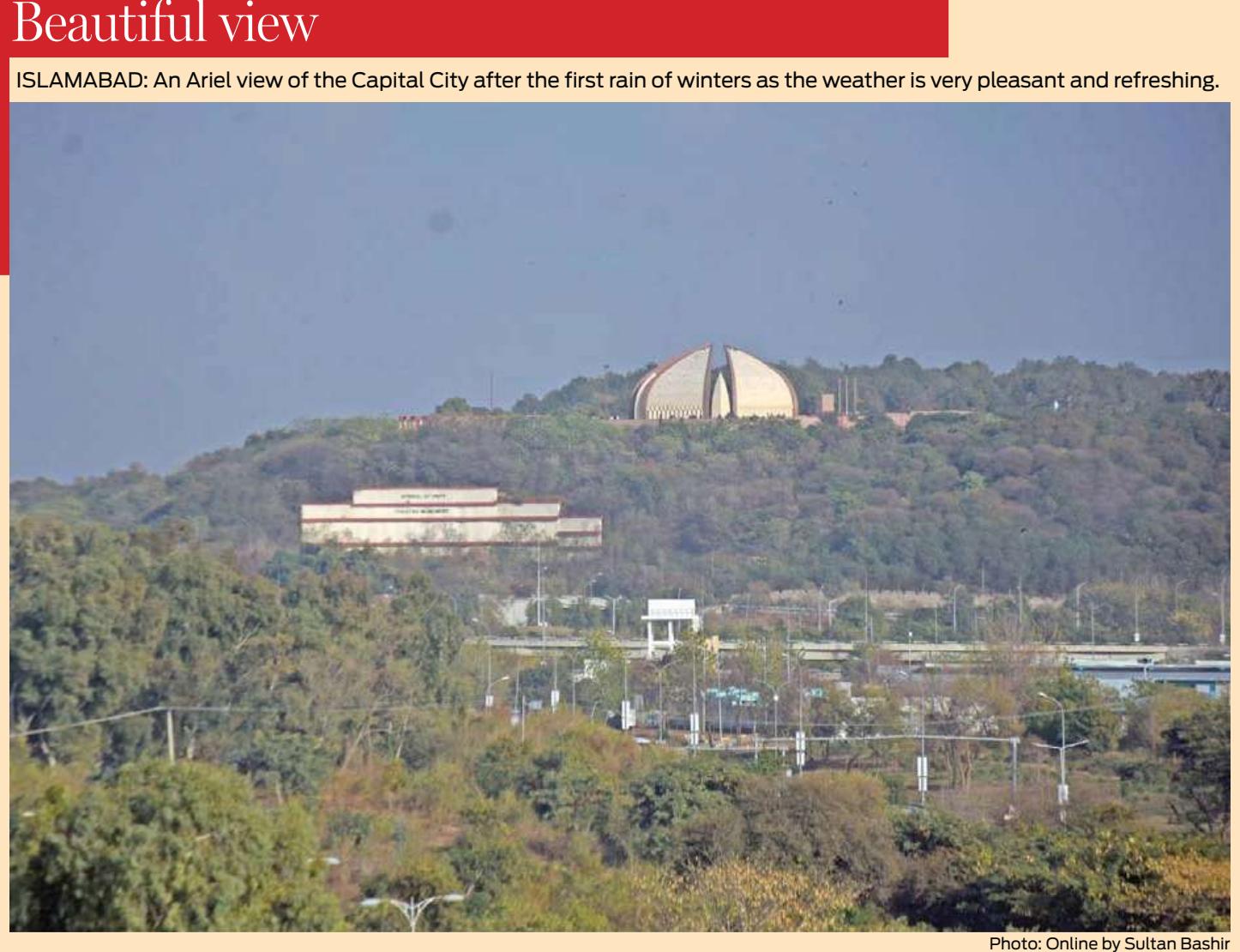


Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

## PM Rathore Visits Abdul Majid Khan to Offer Condolences

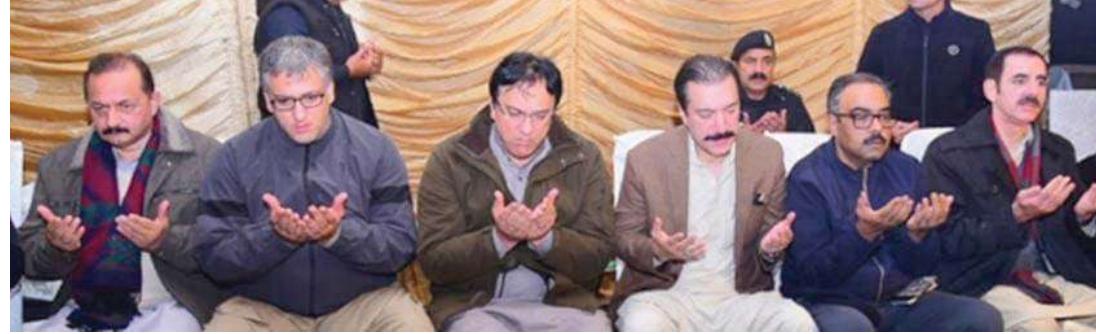
By Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: Prime Minister Faisal Mumtaz Rathore, visited the residence of former Finance Minister of Azad Kashmir Abdul Majid Khan to offer his condolences on the demise of his brother.

On this occasion, the PM was accompanied by Finance Minister Chaudhry Qasim Majeed, Forest Minister Sardar Javed Ayub and others.

The Prime Minister, while extending his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family prayed for the deceased soul.

Meanwhile President Azad Kashmir Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry



has expressed his profound grief and sorrow over the death of Dr. Abdul Halim Khan, brother of former govern-

ment minister Abdul Majid Khan. In his condolence message, the Pres-

condolences to the bereaved family, prayed to Allah the almighty to rest the departed soul in eternal peace.

## Traffic and Road Safety Awareness Seminar at B Z University

By Zain Khan Malghani

MULTAN: An awareness seminar on traffic rules and road safety was organized by Inner Wheel Club Multan at the Department of Siraiki, Bahauddin Zakaria University. The Traffic Police Education Unit, Multan, participated in the seminar, which aimed to raise awareness among students about compliance with traffic laws, safe driving practices, and accident prevention.

Addressing the seminar, President Inner Wheel Midtown, Hina Chughtai, said that adherence to traffic rules is essential for the well-being of society. She emphasized that awareness of traffic laws



at school, college, and university levels is a pressing need of the time so that young people can become responsible citizens.

Inspector Sohail Akhtar, In-charge of the Traffic Education Unit, stated that a person who loses his life in a traffic accident may be the sole breadwinner or the only heir of a family, leaving parents and relatives to face irreparable loss and lifelong grief. He added that by adopting precautionary measures, valuable lives and property can be protected.

At the conclusion of the seminar, students expressed their commitment to following traffic laws and appreciated the continuation of such awareness initiatives.

## Livestock Department Distributes Motorcycles to Field Staff



By Zafar Chishti

TOBA TEK SINGH: In line with Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif's vision to strengthen service delivery, the Livestock Department has continued providing facilities to its field staff in Toba Tek Singh. As part of this initiative, 68 motorcycles were distributed among para-veterinary field staff during a ceremony held at the office of the Additional Director Livestock, Director Livestock Faisalabad Division Dr Haider Ali Khan attended the event as the chief guest, while Additional Director Livestock Toba Tek Singh Dr Hina Zafar and other departmental officers were also present.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Hina Zafar said that improving mobility facilities for field staff would enhance the effectiveness of livestock services. Dr Haider Ali Khan stated that the provision of motorcycles aims to make field services more efficient, ensuring timely and improved facilities for farmers and livestock owners.

## Kashmir Leader Slams Bihar CM for Forcibly Pulling Muslim Woman's Niqab

By Spokesman Report



RAWALPINDI: President of the All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference and former Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan, has vehemently condemned the act of Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar for forcibly pulling the veil (niqab) of a Muslim woman during a public event. He termed the incident a blatant violation of human dignity, religious freedom, and fundamental human rights, and demanded an unconditional public apology from the Bihar Chief Minister.

Talking to the media in Rawalpindi after a dinner hosted by Sardar Sajjad Abbasi, Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan said that publicly humiliating Dr. Nusrat Parveen is unacceptable, shameful, and reflective of a narrow-minded and oppressive mindset. He stated that forcibly removing a woman's veil is an assault on her personal freedom, religious beliefs, and Eastern cultural values.

He said the incident has once again exposed the so-called democratic and secular face of India, adding that the continued mistreatment of Muslims—particularly Muslim women—has become a deeply alarming trend. He said that Kashmiris expressed full solidarity with Dr. Nusrat Parveen and said that violations of religious freedom in India should be a matter of serious concern for the international community.

Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan urged the United Nations, OIC, international human rights organizations, and the independent global media to exert pressure on India to ensure protection of minority rights, respect religious freedom, and take effective action against those responsible for humiliating women and violating their dignity. He warned that the international community's silence over injustices against minorities in India, including in Kashmir, amounts to criminal negligence and that such incidents pose serious threats to regional peace and stability.

## DC Mela Inspects Health and Education Facilities in Rural Area

By Zafar Chishti

TOBA TEK SINGH: Under the Punjab government's policy of strict monitoring of public institutions, Deputy Commissioner Umar Abbas Mela conducted field visits to health and education facilities in Chak No 316 GB.

The deputy commissioner inspected the Rural Health Centre, where he reviewed the availability of medicines, cleanliness and overall healthcare arrangements. He directed the concerned staff to further improve medical facilities and maintain hygiene standards to ensure better healthcare services for the public. Later, the deputy commissioner visited Government Girls Higher Secondary School and Government Boys Secondary School in the same locality. He inspected school buildings, science and computer laboratories and reviewed the available educational facilities. He also met representatives of school councils and discussed issues and suggestions related to education.

Speaking on the occasion, Deputy Commissioner Umar Abbas Mela said that improvement in education and health sectors remains a top priority of the Punjab government, adding that field visits would continue to assess the performance of government institutions and improve service delivery.

## RPO Faisalabad Sohail Akhtar Sukhera visited Chiniot

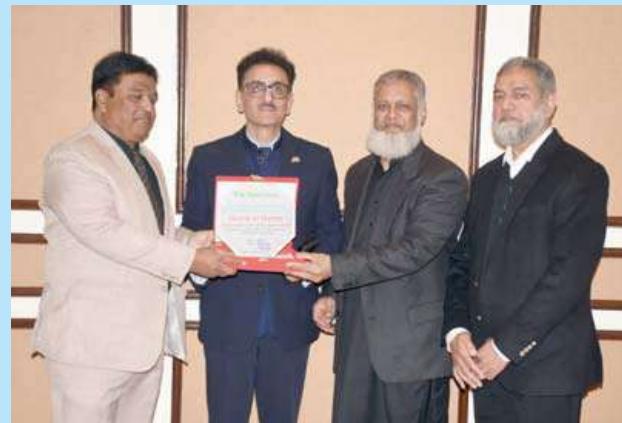
By Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: Regional Police Officer Faisalabad Sohail Akhtar Sukhera visited Chiniot district. A well-equipped police force saluted the RPO Faisalabad. RPO Faisalabad held a meeting with members of the Peace Committee at the DPO office. During the meeting, the situation of peace and security in the district, important issues, and suggestions were reviewed. RPO Faisalabad directed the members of the Peace Committee to play their full role in promoting religious harmony, tolerance, and brotherhood. The members of the Peace Committee assured to play their full role in establishing peace and security and promoting religious harmony.

RPO Faisalabad Sohail Akhtar Sukhera organized an open court at City Chiniot Police Station to resolve the problems of the people at their doorsteps. DPO Chiniot Dr. Naveed Atif, DSPs, SHOs, police officers and a large number of people of the area participated in the open court. RPO Faisalabad listened to the problems of the citizens during the open court and issued orders for immediate redressal. Speaking on the occasion, RP Sohail Akhtar Sukhera said that the purpose of the open court is to stay in touch with the people and resolve their problems at their doorsteps. Steps have been taken to ensure prompt justice to the citizens at the police station level. Establishment of law and order, equal implementation of law and timely provision of justice will be ensured at all costs.

World Health Coverage Day

# Cleft Hospital & The Spokesman highlight inclusive healthcare in Pakistan



## Amjad Mehmood

Cleft Hospital Pakistan, in collaboration with Daily The Spokesman, jointly organized a high-profile event titled "World Health Coverage Day" at a Serena hotel in Islamabad, bringing together diplomats, senior government officials, members of the business community, philanthropists and media professionals. The event underscored the importance of universal access to healthcare and highlighted the role of specialized non-profit institutions in bridging gaps within Pakistan's health sector.

The ceremony was graced by Ambassador Dr. Ahmed Ali Sirohey as the chief guest, who has served in many countries by representing Pakistan as Counsellor, Deputy High Commissioner, and Ambassador. He is currently serving as Director General, Crisis Management Unit (CMU), Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The event was further honored by the presence of Ambassador of Tajikistan, H. E. Sharifzoda Yusuf Toir, and the Consul General of Lithuania, Mr. Mohamed Masud Khan along with representatives from civil society organizations and healthcare advocates. Speakers emphasized that equitable health coverage is not merely a policy goal but a moral imperative, particularly for vulnerable populations.

In his address, Ambassador Dr. Sirohey paid glowing tribute to the Association's life-changing work, describing it as "medicine infused with mercy and professionalism guided by compassion." He emphasized that healthcare initiatives like those of PCLPA represent the highest form of public service—where science meets humanity.

He reserved special appreciation for Dr. Ajaz, the driving force behind the Association, calling him "a quiet reformer whose scalpel heals not only faces but futures." Ambassador Sirohey praised Dr. Ajaz's leadership, commitment, and relentless dedication to providing free and affordable corrective surgeries for underprivileged children across Pakistan.

He assured the Association of continued moral support and encouraged stronger partnerships between civil society, the medical community, and public institutions to expand outreach and sustainability.

In the heart of Punjab's industrial city of Gujrat stands an institution that has quietly but profoundly changed the lives of thousands of families across Pakistan. Cleft Hospital Pakistan, a specialized non-profit healthcare facility, has emerged as the country's leading center dedicated exclusively to the treatment of cleft lip, cleft palate and associated cranio-facial deformities. Through its integrated medical approach, international collaborations and humanitarian mission, the hospital has become a symbol of hope for children born with facial anomalies.

The foundation of Cleft Hospital Pakistan traces back to the vision of Dr. Ijaz Bashir, a distinguished plastic and reconstructive surgeon. During his early medical career, Dr. Bashir encountered numerous children suffering from cleft conditions who lacked access to consistent and comprehensive treatment. Realizing that short-term surgical camps were insufficient for long-term rehabilitation, he conceptualized a permanent, purpose-built hospital that could provide lifelong care to cleft

patients. This vision materialized in 2010, when the hospital was formally established on the Grand Trunk Road in Juliani, Gujrat.

### "Cleft Hospital Gujrat: Restoring Smiles, Transforming Lives"

Before the hospital's inception, organized cleft care in Pakistan was largely provided through the Pakistan Cleft Lip and Palate Association (PCLAPA), which conducted periodic surgical missions with the support of foreign surgeons. While impactful, these initiatives highlighted the urgent need for a permanent institution. Cleft Hospital was thus founded as a continuation and expansion of these early efforts, offering year-round services under one roof. Now, the hospital offers a comprehensive range of medical services essential for complete cleft rehabilitation. At its core is a dedicated Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery Department, which performs corrective surgeries for cleft lip, cleft palate and related facial deformities using internationally accepted protocols. These procedures are carefully timed and tailored according to the patient's age and clinical needs, ensuring optimal functional and aesthetic outcomes.

Recognizing that cleft care extends far beyond surgery, the hospital operates a fully integrated multidisciplinary model. Specialized dental and orthodontic services address tooth alignment and jaw development, while audiology services assess and manage hearing impairments commonly associated with cleft conditions. A well-established speech and language therapy unit plays a crucial role in helping children develop clear and confident speech following surgical repair. The hospital

also houses pediatric and ENT services, ensuring comprehensive medical oversight for young patients. Nutritional guidance is provided to families, particularly for infants who face feeding difficulties due to cleft palate. In addition, psychological counseling is offered to support patients and parents coping with the emotional and social challenges associated with facial deformities.

Beyond clinical care, Cleft Hospital Pakistan has positioned itself as a center for research and professional training. Its research department, established in 2015, focuses on studying the causes, patterns and management of cleft conditions within the Pakistani population. The hospital regularly hosts workshops, symposia and training programs for surgeons, speech therapists and allied health professionals, contributing to capacity building in cleft care nationwide. What truly distinguishes Cleft Hospital is its humanitarian ethos. Operating as a non-profit institution, it provides treatment at minimal or no cost to patients who cannot afford care. The hospital serves individuals from all provinces of Pakistan, as well as neighboring regions, making it a national referral center for cleft management. Support from international medical volunteers and charitable organizations has further strengthened its ability to deliver services that meet global standards.

Over the years, tens of thousands of surgeries and therapies have been carried out at the hospital, each representing a restored smile and a renewed sense of dignity. By combining surgical excellence with long-term rehabilitation, education and research, Cleft Hospital

Pakistan has set a benchmark for specialized healthcare in the country. As Pakistan continues to face challenges in access to specialized medical services, institutions like Cleft Hospital Gujrat stand as powerful examples of how vision, compassion and professionalism can transform lives—one smile at a time.

Earlier, Dr. Ijaz Bashir delivered a detailed multimedia presentation outlining the journey, achievements and future vision of Cleft Hospital Pakistan. He shared key statistics on patient outreach, surgical success rates and multidisciplinary care outcomes, while also highlighting the hospital's growing emphasis on research, training and prevention.

Dr. Bashir emphasized that cleft treatment is a long-term process that requires sustained support, often spanning several years of a child's development. He also underscored the need for increased public awareness and early intervention, noting that timely treatment can dramatically improve quality of life and social integration for affected children. The presentation met with keen interest and appreciation from participants, many of whom acknowledged the hospital's transparent and impactful use of resources.

Participants from diplomatic circles, business communities and philanthropic organizations unanimously appreciated both the event and the work of Cleft Hospital Pakistan. Several philanthropists and corporate representatives announced their intention to financially support the hospital's mission, pledging donations and exploring long-term partnerships to sustain and expand its services. Media representatives also committed to raising awareness about cleft conditions and promoting preventive healthcare narratives.

At the conclusion of the event, the co-host of event, Mr. Naveed Ahmad Khan, Editor of Daily The Spokesman, addressed the audience and expressed deep appreciation to all participants for their presence and support. He termed the gathering a memorable and meaningful occasion and reaffirmed his commitment to continue organizing such awareness-driven events in the future. Mr. Naveed Khan said it was a great honor

for Daily The Spokesman to be part of an initiative that promotes inclusive healthcare and humanitarian values. On behalf of the organization, he extended heartfelt gratitude to the chief guest Ambassador Dr. Ahmed Ali Sirohey, Ambassador of Tajikistan H. E. Sharifzoda Yusuf Toir, and Consul General of Lithuania Mr. Mohamed Masud Khan for gracing the event with their distinguished presence. He also paid special tribute to Dr. Ijaz Bashir, founder of Cleft Hospital Pakistan, for sponsoring the event and for his unwavering dedication to serving humanity.

The event concluded with a hi-tea, providing attendees with an opportunity for informal interaction and networking. Conversations reflected optimism, shared purpose and a collective resolve to support inclusive healthcare initiatives. The successful observance of World Health Coverage Day ended on a high note, reinforcing the message that collaborative efforts can make quality healthcare accessible to all segments of society.

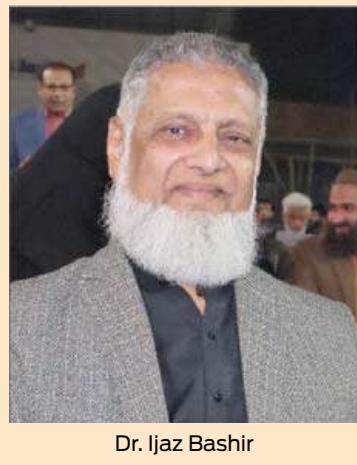
Photo by Sultan Bashir

## Dr. Ijaz Bashir: A Life Devoted to Healing Smiles

Dr. Ijaz Bashir, founder of the Pakistan Cleft Lip & Palate Association (PCLAPA) and the Ayesha Bashir Trust Hospital—widely known as Cleft Hospital Pakistan—has dedicated his life to restoring hope and smiles to children born with cleft lips and palates. Alongside this, he also established the Decent Welfare Society, marking decades of selfless service to humanity. Born into a prosperous family, Dr. Bashir could have led a life of comfort. Yet destiny guided him to a path of compassion, service, and unwavering commitment to those in need.

From the early 1990s, Dr. Bashir immersed himself in welfare work, always crediting Allah, his family, and friends for his achievements. "A welfare mission is never the work of a single person," he often reflects. "It grows from family values, strengthened by quiet support, and sustained by gratitude."

Dr. Bashir hails from the well-known Decent family of Gujrat, famous for Decent Furniture. He is one of six brothers, and while his siblings pursued the family business, his father, Mirza Muhammad Bashir, freed him from commercial responsibilities, encouraging him to study medicine. From an early age, his mother, Begum Ayesha Bashir, prayed that Allah would make her son a doctor dedicated to the service of humanity. This heartfelt prayer



Dr. Ijaz Bashir

became the guiding foundation of his life. Completing his MBBS in 1987, Dr. Bashir devoted himself fully to humanitarian work.

The journey was made possible by his family's support. His younger brother, Mirza Ashfaq Bashir, actively contributed to welfare work despite his business commitments. His wife, Samiya Ijaz, quietly held the household together while supporting him in his mission. Today, their children continue the family tradition of service, ensuring that compassion spans generations.

Humanitarian work demands total dedication, patience, and personal sacrifice. With family support and

freedom from commercial obligations, Dr. Bashir could devote himself fully. The first pivotal moment came when British-Pakistani plastic surgeon Dr. Amanullah Raja introduced him to a child born with a cleft lip and palate. The child's parents, overwhelmed with worry, could not afford treatment. Dr. Bashir arranged the necessary surgery, and when the child smiled for the first time after a successful operation, he made a solemn promise: no cleft patient would ever be denied treatment due to poverty or circumstance. This encounter ignited a lifelong mission fueled by compassion and determination.

Initially, free cleft camps were organized under the Decent Welfare Society. As the need grew, it became clear that temporary camps were not enough. This led to the formation of PCLAPA in 1995, formally registered in 2000, expanding from annual to biannual camps that reached more children each year.

International collaboration strengthened the mission. In 1997, a six-member medical team led by British surgeon Dr. Nicholas B. Hart joined. Later, in 2004, British-Pakistani plastic surgeon Dr. Muhammad Riaz and anesthetist Dr. Zahid Rafiq further enhanced the organization's clinical capabilities.

Recognizing the need for a permanent facility, Dr. Bashir's family



Mirza Muhammad Bashir And Begum Ayesha Bashir, who dedicated their son Dr. Ijaz Bashir to social welfare and donated their land for the Pakistan Cleft Lip & Palate Association and Ayesha Bashir Trust Hospital.

Jubaida Gatrad. Dr. Abdul Rashid Gatrad and the late Khawaja Muhammad Islam, both British citizens of subcontinental origin, provided critical support when the hospital's patient numbers surged. Pakistani-German philanthropist Anita Khawaja and many others—including Mian Ghulam Mohiuddin, Muhammad Shafiq, Umair Rafiq, Chaudhry Mubashir Hussain, Chaudhry Nadeem Akhtar Malhi, Idrees Azad, and Gulraiz

Nabi—helped turn the hospital into a beacon of hope.

Today, Cleft Hospital Pakistan serves patients from across the country and around the world. Every child is welcomed with dignity, respect, and a promise of quality care. Long-term partnerships with Midland International Aid Trust and the Overseas Plastic Surgery Appeal continue to sustain this mission. Dr. Bashir emphasizes that this work is a collective journey, with every supporter, volunteer, and donor embodying compassion in action.

From small free camps to a fully equipped hospital, PCLAPA has treated more than 28,000 patients, many of whom remain under ongoing care. Beyond clinical services, the organization contributes to research and is preparing to establish a dedicated cleft training center to educate future generations of medical professionals.

For Dr. Bashir, every smile restored represents more than medical success—it embodies hope, resilience, and the transformative power of human kindness. His journey from that first child patient to thousands of treated children today reflects the profound impact of faith, family, and collective goodwill. Dr. Ijaz Bashir's life is a testament to selfless service, showing how dedication and compassion can heal both hearts and lives.

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## CCG finds Kashmir gripped by a climate of 'sullen silence'

**I**t is an established fact that human rights are being violated on a daily basis across every part of Jammu and Kashmir. Multiple international human rights organizations and United Nations Special Rapporteurs have documented the absence of meaningful freedom of expression in Jammu and Kashmir. Independent civil society findings indicate widespread censorship, intimidation, arbitrary detention, and harassment of journalists, civil society members, religious leaders, and ordinary citizens. Speaking openly about developments in the region carries a high risk of detention under laws such as the Public Safety Act (PSA) and the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA).

Local Kashmiris continue to face humiliation, intimidation, and harassment at the hands of Indian military and paramilitary forces. These findings have been independently verified by a well-respected and reputable New Delhi-based organization, the Concerned Citizens Group (CCG). The CCG comprises prominent and distinguished Indian political leaders, retired senior military officials, and representatives of civil society.

The group visited Jammu and Kashmir from October 28 to 31, 2025, and subsequently released its 11th report on the region. Members of the delegation included Yashwant Sinha, former Minister of Finance and Minister of External Affairs of India; Sushobha Barve, Executive Director of the Centre for Dialogue and Reconciliation; Air Vice Marshal (Retd.) Kapil Kak, a Kashmiri by birth and former Deputy Director at the Centre for Air Power Studies; and Bharat Bhushan, one of India's most seasoned journalists.

The CCG categorically emphasized that it has no affiliation with the Government of India or with any political party. Its visits to Jammu and Kashmir are entirely self-financed by its members, and it does not solicit contributions from any organization, including NGOs.

The CCG was formed in the aftermath of the large-scale protests that erupted in the Kashmir Valley in 2016. Its stated mission is to act as a bridge between Jammu and Kashmir and the rest of India. The primary objective of its recent visit was to gauge the public mood at the grassroots level and to convey to the wider Indian public the genuine sentiments of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

According to the report, the activities of the CCG were significantly restricted by the police. The group sought to meet a broad cross-section of society to obtain an objective and accurate assessment of the prevailing situation but was prevented from doing so. In several instances, police reportedly instructed individuals not to appear before the CCG. Despite these constraints, the delegation managed to meet senior leadership of the National Conference, Indian National Congress, and the Communist Party of India (Marxist), as well as representatives of the Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Jammu and Kashmir Students' Association, and members of the media. Additionally, they met Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, a prominent Muslim religious leader, and Sanjay Ticku, a well-known Hindu leader.

## Aseefa Bhutto Zardari – A True Reflection of Benazir

**I**n Pakistan's political history, some names are not merely individuals; they embody entire traditions, ideologies, and lifelong struggles. From Quaid-e-Azam Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto to Daughter of the East Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto, and onward to Bilawal Bhutto's political maturity, the journey of the Pakistan People's Party has always been defined by sacrifice, a bond with the people, and democratic continuity. Some faces remain etched in hearts even after fading into the mist of time. Some voices continue to echo for centuries even after falling silent. And some people, even after departing from this world, leave such deep imprints in their successors that future generations open windows to the past by merely looking at them. Asifa Bhutto Zardari is one such name, a personality whose presence carries the fragrance of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto: her gentle smile, dignified courage, and compassionate leadership are clearly reflected in Asifa's being.

Her facial features, the flow of her smile, her balanced manner of speaking, and above all, her natural ability to connect with the people make Asifa a living glimpse of Benazir Bhutto. Pakistan's politics has rarely tested any family with as many trials and tribulations as the Bhutto family. From the moment Asifa Bhutto opened her eyes, she witnessed sacrifice, struggle, and public service deeply embedded in her surroundings. The resonance of Shaheed Benazir Bhutto's relentless fight for democracy has become an integral part of Asifa Bhutto's personality. Three fundamental elements stand out in Asifa Bhutto's

political grooming: the people-centric politics of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto, the political wisdom of Asif Ali Zardari, and the modern, balanced leadership of Bilawal Bhutto. These three dimensions shape her into a complete, mature, and serious face of future politics.

Like her mother, Asifa Bhutto is a composed, warm, and empathetic personality who carries the people's pain within her heart. People sense the same compassion in her tone that was Benazir Bhutto's hallmark: an acute sense of responsibility, concern for public welfare, and a deep interest in health, education, and human development initiatives. During the COVID-19 days, Asifa Bhutto not only helped raise public awareness but also played a training and organizational role in the Pakistan Peoples Party's social programs.

Asifa Bhutto Zardari, while belonging to the Pakistan People's Party, a renowned political household appears on every platform as a representative of Pakistan. Whether at international human rights forums or global health programs, she remains consistently concerned about Pakistan and its people, especially future generations. When the alarm bells rang over the threat of polio, Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto chose Asifa Bhutto Zardari as the very first child to be administered polio drops. And when that child grew into a young woman, the United Nations appointed the same Asifa Bhutto Zardari as its ambassador in the fight against polio. All this positions her as an ambassador of soft politics.

The dignity that once graced Benazir Bhutto's face is reflected in Asifa Bhutto. The resolve that shone in Benazir's eyes sparkled in Asifa's

## When Capitalism Gives Back

**C**apitalism, at its core, is a system built on freedom—the freedom to compete, to innovate, and to accumulate wealth without an upper limit imposed by the state. In a free-market economy, every individual has the right to amass as much wealth as talent, timing, risk-taking, and opportunity allow. Nowhere is this reality more visible than in the United States, where capitalism has produced astonishing prosperity alongside extreme concentration of wealth.

The scale of that concentration is often difficult to comprehend. The combined wealth of America's ten richest individuals rivals—or exceeds—the total economic output of many developing nations, and is comparable to the GDP of more than a dozen smaller countries combined. At the same time, that wealth equals the collective net worth of tens of millions of ordinary Americans. This stark imbalance is frequently cited as evidence of capitalism's moral failure. Yet this is only half the story.

History shows that capitalism is not merely a machine for accumulation; it is also a system that, at its most mature stage, often turns inward—forcing its greatest beneficiaries to confront uncomfortable questions about meaning, legacy, and responsibility.

Michael and Susan Dell have pledged an extraordinary sum—approximately \$6.2 billion—toward an initiative designed to fundamentally alter the financial starting point of American children. The vision is both simple and radical: to open an investment account for every child born between 2025 and 2028, seeded at birth and invested in broad-based index funds. By the time a child reaches adulthood, this account could exceed \$100,000, usable for higher education, home ownership, or launching a business. If left untouched

until mid-adulthood, the value could rise several-fold—potentially surpassing \$700,000.

This is not a handout in the conventional sense. It is not welfare, nor is it consumption-driven assistance. It is capital formation—distributed at birth.

What makes this initiative particularly striking is its momentum. Following the Dell announcement, other philanthropists and corporate beneficiaries of the American capitalist system have begun making similar pledges. What began as a single act of generosity is rapidly evolving into a movement—one that channels private wealth into a nationwide social investment framework.

If implemented at scale, the implications are profound.

For millions of families—rich and poor alike—the crushing financial anxiety associated with raising children could be dramatically reduced. Parents struggle to fund education, navigate healthcare costs, support young adults through early adulthood, and prepare children for a competitive world. This initiative shifts part of that burden from households to a class of individuals who benefited most from the system itself.

In effect, capitalism would be financing its own social correction. Children who once would have been locked out of higher education due to lack of funds could now pursue academic excellence without lifelong debt. Young adults could start businesses without mortgaging their future. Families could enter marriage and parenthood with financial resilience rather than fear. Emergencies—medical, economic, or personal—could be met without catastrophic consequences.

This initiative introduces an unprecedented level of financial security at birth. While it removes destructive poverty, it may also reduce the constructive pressure that fuels ambition. The concern is not whether children will become lazy—an oversimplification—but whether the psychological edge that comes from necessity will be blunted. Will guaranteed capital reduce risk-taking, or will it empower smarter risk-taking? Will it foster entrepreneurship, or dilute hunger?

These are not ideological questions; they are empirical ones.

Before such an intervention is expanded nationwide, rigorous longitudinal studies must be conducted. Policymakers, economists, behavioral scientists, and educators must examine whether early financial security enhances produc-

tivity or dampens drive. The effects may differ across communities, cultures, and income brackets. The same intervention that liberates one child may unintentionally limit another.

The stakes are enormous. This is not a pilot program affecting thousands; it is a structural change that could shape the character of an entire generation.

And yet, despite these uncertainties, one truth remains undeniable.

Capitalism, when left to accumulate unchecked, produces inequality. But when its greatest beneficiaries consciously redirect wealth toward collective uplift, it can also produce social renewal on a scale no state-driven redistribution has ever achieved. What is unfolding in the United States today is not the abandonment of capitalism—it is its moral maturation.

The wealthy are not being coerced. They are volunteering. The system is not being dismantled; it is being refined. Wealth earned through free markets is returning to society not as charity alone, but as structured opportunity—invested in the future rather than consumed in the present.

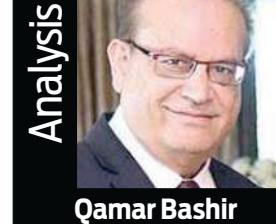
America's greatness has always rested on its ability to reinvent itself without destroying its foundations. If this initiative succeeds, it may stand as one of the most consequential innovations in social policy—not imposed by government fiat, but enabled by private conscience.

Whether it becomes a triumph or a cautionary tale depends on one thing: the willingness to study its impact honestly before sealing it irrevocably.

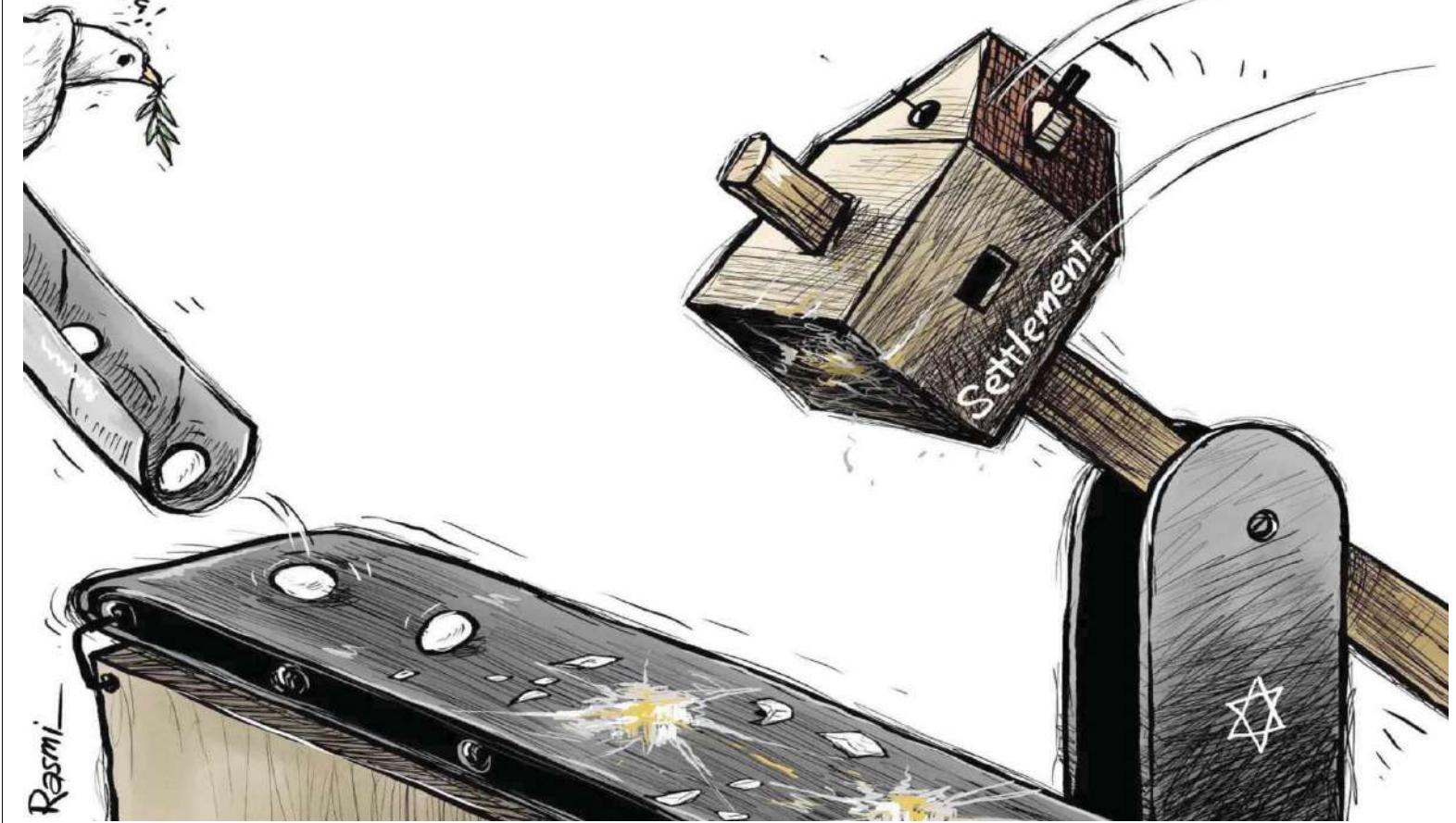
Capitalism has planted the seed.

Wisdom must decide how it grows.

*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*



Qamar Bashir



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

## The Fall of Dhaka

**T**he fall of Dhaka is one of the most tragic chapters in the history of Pakistan, representing not merely a territorial loss but also a profound political, intellectual, and moral failure. On December 16, 1971, the separation of East Pakistan shook the entire nation and exposed a harsh reality: nations do not survive on military power alone, but on justice, awareness, and political wisdom. The fall of Dhaka raised fundamental questions about Pakistan's national identity, ideological direction, and state structure questions whose echoes are still felt in the country's politics and society today.

Asifa Bhutto Zardari's political approach mirrors that of her mother, Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto. She remains deeply concerned about the welfare of women and, especially, children in Pakistan. Whether it is visiting hospitals in Sindh, participating in cleanliness drives, or supporting education and health initiatives, she is always actively involved. Pakistan's younger generation views Asifa Bhutto Zardari as a new political force, one capable of playing a significant role in the future. Her conduct, tolerance, composure, and gentle yet firm tone make her a promising and trustworthy leader. Quietly and with dignity, Asifa Bhutto is carrying forward the spiritual, moral, and intellectual legacy of her mother, Shaheed Benazir Bhutto.

Asifa Bhutto Zardari stands among those rare personalities who, through their grace, simplicity, and continuity of family struggle, are earning a place in people's hearts. She may be a reflection, but she is not merely an imitation; she possesses the ability to carve out her own identity. If she enters practical politics with full force, it is certain that a new chapter in Pakistan's political history will be written.

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today.

Following the creation of

Pakistan, East Pakistan consti-

tuted the demographic majority,

yet it remained

consistently marginalized in

political, economic, and

administrative affairs.

Unequal distribution

of resources, intolerance

toward linguistic and

cultural diversity, and centrali-

zed governance policies fos-

tered deep resentment among

the people of East Paki-

stan. The imposition of

Urdu as the sole national

language, denial of

due recognition to the Ben-

gali language, and eco-

nomic neglect widened the

emotional and political gap

between the two wings, gradu-

ally transforming alienation into hostility.

In the aftermath of the tragedy, a new phase of

national consciousness emerged albeit born out of

immense loss. This awakening led to signif-

icant constitutional, political, and intel-

lectual developments. The Constitu-

tion of 1973, with its empha-

sis on federalism, provincial auton-

omy, and fundamental rights, was a direct outcome of

this realization. It reflected an acknowledg-

ment that without correcting past mis-

takes, a stable future could not be secur-

ed.

The fall of Dhaka also taught that a national

narrative cannot be one-dimensional.

A nation is composed of

multiple languages, cul-

tures, and perspectives,

and genuine statecraft lies in

accommodating this diversity. When regions

or communities are treated as inferior or

excluded from decision-making, they begin

to feel detached from the state, a sense of aliena-

tion that can eventually culminate in separation.

In today's context, the fall of Dhaka compels

us to reflect critically on whether its lessons have

been truly learned. Are dissenting voices toler-

ated? Is resource distribution equitable? Are

smaller provinces and margin-

alized groups granted their

rightful place? If the answers to

these questions remain nega-

tive, the tragedy continues to

serve as a warning rather than

a resolved chapter of history.

# Riphah University Hosts Landmark 27th IEEE INMIC 2025 Conference

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Faculty of Computing, Riphah International University (RIU), Islamabad, is hosting the 27th IEEE International Conference on Multi-Topic (INMIC 2025) on December 23 and 24, 2025, reaffirming its commitment to advancing research, innovation, and academic collaboration in emerging areas of computing and technology.

The conference was formally inaugurated by Prof. Dr. Anis Ahmed, Vice Chancellor, Riphah International University, who highlighted the importance of interdisciplinary research and the role of academic institutions in addressing global technological challenges.

The event was honored by the presence of Guests of Honor, including Prof. Dr. Khalid Malik from the University of Michigan-Flint, USA, and Prof. Dr. Syed Irfan Hyder, Vice Chancellor, Salim Habib University, Karachi, whose participation added



significant academic and international value to the conference.

The opening remarks were delivered by Prof. Dr. Muhammad Zubair, who emphasized the critical role of technology in a dynamic, multicultural global environment and stressed the need for collaborative research to

address complex societal challenges.

The conference featured keynote addresses by renowned scholars, including Dr. Mohamed Wien Mkaouer (University of Michigan-Flint, USA) and Prof. Dr. Bernard J. Jansen (Water Computing Research Institute), who shared valuable insights

into current trends and future directions in computing and artificial intelligence.

In addition, Prof. Dr. Noshirwan Shoib, Chair, IEEE Islamabad Section, delivered a special talk focusing on AI-driven technological transformations and their growing impact on the global digital landscape.

A dedicated panel discussion titled "Artificial Intelligence: Opportunities and Challenges" was also held, featuring Prof. Saad Naeem Zafar, Prof. Dr. Yasir Ayyaz, and Prof. Dr. Naveed Ikram as panelists. The session provided an engaging platform for discussion on the practical implications, ethical considerations, and future prospects of artificial intelligence.

According to a press release, the 27th IEEE INMIC 2025 serves as a valuable forum for researchers, faculty members, and professionals to exchange ideas, promote collaboration, and contribute to shaping the future of computing and intelligence.

## Commissioner Multan Inaugurated Three Days Gull-e Dawoodi Flowers Exhibition



Kiran Asim

MULTAN: A Three-Days Annual Gull-e Dawoodi Flowers Exhibition. Hundreds of Thousand Gull-e Dawoodi Flowers. Flowers Exhibition Organized by the Park and Horticulture Agency (PHA) Multan has officially begun at Qila Kahna Qasim Bagh Multan. The Gull-e Dawoodi Annual Flowers Exhibition inaugurated by Commissioner Multan Division Aamir Karim Khan. Deputy Commissioner Multan Noman Siddique and Managing Director Park and Horticulture Agency (PHA) Multan Karim Bakhsh were also present on the occasion.

Speaking at the inaugural ceremony, Commissioner Multan Aamir Karim Khan said that this exhibition of Gull-e Dawoodi flowers will prove to be an excellent source of entertainment for the citizens. He said that the Punjab government is taking vigorous steps to make the cities beautiful as well as promote healthy and positive recreational activities, while flower exhibitions and family festivals are an important link in this regard.

Managing Director Park and Horticulture Agency Multan Karim Bakhsh said that more than twenty-five thousand pots have been placed in the exhibition of Gull-e Dawoodi flowers, which include various types of flowers including Gull-e Dawoodi and Mary Gold. He said that various government departments have also set up flower and other information and entertainment stalls in the exhibition.

According to Additional Commissioner and Acting Director General PHA Multan Karim Bakhsh, a food gala has also been organized for the convenience and entertainment of the citizens of Multan and South-Punjab, while swings and other recreational activities have also been included for children's. He further said that various green belts of the city have been beautifully decorated with daisies and mary gold. MD Horticulture Agency also announced that a wonderful musical night will be organized on the concluding day of the exhibition, which citizens will be able to enjoy to the fullest.

At the end of the ceremony, Commissioner Multan appreciated the efforts of the Horticulture Agency and said that such activities not only enhance the beauty of the city but also provide quality entertainment to the public.

## Mysterious snow in Minsk gets explanation from weather experts



MINSK: Anthropogenic snow has been observed in Minsk. Its origin has been explained by the National Center for Hydrometeorology, Radioactive Pollution Control, and Environmental Monitoring (Belhydromet) under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection, BelTA has learned.

Residents in some districts of the Belarusian capital could see localized winter-white landscapes in late November and December. Specialists clarified that this type of snow is of anthropogenic, or industrial, origin and may contain pollutants.

"Anthropogenic, or industrial, snow is a winter phenomenon where emissions of water vapor, typically from an industrial source, lead to localized snowfall. This local snow can be observed in cities and towns depending on the amount of excess water vapor and local meteorological conditions, provided suitable anticyclonic conditions are present and near permanent local sources of water vapor and air pollution," Belhydromet explained.

This phenomenon is usually associated with cold, stable anticyclonic conditions. "Primarily when ground fog, trapped by an inversion layer, does not dissipate and becomes supersaturated with water vapor. Under these conditions, condensation nuclei, which are the finest suspended particles of industrial pollution like dust, soot, and ash, facilitate the formation of ice crystals and the subsequent precipitation of light snow over a limited area of several square kilometers on the leeward side," the National Center for Hydrometeorology, Radioactive Pollution Control, and Environmental Monitoring said.

As a distinct local meteorological phenomenon, industrial snow has only been recognized in Europe in recent decades.

# Japan Funds New Eye Care Facility in Havelian, Boosting Regional Health Access

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: H. E. Mr. Akamatsu Shuichi, Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan, on Tuesday, 23rd December 2025, inaugurated a project for the construction of eyecare facility in Tehsil Havelian, District Abbottabad. The project was implemented by Lok Sudhar Association, a non-governmental organization working to improve the essential eyecare services for underserved communities in Havelian. The Government of Japan, under its Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP) Program, had provided financial assistance of 51,407 USD which was allocated in 2024 for the construction for eyecare facility and provision of advanced ophthalmology equipment used in the diagnosis of different ophthalmic diseases and cataract surgeries. The inauguration ceremony was attended by the Japanese Embassy officials, NGO board members and local community representatives.

Lok Sudhar Association, with more than twenty five years of experience in community uplift and social sector initiatives, has worked collaboratively with various donors



to deliver impactful projects. This project funded by the Government of Japan, improved the quality of eyecare service in Havelian, especially enabled to access cataract surgery for the first time in this region.

This initiative responds to the pressing medical needs of over 350,000 people in Tehsil Havelian and adjoining areas. After the completion of the project, almost 30,000 patients have undergone treatment and 1,260 cataract surgeries were

operated in this facility in one year. This facility significantly reduces the financial and physical burden on elderly and vulnerable patients who often faced delays in receiving timely medical care.

E. Mr. Akamatsu Shuichi, while speaking at the ceremony, congratulated Lok Sudhar Association on the successful completion of the project. Ambassador Akamatsu emphasized that provision of affordable health facility is the one of the top priorities

in Japan's assistance policy toward Pakistan. Ambassador Akamatsu also highlighted that the access to quality treatment is the basic prerequisite for any nation to achieve social prosperity. Ambassador Akamatsu stressed that Government of Japan would continue to support the people of Pakistan, to improve their living standards and represented his sincere wish that this project would certainly strengthen the longstanding friendship between the people of Japan and Pakistan.

# Al-Shifa surgeons restore vision of 101-year-old patient

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: Al-Shifa Trust surgeons have successfully restored vision to a 101-year-old patient suffering from dense cataracts and age-related macular degeneration (AMD), after multiple specialists had declined the case, citing high medical risks.

Raza Khan, a resident of Islamabad, underwent the high-risk procedure at Al-Shifa Trust Eye Hospital in Rawalpindi. The surgical team, led by Dr. Sabeehdin, used advanced surgical tools and special gels to protect the delicate eye tissues, which is especially important in elderly patients.

The case carried sentimental weight for the institution, as Mr. Khan was a close friend of the late Lieutenant General Jahan Dad Khan, the trust's



witness recovery at this age shows the progress of modern eye care."

Post-operative assessments confirmed a significant breakthrough as the patient has regained sufficient vision to identify family members and navigate his surroundings independently. His recovery marks one of the oldest successful cataract interventions documented in the region.

Al-Shifa Trust currently operates six specialized hospitals across Pakistan, including facilities in Rawalpindi, Chakwal, Kohat, Sukkur, Muzaffarabad, and Gilgit. A seventh hospital is currently under construction in Lahore and is scheduled to begin operations in 2027. According to institutional data, approximately 80 percent of the trust's patients receive treatment free of charge or at

heavily subsidized rates.

The success comes at a critical time for eye health in Pakistan. National Survey data indicate there are roughly 2.7 million blind individuals in the country, with cataracts accounting for 51 percent of those cases. Despite the high prevalence, surgical coverage remains below 65 percent in rural districts, often leaving the elderly in total darkness.

This milestone shines as a testament to the extraordinary growth of complex geriatric interventions within Pakistan's philanthropic healthcare sector. Fueled by the community's generosity, Al-Shifa Trust proudly bridges the gap left by the overstrained public health system, transforming lives through medical excellence.

# KSrelief Concludes 20 Free Eye Treatment Camps Across Pakistan under Noor Saudi Volunteer Initiative 2025

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre (KSrelief) has successfully concluded a series of 20 comprehensive free eye treatment camps across Pakistan under the Noor Saudi Volunteer Initiative 2025. Implemented in collaboration with Al-Basar International Foundation and Al-Ibrahim Eye Hospital, Karachi, the initiative aimed to deliver essential ophthalmic services to underserved and vulnerable communities, particularly those facing financial constraints or limited access to specialized eye care.

The eye camps were strategically organized across urban and remote areas of Sindh, Balochistan, Punjab, and Azad Jammu & Kashmir, ensuring broad geographic coverage and equi-



table access. The initiative focused on early screening, diagnosis, surgical intervention, and vision correction to address preventable and treatable



eye conditions and to enhance overall quality of life.

During the course of implementation, a total of 79,161 patients bene-

fited from outpatient consultations and eye screenings. Of these, 8,085 sight-restoring surgeries, including cataract and other vision-impairing

procedures, were successfully performed by qualified ophthalmic specialists. In addition, 20,096 corrective eyeglasses were distributed free of

cost, along with essential prescribed medications provided on-site.

The camps reached thousands of beneficiaries across multiple districts, prioritizing areas with limited ophthalmologic services and high unmet needs. Through these targeted interventions, KSrelief ensured ensured and life-changing eye care for individuals who otherwise would not have been able to afford or access such services.

This humanitarian initiative reflects the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's strong commitment to global health and humanitarian solidarity, particularly in combating preventable blindness. By restoring sight and improving vision for tens of thousands of people, KSrelief continues to deliver hope, dignity, and improved well-being to communities in need across Pakistan.

# Diplomats, business leaders gather at Ghana Consulate's year-end luncheon



## ■ Naveed Ahmed Khan

ISLAMABAD: Dr. Shahid Rashid Butt, Honorary Consul General of Ghana in Pakistan and a renowned businessman, hosted a gracious year-end luncheon for honorary consuls and dignitaries from across Pakistan at his residence. The event, co-hosted by Vice Consul Omar Shahid Butt, marked the close of diplomatic and consular engagements for the year.

The luncheon was attended by diplomats, senior bureaucrats and leading

business figures, who discussed matters of mutual interest, including politics, the economy, regional stability and trade cooperation. Prominent participants included Ambassador of Morocco Mr. Mohamed Karmoune, Ambassador of Yemen Mohammed Motahar Alshabi, Ambassador Asad Durraini, Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Ambassador Khalid Masud, Ghulib Iqbal, Honorary Consul General of Tunisia Ahmad Rasheed, Honorary Consul General of Lithuania Masud Khan, Saad

Mehmood, Mian Habibullah, Tahseen Syed, Asad Ansari, Assad Saifullah, Faisal Muneeb, Baser Daud, Malik Nadeem, Salman Dar, Faisal Zahid Malik, Choudhary Haroon Naseer, Prof. Dr. Zafar Nawaz Jaspal and Naveed Ahmad Khan.

In his welcoming remarks, Dr. Shahid Rashid Butt expressed gratitude to the guests for attending despite their busy schedules. He said the primary purpose of the gathering was to reconnect with friends and colleagues as the year drew to a close.

Participants said the discussions

focused on the evolving political situation in the region, global economic pressures and opportunities for strengthening economic engagement between Pakistan and Ghana, particularly through trade and private sector collaboration. Views were also exchanged on regional challenges, including inflation, supply chain constraints and access to new markets.

Speaking to the guests, the Ghana Honorary Consul General emphasised the importance of sustained people-to-people and business-to-business

contacts alongside formal diplomatic channels. He noted that Pakistan and Ghana share common challenges and opportunities in areas such as agriculture, energy services and small and medium enterprises, adding that regular engagement could help identify practical avenues for cooperation.

Vice Consul Omar Shahid Butt briefed the participants on planned activities of the Ghanaian Consulate in Pakistan aimed at further strengthening bilateral relations. He said Pakistan's exports to Ghana stood at US\$76.51 million during

2024, according to the United Nations COMTRADE database on international trade. Major export items include salt, sulphur, earth, stone, plaster, lime and cement; beverages, spirits and vinegar; sugars and sugar confectionery; cotton; plastics; electrical and electronic equipment; and pharmaceutical products.

The luncheon concluded with a consensus on prioritising continued economic and trade dialogue to further strengthen Ghana-Pakistan cooperation.

■ Photos Sultan Bashir

## ■ Mathematics, Writing, and Independence

# The Success Story of Renowned Writer Iqra Liaqat

## ■ Tooba Khan

Iqra Liaqat is a talented Pakistani woman who has excelled in education, freelancing, writing, and journalism. With a master's in mathematics, she turned her academic skills into a global freelancing career. She teaches online, assists students, and writes regularly for *Jahangir World Times*. Author of three CSS books, Iqra embodies perseverance, confidence, and multidimensional success.

Q: Who is Iqra Liaqat, and what makes her story inspiring?

A: Iqra Liaqat is a multi-talented Pakistani woman who has excelled as a mathematician, freelancer, author, and columnist. Her journey from a math graduate to an international educator and writer reflects how determination and self-confidence can open many doors for women.

Q: What motivated her to study mathematics?

A: Since childhood, Iqra

found numbers exciting rather than intimidating. While others struggled with math, she treated it like a puzzle. Her love for problem-solving led her to pursue a master's in mathematics, aiming to deepen her understanding and help others appreciate the subject too.

Q: How did her teaching journey begin?

A: Even in school, she enjoyed explaining lessons to her classmates — that was the early sign of her teaching passion. Later, she realized that sharing knowledge could become a lifelong mission.

Q: When and why did she start freelancing?

A: After completing her education, Iqra initially sought traditional teaching jobs but faced difficulties. She then discovered freelancing as a platform where skills could connect her with students worldwide. She began teaching math and statistics online — a decision she now calls



## Q: What is her formula for success in freelancing?

A: Iqra never compromises on quality. She believes in doing every task, big or small, with full dedication. Her consistency and commitment helped her stand out among freelancers.

Q: How does she view freelancing as a career option for youth?

A: She believes freelancing is



a sustainable and independent career path, especially for those who wish to work on their own terms. According to her, the digital age rewards skill and integrity more than traditional structures.

Q: What has been her experience with online teaching?

A: Teaching online has been both exciting and rewarding. She enjoys working with diverse

learners and believes modern students learn best through interactive, visual, and practical approaches. To her, a good online teacher must have patience, clarity, and communication skills.

Q: What inspired her to write books?

A: She noticed a lack of simple and clear books for CSS candidates in math and statistics. To fill that gap, she authored three books and is currently working on two more — written in a style that makes math easy and relatable.

Q: What kind of topics does she cover as a columnist?

A: Iqra regularly writes for *Jahangir World Times*, focusing on education, women's empowerment, and youth development. She aims to provoke thought and encourage positive change through her writing.

Q: What message does she have for young women?

A: "Don't let fear hold you back. Take the first step with courage — success will follow. Keep learning, keep growing, and believe in your potential."

Q: What are her future goals?

A: Iqra plans to expand her online learning platform and explore educational technology to modernize the learning experience. She also intends to continue writing books that make mathematics both useful and enjoyable.

# Cleft Hospital Pakistan: A Shared Asset of Humanity

## ■ Hussain Raza

Cleft Hospital Pakistan, officially Ayesha Bashir Trust Hospital, is more than a medical facility—it is a shared human necessity addressing a global challenge. Mirza Hamza Ijaz, its Director General, explains that one in every 1,000 to 1,500 newborns worldwide is born with a cleft lip or cleft palate. "This is not a problem of one country or nation. It is a humanitarian challenge faced by the world as a whole," he notes.

Recognizing this, Cleft Hospital Pakistan serves patients from across

the globe, including India and Afghanistan, provided they come through legal channels. The hospital welcomes everyone without regard to nationality, background, or social status, reflecting a commitment shared by its donors, volunteer transnational cleft team, and dedicated staff. "We see only a patient in need," says Mirza Hamza Ijaz, highlighting the institution's principle of non-discrimination.

Financial barriers are addressed carefully. Patients unable to afford treatment are assessed for support through zakat, charity, or donations, ensuring care is entirely free

when needed. Importantly, sponsored patients receive the same high-quality treatment as those who pay, maintaining the hospital's commitment to excellence.

For decades, the hospital provided fully free treatment, helping thousands. However, this created challenges, as some patients who could afford care initially underestimated the hospital's quality and sought treatment at temporary, poorly equipped cleft camps, returning later only after substandard results required correction. To address sustainability, the hospital now offers a mix of full-pay-

ment, subsidized, and free treatments. Contributions from those who can afford care support care for the truly deserving, balancing financial viability with the hospital's humanitarian mission.

Operating from a permanent, fully equipped facility, Cleft Hospital Pakistan remains accessible 24/7. Dignity is central to its ethos; all patients, whether paying or sponsored, are treated equally. Medical and administrative staff focus solely on delivering the best care, without knowledge of a patient's financial category.

Mirza Hamza Ijaz attributes the

hospital's success to its dedicated team, whose professionalism, compassion, and commitment make it a place where medical excellence and human dignity go hand in hand. Open to all, the hospital stands as a beacon of humanitarian healthcare, demonstrating how specialized medical care can be both world-class and universally accessible.

Cleft Hospital Pakistan exemplifies how expertise, compassion, and a patient-centered approach can transform lives across nations, proving that healthcare can transcend borders while remaining deeply humane.



Mirza Hamza Ijaz Bashir

Wednesday, December 24, 2025

# Zardari Meets Karbala Governor, Highlights Cultural Ties During Iraq Visit

## Spokesman Report

KARBALA: Governor of Karbala, Dr Nsayif Jassim Al-Khatabi, hosted a lunch in honour of President Asif Ali Zardari today.

Discussions focused on areas of mutual interest including cultural exchange, tourism, and the protection of historical sites.

The President expressed appreciation for the warm reception and emphasised the importance of sustained collaboration between the two countries.

President Zardari noted that it was a matter of great honour to be in a city that hosts some of the most revered places in Islam.

The Iraq visit is part of President Zardari's broader efforts to strengthen diplomatic, cultural, and people-to-people ties in the region.

Senator Sherry Rehman; Senator Saleem Mandiwala; Sardar Saleem Haider Khan, Governor Punjab, Senior Minister Sindh Sharjeel Memon, Sindh Minister Syed Nasir Hussain Shah and Pakistan's Ambassador to Iraq accompanied the President.

President Asif Ali Zardari, who is on a four-day official visit to Iraq, on Tuesday



paid respects at the holy shrine of Hazrat Ali (Razi Allah-o-Talaa Anho), in Najaf

city where he also offered fateha at the shrine.

He also paid respects at the house attributed to Hazrat Ali (Razi Allah-o-



Talaa Anho) in Kufa.

authorities were also present in these meetings. The President prayed for peace, unity and harmony of Muslim Ummah at Najaf and Kufa.

## Meezan Bank Advances Shariah-Compliant Corporate Practices Through Advisory Support to Stylers International Limited

### Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Meezan Bank, Pakistan's leading Islamic bank and one of the largest banks in the country, has provided Shariah Technical Services and Advisory Support to Stylers International Limited (SIL), a company listed at Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX), enabling it to obtain Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan's (SECP) Shariah Compliance Certificate under the Shariah Governance Regulations, 2023 (SGR). This milestone places SIL among a select group of PSX-listed companies certified as Shariah-compliant.

Through its Shariah Advisory Unit, Meezan Bank reviewed and aligned SIL's constitutive documents, internal policies and operational frameworks in accordance with the requirements of the SGR.

The review covered key functional areas, including human resources, finance, operations, marketing, procurement, and corporate governance, ensuring comprehensive adherence to Shariah-compliant practices.

The Bank also conducted a Shariah screening of SIL's audited financial statements for the year ended June 30, 2025, confirming nil exposure to interest-bearing debt, Shariah non-compliant investments, and impermissible income.

Currently, Meezan Bank is acting as SIL's Shariah compliance function, providing ongoing support through continuous Shariah monitoring, periodic compliance reviews, day-to-day advisory on business operations and capacity-building initiatives including structured training programs. This engagement is designed to ensure sustainability

and effectiveness of SIL's Shariah-compliance framework across all areas of its operations.

Syed Tariq Ali, Head of Investment Banking & Shariah Advisory at Meezan Bank, said: "Meezan Bank is pleased to have supported Stylers International Limited in obtaining Shariah compliance certification from the SECP. This collaboration reflects the Bank's commitment to advancing Shariah-compliant corporate practices in Pakistan and supporting listed companies in adopting robust, transparent Shariah governance frameworks that contribute to the sustainable growth of Islamic finance."

Javed Arshad Bhatti, Chairman/Director at Stylers International Limited, added: "Alhamdulillah, it is with deep humility and gratitude that I share a milestone very close to my heart, Stylers

International Limited (SIL) has been accredited as Shariah Compliant by the SECP under the SGR. This places SIL among a select group of listed companies in Pakistan that are aligned with Shariah principles; a responsibility we embrace with sincerity and purpose.

For me and everyone at SIL, Shariah compliance is not just a requirement; it is a guiding beacon for lasting success. In partnership with Meezan Bank, this accreditation strengthens our resolve to uphold ethical, transparent and faith-aligned practices in every aspect of our work.

This recognition is truly a reflection of our team's dedication, hard work and shared belief that barakah comes from walking the right path. May Allah allow us to build on this foundation with integrity and excellence."

### NUML Hosts Two-Day NEXUS 25

## Job Fair, Innovation Showcase and Industry Dialogue Highlight Future-Ready Education

### City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The National University of Modern Languages (NUML), through its Placement Centre, successfully organized NEXUS 25, a two-day flagship career and innovation event at the NUML main campus Islamabad, bringing together industry leaders, academia, researchers, and students to strengthen industry-academia linkages and promote employability, innovation, and future skills.

Day One of NEXUS 25 featured the NUML Job Fair, which attracted 73 leading national and multinational organizations from diverse sectors including technology, banking and finance, real estate, media, education, and corporate services. Renowned organizations such as Huawei, United Bank Limited (UBL), Askari Bank, MG Rawalpindi, AlberuniTech, Khyber Network, Agency 21, Kay2, SKANS, and Imarat Group, among others, participated in the event.

The job fair was inaugurated by the Chief Guest, Dr Noor Amna Malik, Managing Director, National Academy of Higher Education (NAHE), along with Rector NUML, Major General (r) Shahid Mehmood Kiani, HI(M). The ceremony was attended by Pro-Rector Research and Strategic Initiatives, Prof Dr Muhammad Saifeer Awan, Head Placement Centre, Dr Zohaib Ahmed, deans, directors, faculty members, industry representatives, and a large number of students.

Addressing the gathering, Dr Noor



Amna Malik emphasized the importance of structured industry engagement, employability-oriented education, and continuous skills development to prepare graduates for the evolving job market. The Rector NUML reiterated the university's commitment to bridging the gap between academia and industry through strategic initiatives and career-oriented

platforms such as NEXUS 25. The job fair provided students and alumni with opportunities for on-the-spot interviews, career counselling, and professional networking, reinforcing NUML's role in producing industry-ready graduates.

Day Two of NEXUS 25 focused on innovation, research, and future discourse, highlighted by an Inter-University Final Year Project (FYP) Competition. Students from leading institutions, including Bahria University, Institute of Space Technology (IST), FAST National University, and Capital University of Science and Technology (CUST), showcased more than 70 final year projects spanning technological advancement, applied research, and innovation. The projects were evaluated by a panel of IT industry experts to ensure practical relevance and industry alignment.

The top three teams were awarded shields, certificates, cash prizes, and gift hampers in recognition of their outstanding innovation and technical excellence.

The second day was graced by the

Chief Guest, Dr Khalid Mehmood, Director General, National Agriculture Research Centre (NARC), along with Director General NUML, Brigadier Muhammad Rafiq Khan, Pro-Rector Prof Dr Muhammad Saifeer Awan, Head Placement Centre Dr Zohaib Ahmed, and NUML's deans and directors.

A special "NEXUS 25 Round Table" talk show was also recorded during the event on the theme: "Future Skills for a Tech-Driven World-Where AI Meets Human Psychology". Distinguished speakers Dr Faiz Ahmad (USA) and Ms Farah Hina (University of Cambridge, UK) shared expert insights on the intersection of artificial intelligence, human behaviour, and the emerging skills required for future careers.

NEXUS 25 concluded as a comprehensive platform that underscored NUML's commitment to enhancing graduate employability, promoting inter-university collaboration, encouraging innovation, and preparing students to thrive in a rapidly evolving, technology-driven global landscape.

## Appie Farms beat Pak Saudi in Wing 999 Inter Departmental Cricket League

### Sports Desk

KARACHI: Appie Farms thrilling 2 Wickets victory against Pak Saudi International in the Wing 999 Inter Departmental Cricket League Tournament at CAA Cricket Stadium. The highlights of the day's play was brilliant Centuries by Saifullah Khan 143, Fahad Ahmed unbeaten 111 and equally good batting by Isam Hanif 95 and Shayan Ahmed 80. The Tournament is being organized by Regional Cricket Association Karachi with the collaboration of Wing 999 Sports.

### Scores in Brief:

Appie Farms beat Pak Saudi International by 2 Wickets at CAA Cricket Stadium. Pak Saudi International 303/3 in 40 overs. Saifullah Khan 143 14x4 10x6, Fahad Ahmed 111 9x4 4x6 not out, Ali Hassan 21 not out. In reply Appie Farms 313/8 in 39.2 overs. Isam Hanif 95 11x4 7x6, Shayan Ahmed 80 7x4 1x6, Zeehan Iqbal 27, Muhammad Abuzar 23, Abdul Jalil 22, Danish Iqbal 21, Nadir Ali (ska) 2/48. Fixture for Wednesday 24th December. Paki Stallions vs Custom Academy at CAA Stadium.

## Jealousy's Destructive Nature: Religious Scholar Cites Habil and Qabil in Sermon

### City Desk

RAWALPINDI: Allama Syed Riaz Hussain Shah, Patron-in-Chief of Idara Taleemat-e-Islama Pakistan, said that jealousy devastates a person from within, a reality rooted in the history of Habil and Qabil. He said that elevated words are better than a loud voice, but greater than both is the person whose actions are elevated, and that our conduct should reflect the fragrance of the Sunnah of the Holy Prophet ﷺ.



He expressed these views while addressing a gathering held in connection with a Dars-e-Quran, which began with the recitation of the Holy Quran and Naat-e-Rasool ﷺ. The hosting duties were performed by Sheikh Muhammad Qasim, Deputy Director, while participants described the Dars-e-Quran as a source of inner peace and a beacon of guidance.

In his address, Allama Syed Riaz Hussain Shah referred to Tafsir-e-Ishari, mentioning Ibn Arabi (RA), Allama Baghi (RA), and other eminent scholars, and explained that symbolic indications in Quranic interpretation highlight the awe of the Day of Judgment. He quoted Khwaja Abdul Khaliq Ghijduwanī (RA), stating that knowledge grants light but can become a danger without sincerity and righteous action, leading to greed and jealousy.

## Arif Habib consortium acquires PIA with Rs135bn bid

### Continued from Page 1

As per the transaction structure, 92.5% of the proceeds from the sale of the 75% stake will be reinvested into PIA, while 7.5% will be transferred to the federal government, with the stated aim of prioritising the airline's revival and long-term sustainability.

The Arif Habib consortium

comprises Arif Habib Corporation Limited, Fatima Fertilizer Company Limited, The City School (Pvt) Ltd and Lake City Holdings (Pvt) Ltd. The rival consortium includes Lucky Cement Limited, Hub Power Holdings Limited, Kohat Cement Company Limited and Metro Ventures (Pvt) Ltd.

Officials said the live broadcast of the bidding process was intended to ensure transparency and keep the public informed about the privatisation of the national carrier.

## PM invites UAE investments in Pakistan

### Continued from Page 8

The prime minister extended a warm welcome to Amb. Al Zaabi and congratulated him on his recent appointment.

Ambassador Al Zaabi thanked the prime minister for receiving him and conveyed the greetings and best wishes from President

of the UAE Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

He reaffirmed the UAE's firm resolve and keen interest to deepen its partnership with Pakistan across all spheres and assured the prime minister that he would work hard to explore new avenues for cooperation that would benefit both nations.



## Call on

ISLAMABAD: H.E. Salem Mohammed Salem Al Bawab Al Zaabi, Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates to Pakistan calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday.



Photo: PID

## PM invites UAE investments in Pakistan's key sectors for economic growth

## City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Tuesday, emphasized Pakistan's strong and abiding commitment to further strengthening its relations with the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and invited increased UAE investments in key sectors to support Pakistan's economic growth and stability.

The prime minister expressed these views during a meeting with Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to Pakistan Salem Mohammed Salem Al Bawab Al Zaabi who paid a courtesy call him at the PM House.

The prime minister was assisted by SAPM Tariq Fatemi and Foreign Secretary Amna Baloch, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

During the meeting, the prime minister expressed Pakistan's deep appreciation for the longstanding and brotherly relations between Pakistan and the UAE, highlighting the strong bonds of friendship, mutual respect, and close cooperation that have defined Pakistan-UAE bilateral ties for the past many decades.

Expressing his satisfaction at the volume of bilateral trade between the two sides, he further highlighted the need for both sides to focus on enhancing economic ties, trade, investment opportunities, and collaboration in areas such as energy, minerals, IT, railways and aviation.

He also acknowledged the UAE's consistent support for Pakistan in times of need, including humanitarian assistance and developmental projects.

While conveying his warm regards and best wishes for the UAE leadership, the prime minister said that he looked forward to the upcoming visit of President of the UAE and Ruler of Abu Dhabi Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan to Pakistan.

*Continued on Page 7*

## Islamabad court orders Rs5.41 billion compensation for Airblue Flight 202 victims

## Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: A district and sessions court in Islamabad on Tuesday ordered compensation for the families of victims of the Airblue Flight 202 crash of July 28, 2010, delivering a key verdict after years of prolonged legal proceedings.

The court dismissed all eight appeals filed by the private airline and ordered Airblue to pay compensation amounting to Rs5.41 billion.

It also imposed a fine of Rs100,000 on the airline for wasting judicial time and filing frivolous petitions.

The written verdict was issued by Additional District and Sessions Judge Rasool Bakhsh.

The victims' families had initially challenged the decision of a civil judge, with the case later taken up by the high court.

The high court subsequently referred the matter back to the



jurisdiction of the sessions court for adjudication.

According to investigations by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), the crash fell under the category of Controlled Flight

into Terrain (CFIT).

The probe concluded that the flight crew violated safety procedures during landing in poor weather conditions and brought the aircraft to an unsafe

low altitude.

Airblue Flight 202 was a domestic passenger service from Karachi to Islamabad.

The aircraft crashed into the

Margalla Hills while attempting to land at Benazir Bhutto International Airport, killing 146 passengers and six crew members. The crash remains the deadliest air disaster in the country's history.

## NAB Chairman Distributes Rs. 186 Million Among Affectees in Suzuki Sialkot Motors Case

## Commerce Desk

LAHORE: Chairman, National Accountability Bureau (NAB), Lt. Gen. (R) Nazir Ahmed, visited NAB Lahore and presided over a special cheque distribution ceremony for affectees of the Suzuki Sialkot Motors case, involving cheating of the public at large. During the ceremony, an amount of Rs. 186.188 million was distributed among 136 claimants under the supervision of Mirza Faran Baig DG NAB Lahore.

The recovered amount was obtained through the plea bargain mechanism, reflecting NAB's effective accounta-

bility framework for recovery of looted public money. At present, 50 percent of the recovered amount has been distributed among the verified claimants, while the remaining 50 percent will be disbursed shortly, following completion of procedural formalities.

While addressing the ceremony, the worthy Chairman NAB reiterated NAB's firm commitment to ensuring swift recovery and transparent disbursement of funds to victims of financial crimes. He directed the concerned officers to expedite the remaining recovery and disbursement process in all cases pertaining to cheating of the public at large, so that

justice may be delivered without delay. Chairman NAB also sought comprehensive progress reports on ongoing investigations, emphasizing the importance of identifying challenges faced by affectees and ensuring timely restitution of recovered amounts. He reaffirmed NAB's resolve to uphold accountability, transparency and public trust through proactive and victim-centered approaches.

In line with the vision of Chairman NAB, Director General NAB Lahore Mr. Mirza Faran Baig, highlighted the commendable performance of NAB Lahore. He informed that during the year 2025, more than 6000 complaints

were received, out of which 98 percent were successfully resolved. Furthermore, NAB Lahore has so far redressed the grievances of around 21000 affectees, which reflects the Bureau's effective enforcement and recovery efforts.

DG NAB Lahore also reaffirmed the Bureau's zero-tolerance policy against individuals involved in defrauding the public and emphasized NAB Lahore's continued focus on transparency, efficiency and public facilitation. Participants at the ceremony appreciated the proactive measures undertaken by NAB Lahore under the leadership of Chairman NAB.

committee about the steps taken by the government to meet the criteria prescribed by the European Union (EU) for continuation of GSP Plus status.

He also shared details relating to the recent visit of the EU Review Mission to Pakistan.

The meeting was attended by ministers of law and commerce; SAPM Tariq Bajwa; federal secretaries of foreign affairs, commerce, human rights, law, climate change and overseas Pakistanis; other heads of federal and provincial departments and senior government officials, including Pakistan embassy in Brussels which attended the meeting via Zoom.

## City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Tuesday directed all the ministries and departments concerned to implement the government policies in letter and spirit for the continuation of GSP Plus status.

He also shared details relating to the recent visit of the EU Review Mission to Pakistan.

The meeting was attended by ministers of law and commerce; SAPM Tariq Bajwa; federal secretaries of foreign affairs, commerce, human rights, law, climate change and overseas Pakistanis; other heads of federal and provincial departments and senior government officials, including Pakistan embassy in Brussels which attended the meeting via Zoom.

## Maryam says ownership law was meant to protect citizens

## Bureau Report

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz has reacted after the Lahore High Court (LHC) ordered a suspension of the Punjab Protection of Ownership Ordinance 2025, halting its implementation until further hearings.

The order was issued by Chief Justice of the Lahore High Court, Justice Aalia Neelum, while hearing petitions filed by Abida Parveen and other applicants.

After addressing preliminary objections, the court recommended the formation of a full bench to hear the matter.

During Monday's hearing, the Punjab Chief Secretary appeared before the court.

The chief justice strongly criticised the provincial government, remarking that if the law were allowed to continue, even Jati Umra (residence of the Sharif family) could be vacated within half an hour.

Justice Neelum observed that the



ordinance ignored citizens' fundamental rights and undermined judicial authority, questioning how a revenue officer could order possession in cases already pending before civil courts.

She also asked what purpose the law was meant to serve.

Responding to the court's order, Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz said the ordinance had been enacted to help millions of Punjab residents who had suffered for decades, and that its suspension would benefit the land grabbers and qabza mafia.

She said the Punjab Assembly had passed the law to rid the public of land mafias, warning that people would view the suspension as backing for encroachers.