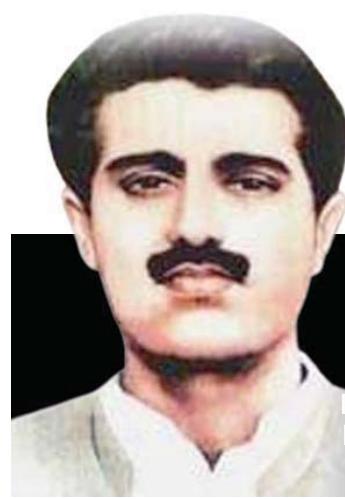




Daily The Spokesman



Shaheed Maqbool Bhat to be remembered on 42nd martyrdom anniversary

All is set to commemorate the 42nd martyrdom anniversary of veteran leader of Kashmir Freedom Movement, Muhammad Maqbool Butt shaheed at both sides of the Line of Control (LoC) including Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) and Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IOJK) and rest of the world, where Kashmiris are living in.



Akram Sahi returns Pakistan from Asian Indoor Athletics C'ship

Vice President of the Asian Athletics Federation Maj. Gen. (R) Muhammad Akram Sahi, has returned to Pakistan after participating in the 12th Asian Indoor Athletics Championship in China. The Asian Athletics Federation had appointed him as the Event Organization Delegate for the championship, said a press release.

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Sha'abanul Moazzam 22, Wednesday, February 11, 2026 www.dailyspokesman.net [@daily_spokesman](https://www.facebook.com/daily_spokesman) [f](https://www.facebook.com/dailyspokesman) Daily Spokesman Vol: 19, Issue: 297 Price Rs. 25.00 Pages 8

License Awarding ceremony

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif awarding license of 3rd Digital Retail Bank for Raqami Islamic Bank to Chairman Mr. Abdullah Al-Mutairi on Tuesday.



Photo: PID

Raqami Bank licensing to promote banking sector, strengthen Pak-Kuwait ties: PM

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday called the issuance of a digital banking licence to Raqami Islamic Digital Bank a major milestone for Pakistan's banking sector said that it would also prove to be a significant step toward strengthening Pakistan-Kuwait economic cooperation.

Addressing the digital

licensing award ceremony, the prime minister said Pakistan and Kuwait enjoyed decades-long brotherly political relations that must now be translated into stronger investment, trade, and economic cooperation.

He congratulated the chairman of the Raqami board and relevant authorities on the issuance of the licence, and handed over the digital banking licence to Chairman Abdullah

Al-Mutairi during the ceremony.

"Pakistan and Kuwait share strong cultural, political, and people-to-people ties. It is now time to further strengthen our economic and investment relations so that this partnership grows from strength to strength," the prime minister said.

He said the issuance of the digital banking licence would

help promote the banking sector in Pakistan, adding that transforming political ties into economic cooperation was of key importance.

The prime minister expressed commitment to working closely with the Kuwaiti leadership to advance economic partnership and achieve shared goals of development and prosperity.

Speaking on the occasion, CEO of Raqami Islamic Digital

Bank Umair Ijaz said the bank was committed to promoting Shariah-compliant banking, adding that Raqami's digital services would mark an important step toward a cashless economy in Pakistan.

He said the commercial license was a key milestone and the bank aimed to enhance financial inclusion and provide opportunities for growth across all segments of society.

AI key to climate governance, disaster preparedness: Musadik Malik

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination Dr Musadik Malik on Tuesday highlighted the growing importance of artificial intelligence (AI) in climate governance, public poli-

cy and disaster risk management, stressing its predictive and preventive potential.

Speaking at the National Artificial Intelligence Workshop, the minister said AI could help address Pakistan's challenges related to fragmented and limited data, which often hinder

effective policymaking. He noted that AI-driven modelling could support targeted interventions, particularly in climate-vulnerable regions.

Referring to the Pakistan Vulnerability Report, Dr Malik said 20 districts had been iden-

tified as highly vulnerable to climate risks, including 18 in Balochistan and two in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Such assessments, he added, enable policymakers to prioritise resources where they are needed most.

The minister said AI integration with monitoring systems

could improve early disaster detection and response, allowing preventive action before significant damage occurs. However, he cautioned against overreliance on AI, warning it could weaken human judgement and critical thinking if not used responsibly.

th: vation to Integrate – present

Barrister Danyal champions safe digital spaces as pillar of Pakistan's AI future

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Parliamentary Secretary Barrister Danyal Chaudhry urged on Tuesday at the Pakistan Institute for Parliamentary Services (PIPS) National Child Convention here to blend

child online safety with the Prime Minister bold 1 billion dollar AI ecosystem by 2030.

He keynote that youth digital havens form the core of national tech progress through stronger laws and youth voices in decisions. In his speech, Barrister Danyal

presented digital safety not as limits but vital support for young minds a key national goal.

He rejected total digital bans, pushing smart guidance instead: "Avoid strict blocks that cut learning and free speech rights we offer guided protection as the

lasting fix."

He outlined real dangers cyberbullying, harmful content, deep-fakes, and online attacks needing joint action from parents, teachers, regulators, and tech firms.

The Parliamentary Secretary promised tougher legal shields

against new AI threats and held platforms accountable. Central was his vow to include children views in policies, building a digital world with them, not just for them.

He ended calling young users to practice safe online habits and report odd activities.

Political talks better than confrontation as PTI narrative falters: Huzaifa Rehman says

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for National Heritage and Culture Huzaifa Rehman on Tuesday criticized PTI Chairman Imran Khan, saying the public has rejected PTI's narrative and that political popu-

larity cannot be measured through false comparisons, adding that dialogue remains a better option than politics of anarchy.

While speaking to a local news channel, Minister Huzaifa Rehman commented on recent political developments, noting that the

recent protest was comparatively more constructive than PTI's past demonstrations, which he described as being rooted in anarchy. He observed, however, that the recent gathering did not attract a significant turnout and emphasized that there were no records indicating

comparable public support in previous PTI protests.

Huzaifa Rehman further stressed that every political party has its own political standing, influence and popularity, which cannot be directly compared, underscoring the need for dialogue and

and constructive engagement rather than disruptive politics.

He further criticized PTI Chairman Imran Khan for his politics, attacks on state institutions and what he described as an uncivilized narrative, which, he said, has now been rejected by the public. Huzaifa Rehman added that the public is instead supporting a narrative focused on those working for the welfare of the people, emphasizing constructive politics and dialogue over confrontation and anarchy.

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسوی
فرمان رسوی
تمہارے عہد میں یہاں کیا ہے
مبارکہ خیریتی میونسپل سے درجات کرے
تین مورچی سے ہوا ملک میں ملکے ہو
لچک پسے مددی کر کے گیا ہے
لچک پسے مددی کر کے گیا ہے
کرم اکرم پیغمبر اکرم نے گیا ہے
میرا خوب یہ شہر گیا ہے
عین چلے گیا ہے
(6180) ۰۳۱۰۰۰۰۰۰۰۰

Barkat Rice Mills (Pvt) Limited

Akram Sahi returns Pakistan from Asian Indoor Athletics C'ship

Vice President of the Asian Athletics Federation Maj. Gen. (R) Muhammad Akram Sahi, has returned to Pakistan after participating in the 12th Asian Indoor Athletics Championship in China. The Asian Athletics Federation had appointed him as the Event Organization Delegate for the championship, said a press release.

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

DPM Dar welcomes Indonesian delegation



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Tuesday welcomed Indonesian Minister for Investment and Downstream Industry and Chief Executive Officer of the Indonesian Sovereign Wealth Fund Danantara, Rosan Roeslani, along with his delegation, reaffirming the two countries' commitment to expanding bilateral cooperation across multiple sectors.

The deputy prime minister also introduced members of the Pakistani side, including Federal Minister for National Health Services Syed Mustafa Kamal, Minister of State for Investment Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister Tariq Bajwa, and senior officials from relevant ministries.

Indonesian Minister Roeslani thanked the deputy prime minister for the warm hospitality and arrangements, saying he had been directed by the Indonesian president to engage with Pakistan's leadership and stakeholders to further strengthen collaboration. He said Indonesia firmly believed that significant unexplored potential existed between the two nations.

Addressing the opening session in his welcome note, DPM Dar said the visit was timely and pertinent, coming soon after the recent presidential-level exchanges between Pakistan and Indonesia, during which wide-ranging and productive discussions were held. He noted that both sides had engaged in agriculture, information technology, and

Around 1,100 Pakistani students return from Afghanistan: NA told

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Dr Tariq Fazal Chaudhary on Tuesday informed the National Assembly that around 1,100 Pakistani students have already returned home following the closure of the Pakistan-Afghanistan border.



possible facilitation to ensure their safety and eventual return.

He said that most of the students are enrolled in medical colleges in Kabul and Jalalabad and are continuing their studies.

He clarified that they are not stranded at border points.

The minister said that 947 Pakistani students are currently still in Afghanistan. He added that the Pakistani Embassy remains in constant contact with them and is providing all

possible facilitation to ensure their safety and eventual return.

Govt moves to ease Industrial taxes, rolls out policies ahead of upcoming budget: Haroon Akhtar

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Industries and Production, Haroon Akhtar Khan Tuesday revealed the government will approach the IMF for tax relief, noting that current taxes are hindering industrial growth, while new policies for mobiles, solar, tractors and batteries are being rolled out and talks with Russian companies are underway.

Khan noted that consultations with relevant stakeholders and international partners including Russia are underway to ensure that forthcoming budgetary measures support sustainable industrial development.

AJK Chief Secretary chairs high-level review meeting for Overseas Convention

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: A high-level meeting was held under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary, Government of Azad Jammu & Kashmir, Khushhal Khan, to review arrangements for the Overseas Convention. The meeting discussed in detail the administrative, logistical, and other related matters concerning the convention.

The Chief Secretary Khushhal Khan stated that the Overseas Convention, being organized by the Government of Azad Kashmir in collaboration with the Overseas Pakistanis Foundation, is a very important event for Azad Kashmir. It aims to inform overseas Kashmiris about the state's development, investment opportunities, and the facilities being provided by the government to investors. He emphasized that all departments must work day and night with mutual cooperation, coordinated strategy, and teamwork to make the convention successful.

The meeting was attended by



Additional Chief Secretary (General) Zaheeruddin Qureshi; Senior Member Board of Revenue Sardar Muhammad Zafar Khan; Secretary Services & General Administration Chaudhry Imtiaz Ahmed; Secretary Law Dr. Muhammad Idrees Abbasi; Secretary Finance Hassan Masood; Secretary Energy & Water Resources Chaudhry Muhammad Tayyab; Secretary Information & IT Muhammad

Rashid Hanif; Secretary Industries Sardar Adnan Khurshid; Secretary Tourism & Sports Ansar Yaqoob; Secretary Planning & Development Chaudhry Muhammad Raheeb; Secretary Kashmir Cause Syed Shahid Mohiuddin Qadri; Secretary Physical Planning & Housing Khalid Mahmood Mirza; Secretary Forests Chaudhry Muhammad Fareed; Secretary Communications

& Works Khawaja Muhammad Naeem Basmal; Secretary Inland Revenue Khawaja Abdul Rehman; Secretary Agriculture & Livestock Wajahat Rasheed Baig; Special Secretary Interior Shaukat Yousaf Yousafzai; and Director Public Relations Muhammad Bashir Mirza. President, AJK Chamber of Commerce, Umar Shahzad Jarral, participated via video link.

Heavy snowfall

NATHIAGALI: Tourist vehicles stranded on Murree Road during heavy snowfall.



Photo: Online

Bhat and Guru immortal heroes of freedom struggle: Altaf Wani

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Senior Vice Chairman Jammu Kashmir National Front Altaf Hussain Wani has described Shaheed Muhammad Maqbool Bhat and Shaheed Muhammad Afzal Guru as immortal heroes of the Kashmiri's freedom struggle.

In a statement issued here today, Wani while highlighting their supreme sacrifices, said that these martyrs gave a new direction to the freedom struggle and have emerged as heroes for resist-

ance struggle.

"February 9 and 11, which mark the martyrdom anniversaries of these martyrs, are being observed by Kashmiris with solemn pledge to fulfill their mission", he added.

Reiterating his party's demand of returning the mortal remains of both martyrs, the Front leader said, "No law in the world justifies harboring enmity toward the slain or depriving victims' heirs of their right to a dignified burial for their loved ones, who were made scapegoats by the Indian state solely to

satisfy the so-called conscience of the nation".

Paying tributes to Shaheed Afzal Guru (RA), Wani termed the hanging of Shaheed Afzal Guru as "murder of law and justice".

He said Indian Supreme Court's judgment that Afzal Guru was hanged to satisfy the collective conscience of the nation is a shame to humanity.

Paying homage to Shaheed Maqbool Bhat, he said, "Hanging of Bhat is an unforgettable tragedy of human history."

"He was sent to the gallows

without being provided justice but his martyrdom gave rise to thousands of Maqbools in Kashmir", he said, adding that revered martyr's life long struggle and sacrifices had been a great source of inspiration for Kashmiris especially the younger generation that has been at the forefront of the resistance struggle for the past several decades.

Reiterating Kashmiris' pledge to uphold the mission of martyrs, the National Front leader said that the ongoing liberation struggle would continue despite all odds.

NDU War Course Delegates Meet AJK Acting President, Discuss Kashmir

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: A high-level delegation comprising 47 participants of the War Course along with 8 faculty members of the National Security and War Course, National Defence University (NDU) Islamabad, visited the Aiwan-e-Sadr, Muzaffarabad, and met with the Acting President of Azad Jammu & Kashmir, Chaudhry Latif Akbar. The delegation was accord-

ed a warm welcome upon arrival at the Presidential Secretariat, where a formal ceremony was also held.

The ceremony was attended by the Most Senior Minister/Minister for Law Mian Abdul Waheed; Minister for Finance Qasim Majeed; Chief Secretary AJK Khushhal Khan; Additional Chief Secretary Zaheer Qureshi; Senior Member Board of Revenue Zafar Khan; Secretary Information & IT Muhammad Rashid Hanif; Secre-

tary Services & General Administration Chaudhry Tayyab, along with other senior officials.

Addressing the ceremony, Acting President AJK Chaudhry Latif Akbar stated that the Kashmir issue holds fundamental importance for the establishment of lasting peace and stability in South Asia. He emphasized that a just and durable resolution of the Kashmir dispute, in accordance with the United Nations resolutions, is

indispensable.

Later, Chief Instructor Allied Officers Division, National Defence University Islamabad, Air Vice Marshal Aamir Munir, thanked the Government of Azad Kashmir on behalf of the delegation and appreciated the state's administrative structure, development initiatives, and governance. At the conclusion of the ceremony, commemorative shields were exchanged.



Ashrafi asserts terrorists have no link to Islam, urges national unity



RAWALPINDI: Prime Minister's Coordinator for Religious Harmony Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi on Tuesday said terrorists had no connection to Islam and called on the nation to unite against extremism.

Speaking at the 'Paigham-e-Pakistan Conference' here, attended by scholars, religious leaders and representatives of various institutions, he condemned attacks on mosques, places of worship, women and children as acts of cowardice. "Those targeting sites associated with Hazrat Khadija al-Kubra (RA), Islam's first believer and supporter, are clearly enemies of Islam," Ashrafi, who is also Chairman of the Pakistan Ulema Council and Coordinator of Paigham-e-Pakistan, said.

He cited the Quran, emphasising that anyone who unlawfully kills a believer is condemned to hell, adding that "terrorists' actions are incompatible with Islamic teachings".

Referring to the wounded victims at PIMS hospital, he said, "We may be weak, but Allah Almighty is not," drawing parallels with historical assaults on the Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him), Hazrat Umar (RA) and Hazrat Ali (RA) during prayers.

Ashrafi noted that the recent terror attack on the worshippers at Islamabad's Tarai mosque had united the nation, with victims showing courage and resilience.

He warned that forces in India, Israel and Afghanistan were involved in stirring unrest in Pakistan. "Terrorists are being trained in Afghanistan and supplied with weapons for attacks here," he said, stressing that Pakistan would counter internal threats but not tolerate destabilisation on its soil.

He added that investigations into mosque security were ongoing and that police officers had also been martyred or injured during operations against facilitators of terrorism. The Prime Minister has instructed the Federal Health Minister to personally oversee treatment of the wounded, he added.

Ashrafi urged all religious scholars to adhere to the "Paigham-e-Pakistan code of conduct", warning against hate speech targeting any sect. Misuse of positions of authority within mosques would not be tolerated, and violators would receive no support or protection.

At the conclusion of the conference, the participants offered special prayers for the martyrs and wounded of the Khadija al-Kubra Mosque attack.

University of Kashmir Staff launch total boycott over unpaid salary hikes

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: Employees of the University of Azad Jammu & Kashmir, Muzaffarabad, have reached the limit of their patience over the non-payment of the government-approved increase in salaries and pensions for the year 2025. The Administrative Staff Association and the Academic Staff Association have jointly announced a complete boycott of academic and administrative activities at all five campuses of the university started from Monday, yesterday along with a full-fledged protest in front of the Admin Block at the Chehla Campus.

In a joint statement, the associations said that they have been continuously striving for the last seven months for the payment of the officially approved increase in salaries and pensions. Over the past month, repeated meetings, appeals, and written correspondence were made with university authorities and government officials. Several meetings were also held with the committee constituted by the university's principal officers; however, no concrete, practical, or positive progress has been achieved so far.

In view of this situation, the Administrative and Academic Staff Associations, after mutual consultation, have decided that from Monday, 9 February, all academic and administrative activities at all five campuses of the University of Kashmir will remain completely suspended. Employees and faculty members will hold a peaceful yet forceful protest in front of the Admin Block at the Chehla Campus.

The associations have appealed to all employees and officers to remain united and organized and to participate fully in the protest for the attainment of their legitimate rights. They reiterated their resolve that this struggle for rights will be continued to the very end.

Attack Police Crack Rs 1.9 Million Office Theft Case Swiftly

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: Outstanding Operation by Attock Police: Accused Involved in Theft of 1.9 Million Rupees from a Citizen's Office Arrested in Short Time; Stolen Amount Recovered

According to details, on 03.02.2026, Mr. Ahsan Mahmood son of Ayaz Ahmed, resident of Pindi Gheb, submitted an application to Pindi Gheb Police Station stating that he runs an office named Al-Mizan Real Estate at College Chowk, where he regularly deals in business and property transactions with various individuals. The complainant stated that he had gone out of the office for work, and upon his return, he found that an amount of 1.9 million rupees was missing from an office drawer, which had been stolen by an unknown thief.

Upon this, Pindi Gheb Police promptly registered a case and initiated an investigation. The SHO of Pindi Gheb Police Station, along with his team, used professional expertise and modern technology to conduct an operation, successfully tracing and arresting the accused, Fakhar Zaman son of Aulya Khan, resident of Toot, Tehsil Pindi Gheb, District Attock, who was involved in the theft.

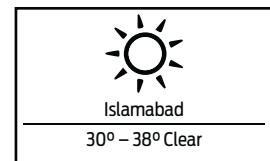
PSCA swiftly assists in apprehending habitual motorcycle thief in Bahawalpur

News Desk

LAHORE: Punjab Safe Cities Authority carried out effective surveillance through Safe City cameras as a result of which a habitual criminal involved in dozens of motorcycle theft and snatching incidents has been arrested in Bahawalpur. According to the spokesperson of Punjab Safe Cities Authority, arrested suspect was involved in more than 45 motorcycle theft cases and remained active in the New Sabzi Mandi area and its surrounding localities of Bahawalpur. The Safe City Bahawalpur team continuously tracked the suspect's movements using latest camera technology and successfully gathered substantial evidence.

The spokesperson said that through Safe City cameras, the suspect got identified at multiple locations. Based on the information provided by PSCA, police carried out prompt action and immediately arrested motorcycle thief. The spokesperson added that the presence of a modern surveillance system in Safe City Bahawalpur is enabling timely and effective crime tracking, playing a vital role in ensuring public safety in the province.

The Punjab Safe Cities Authority (PSCA) has urged citizens to always park their motorcycles with complete locking arrangements in addition to ensuring use of additional security locks. In case of any suspicious activity or emergency, citizens are advised to immediately dial 15 so that they can be provided prompt assistance along with taking timely legal action against the accused involved in criminal activities.


SERVICES
Namaz Timings

Fajr	5:33 am
Zohr	12:22 pm
Asr	4:09 pm
Maghrib	5:47 pm
Isha	7:12 pm

EMERGENCY

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

Women Police
Stations

Islamabad	9222596
Rawalpindi	9270601-20

ENQUIRY

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

HOSPITALS

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

DEPARTMENTS

CDA	921234-43
CDA	9208301-4
Met Office	9250360-6
RDA	5555864
TMA	570886
Cantonment Board	9270151-3
Islamabad Metropolitan Corporation	9209224
Potohar Town	9209224
Rawal Town	5773343

COMPLAINTS

Water Tanker Service	9204654
E-7, F-10 & F-11	9203883
G-5, G-6, G-7, G-8	9203883
G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, H-8	92266316
Wapda Islamabad	9217579-80
Sui Gas Complaint	119, 9272249
Wasa Water Tank	92022125
Rawalpindi	0331-5022125

Two-Day Training Session at Mohammad Nawaz Sharif University of agriculture Multan
Iram Asim

MULTAN: Rivets Learning and Sungi organised a two-day training session at Mohammad Nawaz Sharif University of agriculture Multan under the UNDP project to counter Gender Based Hate speech and Technology Facilitated GBV. Hate speech on different social media platform regarding women and transgender and its effect on the lives of women and transgender. This hate speech leads to violence and discourage women to participate in social life. Mr Zeehan Noel, Ather Nadeem and Sahar Maqbool facilitate this workshop. With different activities concepts of masculinity and its effects on society are discussed. Technology facilitated gender based hate speech, types of GBV and how to ensure safety measures are also discussed among participants. Government of Punjab also have different initiatives to end gender based violence and online hate speech.

Islamabad blast death toll rises to 36, Senate told

ISLAMABAD: The death toll from the suicide blast at Imambargah Khadija-tul-Kubra in Islamabad has risen to 36, Federal Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination Mustafa Kamal informed the Senate on Tuesday.

Speaking on the floor of the House, the minister said most victims had succumbed to their injuries before reaching hospitals.

He added that two victims died at the Polyclinic Hospital, one at the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) and another at a private hospital, while the remaining fatalities occurred at the scene prior to medical evacuation.

Calm, Courage, and Quick Action: Hamdard urges student emergency preparedness

Bureau Report

KARACHI: Hamdard Naunehal Assembly, organized by Hamdard Foundation Pakistan, held its session at Bait al Hikmah, Madinat-ul-Hikmah, on the theme "Loss in Emergencies: Whose Responsibility?" The event aimed to raise awareness about emergency preparedness and safety among students.

Ms. Sadia Rashid, President of Hamdard Foundation Pakistan and National President of Hamdard Naunehal Assembly, emphasized that during emergencies, calm, courage, and quick decision-making are essential. She urged students to alert others, contact emergency services, prioritize the vulnerable, and use safety equipment properly. She highlighted that informed youth today become responsible citizens tomorrow.

Dr. Syeda Nadia Rizvi, Head of Research, Development & Education, showcased a presentation and documentary demonstrating effective responses to fires, accidents, and other emergencies, encouraging children to actively learn life-saving skills.

Ayesha Fawad, Leader of the House, highlighted that managing emergencies is a shared responsibility of authorities and citizens. She noted Pakistan's high traffic accident rates and stressed public awareness and traffic education in schools.

Acting Opposition Leader Jaisha Ahmar reflected on the recent Gul Plaza tragedy, emphasizing lessons in preparedness, accountability, and safeguarding lives.

The assembly featured student speeches, tableaus, sketches, patriotic songs, and concluded with a prayer. Students, teachers, parents, and distinguished guests attended the event.



Unique and Antique cars

ISLAMABAD: Visitors are taking interest in the beautiful cars during an exhibition of Classic and Vintage Cars, in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Serena Hotels Hosts Vintage Car Show in Collaboration with Vintage and Classic Car Club of Pakistan

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Serena Hotels, under its Cultural Diplomacy Initiative, in collaboration with the Vintage and Classic Car Club of Pakistan, organized a vibrant Vintage Car Show celebrating the timeless charm of classic automobiles and the shared passion for heritage preservation. The

event showcased an impressive collection of vintage and classic vehicles, offering guests a unique glimpse into the evolution of motoring history.

Car collectors and enthusiasts from different regions participated in the showcase, presenting carefully preserved vehicles that reflect distinct design eras and engineering

excellence. The event created an engaging platform for visitors to appreciate classic motoring culture while encouraging dialogue around preservation, history, and innovation.

The initiative highlighted the importance of celebrating cultural heritage through meaningful and immersive experiences that connect

communities with history, creativity, and shared traditions.

Through such initiatives, Serena Hotels continues to promote cultural diplomacy by supporting heritage-focused platforms that encourage cultural exchange, community engagement, and the celebration of diverse traditions.

Embassy of the Netherlands Awards Human Rights Tulip to NCHR

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Pakistan held its annual Human Rights Tulip Award ceremony, celebrating efforts in advancing and protecting human rights.

This year's prestigious award was presented to the National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR) in recognition of its vital institutional role in promoting accountability and safeguarding fundamental freedoms. Ambassador Robert-Jan Siegert handed the Human Rights Tulip to Rabiya Javeri Agha, Chairperson of NCHR, whose leadership has been instrumental in advancing the Commission's mission and strengthening human rights advocacy across



and I will continue to speak where they could not."

The Dutch Ambassador for Human Rights, Wim Geerts, who is currently visiting Pakistan, also participated in the ceremony. During his stay, he met with government authorities, civil society representatives, and other stakeholders to discuss shared human rights priorities.

"I am deeply impressed by the vibrancy and resilience of Pakistan's civil society. In every conversation, I saw a strong commitment to human dignity, justice, and equal rights for all."

The event was attended by the Federal Minister for Law and Justice, members of Parliament, representatives of Pakistan's civil society, and other distinguished guests.

Presenting the award, Ambassador Robert-Jan Siegert said, "The National Commission for Human Rights has demonstrated how institutions can make a difference by shining light where it is most needed. Through this

award, we reaffirm our shared commitment to universal values and the belief that progress begins when courage meets compassion."

Rabiya Javeri Agha, Chairperson of the National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR), said, "After receiving the Human Rights Tulip award on behalf of the Commission:

"This Award belongs to every silenced voice, every unseen struggle, and every vulnerable soul who has dared to hope for justice. I carry their stories with me,

HEC Conducts RIPE Review at Women University Multan


Quratulain Asim

MULTAN: The Higher Education Commission (HEC) Pakistan, through its Quality Assurance Agency (QAA), conducted a comprehensive Review of Institutional Performance and Enhancement (RIPE) at The Women University Multan, as part of the pilot phase of RIPE implementation across higher education institutions. The review process was facilitated by the university's Quality Enhancement Cell (QEC) and involved a panel of 11 distinguished reviewers.

During the three-day visit, the review team conducted an extensive assessment of the university's performance against 16 RIPE standards, covering key areas including vision and mission, governance and leadership, resource management, academic programs, student support services, research and innovation, and quality assurance mechanisms. The team visited various academic departments, classrooms, science laboratories, computer labs, and administrative offices to evaluate the university's academic infrastructure, institutional systems, and support services.

The review also examined critical institutional functions such as strategic planning, governance structure, financial management and audit practices, affiliation processes, international linkages, faculty recruitment and professional development, curriculum design, admission policies, teaching effectiveness, community engagement, research productivity, industry collaboration, transparency, ethics, and institutional effectiveness. The assessment aimed to identify the university's strengths and areas for further improvement, while ensuring alignment with national and international quality standards.

Dr. Ejaz Bashir and Mirza Ashfaq Bashir Attend Sri Lanka's 78th Independence Day Celebration


Anwar Chohan

GUJRAT: Dr. Ejaz Bashir and Mirza Ashfaq Bashir attended the 78th Independence Day celebration of Sri Lanka held at the Serena Hotel, Islamabad, under the auspices of the High Commission of Sri Lanka. The two distinguished personalities were specially invited in recognition of their outstanding humanitarian and welfare services.

The ceremony was hosted by the High Commissioner of Sri Lanka to Pakistan, Rear Admiral Fred Senewirathne, who warmly received the guests and held a cordial meeting with Dr. Ejaz Bashir and Mirza Ashfaq Bashir. The event was attended by members of the diplomatic community, officials, and representatives from various sectors of society.

On the occasion, Dr. Ejaz Bashir extended heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to the people of Sri Lanka on behalf of Pakistan's welfare community. He emphasized the deep-rooted friendship between Pakistan and Sri Lanka and reaffirmed the shared commitment to peace, development, and mutual cooperation.

He further highlighted that stronger coordination and collaboration between the welfare sectors of Pakistan and Sri Lanka are essential for promoting regional harmony and sustainable development across South Asia. He noted that people-to-people contacts and humanitarian partnerships can play a vital role in strengthening bilateral ties.

The event concluded in a spirit of goodwill and friendship, reflecting the enduring relations between the two nations.

Group Chairman/Chief Editor: Almass Ayoub Sabir
 Vice Chairman: Asim Nazir Ahmad
 Editor: Naveed Ahmad Khan
 Head Editorial Advisory Board: Amjad Mehmood
 Bureau Chief Karachi: Khurram Jaffrani (jaffrani@adplus.pk)
 Bureau Chief Lahore: Syed Afraz Ali Nazish (afrazalishah@gmail.com)
 Head Office: AIMS Building, Street No. 4, H-8/1, Islamabad. spokesmanislamabad@gmail.com
 Phone: +92 51 2227123, WhatsApp +92 346 5008408
 Karachi Office: A111, Block C, Gulsha-e-Jamal, PRECHS, Karachi Phone: 021-33399390 Email: spokesmankarachi@gmail.com
 Lahore Office: 7-E, Samanberg, Johar Town. spokesmanlahore@gmail.com
 Daily The Spokesman available only on annual subscription

UN Secretary-General extends Lunar New Year greetings in Chinese

“Chun Jie Kuai Le!” António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations, began his Lunar New Year greetings in Chinese in a video released on the UN’s official website on Monday local time. He also expressed appreciation for China and the Chinese people, praising their role in upholding multilateralism and promoting global solidarity.

In the message marking the start of the Year of the Horse, Guterres said “As we welcome the year of the horse, we celebrate a symbol of energy, success, and the courage to forge ahead. Qualities our world urgently needs as we confront conflict, inequality, and the climate crisis.”

“This season of renewal reminds us that together we can build a safer, more inclusive future. Let us continue to advance our shared commitment to peace, dignity, and sustainable development for all,” said Guterres.

“May the spirit of the horse bring you health, happiness, and prosperity. I extend my gratitude to China and the Chinese people for championing the cause of multilateralism and global solidarity,” said Guterres, before concluding the video with “Xie Xie!” – thank you in Chinese, Global Times reported.

Notably, the backdrop of the video of Guterres integrates traditional Spring Festival aesthetics with United Nations symbolism. On the right, lanterns bear a golden UN emblem — a globe encircled by olive branches — visually linking Chinese New Year imagery with the organization’s identity.

On the left, a square red lattice-style window frames a paper-cut design of a spirited horse in mid-gallop, accompanied by the characters “Ma Yue Yun Cheng,” a phrase evoking lofty aspirations, a broad horizon, and the drive to keep moving forward.

In 2024 and 2025 — the Year of the Dragon and the Year of the Snake — Guterres also extended Lunar New Year greetings, each beginning with “Chun Jie Kuai Le!” — Happy Lunar New Year in Chinese — according to videos released by the UN in February 2024 and January 2025.

Great Power Competition and the Strategic Unsettling of Jammu & Kashmir

South Asia is no longer insulated from global power politics. The rivalry between the United States and China has entered the Himalayan theater and Jammu and Kashmir now sits at the intersection of that contest. What appears on the surface as a localized territorial dispute is, in reality, a node in a widening strategic triangle involving India, China and the US.

India's foreign policy over the past decade has been driven by a central assumption: alignment with Washington would provide strategic leverage against Beijing. This logic shaped India's Indo-Pacific rhetoric, defence cooperation with the US and its participation in multilateral groupings aimed at balancing China. The expectation was clear, closer ties with the US would strengthen India's hand in its border disputes and enhance its regional standing.

India rejects this arrangement, claiming the territory as part of the former princely state of Jammu and Kashmir. Yet China's position has not shifted. Beijing treats the area as sovereign Chinese territory and asserts its right to develop infrastructure there. This includes connectivity projects that intersect with the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, one of the flagship components of China's Belt and Road Initiative. This is not symbolic positioning. Infrastructure changes realities. Roads, logistics routes and construction projects transform cartographic claims into operational control. They create permanence. India's responses, in contrast, remain largely diplomatic and rhetorical.

This asymmetry matters because Jammu and Kashmir is no longer insulated from major power politics. India presents Kashmir as an internal and settled issue. Yet China's posture

directly contradicts that narrative. A permanent member of the UN Security Council does not recognize India's claim over the entire former princely state. That alone carries diplomatic weight.

China's stance also aligns with Pakistan's long-standing argument that Kashmir remains disputed under international frameworks. This convergence is strategically significant. When a global power's territorial practice overlaps with a regional dispute, the issue ceases to be confined. It becomes structurally international.

The United States adds another layer of complexity. Washington does not endorse China's position, but it also avoids direct entanglement in India's territorial claims. The US prioritizes stability and its broader competition with Beijing. It encourages India as a balancing force but avoids

commitments that would draw

it into Himalayan disputes. This leaves India in a difficult position: strategically encouraged, but not strategically guaranteed.

India therefore faces pressure on two fronts. China applies material pressure through border posture and infrastructure expansion. The US applies strategic expectation without hard commitments. Between these poles, India must manage an unresolved border, a sensitive internal security environment in Jammu and Kashmir and a contested international narrative.

The internal-external divide that India seeks to maintain on Kashmir is increasingly porous. Developments in Shaksam, Ladakh and surrounding areas show that border infrastructure, military deployments and diplomatic signaling are interconnected. Kashmir is not just a domestic governance issue; it is part of a

regional power equation.

China understands leverage in spatial terms. Control of heights, corridors and connectivity routes produces negotiating power. India's diplomatic protests do not neutralize physical consolidation on the ground. Over time, material realities influence political outcomes.

The broader risk is strategic miscalculation. India operates with shrinking maneuvering space. Its US partnership cannot be assumed as a security umbrella. Its China outreach has not resolved core disputes. Yet the territorial contest continues to evolve.

Jammu and Kashmir therefore becomes more than a bilateral dispute or an internal constitutional matter. It becomes a frontier in great power competition. That transformation carries long-term consequences. Once a dispute is tied to major power rivalry, de-escalation becomes harder, compromise becomes costlier and symbolism becomes insufficient.

China has demonstrated consistency. The US has demonstrated conditional engagement. India must now confront a reality where strategic alignment has not removed territorial pressure. In this environment, ambiguity weakens positions rather than preserving flexibility.

The Himalayan region is shifting from a peripheral borderland into a strategic hinge of Asian geopolitics. The question is no longer whether Kashmir is internationalized in rhetoric. It is being internationalized in practice, through power projection, infrastructure and great power competition.

That is the real transformation underway and it is reshaping the strategic future of the region.

The author is the head of the research and human rights department of Kashmir Institute of International Relations (KIIR). She can be contacted at the following email address: mehr_dua@yahoo.com, X @ MHIIRsays

Pakistan is confronting yet another wave of terrorism that appears fragmented at first glance but is, in truth, a coordinated, multi-dimensional campaign. Far from random incidents limited to border areas, this escalation forms part of a prolonged strategic effort to erode the state from within, spread fear among citizens, and fracture the national consensus. The key question is not merely why terrorism persists, but why it has intensified precisely now.

Viewed in wider perspective, Pakistan has entered a phase of strengthened internal cohesion and rising global diplomatic stature. Harmony between political and military leadership, combined with an unambiguous counter-terrorism doctrine, has enhanced the country's international standing. Such progress is deeply unacceptable to actors intent on keeping Pakistan weak, divided, and defensively oriented. Terrorism, therefore, resurfaces as a weapon to derail this trajectory.

Yet hope prevails in the leadership's resolve. Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, serving concurrently as Chief of Army Staff and Pakistan's first Chief of Defence Forces, has instituted a clear, uncompromising counter-terrorism policy. Distinctions between "acceptable" and "unacceptable" militants have ended; no concessions are tolerated. This firmness has provoked desperation among terrorists, evident in their frantic but unsustainable surge—an indicator of decline rather than dominance. Military operations, intelligence efforts, and border measures continue to disrupt networks effectively.

Pakistan's advances have placed India on the back foot diplomatically, militarily, and strategically—including in high-profile forums like ICC cricket tournaments. In South Asia, cricket

symbolizes national psyche and prestige. Sustained pressure dismantles notions of unchallenged dominance, driving adversaries toward asymmetric tools like proxies and hybrid campaigns.

Alarmingly, the current wave targets Punjab's social fabric, aiming to sabotage cultural events like Basant that embody joy, tolerance, and harmony. Attacks on such occasions are deliberate psychological operations to replace festivity with dread, suggesting no space for celebration or coexistence. This seeks to weaken state authority at the societal roots.

Despite these threats, Pakistan's foundation remains strong. Nawaz Sharif's vision of stability, economic revival, and balanced diplomacy aligns with Shehbaz Sharif's administrative pragmatism to foster order over anarchy. Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir's decisive leadership bolsters internal security, terrorism's defeat, and national dignity.

This political-military alignment is the surest defense against conspiracies, protector of social unity, and driver toward a resilient, peaceful, respected Pakistan. Sustained, it will not only contain but eliminate terrorism—history shows clarity within a state leaves little room for prolonged disorder.

The nation must now rise to the challenge: across political, religious, and ideological lines, unity and vigilance are essential. By recognizing these tactics and closing ranks, every adversarial scheme can be thwarted. Pakistan's enduring resilience will secure a future defined by peace and progress.

The writer is a seasoned columnist, policy analyst, and advocate for Pakistani diaspora engagement. His writings focus on national development, geopolitical strategy, and the role of overseas Pakistanis in shaping a prosperous future.

Epstein Files and the Moral Crisis in the U.S.

When the U.S. Department of Justice released additional troves of documents connected to Jeffrey Epstein, the reaction was immediate and visceral. The shock was not about Epstein himself. His criminality had already been established in court. What unsettled the public was something else entirely: proximity. From former British royal Prince Andrew to former U.S. Presidents Bill Clinton and Donald Trump; from tech billionaire Elon Musk to Virgin Group founder Richard Branson; from former Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak to former U.S. Treasury Secretary Larry Summers, the newly released files, as summarized by the Associated Press, include correspondence, flight logs and social exchanges linking Epstein to an extraordinary roster of powerful figures.

Epstein case has also revived speculation regarding intelligence connections. A 2020 FBI report cited a confidential source claiming that Epstein may have been “trained as a spy” and relayed information through intermediaries to Israeli intelligence. Israeli officials, including Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, have publicly rejected any suggestion that Epstein worked for Mossad. Intelligence experts quoted in reporting have emphasized that no evidence has confirmed such claims.

Opacity invites speculation, but speculation is not proof. The responsible position is neither blind dismissal nor reckless accusation. It is rigorous transparency. The deeper issue is structural. Epstein's crimes were not committed in isolation. Trafficking networks require recruitment, logistics, financial chan-

nels and silence. The public now asks whether every dimension of that network has been fully exposed and dismantled.

The Associated Press made an essential point: none of the individuals named have been charged in connection with Epstein's crimes. That fact must anchor any serious discussion. Yet it is legitimate for citizens to ask whether investigations were comprehensive, whether institutional blind spots existed and whether systemic safeguards have been strengthened to prevent future exploitation. Trust in institutions depends on visible equality before the law. If powerful individuals were investigated and cleared, clarity strengthens legitimacy. If investigative gaps remain, transparency must close them. Silence feeds suspicion.

The Epstein scandal represents more than personal depravity. It represents a stress test for institutional credibility. When elites circulate within the orbit of a trafficker, even without criminal liability, the

public demands explanation. The United States often positions itself as a defender of human rights globally. That moral posture requires internal consistency. Accountability cannot appear selective.

The solution is neither mob condemnation nor complacency. It is disciplined scrutiny. Congress retains oversight authority. The Department of Justice retains prosecutorial authority. Independent journalism retains investigative authority. Survivors retain the right to justice and protection. If additional wrongdoing is uncovered, it must be

prosecuted without regard to status. If no additional crimes are established, the public deserves clear communication explaining investigative findings.

Democracies can survive scandal. They struggle to survive sustained distrust. The Epstein files have reopened old wounds not because they deliver new convictions but because they highlight enduring ambiguity. The presence of global elites in a trafficker's social universe is enough to unsettle confidence. What follows now will determine whether that unease hardens into cynicism or evolves into reform.

The moral shock many feel reflects a basic human instinct: children must be protected, and power must never shield exploitation. That instinct is not partisan and not ideological. It is foundational.

Institutions must demonstrate that the instinct aligns with enforcement. The names that appear in investigative documents may ultimately reflect poor judgment rather than criminal complicity, and that distinction matters. But it does not eliminate the need for vigilance.

The Epstein case has become a symbol of elite access, institutional failure and the fragility of trust. Rebuilding that trust requires sunlight, consistency and courage. Anything less will leave the convulsion unresolved, and a society that cannot resolve its convulsions risks allowing suspicion to replace confidence in the very structures meant to uphold justice.

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 | Macomb, Michigan



Qamar Bashir



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

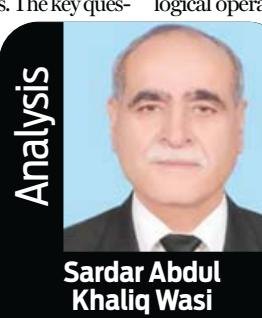
Terrorism aims destabilizing Pakistan

Pakistan is confronting yet another wave of terrorism that appears fragmented at first glance but is, in truth, a coordinated, multi-dimensional campaign. Far from random incidents limited to border areas, this escalation forms part of a prolonged strategic effort to erode the state from within, spread fear among citizens, and fracture the national consensus. The key question is not merely why terrorism persists, but why it has intensified precisely now.

Viewed in wider perspective, Pakistan has entered a phase of strengthened internal cohesion and rising global diplomatic stature. Harmony between political and military leadership, combined with an unambiguous counter-terrorism doctrine, has enhanced the country's international standing. Such progress is deeply unacceptable to actors intent on keeping Pakistan weak, divided, and defensively oriented. Terrorism, therefore, resurfaces as a weapon to derail this trajectory.

Yet hope prevails in the leadership's resolve. Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, serving concurrently as Chief of Army Staff and Pakistan's first Chief of Defence Forces, has instituted a clear, uncompromising counter-terrorism policy. Distinctions between "acceptable" and "unacceptable" militants have ended; no concessions are tolerated. This firmness has provoked desperation among terrorists, evident in their frantic but unsustainable surge—an indicator of decline rather than dominance. Military operations, intelligence efforts, and border measures continue to disrupt networks effectively.

Pakistan's advances have placed India on the back foot diplomatically, militarily, and strategically—including in high-profile forums like ICC cricket tournaments. In South Asia, cricket



Sardar Abdul Khalil Wasi

symbolizes national psyche and prestige. Sustained pressure dismantles notions of unchallenged dominance, driving adversaries toward asymmetric tools like proxies and hybrid campaigns.

Alarmingly, the current wave targets Punjab's social fabric, aiming to sabotage cultural events like Basant that embody joy, tolerance, and harmony. Attacks on such occasions are deliberate psychological operations to replace festivity with dread, suggesting no space for celebration or coexistence. This seeks to weaken state authority at the societal roots.

Despite these threats, Pakistan's foundation remains strong. Nawaz Sharif's vision of stability, economic revival, and balanced diplomacy aligns with Shehbaz Sharif's administrative pragmatism to foster order over anarchy. Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir's decisive leadership bolsters internal security, terrorism's defeat, and national dignity.

This political-military alignment is the surest defense against conspiracies, protector of social unity, and driver toward a resilient, peaceful, respected Pakistan. Sustained, it will not only contain but eliminate terrorism—history shows clarity within a state leaves little room for prolonged disorder.

The nation must now rise to the challenge: across political, religious, and ideological lines, unity and vigilance are essential. By recognizing these tactics and closing ranks, every adversarial scheme can be thwarted. Pakistan's enduring resilience will secure a future defined by peace and progress.

The writer is a seasoned columnist, policy analyst, and advocate for Pakistani diaspora engagement. His writings focus on national development, geopolitical strategy, and the role of overseas Pakistanis in shaping a prosperous future.



Mehrun Nisa



Amjad Rasmie

Finance Minister underscores role of AI in Public Service Delivery and Revenue Administration

Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, underscored the Government's approach to leveraging artificial intelligence to enhance efficiency, transparency, strengthen revenue administration, and support evidence-based policymaking.

The Finance Minister was speaking during his participation in a panel discussion titled "AI for Public Service Transformation and SDG Acceleration" at the National Artificial Intelligence (AI) Workshop.

In his remarks, the Finance Minister noted that countries are adopting artificial intelligence at different stages, shaped by their respective economic structures and development priorities. He emphasized that for Pakistan, the focus must remain on applied solutions that deliver measurable gains in efficiency, transparency, and productivity, rather than on technology for its own sake.

He noted that AI-enabled systems are playing an increasingly important



role in strengthening compliance, enforcement, and decision-making. He stated that the Government's

ongoing tax transformation, anchored in reforms to people, processes, and technology, is leveraging AI-led CRM

systems, AI-led production monitoring, risk-based compliance tools, and faceless customer processes to enhance

transparency, reduce leakages, and improve revenue outcomes.

He emphasized that reducing discretionary human intervention through technology remains central to curbing inefficiencies and corruption, and that AI-led systems have generated tangible fiscal gains that would not have been achievable through manual processes alone.

The Finance Minister also highlighted the Government's approach to emerging digital assets, noting that the establishment of the Pakistan Virtual Asset Regulatory Authority (PVARA) reflects the need to manage risks while integrating new technologies into the formal economy. He stated that bringing such activity into a regulated environment is essential to safeguarding financial stability and harnessing future economic potential.

Addressing the broader digital economy, the Finance Minister underscored the importance of investing in human capital and skills development to enable Pakistan's youth to partici-

pate in higher-value segments of the global technology ecosystem. He highlighted the role of advanced technologies, including blockchain and data analytics, in supporting productivity-led growth and expanding income opportunities.

Concluding his remarks, the Finance Minister stressed that artificial intelligence offers significant opportunities for Pakistan in areas such as revenue mobilization, public service delivery, and climate and population management. He emphasized that realizing these gains will require a clear policy direction, institutional readiness, and a coordinated, whole-of-government approach to digital transformation.

Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Dr. Musadik Malik, Federal Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication, Shaza Fatima Khawaja and Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal were also present at the session.

IRS Report Records Approx. 700 Raids and Over 4,000 Detentions in IIOJK in 2025

ISLAMABAD: The Institute of Regional Studies (IRS), Islamabad, launched its Annual Report 2025 on "Indian Occupied Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh" at a seminar held at its premises. Ms. Mushal Husain Mullick, Chairperson, Peace and Culture Organization, and former Advisor to the Prime Minister on Human Rights and Women Empowerment; Senator Asad Qasim, Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Kashmir Affairs, Gilgit-Baltistan & SAFRON; Professor Dr. Muhammad Khan; Dr. Sundas Mustaqeem; and Dr. Gul-i-Ayesha from NUST addressed the seminar.

In his welcome remarks, Ambassador Jauhar highlighted the historical and diplomatic dimensions of the Kashmir issue, stating that it has remained on the United Nations agenda for decades and continues to demand a just and lawful resolution. He emphasized the need to re-energize diplomatic outreach and global awareness efforts.

Senator Asad Qasim focused on the humanitarian costs of the prolonged conflict, drawing attention to detainees, divided families, and community-level trauma. He stated that regional peace and stability are closely linked to addressing the Kashmir dispute

through credible international mechanisms.

While speaking at the seminar, Mushal Husain Mullick described the situation as a continuing human tragedy affecting everyday life. She warned that the dispute remains a serious nuclear flashpoint and urged the international community to seize the moment to arrange an impartial and free plebiscite.

All the panelists acknowledged that the report provides a comprehensive, evidence-based statistical and analytical overview of political developments, security practices, and human rights conditions in IIOJK during the year 2025.

The report notes that 2025 witnessed sustained large-scale security operations and extensive restrictions on civilian life across IIOJK. Preventive and mass detentions occurred in successive phases throughout the year. In February, more than 500 individuals were detained in Kulgam, Budgam, and Ganderbal following a security incident. After the Pahalgam incident in April, an estimated 1,500–2,000 detentions were reported across multiple districts. In November, a major crackdown led to approximately 1,500 detentions within two days, with over 100

additional detentions in Anantnag, Kathua, Ramban, Doda, and Rajouri. December operations added around 200 more detentions. In Ladakh, at least 75 protest-related detentions were recorded between late September and early October.

The report also documents widespread search and raid operations. Over 500 locations were raided across the Valley in November alone, including more than 200 in Kulgam, over 150 residences in Srinagar, and more than 50 in Sopore. Following the Pahalgam incident, raids were conducted at over 60 locations in Srinagar. The report further records at least nine residential demolitions across several districts in April, a two-month suspension of VPN services in Rajouri, enforcement actions against media offices, and during protest-related events in Ladakh, at least four civilian deaths and between 65 and nearly 100 injuries.

The seminar concluded with a joint call for a free and impartial plebiscite in IIOJK, as it is the only way to bring peace to South Asia. (Press Release)



Importance of Oilseed Crops: Self-Sufficiency in Edible Oil a National Imperative

By Zain Khan Malghani

MULTAN: Despite being an agricultural country, Pakistan has yet to achieve self-sufficiency in the edible oil sector, a situation that is increasingly emerging as a serious national challenge. Renowned industrialist, Chairman SM Group of Industries, Member National Export Development Board and Member Board of Investment, Chaudhry Zulfiqar Ali Anjum, has stressed the urgent need for focused attention on the cultivation, proper management and value addition of oilseed crops.

In his written memorandum, Chaudhry Zulfiqar Ali Anjum urged Pakistani farmers and policymakers to prioritize oilseed crops such as mustard, sunflower, canola, groundnut and sesame. He stated that these crops not only fulfill essential dietary requirements but also



produce edible oil that is safe for human health and serves as an effective means of increasing foreign exchange earnings.

He pointed out that Pakistan spends billions of dollars annually on the import of edible oil, placing a heavy burden on the national economy, whereas this expenditure could be significantly reduced by enhancing domestic production. According to him, oilseed crops can be successfully cultivated even in low-resource and water-scarce areas.

By providing farmers with quality seeds, modern agricultural practices, timely technical guidance and easy access to markets, per-acre yield and farmers' incomes can be substantially increased.

Chaudhry Zulfiqar Ali Anjum further emphasized that the promotion of modern processing units, the local oil extraction industry and value addition would not only reduce imports but also boost exports and create new employment opportunities. He called upon the

government, private sector and agricultural research institutions to adopt a joint and coordinated strategy to move Pakistan towards self-sufficiency in the edible oil sector.

According to available data, Pakistan meets approximately 88 percent of its total edible oil requirement through imports, spending nearly Rs 350 billion in valuable foreign exchange every year, while domestic production accounts for only 12 percent. This heavy reliance on imports continues to strain the economy. Chaudhry Zulfiqar Ali Anjum maintained that increasing oilseed production is vital for strengthening the agricultural economy, ensuring farmers' prosperity and achieving national economic sovereignty. Neglecting this sector, he warned, would further increase dependence on imported oil and pose long-term economic risks for the country.

Spotify Reports Q4 2025 Earnings

By City Desk

ISLAMABAD: In Q4 2025, Spotify delivered the highest MAU net adds in its history, reaching 751 million monthly active users, alongside double-digit subscriber growth, and continued momentum across music, podcasts, and audiobooks.

Notable highlights from the Q4 2025 results include:

Premium Subscribers grew 10% Y/Y to 290 million.

Monthly Active Users (MAUs) climbed 11% Y/Y to 751 million.

Total Revenue increased 13% Y/Y constant currency to €4.5 billion.

Gross Margin improved by 83 bps Y/Y to 33.1%.

Operating Income reached €701 million.

Daniel Ek, Founder and Executive Chairman, said: "Today, what we've really built is a technology platform for audio – and increasingly, for all the ways creators connect with audiences. And this identity will matter even more going forward. The next wave of technology shifts – AI, new interfaces, wearables, new ways of interacting with content – these will reshape how people discover and experience audio and media. The hard problems ahead – in music, in podcasts, in books, in video, in live, and in things we haven't built yet – we're going to keep building the technology to solve them."

Grand Wedding Celebrations of Bilal Abbas Chadhar Held in Mandi Bahauddin

By Chaudhry Tabraiz Aurah

LONDON / MANDI BAHAUDDIN: The wedding ceremony of Bilal Abbas Chadhar, son of Mazhar Abbas Chadhar and nephew of Shahid Chadhar, from the family of prominent London-based businessman and social personality Sajid Abbas Chadhar, was celebrated with great splendour and traditional enthusiasm at their ancestral village, Ahla Station, District Mandi Bahauddin.

The bride belongs to a respectable family from Pindi Purani, Mandi Bahauddin, and is the daughter of DSP Aamir Shaheen Gondal, a well-known and dedicated Punjab Police officer currently

serving as In-charge CCD District Jhelum. The marriage brought together two notable and respected families in an atmosphere of joy, dignity, and goodwill.

The wedding festivities formally began on 6 December 2025 with a grand Mehndi ceremony held in London, attended by members of the overseas Pakistani community, relatives, and close friends. The colourful event gained widespread attention on social media due to its elegant arrangements and vibrant cultural display.

Following the London celebrations, the Chadhar family travelled to Pakistan, where the remaining wedding ceremonies were held at their ancestral residence, Dera Chadhar in Ahla Station.

The events were conducted in accordance with local traditions, reflecting strong family values and deep attachment to cultural roots.

Known across the region for their generosity and social service, the Chadhar family also shared their happiness with the underprivileged.

Motorcycles were gifted to loyal household staff, financial assistance was provided to deserving families, and special meals were arranged for the needy. A free eye camp was also organised, benefiting a large number of local residents and highlighting the family's commitment to public welfare.

As part of the celebrations, a traditional Neza Bazi (tent-pegging) competi-



tion was arranged for the entertainment of the local community, reviving cultural heritage and attracting large crowds. A colourful Mehndi ceremony was later held at the dera, where renowned folk singer Malkoo performed and added charm to the festive atmosphere.

The

Baraat arrived at Gymkhana Club Phalia, where a large number of political, social, and community personalities, along with people from different walks of life, attended the ceremony. The Walima reception was later held at Dera Chadharān, witnessing an extraordinary

gathering of guests. The scale of the event and arrangements created a remarkable festive environment in the entire area.

Guests were served a wide variety of high-quality and delicious food, reflecting the hosts' hospitality and generosity. The well-managed arrangements and warm reception were widely appreciated by attendees.

Although weddings are a regular feature in District Mandi Bahauddin, the manner in which the Chadhar family organised and celebrated this event—with tradition, grace, and a spirit of service—made it a truly memorable occasion. The celebrations stood as a beautiful example of cultural pride, hospitality, and community care.

Bull & Bears PSX 100-Share Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
182,153.55	182,340.38
Day's High	Day's Low
183,216.67	181,499.28
Index Value	Change
29,638,752,244	-186.83
Percentage	Time
-0.1%	10 Feb, 2024 4:30 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
10,353.84	-32.39

Percentage	Time
-0.31%	10 Feb, 4:35 pm GMT

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
50,383.42	+247.55

Percentage	Time
+0.49%	10 Feb, 12:07 pm GMT-5

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
57,650.54	+1,286.60

Percentage	Time
+2.28%	10 Feb, 3:45 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	196.57	198.25
Bahrain Dinar	743.15	752.65
Canadian Dollar	205.49	209.05
China Yuan	38	40
Danish Krone	43.32	43.72
Euro	333.42	336.72
Hong Kong Dollar	35.36	36.23
Indian Rupee	2.82	3.33
Japanese Yen	1.7754	1.8747
Kuwaiti Dinar	906.95	916.40
Malaysian Ringgit	66.50	67
New Zealand \$	167.82	169.75
Norwegians Krone	27.61	27.91
Omani Riyal	727.8	737.31
Qatari Riyal	76	78.75
Saudi Riyal	74.85	75.30
Singapore Dollar	220.03	224.99
Swedish Korona	30.1	30.4
Swiss Franc	363.10	367.44
Thai Bhat	8.55	8.75
U.A.E Dirham	76.5	77.35
UK Pound Sterling	383.32	387.07
US Dollar	280.60	282.3

OPPO Reno15
Series Now
Available
Nationwide



Commerce Desk

LAHORE: OPPO, a global leader in smartphone devices, has officially announced the nationwide availability of the OPPO Reno15 Series in Pakistan. Following strong consumer response during its pre-order phase, the Reno15 Series is now available with exclusive first-sale offers, including 1+1 Year Extended Warranty, 1 Year Screen Protection, and flexible installment plans starting from Rs. 355 per day, available at authorized OPPO retailers, official OPPO stores, and online platforms.

OPPO Reno15 Series is available in 3 variants: Reno15 Pro, Reno15, and Reno15 F. The Reno15 Pro 5G comes with a 6.32-inch display with a 120Hz refresh rate, a 200MP Ultra-Clear Main Camera for ultra-detailed shots, and a 6,200mAh battery with 80W SUPERVOOC™ fast charging. The device is powered by Mediatek Dimensity 8450, delivering high performance and smooth multitasking, making it ideal for content creators and tech enthusiasts.

Mega Motor Company Inaugurates Pakistan's Sixth BYD Dealership in Faisalabad

Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: BYD, the world's no.1 NEV brand, in partnership with Mega Motor Company (MMC) has opened its sixth authorized BYD 3s dealership in Faisalabad, marking an important step in the brand's national expansion. Located in

one of Punjab's key commercial districts, the new dealership will offer complete customer experience, including its advanced NEV lineup, after-sales services, test drives, and access to BYD's full range of accessories.

This launch underscores BYD and MMC's focus on expanding into commercially vibrant cities,

staying closely connected to customers. Commenting on the occasion, Danish Khalid, Vice President Sales & Strategy at BYD-MMC, said: "The opening of our sixth dealership reflects the positive response BYD has received in Pakistan. We've seen significant demand from Faisalabad, and this expansion allows

us to serve customers here more effectively. As we grow nationwide, our strategy is to enhance accessibility and support long-term adoption through licensed / authorized dealerships while maintaining the customer experience associated with BYD Experience Centers."

Faisalabad becomes the

fourth city in BYD Pakistan's footprint, alongside Karachi, Lahore, and Islamabad. Of the six dealerships currently operating nationwide, three are BYD Experience Centers, two are BYD Care Centers dedicated to service and spare parts, while the newly opened Faisalabad dealership offers a full suite of sales, service,

and spare support, delivering the same standard of customer engagement as BYD Experience Centers.

Commerce minister stresses need to further deepen trade ties with Cambodia

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan on Tuesday stressed the need to further deepen trade relations between Pakistan and Cambodia to fully realize their trade and investment potential for mutual economic benefit and social prosperity of both countries.

Jam Kamal, along with the Cambodian

Commerce Minister, visited the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) and addressed the business community, said a press release issued by the Ministry of Commerce.

The FPCCI hosted a business engagement in honor of Cham Nimul, Minister of Commerce of the Kingdom of Cambodia, to promote Pakistan-Cambodia trade, investment, and private-sector linkages.

He paid tribute to the resilience of Pakistan's business community in the face of recent economic challenges, including high inflation, elevated interest rates and foreign exchange volatility.

The minister said Pakistan's foremost challenge is now achieving sustainable growth, which hinges on improved competitiveness, higher investment, and greater fiscal space, adding that the upcoming

federal budget would be critical to reducing the cost and improving the ease of doing business.

Outlining Pakistan's trade diplomacy strategy, he noted that official engagements are increasingly being paired with structured business-to-business forums and sectoral matchmaking, resulting in 60 to 70 business agreements during recent interactions.

Photo: PID

Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Prime Minister's Youth Programme (PMYP) Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan Met with Hon. Farhad Hajiyev, Deputy Minister of Youth and Sports of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Tuesday.



Photo: PID

German Consul General Inaugurates SKY Air Compressors Open House in Karachi



Commerce Desk

KARACHI: The SKY Air Compressors Open House & Industry Networking Event was inaugurated on Tuesday by Thomas E. Schultz, Consul General of the Federal Republic of Germany, at the Korangi facility of Rastgar & Company (Pvt) Ltd.

The inauguration included a tree plan-

ting a shared commitment to environmental responsibility, energy efficiency, and reduced carbon emissions through modern industrial technologies.

The event, organised in collaboration with the German Pakistan Chamber of Commerce & Industry (GPCCI), brought together representatives of multinational companies, local industry associations, and technical professionals. It featured

specialised technical sessions led by international experts who travelled from abroad, focusing on energy-efficient compressed air systems and portable air compressor applications.

Industry participants noted the growing importance of efficient industrial solutions in enhancing competitiveness and supporting sustainable manufacturing growth.

IFC and Habib Metropolitan Bank Partner to Expand SME Finance in Pakistan

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: IFC announced a new risk-sharing facility with Habib Metropolitan Bank Limited (HABIBMETRO) to expand access to finance for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) across Pakistan, including agricultural SMEs, and address the country's SME financing gap.

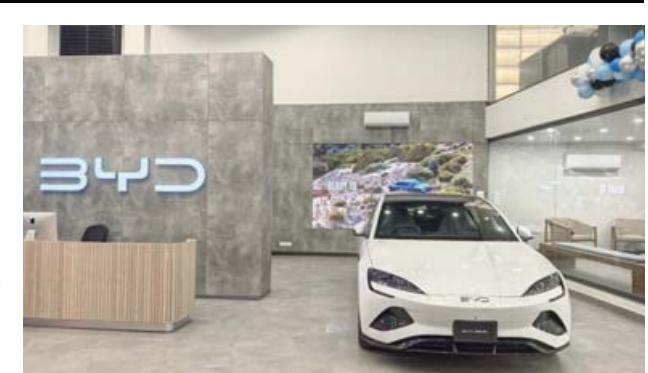
SMEs account for 90% of businesses in Pakistan and contribute 40% of GDP, yet fewer than 200,000 out of 3.2 million SMEs have access to formal credit.

The new risk-sharing facility is designed to catalyze lending to underserved businesses, support job creation, and strengthen market competitiveness in the SME segment.

"Unlocking private capital at scale is essential to close Pakistan's SME financing gap. Together with Habib

Metropolitan Bank Limited, IFC is deploying a targeted risk-sharing facility for SMEs and agri-centric businesses, to promote growth, which is inclusive, sustainable, and commercially viable," said Momina Ajazuddin, IFC's Regional Industry Director, Financial Institutions Group, Middle East and Central Asia.

Khurram Shahzad Khan, President and CEO of HABIBMETRO, added, "We are consciously working to improve access to finance for SMEs which constitute the backbone of Pakistan's economy. Our partnership with IFC on this risk-sharing facility will enable us to broaden and diversify our SME portfolio across various regions and industrial sectors, including agriculture. We look forward to further strengthening our longstanding relationship with IFC."



9th International Pakistan Army Team Spirit Competition concludes

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: The 9th International Pakistan Army Team Spirit (PATS) Competition successfully concluded at Kharian on February 9, 2026. The closing ceremony was graced by Field Marshal Asim Munir as the chief guest.

The Team Spirit Competition is a 60-hour-long patrolling exercise, designed to enhance professional military skills through the exchange of innovative ideas, tactical experiences and best practices among participating teams, according to an ISPR statement.

Conducted from February 5, 2026, onwards, the exercise took place in the semi-mountainous terrain of Punjab, Pakistan, providing a realistic and challenging operational environment.

Over the years, PATS has evolved into a prestigious and highly competitive military exercise, recognised for promoting professional excellence and mutual learning among participating nations.

The forum continues to strengthen military-to-military cooperation and understanding, while fostering camaraderie and team spirit in a demanding operational setting.

This year, the competition featured wide-ranging participation from 19 countries, including Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Malaysia, Maldives, Morocco, Nepal, Qatar, Sri Lanka, Turkiye, the United States of America and Uzbekistan.

Indonesia, Myanmar and Thailand attended the exercise as observers.

The ISPR stated that 16 domestic teams from the Pakistan Army and Pakistan Navy, along with observers from the Pakistan Air Force, also participated in the event.

Addressing the closing ceremony, Field Marshal Asim Munir commended all participating teams for their exceptional professionalism, physical and mental endurance, operational competence and high morale displayed during the exercise.

He emphasised the importance of such multinational engagements in enhancing collective



preparedness and adapting to the evolving character of modern warfare.

Reaffirming the core values of the Pakistan Army, the Chief of Defence Forces underscored the enduring soldierly attributes of "character, courage and competence", which have been consist-

ently demonstrated by Pakistani soldiers, particularly in the ongoing fight against terrorism.

Towards the culmination, Field Marshal Asim Munir presented awards to the outstanding participants of the competition.

International observers and defence attachés from parti-

cating countries also attended the event and expressed appreciation for the high standard of professionalism, organization and conduct demonstrated throughout the exercise.

The Chief of Army Staff also witnessed miscellaneous training activities at the National

Counter Terrorism Centre, Pabbi, including a visit to a newly established Tactical Simulator.

Field Marshal Asim Munir lauded the efforts of troops and the technical team and emphasised the importance of simulator-based training to complement traditional training methods.

T-20 World Cricket Cup 2026

Pakistan Cricket Team Beat America By 33 Runs in Colombo

Sports Desk

COLOMBO: Pakistan Cricket Team Beat America By 33 Runs in T-20 World Match in Colombo. T-20 World Cup This time, no chance for America, Pakistan's second win, favorite for Super 8. Pakistan made America forget about its victory 2 years ago. They avenged their failure in the last T20 World Cup match. In the important and second match of Group A of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026, they won by 32 runs. Thus, the confirmation of Super 8 is close.

The United States of America won the toss and elected to field first against Pakistan in the Group A match of the ICC T20 World Cup 2026. Pakistan made a good stand of 54 runs in 5 overs. Saim Ayub made 19 off 7 balls. Captain Salman Ali Agha was the guest of only 1 run. Babar Azam and Sahibzada Farhan made a good stand for the third wicket. The two made a partnership of 81 runs off 52 balls for the third wicket. Babar Azam managed to make 46 off 32 balls, his innings had 1 six



and 4 fours. Soon, the US got the wicket of set-batsman Sahibzada Farhan, who scored 73 runs off 41 balls at a strike rate of 178. 5 sixes and 6 fours were hit. Muhammad Nawaz 5, Faheem Ashraf 1 and Usman Khan along with Abrar Ahmed both made zero. Shadab

Khan did the real work and made 30 off 12 balls. He played a key role in Pakistan's total of 190 for 9 by scoring runs. Pakistan lost 5 wickets in the last 12 runs. Of these, 2 were run outs. Shadab Khan bowled brilliantly for the USA and took 4 wickets for 25 runs in 4 overs.

In reply, USA also made a stand of 42 runs in less than 5 overs. Mohammad Nawaz took the important wicket of Andreas Goss and brought about the first victory. He could make 13. Captain Monk Patel was caught by him



on Shadab Khan's ball. He could make only 3 off 10 balls. Shayan Jahangir showed resistance by scoring 49 runs. He also fell victim to Shadab. Mallan Kumar also made 29. Shubham Ranjan batted brilliantly and kept hopes alive. He completed his fifty but his

efforts were in vain as he did not give anyone a wicket. He scored 51 runs in the last over and was LB by Shayan. He hit 3 sixes and 3 fours. The USA team could make 158 runs for 8 wickets in 20 overs and thus Pakistan won by 32 runs. For Pakistan, Shadab Khan took 2 wickets for 26 runs. Usman Tariq also took 3 wickets for 27 runs. Shaheen was hit hard by 42 runs for one wicket.

Pakistan will play their third but crucial match of the T20 World Cup against India on February 15 in Colombo.

Dahani, Ali rout WAPDA as SNGPL inch closer to President's Trophy Grade-I title

Tahir Amin Malik

Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited's (SNGPL) pacers Shahnawaz Dahani (4-23) and Mohammad Ali (4-26) shared eight wickets to bundle Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA) out for 96 in second innings on third day of President's Trophy Grade-I 2026 final at Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore on Tuesday.

In pursuit of the 245-run target, SNGPL stood strong on 181-4 at stumps, requiring another 64 runs to win with batter Omair Bin Yousuf top scoring with an unbeaten 60 off 101 balls hitting

seven fours and one six.

Omair also put on 56 runs with Abdul Samad (39, 38b, 5x4s) after SNGPL lost Azan Awais on 16 and Abid Ali on 28. Skipper Mohammad Rizwan made 23 off 28 balls with four boundaries as part of an important 55-run stand for the fourth wicket alongside Omair.

For WAPDA, Aqib Khan (9-1-44-2) and Naqeebullah (13-3-2-49-2) shared the four wickets to fall.

Earlier in the day, SNGPL resumed their innings from an overnight score of 110-9 but added only seven runs before

losing their final wicket.

With a strong 148-run first-innings lead, WAPDA could not capitalise on the advantage as SNGPL's pacers ran riot in the second innings. For WAPDA, only skipper Usman Khalid managed to cross the 15-run mark as he fell after scoring a run-a-ball 18.

Dahani (11.5-3-23-4) and Ali (11-5-26-4) were well supported by Aamir Jamal who also picked up two wickets for 26 runs in seven overs.

Scores in brief - Final - Day 3 of 5

Water and Power Develop-

ment Authority (WAPDA) vs Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL) at Gaddafi Stadium, Lahore

Target for SNGPL: 245

SNGPL need 64 runs to win with six wickets remaining

WAPDA 265 all out, 82.1 overs (Ayaz Tasawar 57, Bismillah Khan 56, Imran Dogar 38, Mohammad Ammar 31; Aamir Jamal 4-67, Shehzad Gul 3-69, Shahnawaz Dahani 2-33) and 96 all out, 33.5 overs (Khalid Usman 18, Bismillah Khan 15, Muhammad Akhlaq 15; Shahnawaz Dahani 4-23, Mohammad Ali 4-26, Aamir Jamal 2-26)



SNGPL 117 all out, 45.1 overs (Azan Awais 48; Naqeebullah 35.3 overs (Omair Bin Yousuf 4-20, Mohammad Zeeshan 60 not out, Abdul Samad 39, 2-44, Naqeebullah 2-49)

Meeting

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari meeting Mr. Alisher Tukhtaev, Ambassador of the Republic Of Uzbekistan to Pakistan, at Aiwan-e-Sadr on Tuesday.



Photo: Online

President Zardari welcomes Uzbek president's invitation, emphasises stronger ties

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari on Tuesday said that Pakistan attached great significance to its close brotherly relations with Uzbekistan, underscoring the importance of effective follow-up on the outcomes of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev's recent historic and result-oriented state visit to Pakistan.

The president said this while talking to Ambassador

of the Republic of Uzbekistan to Pakistan Alisher Tukhtaev, who called on him at Aiwan-e-Sadr and handed over a letter from President Mirziyoyev.

In his letter, the Uzbek President thanked President Zardari, the government and the people of Pakistan for the extraordinary hospitality and warm welcome extended to him during his visit.

He also expressed gratitude for being conferred the Nishan-e-Pakistan, Paki-

stan's highest civil award, as well as the honorary professorship and doctorate.

President Zardari reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to further strengthening cooperation with Uzbekistan in key sectors, including food and agriculture, mining, information technology, tourism, health and banking. He welcomed Uzbekistan's interest in

importing halal meat, fruits and potatoes from Pakistan as a positive step towards enhancing bilateral trade.

President Mirziyoyev reiterated his invitation to President Zardari, earlier conveyed during their tête-à-tête.

The president accepted the invitation and directed the authorities concerned from the Pakistani side to coordinate with their Uzbek counterparts to finalise the visit later this year.

He also conveyed his gratitude to President Mirziyoyev for his message of solidarity and support following

the recent terrorist attack in Islamabad, and reaffirmed the shared resolve of Pakistan and Uzbekistan to continue their joint journey of peace, stability and development.

Alisher Tukhtaev informed President Zardari of Uzbekistan's desire to develop Babur Park in the F-7 sector of Islamabad and said that a relevant Uzbek minister would visit Islamabad next week to hold discussions with Pakistani authorities

regarding the project.

Pakistan keen to further enhance economic relations with Indonesia: PM

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Tuesday, reiterated that Pakistan was keen to further enhance its economic relations with Indonesia.

Talking to a five-member delegation led by Indonesia's Minister for Investment and Downstream Industry Rosan P. Roeslani that called on him, the prime minister said that Pakistan and Indonesia shared decades-old brotherly relations which continued to grow stronger with the passage of time.

He further said that Pakistan wished to take benefit from Indonesia's experience with the Sovereign Wealth Fund model.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan, Minister



for Finance and Revenue Muhammad Aurangzeb, Minister of State for Finance and Railways Bilal Azhar Kyani; Special Assistants

to the Prime Minister Tariq Fatemi and Haroon Akhtar; and senior government officials. PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

The prime minister conveyed his best wishes to the President of Indonesia Prabowo Subianto and mentioned that his visit to

Pakistan, last year, proved extremely useful and productive in further strengthening bilateral relations between the two countries.

He also referred to his meeting with the Indonesian President on the sidelines of the 58th Annual Meeting of the World Economic Forum.

The Indonesian minister conveyed a message of goodwill from President Prabowo Subianto and reaffirmed Indonesia's commitment to further advancing bilateral relations.

Both countries agreed to accelerate efforts to transform the Preferential Trade Agreement into a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) by 2027.

The Indonesian minister thanked the prime minister and the government of Pakistan for the warm welcome and hospitality extended during his visit to Pakistan.

and investment, under the purview of the Pakistan-Cambodia Joint Trade Committee (JTC), Foreign Office Spokesperson said in a press release.

The DPM/FM received the Cambodian minister at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The deputy prime minister/foreign minister also highlighted Pakistan's ongoing engagement with ASEAN and reiterated Pakistan's desire to further enhance its cooperation with the organization.

Federal Govt making heavy investment on economic, education empowerment of youth: Engr Amir Muqam

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs, Gilgit-Baltistan and SAFRON, and President of Pakistan Muslim League (N) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Engineer Ameer Muqam, said here Tuesday that investing in youth is the best and most profitable investment, and that young people need opportunities rather than hollow slogans.

"Through the landmark Prime Minister's Laptop Scheme, thousands of capable and hardworking students across Pakistan are being aligned with the requirements of the digital age," Engr Amir Muqam said while addressing, as chief guest, a ceremony for the distribution of

laptops among students under the Prime Minister's Laptop Scheme at the University of Agriculture Peshawar.

In his key note address, Federal Minister Engr Amir Muqam said that he felt great happiness and pride to be present among the students and faculty at this great educational institution, the University of Agriculture Peshawar.

He said that the university is a shining center of knowledge, research, and practical training, which is not only aligning the agriculture sector with modern requirements but is also playing an important role in national food security and rural development, leading youth toward a bright future.

High-level meeting reviews security situation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

News Desk

PESHAWAR: A high-level meeting was held at Corps Headquarters Peshawar to review the overall security situation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. The meeting was attended by the Federal Interior Minister, Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, National Security Advisor, and Corps Commander Peshawar, in addition to senior civil and military officials.

During the meeting, tributes were paid to the citizens and security personnel who were martyred in terrorist incidents. It was decided in the meeting that this year's PSL matches will be held in Peshawar.

The meeting decided that the provincial government administration in

Malakand division will be immediately implemented as a model under the supervision of the provincial police and other provincial institutions.

Later, this successful model will be implemented in a phased manner in the affected districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, especially Khyber, Orakzai and Kurram.

It was decided to establish a special sub-committee under the chairmanship of the Chief Minister to effectively monitor all development projects being launched in these districts and review any military operations, which will hold review meetings on a monthly basis.

This special sub-committee headed by the Chief Minister will include elected public representatives, Corps Commander Peshawar, Chief Secretary,

IG Police, and provincial officials, as well as representatives of federal institutions.

The meeting decided that this special sub-committee would oversee projects in the areas of governance and development in these districts and create alternative employment opportunities to ensure a stable income for the local population. In addition, this committee would also make effective arrangements to resolve the problems of temporarily displaced persons. Effective communication between the Federation and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa will ensure complete coordination and common stance on key policy issues to address the critical issue of terrorism.

It was agreed that sustainable employment opportunities will be



created to prevent extremist thinking and promote positive thinking among the youth.

The meeting decided to continue strict measures against illegal activities like illegal SIM cards, explosives, and extortions. In addition, focus will also be given to phased profiling of non-customs paid vehicles.