

AJK PM: Kashmir conflict is an internationally recognized dispute backed by UN Resolutions

 Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: Prime Minister Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Faisal Mumtaz Rathore, has said that Kashmir conflict is not just a bilateral or regional issue, but an internationally recognized dispute, deriving its legitimacy from multiple United Nations Security Council resolutions.

He expressed these views while addressing, via video link, a conference titled "Vision Kashmir: Pathways to Peace and Stability," organized by the Center for International Strategic Studies (CISS) here today.

A just and peaceful resolution, he said, is essential not only for the Kashmiri people but also for lasting peace and stability in South Asia.

Prime Minister Rathore said that Kashmir Solidarity Day reaffirms Pakistan's unwavering commitment to Kashmir cause and the firm resolve of the Kashmiri people that they would never give up their inalienable right to self-determination.



He described Azad Jammu and Kashmir as a living example of a modern democratic state, where people enjoy political freedom, equal social and developmental opportunities. It also stands as proof that the Kashmiri people are fully capable of governing their affairs independently with dignity and responsibility, which strengthens their case of right to self-determination.

tion", the PM said.

The Prime Minister said that the future of Kashmir must be based on justice, meaningful dialogue, and respect for the free will of the Kashmiri people.

The AJK premier said that despite India's relentless repression, the Kashmiri people have demonstrated remarkable resilience in the face of Indian

state terrorism.

Reiterating his government's all out support to Kashmiris' just cause, he said, "The government and people of Azad Jammu and Kashmir will continue to stand shoulder to shoulder with our Kashmiri brethren till they achieve their cherished goal. The Prime Minister also commended CISS for organizing the conference.

Condolence

ISLAMABAD: Senior Judge of AJK High Court Justice Shahid Bahar visited the Barrister Sultan Mehmood residence and condoled with his son Yasir Sultan and offered Fateha.



Shameful execution of Maqbool Bhat a blot on the face of India's justice system: DFP

 Spokesman Report

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Democratic Freedom Party has paid eulogizing tribute to renowned liberation leader Shaheed Muhammad Maqbool Bhat on his martyrdom anniversary.

In a statement issued here today, the DFP spokesman advocate Arshad Iqbal praised the JKLF co-founder Muhammad Maqbool Bhat for his indomitable role and peerless contribution to Kashmir cause.

"The entire Kashmiri nation is

proud of this great son of the soil who preferred to kiss the gallows rather than compromising his ideals", Advocate Iqbal said.

Terming his hanging as a miscarriage of justice, he said that rather than dispensing justice the Indian judiciary and judges have been working on the whims and fancies of the Indian rulers.

The shameful execution of Kashmiri liberation leader, he said, was a big blot on the face of India's justice system.

Paying homage to the martyred leader, he said, "His tireless struggle



for the national cause would continue to inspire the coming generations", he added.

Reiterating Kashmiris' pledge to take the ongoing liberation struggle to its logical end, the spokesman reiterated Kashmiris' pledge to uphold the mission of martyrs despite all odds.

It is worth mentioning here that India hanged Muhammad Maqbool Bhat to death on February 11 in 1984 in New Delhi's jail for his role in the Kashmir freedom movement. His body remains buried in the premises of the jail.

DC Rao Atif Raza installs height barrier on Bahtar Road to stop overloaded dumpers; residents applaud move

 Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: Deputy Commissioner Attock Rao Atif Raza has ordered the installation of a height barrier on Bahtar Road to prevent the movement of overloaded dumpers, a step warmly welcomed by local residents who praised both the DC and Admin Officer DC Office Zaheer Ahmed Khan.

According to details, several overloaded dumpers used to pass daily through Bahtar Road from Kowah village, allegedly using the route to avoid weighbridge checks.

Residents and local political and social figures had repeatedly submitted requests and also raised the issue in the media, stating that the road is already narrow and the movement of heavily overloaded

dumpers posed a serious risk of accidents.

Taking notice of the public concerns, Deputy Commissioner Rao Atif Raza, on special directives, ensured the installation of a 10-foot-high barrier on Kowah village-Bahtar Road under the supervision of Admin Officer Zaheer Ahmed Khan. A clear notice has been placed on the barrier stating that vehicles taller

than 10 feet are not allowed to enter.

Residents said overloaded dumpers were a threat not only to their own safety but also to the lives of others. They termed the newly installed barrier a major relief for the public and expressed gratitude to DC Rao Atif Raza and Admin Officer Zaheer Ahmed Khan, paying them rich tribute for the initiative.

Laptops under PM program distributed on merit among students across Pakistan: Muqam

PESHAWAR: Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs, Gilgit-Baltistan and SAFRON, and President of Pakistan Muslim League (N) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Engineer Amir Muqam, said here Wednesday that the world has accepted Pakistan as a champion on ruling the skies.

"To take the country forward, we must adopt merit. Laptops under PM scheme are being

distributed purely on merit, and the youth are Pakistan's bright future," he said while addressing, as the chief guest at Khyber Medical University under the Prime Minister's Laptop Scheme for the distribution of laptops among students.

In his address, Federal Minister Engineer Amir Muqam said that the Vice Chancellor of Khyber Medical University,

Hilal-e-Imtiaz Professor Dr Zia-ul-Haq, present at the ceremony, is a source of pride for us, and he was pleased to be among the students.

He reiterated that the youth are Pakistan's bright future and that laptops are being distributed on the basis of merit.

The Federal Minister said that the laptop scheme was first

Minister of Punjab, Muhammad Shehzad Sharif.

When Muhammad Nawaz Sharif became Prime Minister of Pakistan in 2013, the scheme was expanded across Pakistan and continued successfully.

Unfortunately, it was discontinued in 2018, but after remaining suspended for four years during PTI rule, Prime Minister Shehzad Sharif

restarted this landmark program in 2022.

He emphasized that the Prime Minister's Laptop Scheme is being run purely on merit. If the country is to progress, merit must be adopted. He congratulated the students who received laptops and their parents, saying that their children earned them on merit and that the scheme is 100 percent merit-based.

AJK PM Rathore meets Muslim Conference leaders to discuss political future



 Spokesman Report

RAWALPINDI: Central Vice President All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference Raja Zafar Maroof and Chairman All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference Youth Wing called on AJK premier Raja Faisal Mumtaz Rathore. Discussed the political situation in Kashmir; the two leaders congratulated Faisal Mumtaz Rathore on assuming the slot of Prime Ministership and expressed their best wishes. They expressed that Azad Kashmir would enter a new era of development, stability and public welfare under the leadership of PM Raja Faisal Mumtaz Rathore.

Kashmir Icons Guru and Butt Sacrificed for Freedom, says Attique Khan

 Spokesman Report

RAWALPINDI: President of Jammu Kashmir Muslim Conference and former Prime Minister Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan has said that Shaheed Afzal Guru and Shaheed Maqbool But were sacrificed for the freedom movement. Martyr is not only a hero of the Kashmiri nation but also a hero who sacrificed his life in the quest to free the beloved country from Indian slavery. While strongly condemning the hanging, he said that the history of Kashmir is not the blood of leaders, men and women youths have been unjustly shed. Speaking to Muslim Conference workers in Rawalpindi, he said that India killed Shaheed Maqbool But on February 11, 1984 while Shaheed Muhammad Afzal Guru was martyred in Badgam on February 9, He buried his sons in jail premises. Shaheed Afzal Guru hanged after 2,000 and Nine lakh detainees are trying to commute life imprisonment to death penalty. 40 lakh non-state actors are engaged in conspiracies to change the demographics of occupied Jammu and Kashmir and ignore UN resolutions. Most of the people are fighting against India's forced occupation and in this struggle, Kashmiris are sacrificing their lives. They kissed the plank with great youth and obedience in the same prison and the same month.

AJK Legislative Assembly called for crucial session on February 13

 Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: The legislative assembly of Azad Jammu and Kashmir has convened an important session on February 13, 2026 at 2 pm at Assembly Hall, Muzaffarabad. A formal notification in this regard has been issued by the Secretary Legislative Assembly. According to the notification issued, the meeting is subject to Article 47 of the Interim Constitution of Free Jammu and Kashmir, 1974. Who wants to go to work? The meeting is likely to consider important legislation, public issues, government performance and other important issues. is, where the opposition is likely to bring the government to a standstill on various public and financial matters, while government officials will present their performance and future plans in the House.

After the summoning of the assembly session, political activities have accelerated and various parties have also called their parliamentary party sessions to adopt an effective strategy in the House.

Muzaffarabad Sets Stage for Stronger Gov-Journalist Ties: Info Secretary Emphasizes Cooperation

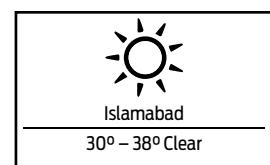
 Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: Secretary Information and IT Muhammad Rashid Hanif chaired an introductory meeting of the journalist community. The meeting was attended by Director Public Relations Muhammad Bashir Mirza, Vice Chairman Press Foundation Sardar Zulfiqar, former presidents of the Press Club Syed Afaq Hussain Shah, Wahid Iqbal Butt, Sohail Mughal, Bureau Chief Bol TV, officers of the Information Department, and a large number of senior journalists. Addressing the meeting, Secretary Information and IT Muhammad Rashid Hanif said that journalism is the fourth pillar of the state, which plays a key role in the development of the society. The Information Department and the journalist community are inseparable. Secretary Information and IT Muhammad Rashid Hanif said that the Information Department has a good team and will take necessary steps to meet the growing needs over time and increase the capacity of the department.

The Azad Kashmir government is going to hold an Overseas Kashmiri Convention next week in which the problems of the overseas community will be addressed. Vice Chairman Press Foundation Sardar Zulfiqar, former presidents of the Press Club Syed Afaq Hussain Shah, Wahid Butt, Sohail Mughal welcomed the introductory session in honor of journalists on behalf of Secretary Information and IT Muhammad Rashid Hanif and said that the Information Department and the journalism industry are with us.

The Secretary of Information is highly qualified and has a good reputation. It is hoped that the officer will play his role for the betterment of the Information Department and the welfare of journalists.



**SERVICES****Namaz Timings**

Fajr	5:32 am
Zohr	12:22 pm
Asr	4:10 pm
Magrib	5:48 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	9212334-43
CDA	9208301-04
Met Office	9250360-6
RDA	5555864
TMA	5770886
Cantonment Board	9270151-3
Islamabad Metropolitan Corporation	9209224
Potohar Town	9209224
Rawal Town	5773343

COMPLAINTS

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	921150-0331-5022125

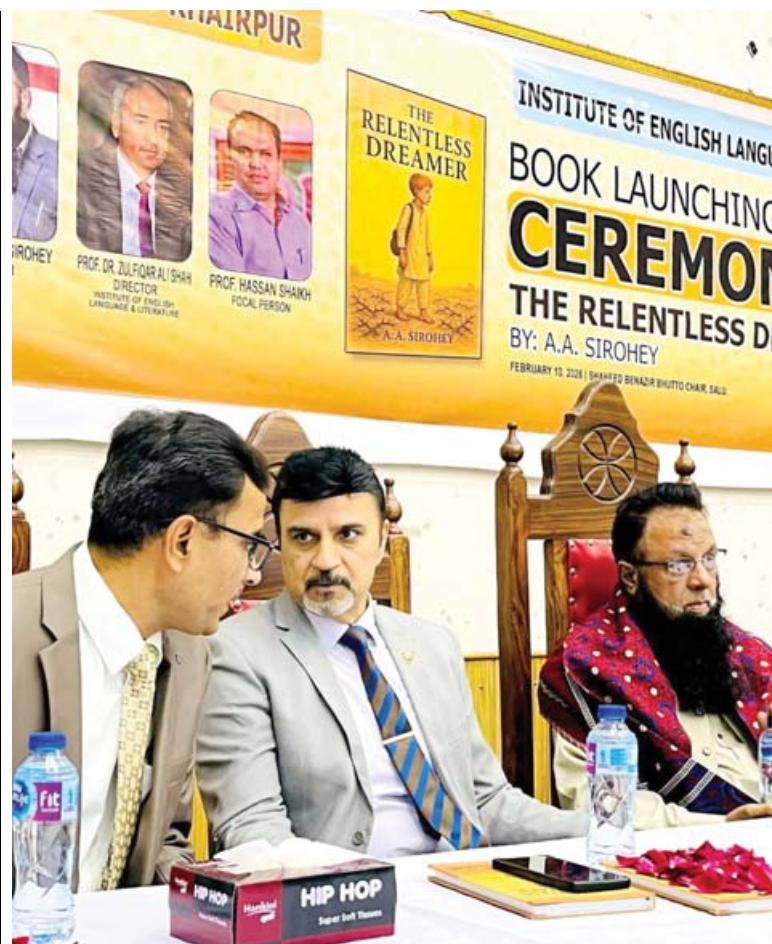
SECP Facilitates Landmark Foreign Direct Investment in Pakistan's Insurance Sector

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has approved the acquisition of a controlling stake in TPL Insurance Limited by Jazz International Holding Limited.

This partnership between a digital insurer and a major digital operator is expected to increase insurance penetration and foreign investment. The SECP's facilitation of this deal aligns with the goals to foster a transparent, efficient, and investor-friendly environment that encourages both domestic and will bring foreign investment.

As part of its commitment to market development, the SECP is actively implementing structural reforms, including the recently introduced regulatory framework for digital-only insurers and microinsurers. By vetting this acquisition for adherence to sound corporate governance and prudent management standards, the Commission is paving the way for further innovation in financial services and products.

**Qayoom Sarohi**

KHAIRPUR: The Institute of English Language & Literature at Shah Abdul Latif University, Khairpur, organized a distinguished book launching ceremony

Book Launching Ceremony of The Relentless Dreamer Held at Shah Abdul Latif University Khairpur

Dr. Yousuf Khushk

In his presidential address, Vice Chancellor Dr. Yousuf Khushk lauded the author's remarkable contribution to literature, describing *The Relentless Dreamer* as "a testament to resilience, creativity, and the indomitable spirit of human aspiration." Dr. Sirohey, the author of the book, shared his reflections on the occasion, narrating the struggles and challenges of his life that shaped the narrative of *The Relentless Dreamer*. He emphasized that the book is both a personal journey and a universal message of hope, perseverance, and the pursuit of

knowledge. His words resonated deeply with the audience, highlighting the transformative power of literature in capturing the human experience.

The ceremony was meticulously organized by the Institute of English under the focal leadership of Prof. Hassan Shaikh. The proceedings were gracefully conducted by Ms. Hira Jatoi, whose eloquence added charm to the event.

Prof. Dr. Ghulam Mustafa Mashori, Dean, Faculty of Arts & Languages, and Dr. Zulfiqar Shah, Director Institute of English, renowned writer Qurban Mangi, comrade Faiz Ali, Mr. Taj Sarohi

also addressed the gathering, appreciating the author's creative vision and acknowledging the Institute's role in fostering literary culture at the University. Prof. Mohammad Ibrahim, Prof. Tanvir Mangnejo, Prof. Paras Niaz, Prof. Akram Shah, Prof. Sardar Lund, Dr. Ibrahim Kharal, Mr. Amar Iqbal and others also attended this literary session.

The event concluded with a collective sense of pride and inspiration, reaffirming Shah Abdul Latif University's commitment to nurturing intellectual excellence and celebrating the achievements of its alumni.

Security Arrangement

ISLAMABAD: A view of the security pickets at the entrance road of Fruit and Vegetables Market of Sector I-11 after the recent suicide attack of Tarlai Imam Bargha, the security in Capital City is enhanced by Administration.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

FPCCI President Atif Ikram Sheikh Reappoints Sohail Malik for Key Leadership Roles

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: President FPCCI, Mr. Atif Ikram Sheikh, has once again shown his confidence in the professional capabilities, dedication, and leadership of Mr. Sohail Malik by reappointing him as Chairman Coordination FPCCI Capital Office and Chairman Pakistan-US Business Council for the year 2026.

This reappointment comes in recognition of Mr. Malik's exemplary performance and effective coordination role over the past two years, during which he played a vital part in strengthening institutional linkages and enhancing bilateral trade engagement.

Mr. Malik Sohail Hussain formally received the notification of his appointments from



President FPCCI, Mr. Atif Ikram Sheikh. On this occasion, Mr. Karim Aziz Malik, Chairman FPCCI Capital Office, and Mr. Zahid Maqbool, Former President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry, were also present.

The leadership of FPCCI expressed confidence that Mr. Malik will continue to contribute significantly toward improving coordination mechanisms and advancing Pakistan-US business relations.

Educational and Family Fun Fair to Be Held on 14th February at Zeeshan Colony Kamalia

Zafar Chishti

TOBA TEK SINGH: The Health and Population Welfare Department is set to organize a colorful Educational and Family Fun Fair on Saturday, 14th February in Zeeshan Colony Kamalia. The event will commence at 11:00 AM and continue until 4:00 PM. The primary objective of the fair is to engage the public especially children and families in healthy and positive recreational activities. A variety of entertaining and educational programs have been arranged for children, including a musical chairs competition, national songs performances, a quiz program, a painting competition, a mehndi (henna) competition and other fun-filled activities. In addition, swings will be installed for children, while food stalls will also be set up at the venue. Traditional games such as tug-of-war will further add to the excitement of the event. According to the organizers, children who wish to participate in the various competitions can register on the spot by arriving at the venue on time. Residents of the area as well as other citizens have been invited to attend the fair with their families and enjoy the pleasant and lively atmosphere. District Health and Population Welfare officer Chaudhary Muhammad Naem said that such initiatives aim not only to highlight and nurture the mental and physical abilities of children but also to promote healthy recreation within the community. He urged citizens to participate actively and make the event a success.



AIOU Announces Entry Test Schedule for MS, MPhil and PhD Programs

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) has issued the entry test schedule for admissions to MS, MPhil and PhD programs for the Spring Semester 2026.

According to the university administration, entry tests of various faculties will be conducted in the last week of February.

As per the schedule, the entry test for the Faculty of Arabic and Islamic Studies will be held on February 23, the Faculty of Education on February 24, the Faculty of Social Sciences on February 25 while the Faculty of Sciences entry test will take place on February 26.

The entry tests will be conducted simultaneously at 9:00 AM not only at the university's main campus in Islamabad but also in Gilgit-Baltistan, Multan, Karachi and Quetta regions. Candidates may choose any nearby test center according to their convenience.

It is noteworthy that applications for admission to these programs are being received until February 17. Admission forms and the prospectus are available on the official website of Allama Iqbal Open University and applications can be submitted only through online mode.

According to the university spokesperson, successful candidates in the entry test will also be required to pass an interview for admission. Merit and transparency will be ensured in the conduct of tests and interviews.



PC Hospitality Appoints Two New Resident Managers to Lead Pre-Opening Hotels

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: PC Hospitality is proud to announce the appointment of two highly skilled and dedicated professionals as Resident Managers for its upcoming properties. Chaudhry Rameez has been named Resident Manager of HotelOne Top City, while Muhammad Nadeem will lead HotelOne Gujranwala. Both individuals bring a wealth of

experience and expertise to their new roles, which will be pivotal as the hotels prepare for their grand openings in the near future. These appointments highlight PC Hospitality's commitment to nurturing homegrown talent and fostering leadership within the organization. Both Rameez and Nadeem have a proven track record in the hospitality industry, having worked their way up from entry-level positions to take on

these senior leadership roles. Their appointments reflect the company's strategic focus on excellence and ensuring that the upcoming properties set the highest standards in service and guest experience from day one.

Chaudhry Rameez: With a career that began from the ground level, Rameez has steadily developed a deep understanding of hotel operations, making him an outstanding experience from

for the Resident Manager role at HotelOne Top City. His leadership, problem-solving abilities, and hands-on experience in the industry have earned him a reputation for delivering exceptional service and maintaining operational excellence. Rameez's dedication to guest satisfaction will play a crucial role as the hotel nears its opening, ensuring that the property delivers an ideal leader for this property as

the outset.

Nadeem: Starting his career as a Housekeeper, Nadeem's rise through the ranks to Resident Manager of HotelOne Gujranwala demonstrates his dedication, hard work, and passion for the hospitality industry. His extensive experience in hotel operations and his commitment to enhancing guest satisfaction make him an

ideal leader for this property as it prepares to open. Nadeem's leadership will be instrumental in setting the foundation for

success at HotelOne Gujranwala, ensuring that it exceeds guest expectations from its opening day.



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
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Pakistan urges South Sudan parties to recommit to 2018 peace accord to end escalating violence

Mid political deadlock among signatories to the 2018 South Sudan peace agreement and a dangerous escalation in armed confrontations, Pakistan has called on all stakeholders to recommit to the agreement in good faith and to address differences through inclusive dialogue.

"It is time for renewal of national consensus," Ambassador Asim Ahmad, permanent representative of Pakistan to the United Nations, told the UN Security Council which on Tuesday debated the deteriorating situation in South Sudan, an African country that gained independence from the Republic of Sudan in 2011.

At this critical juncture, he stressed the need to prevent another descent into violence, warning, "The cost of failure would be borne first and foremost by the South Sudanese people, and would also have profound regional consequences.

"It is time for more deeper engagement, not distancing or abandonment," the Pakistani envoy added.

Against this backdrop, Ambassador Asim Ahmad underscored the crucial role of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), saying there is a continued need for the Mission to remain operational and robust at a time of heightened political uncertainty, inter-communal violence, and regional spill-over risks.

"The upcoming renewal of UNMISS is critically important and should preserve the Mission's core capacities, which are urgently needed to support the South Sudanese people and prevent further deterioration of situation," he said, while calling for ensuring safety and security of UN personnel.

Noting with "concern" UN Secretary-General's assessment of the operational impact of the ongoing liquidity crisis on UNMISS, the Pakistani envoy said, "In an already fragile environment, reductions in Mission's capacity carry serious risks for the protection of civilians and the safety and security of UN personnel."

"The reported decline in patrols, reduced reach, and other implications underscore the real consequences of resource shortfalls on mandate delivery," he said, highlighting the fact that out of the 17,000 troops sanctioned by the Security Council to implement the mandate, only around 9,700 remain in UNMISS.

These challenges are further compounded by the regional spill-over of the conflict in the neighbouring Republic of Sudan, Ambassador Asim Ahmad said, pointing out that the arrival of approximately 1.3 million people fleeing their country since April 2023 has placed additional strain on South Sudan's already strained systems. Further weakening UNMISS capacities would be particularly ill-timed and counterproductive, he added.

In this regard, Ambassador Asim Ahmad called for UNMISS' mandate renewal and payments of assessed contributions to UN peacekeeping in full and on time.

Field Marshal: The Master of Strategic Equilibrium

A balanced foreign policy focused on autonomy and diversification allows states outside the superpower tier to protect sovereignty and long-term stability in a multipolar environment. By maintaining constructive ties with multiple major powers and avoiding dependence on any single partner, countries can reduce exposure to coercion, economic volatility, and security shocks. Such an approach strengthens economic resilience, limits involvement in proxy conflicts, preserves political and ideological independence, and enhances diplomatic credibility and influence, though it requires consistent leadership and strong institutional coordination.

Pakistan is shown advancing this approach through calibrated engagement with both China and the United States under the leadership of Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir. High-level diplomacy reinforced security cooperation, revitalized economic initiatives, and reset strained relationships without undermining balance, while projecting Pakistan as a confident and autonomous actor. The U.S. visit broadened cooperation beyond security to include trade, investment, and people-to-people ties, culminating in a landmark trade agreement that improved Pakistan's market access. Together with strengthened ties to China, these outcomes highlighted how military credibility combined with strategic diplomacy translated into tangible economic and political gains, elevating Pakistan's international standing and strategic leverage.

The preference shown to Pakistan by the United States in this new trade

architecture has already begun to alter dynamics across South Asia, creating a palpable sense of unease in New Delhi. Indian officials have expressed concern and frustration, suggesting that Washington's shift is a clear warning against strategic drift and an indication of Pakistan's rising influence. Meanwhile, Pakistani economic leaders have welcomed the development as a long-overdue recognition of Pakistan's global relevance and a testament to its economic potential.

Analysts worldwide are now taking notice of how a military victory, when channeled through smart diplomacy and strategic outreach, can translate into tangible economic outcomes. Field Marshal Asim Munir has been at the very center of this transformation, proving that modern military leadership extends far beyond the battlefield into the corridors of diplomacy, trade, and global influence. His legacy will likely be defined not only by his battlefield triumphs but also by his rare ability to balance the competing gravitational pulls of the United States and China, charting a sovereign, stable, and strategically respected course for Pakistan on the world stage.

The British magazine Financial Times also acknowledged the impressive personality of Chief of Defence Forces Field Marshal Asim Munir, calling him an effective strategic leader in a changing global system. The British magazine Financial Times called Field Marshal Asim Munir an expert in multilateral foreign policy. According to the Financial Times,

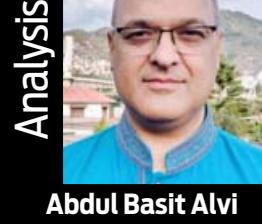
changing global politics has opened a new but difficult era for the middle powers. This development is proving to be particularly complicated for the middle powers. According to the report, Field Marshal Asim Munir is among the most successful multi-aligners of the middle powers. The honor of being the best aligned with Trump goes to Pakistan's military chief Field Marshal Asim Munir. The British journal described Field Marshal Asim Munir as a successful example of middle

powers diplomacy and wrote that Pakistan's leadership remained active in simultaneous contacts between Washington, Beijing, Riyadh and Tehran. Field Marshal Asim Munir effectively advanced Pakistan's diplomacy in a changing global environment. The journal says that timely pleasantries and soft diplomatic behavior with Trump proved effective. Pakistan's diplomatic success disappointed India. The middle power game proved to be more difficult for India than expected. India could not adapt to the changing global situation and Trump's style. Due to this diplomatic failure, India is facing difficulties in its middle power strategy.

According to an article in the Washington Times, 2025 marked a revolutionary turning point in Pakistan-US relations, ending Washington's long-standing "India First" approach and elevating Pakistan to a central position in President Trump's South Asia strategy. The shift was driven mainly by the May Pakistan-India war, during which Pakistan's military performance reportedly

exceeded US expectations and surprised Trump. The Washington Times noted that Pakistan moved from being viewed as an unwanted state to a key partner, while India's political challenges, restrictions on personal freedoms, uneven military performance, and diplomatic rigidity weakened its image as a reliable regional stabilizer. Early signs of improvement included secret counterterrorism cooperation and Trump's unexpected public praise for Pakistan in March, which Islamabad quickly leveraged to deepen engagement. The Washington Times also highlighted the growing prominence of Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, portraying him as a pivotal figure in the policy shift and in reshaping Pakistan's strategic image in Washington. Pakistan's military modernization, command restructuring, and activation of the Chief of Defense Forces post are described as gaining new global significance, with Field Marshal's leadership receiving strong recognition. His interactions with President Trump and senior US military leaders, including meetings at the White House and CENTCOM, are depicted as unprecedented and symbolic of Pakistan's renewed importance. While Pakistan is presented as an emerging anchor of US strategy heading into 2026, the article concluded that the durability of this realignment will depend on the future conduct of both Pakistan and India, with 2025 seen as a year that reshaped US policy and the balance of power in South Asia.

The nation is indeed blessed to have such a military leader who has played such a key role in its current strong global standing, giving it a significant and unprecedented edge over its enemy, India, a truly satisfactory outcome.



Abdul Basit Alvi

Rasmi

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

Artificial Intelligence and the Erosion of Human Thinking

Gulsher Hashmi

In this world, we have different kinds of inventions. Most of these inventions make human life easier. One of the sharpest and most significant inventions of the modern age is Artificial Intelligence (AI). Like other inventions, AI is also making human life easier in many ways. However, there are two major aspects of AI: some are positive, while others are negative.

First of all, let us discuss the positive impacts of AI. Artificial intelligence is contributing greatly to different discipline of life such as teaching, journalism, politics, and management. It is also providing beneficial services to students. Many students now understand concepts more easily through AI rather than through their teachers. Moreover, many household appliances are now powered by AI. With a single click, we can perform many tasks with the help of artificial intelligence.

Many giant companies such as Google, Apple, Samsung, and others are transferring parts of their work to AI systems. As a result, the efficiency of these companies is increasing. In journalism, AI enables people to obtain information on any topic within seconds and helps them write drafts quickly. Therefore, humans can easily access knowledge and produce written content with the assistance of artificial intelligence.

So far, we have discussed the positive points of AI in our daily lives. Now, we will discuss its negative impacts, which form the main core of this article.

One major negative aspect is that adolescents are using AI for almost all their work. They are completing assignments, doing homework, writing critical analyses, making comparisons, and even thinking with the help of artificial intelligence. This means young minds are not developing properly and are becoming dependent on AI for everything.

According to an experiment conducted by MIT, researchers divided a group of people into three subgroups for writing an essay. The first group used only their own minds. The second group used Google search, while the third group used AI. During the essay-writing process, EEG tests were conducted on all the groups. The results were astonishing. The lowest brain activity was found in the group that used AI, while the highest was in the group that relied only on their own thinking. This clearly suggests that people who excessively depend on AI may become mentally dull over time.

Moreover, many people who use AI are involved in cognitive offloading, which is considered dangerous for the human mind. According to a science journal named Societies, cognitive offloading can reduce mental effort and weaken independent thinking.

The writer is a student of Government Islamia Graduate College, Civil Lines, Lahore

Pakistan of the Modern Era: In the Context of Quaid's Vision

Pakistan in the modern era stands at a critical crossroads where its social, political, and economic trajectory continues to be shaped by the foundational vision articulated by Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah: Faith, Unity, and Discipline. These guiding principles were not mere slogans but a comprehensive framework for nation-building, intended to cultivate a progressive, just, and resilient society.

In today's rapidly globalizing world marked by technological advancement, geopolitical challenges, and shifting socio-economic realities, Pakistan's progress can be meaningfully assessed by examining how effectively it embodies these ideals. Faith, in the Quaid's vision, was not limited to religious devotion alone; it represented a deep moral commitment to integrity, justice, and the ethical conduct of public and private life. In modern Pakistan, this dimension of faith is reflected in the ongoing efforts to strengthen democratic institutions, promote social welfare, and uphold the rule of law. While challenges such as corruption, inequality, and governance issues persist, there is a growing public awareness and civic engagement aimed at fostering transparency and accountability.

The expansion of education, media, and digital connectivity has empowered citizens to participate more actively in national discourse, reinforcing a sense of moral responsibility and collective purpose that aligns with Jinnah's conception of faith as a guiding

ethical force.

Discipline, the third cornerstone of Quaid-e-Azam's vision, is perhaps the most crucial element for translating aspirations into tangible achievements. In the context of the modern era, discipline encompasses efficient governance, institutional professionalism, and a culture of responsibility among citizens. Pakistan's strides in areas such as science and technology, defense, healthcare, and entrepreneurship demonstrate the transformative potential of disciplined effort.

Initiatives to modernize infrastructure, digitize public services, and reform economic policies indicate a recognition of the need for systematic planning and execution. Moreover, the growing youth population represents a powerful engine for progress, provided it is guided by education, skill development, and a strong work ethic.

Discipline at the societal level also involves adherence to laws, respect for public resources, and a commitment to civic duties. As Pakistan continues to confront challenges such as economic volatility, climate change, and security concerns, a disciplined approach grounded in strategic vision and collective perseverance becomes indispensable.

In synthesizing faith, unity, and discipline within the realities of the twenty-first century, Pakistan has the opportunity to realize the full promise of its founding ideals. The modern state must balance tradition with innovation, preserving its cultural and ideological heritage while embracing technological and intellectual advancement. Education

plays a central role in this process, serving as the bridge between Jinnah's vision and contemporary needs. By cultivating critical thinking, ethical awareness, and a spirit of inquiry, the education system can nurture citizens who are both rooted in their values and equipped to compete globally. Economic development, too, must be pursued in a manner that is inclusive and sustainable, ensuring that growth translates into improved living standards for all segments of society.

Social cohesion, gender equality, and environmental stewardship are integral to a modern interpretation of the Quaid's principles, reflecting an understanding that national strength derives from the well-being of its people.

Ultimately, the relevance of Quaid-e-Azam's vision lies in its timeless adaptability. Faith provides the moral compass, unity supplies the collective strength, and discipline ensures effective action. Together, these principles offer a coherent blueprint for navigating the complexities of the modern era. Pakistan's journey since independence has been marked by both achievements and setbacks, yet the enduring resonance of these ideals continues to inspire efforts toward reform and renewal. By recommitting to the spirit of faith, unity, and discipline in policy-making, institutional development, and everyday civic life, Pakistan can advance toward a future that honors its founding aspirations while meeting the demands of a rapidly changing world.

In doing so, it reaffirms the enduring legacy of Quaid-e-Azam and the enduring potential of a nation built upon principled vision and collective determination.

The writer is senior analyst and he can be reached at sirasif786@gmail.com

Pakistan and Iran: Civilisational Partners Committed to Peace, says President

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari on Wednesday welcomed the efforts aimed at easing tension and promoting regional peace, warning that any military escalation involving Iran could destabilise the Gulf region, South Asia and Western Asia.

"Any instability involving Iran, or any attempt to resolve issues through military means, carries grave risks. Such actions could ... undermine global peace, and cause serious harm to the global economy. The stakes are far too high for confrontation," The president said while speaking at a reception hosted by the embassy of Iran to celebrate 47th anniversary of Iran's National Day.

He said Pakistan opposed unilateral sanctions and coercive measures, including against Iran, and believed that peaceful engagement best served regional and global security.

"Pakistan welcomes efforts aimed at easing tensions and encourages continued dialogue among relevant parties in a constructive spirit, with the objective of promoting peace and stability in the region," he added.

Earlier, the president requested the participants to observe one minute of silence in memory of the victims of the recent blast in Islamabad, and the tragedies in Iran. "Let's pray that wars never come to us," the president prayed.

Referring to the ongoing conflicts, terrorism, external interference and unresolved regional flashpoints in the region, the president said Pakistan firmly believed that such challenges could not be addressed through force or unilateral actions.



President Zardari emphasized that Pakistan and Iran shared responsibilities as neighboring countries and remained committed to cooperation on border management, counter-terrorism, and turning the shared frontier into a zone of cooperation, lawful trade and development.

He said Pakistan valued balanced relations globally

and remained ready to play a constructive role in promoting restraint, dialogue and regional peace.

The president extended his warm congratulations to the leadership and people of Iran. "May our partnership continue to grow, and may our region move towards security, stability and shared prosperity," he prayed.

He said Pakistan and Iran



were not only neighbours; but also civilisational partners. "Our shared border reflects centuries of interaction, coexistence and mutual respect. Our relationship is rooted in faith, history and enduring cultural bonds that continue to shape our region."

He noted that the Persian language and its great literary tradition had profoundly influenced Pakistan's intellectual life. For hundreds of years, he said Farsi served as the official language of large parts of the regions that now form Pakistan. "Its influence remains deeply embedded in our national

consciousness. Pakistan's national anthem itself reflects the deep imprint of the Persian language on our collective identity."

He said long before the time of Allama Muhammad Iqbal, our great Haft Zaban poet, Sachal Sarmast, the renowned 18th-century poet of Sindh, was composing profound poetry in Persian, reflecting a shared spiritual and philosophical space.

Poets and thinkers such as Rumi, Hafiz, Saadi and Ferdousi are widely respected in Pakistan, while Iqbal, who wrote much of his work in Persian, remains a

shared symbol of dignity and renewal for both our societies, he added.

In his welcome address, Ambassador of Iran to Pakistan Dr Reza Amiri Moghaddam said that despite facing various external pressures and challenges, Iran had made remarkable progress in key sectors including technology, defence, science and the economy. He noted that the Iranian nation had consistently demonstrated resilience and self-reliance, turning challenges into opportunities and continuing its development journey with determination.

The ambassador reiterated that Iran did not seek war and believed in resolving disputes through dialogue and diplomacy. However, he made it clear that if war was imposed, Iran would fully retaliate in defence of its sovereignty. He also referred to the visit of the Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif during which multiple agreements and Memorandums of Understanding were signed in various sectors. He also expressed appreciation to the government and people of Pakistan for their support, particularly during Israeli aggression against Iran.

MoU Signing Ceremony between ISSI & IIPE

City Desk

Research Associate at ISSI.

During the meeting, both sides exchanged views on regional and international issues of mutual interest. Emphasis was placed on the importance of establishing and strengthening institutional linkages between academic and think-tank communities of Pakistan and Serbia particularly in the areas of joint research, policy dialogue, and academic exchange.

The discussions were followed by the signing of an MoU aimed at formalising institutional cooperation. The MoU was signed by Prof. Dr. Branislav Dorević on behalf of IIPE and Ambassador Khalid Mahmood on behalf of Institute



of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI).

Concluding the engagement, Ambassador Khalid Mahmood presented ISSI mementos to the visiting delegation as a gesture of goodwill, reaffirming ISSI's commitment to fostering sustained

academic and research collaboration with IIPE.

EU, Team Europe express solidarity with Ukraine on 4th anniversary of Russian attack

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The European Delegation, Team Europe, and the Embassy of Ukraine jointly held a solemn event on Wednesday to mark the fourth anniversary of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine. Hosted at the Embassy of the Republic of Poland, the ceremony featured a documentary screening and photographic exhibition highlighting the devastating impact of the conflict on Ukrainian civilians.

The event was attended by diplomats, politicians, journalists, think-tank representatives, human rights activists, NGO members, and civil society leaders, who gathered to express solidarity with Ukraine and reaffirm support for its sovereignty and territorial integrity.

In a joint statement, the EU Delegation, Team Europe, and the Ukrainian Embassy strongly condemned Russia's ongoing aggression, particularly its deliberate targeting of Ukraine's energy infrastructure during the harsh winter, calling it unacceptable and a violation of international humanitarian law. The statement urged Russia to cease hostilities, withdraw its forces, and engage in meaningful peace negotiations, noting that the EU had committed an additional €90 billion in support for Ukraine and continued to enforce sanctions to hold Russia accountable.

Ukrainian Ambassador H. E.



Mr. Markiian Chuchuk reflected on "Four Years of Ukraine's Struggle for Freedom," highlighting the immense human cost of the war, including over one million Russian casualties, tens of thousands of Ukrainian deaths, abductions of children, and the displacement of millions. He condemned Russia's impe-



rial ambitions, emphasized Ukraine's commitment to peace, and stressed that compromise and political will from both sides are essential—conditions he said remain absent on the Russian side. Ambassador Chuchuk also thanked Pakistan for its principled support and urged Islamabad to play an active role in

advancing a just peace through its position on the UN Security Council.

EU Ambassador H. E. Mr. Raimundas Karoblis, speaking on behalf of Team Europe, praised Ukraine's resilience and reiterated the EU's unwavering support. He condemned Russia's attacks on civilians, energy, and transport infrastructure, leaving millions without electricity and heating during winter, and stressed that the EU would continue to pressure Russia economically, including through energy import reductions and bans on refined

petroleum products. He highlighted Europe's ongoing battles with hybrid threats, including cyberattacks and disinformation campaigns, and emphasized Pakistan's important role in multilateral efforts to compel Russia into credible peace negotiations.

German Ambassador HE Mrs. Ina Lepel reaffirmed Europe's support, noting the EU's €90 billion aid package for Ukraine, condemning Russia's war crimes, and highlighting the humanitarian crises caused by attacks on energy infrastructure. She

reiterated that Ukraine is ready for serious negotiations while Russia persists with maximalist demands, stressing that pressure on Moscow would continue until meaningful dialogue occurs.

Polish Ambassador H. E. Mr. Maciej Pisarski condemned recent Russian strikes on residential areas and critical infrastructure as a deliberate strategy to inflict civilian suffering, particularly during the harsh winter.

He reaffirmed Poland's full solidarity with Ukraine and called on Russia to end the war immediately. A statement from the

Embassy of Poland further noted that Russia's aggression threatens global security, disrupts energy and food supplies, and destabilizes international peace, urging continued international support for Ukraine, both military and non-military.

The speakers collectively emphasized that ending Russia's war of aggression requires sustained diplomatic and practical support for Ukraine, accountability for Russian war crimes, and a coordinated global effort to prevent further destabilization.

Bull & Bears PSX 100-Share Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
183,049.80	182,153.55
Day's High	Day's Low
183,801.70	182,054.64
Index Value	Change
24,924,229,716	+896.25
Percentage	Time
+0.49%	11 Feb, 2026 4:30 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
10,472.11	+118.27
Percentage	Time
+1.14%	11 Feb, 4:35 pm GMT

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
50,186.90	-1.24
Percentage	Time
-0.0025%	11 Feb, 12:20 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	197.60	199.25
Bahrain Dinar	743.00	752.51
Canadian Dollar	206.02	209.57
China Yuan	38	40
Danish Krone	43.32	43.72
Euro	333.96	337.24
Hong Kong Dollar	35.34	36.21
Indian Rupee	2.80	3.30
Japanese Yen	1,818.2	1,920.0
Kuwaiti Dinar	906.85	916.30
Malaysian Ringgit	66.50	67.50
New Zealand \$	168.35	170.75
Norwegian Krone	27.61	27.91
Omani Riyal	727.70	737.21
Qatari Riyal	76.17	79.17
Saudi Riyal	74.8	75.25
Singapore Dollar	220.40	225.36
Swedish Korona	30.1	30.4
Swiss Franc	363.10	367.44
Thai Bhat	8.5	8.7
U.A.E Dirham	76.45	77.30
UK Pound Sterling	383.20	386.99
US Dollar	280.55	282.22

Arif Balgamwala makes history with gold at Dubai 2026 World Stamp Exhibition



Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Pakistan achieved a historic milestone in the world of philately as renowned businessman and stamp collector Muhammad Arif Balgamwala has once again been honoured with a gold medal at the prestigious Dubai 2026 World Stamp Exhibition.

Arif Balgamwala's award-winning exhibit showcased a rare and meticulously researched collection of Pakistan Postal Stationery from 1947 to 1949, offering a compelling narrative of the country's early postal history. His collection stood out among entries from leading philatelists representing countries including the United States, the United Kingdom and France, earning high praise from international jurors and enthusiasts alike.

The achievement marks a significant moment for Pakistan on the global philatelic stage, reinforcing the country's rich historical and cultural legacy through stamps and postal artefacts.

Speaking after receiving the award, Mr. Balgamwala said the honour belonged not to him alone but to the entire nation. "This success is the result of years of dedication, research and passion to preserve Pakistan's rare postal heritage and present it to the world as a complete historical story," he said.

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The TCS Group signed 4 MoUs with leading Kazakh institutions, including The Chamber of International Commerce of Kazakhstan, Baiterek National Investment Holding Company, KUSTO Logistics LLP and Qazpost Kazakhstan's national postal organization.

Signed during the Pakistan-Kazakhstan Business Forum, coinciding with President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev's landmark visit to Pakistan, the MoUs posi-

tioned TCS as a key facilitator in cross-border logistics, finance, technology and investment.

The business forum was held against the backdrop of a landmark Joint Declaration on Establishing Strategic Partnership between Pakistan and Kazakhstan, emphasizing cooperation across political, economic, connectivity, education, and technology domains. "TCS is uniquely positioned to catalyze deeper economic engagement between Pakistan and Kazakhstan," said Khalid Awan, Chairman of the Group, during the signing

ceremony at the Business Forum.

"These partnerships reflect our belief in the immense potential between our countries and our mission will be to bridge markets, unlock investment opportunities, and facilitate meaningful collaboration that drives sustainable growth and mutual prosperity and to this effect, we are shortly opening an office in Astana. Both countries are working towards the target to elevate bilateral trade from around USD 250 million toward an aspirational target of USD 1 billion, reflecting a shared commitment by both governments to translate political goodwill into economic outcomes.

Federal Minister Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh welcomes Saudi Kyan Delegation

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Board of Investment (BOI), Mr. Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh, welcomed a delegation from Kyan, Saudi Arabia, during their visit to Pakistan. The delegation participated in the "Indus AI Week" organized by the Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication (MoITT).

The Federal Minister highlighted the long-standing brotherly relations between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia and emphasized the importance of further strengthening economic and investment cooperation between the two countries.

The Kyan delegation expressed keen interest in exploring investment opportunities in Pakistan, particularly in the sectors of energy, mining, information technology, agriculture, and livestock. The delegation shared proposals for various potential projects with an estimated minimum investment of USD 200 million for each project and also conveyed their interest in bringing additional Saudi investors to Pakistan.

Mr. Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh, who comes from a business background, stated that he fully understands investors' perspectives and



requirements. He emphasized that Pakistan offers immense opportunities for joint ventures and strategic partnerships. With a population of over 250 million, Pakistan represents a large and dynamic market. He also underscored Pakistan's strategic geographic location, which provides access to landlocked Central Asian states, making it an attractive hub for regional trade and investment.

Highlighting the role of the Board of Investment, the Federal Minister stated that BOI is proactively facilitating investors through policy support and institutional coordination. He particularly highlighted the Business Facilitation Center (BFC), which provides a single-window facilitation mechanism to investors, ensuring streamlined approvals, reduced processing time, and effective resolution of operational issues.

The Board of Investment remains fully committed to facilitating investors and promoting sustainable economic growth under the leadership of the Federal Minister Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh.

FPCCI President extends Karim Aziz Malik's tenure as Capital Office Chairman

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Mr. Atif Ikram Sheikh, President of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI), has formally extended the tenure of Mr. Karim Aziz Malik CEO Barkat Rice (Pvt), Ltd. as Chairman of the FPCCI Capital Office.

Mr. Karim Aziz Malik officially received his appointment notification from President Atif Ikram Sheikh at the FPCCI President Secretariat.

The decision comes as a high-level endorsement of Mr. Karim Aziz Malik's exceptional leadership over the past term. President Atif Ikram Sheikh lauded his commitment to fostering a



disciplined professional environment and his seamless management of the Capital

Office's administrative affairs.

The reappointment recognizes Mr. Karim's proac-

tive role in bridging the gap between the government and the private sector.

Under the Mr. Karim Aziz Malik supervision, the Capital Office has become a vital hub for the business community, providing streamlined support and advocacy.

The President specifically noted the high standards of organizational structure and efficiency established under Mr. Karim Aziz Malik's watch.

"Mr. Karim Aziz Malik has demonstrated a proactive ability to bridge the gap between the private sector and government stakeholders. His leadership is essential for our vision of a more integrated and efficient FPCCI," Atif Ikram Sheikh, President FPCCI.

Al-Ghazi Tractors Limited signs strategic MoU with Green Agrimall



ISLAMABAD: Al-Ghazi Tractors Limited, one of Pakistan's leading tractor manufacturers, has signed a strategic Memorandum of Understanding with Green Agrimall at Al-Ghazi's Lahore office to strengthen farmer access to mechanization solutions across Pakistan. The MoU was signed by Yasin Seker, CEO of Al-Ghazi Tractors Limited, and Ali Sufian Hamayon, CEO of Green Agrimall, formalizing a collaboration that aims to enhance distribution channels, improve service accessibility, and support productivity within the country's agricultural value chain by improving access to reliable, high-performance mechanization solutions.

Ali Sufian Hamayon, CEO of Green Agrimall, added, "This strategic collaboration with Al-Ghazi Tractors Ltd. guarantees our registered farmers priority access to Al-Ghazi tractors, genuine parts, and lubricants, supported by dedicated after-sales service."

This partnership reflects a shared vision to accelerate mechanization adoption, strengthen service accessibility, and contribute to sustainable agricultural growth across Pakistan.

Gold prices surge by Rs2,300 per tola

ISLAMABAD: Gold prices witnessed a significant increase in the local market on Wednesday, as the price of 24-karat gold per tola surged by Rs2,300 to settle at Rs528,562, according to the All Pakistan Sarafa Gems and Jewellers Association.

Likewise, the price of 10 grams of 24-karat gold rose by Rs1,972 to Rs453,156, while the price of 10 grams of 22-karat gold increased by Rs1,808 to Rs415,408. In the international market, the price of gold gained \$23 to reach \$5,058 per ounce.

TCS Group signs 4 strategic MOUs with Kazakhstan counterparts

Commerce Desk

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border logistics, finance, technology and investment.

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"TCS is uniquely positioned to catalyze deeper economic engagement between Pakistan and Kazakhstan," said Khalid Awan, Chairman of the Group, during the signing

ceremony at the Business Forum. "These partnerships reflect our belief in the immense potential between our countries and our mission will be to bridge markets, unlock investment opportunities, and facilitate meaningful collaboration that drives sustainable growth and mutual prosperity and to this effect, we are shortly opening an office in Astana. Both countries are working towards the target to elevate bilateral trade from around USD 250 million toward an aspirational target of USD 1 billion, reflecting a shared commitment by both governments to translate political goodwill into economic outcomes."



CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif inaugurates Khelta Punjab Pink Games



Sports Desk

LAHORE: Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif inaugurated Khelta Punjab Pink Games 2026, in which 3,400 women athletes are partic-

ipating from across Punjab. Athletes welcomed her enthusiastically when she reached Punjab Stadium, Nishtar Park Sports Complex. She visited every pavilion across the stadium to encourage women athletes from each division who



were carrying Pink Games torch around the stadium and lit the flame. An olympian athlete Faiza Riaz led the march past, and the entire Punjab Stadium echoes with dhol beats and energetic slogans. Contingents of women athletes

from each division performed the traditional march past at the stadium.

Sports Minister Faisal Khokhar said that sports are being taken to tehsil level on the direction of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif. He

added that female athletes are given monthly stipends, and highlighted that Punjab topped National Games with 126 medals and Quaid-e-Azam Games with 173 medals. He underscored that 184 sports projects will be

completed in Punjab within one year, and a synthetic astro-turf stadium will be built to promote hockey in every district. Ministers, Assembly Members, veteran athletes, and a large number of girls attended the ceremony.

3,400 Women Athletes Participate in 'Khelta Punjab Pink Games 2026'

Sports Desk

LAHORE: A total of 3,400 women athletes participate in the Khelta Punjab Pink Games 2026, inaugurated by Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif at Punjab Stadium, Nishtar Park Sports Complex.

Upon her arrival at the stadium, the chief minister receives an enthusiastic welcome from the athletes, with the venue echoing with drum-beats and spirited slogans. She visits each pavilion across the stadium to personally encourage and appreciate the participating players.

An athlete from each division carries the Pink Games torch, completes a lap of the stadium, and jointly lights the ceremonial flame.

Olympian athlete Faiza Riaz leads the traditional march past, while contingents of women athletes from every division take part in a vibrant parade.

Provincial Minister for Sports Faisal Khokhar says that, on the directions of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, sports activities are being expanded to the tehsil level. He adds that female athletes are being provided monthly stipends.

He highlights that Punjab secures first position by winning 126 medals



in the Punjab National Games and 173 medals in the Quaid-e-Azam Games. He further announces that 184 sports projects are being completed across

Punjab within one year and that synthetic astro-turf hockey stadiums will be constructed in every district to promote the sport.

The ceremony is attended by provincial ministers, members of the assembly, veteran athletes and a large number of young girls.

HBL Pakistan Super League Player Auction 2026

Asim Tanveer

The first-ever HBL PSL Player Auction is set to take place at the Expo Centre in Lahore with all eight franchises vying to fill their team rosters with exciting local and foreign players.

In the registration window, more than 800 players registered their interest for the historic HBL PSL Player Auction. The following players have been shortlisted for the bidding rounds in the Auction after receiving feedback and interest of the all eight franchises.

The remaining registered players will be presented for Auction only if any of the franchises show their interest on the spot.

The list of the players to be presented in the Player Auction is given below:

Faheem Ashraf, Imad Wasim, Mehdy Hasan Miraz, Asif Afridi, Hussain Talat, Danish Aziz, Mohammad Zeeshan, Mohammad Junaid, Shakib Al Hasan, Daniel Sams, Usama Mir, Salman Ali Agha, Aamir Jamal, Arafat Minhas, Jahandad Khan, Ali Imran, Iftikhar Ahmed, Tom Curran, Michael Bracewell, David Willey, Jimmy Neesham, Shahid Aziz, Curtis Campher, David Warner, Muhammad Riazullah, Riley Rossouw, Colin Munro, Saud Shakeel, Kyle Mayers, Kamran Ghulam, Omair Bin Younis, Jahanzaib Sultan, George Munsey, Fakhar Zaman, Daryl Mitchell, Rassie van der Dussen, Tayyab Tahir, Humayun Altaf, Mohammad Faqir, Mohammad Zulkifal, Muhammad Amir Barki, Max Bryant, Mark Chapman, James Vince, Shan Masood, Asif Ali, Haider Ali, Muhammad Irfan Khan, Abdullah Fazal, Muhammad Shahzad, Jake Weatherald, Will Smeed, Usman

Khawaja, Dawid Malan, Jason Roy, Peter Siddle, Reece Topley, Richard Gleeson, Saqib Mahmood, Jayden Seales, Matthew Forde, Asitha Fernando, Gideon Peters, Keshav Maharaj, Tabraiz Shamsi, Tanveer Sangha, Imran Tahir, Mitchell Hay, Josh Philippe, Tom Latham, Rubin Hermann

Accelerated Round

Aamer Yamin, Abu Zar, Abubakar, Adil Naz, Afaq Afridi, Afnan Khan, Ali Imran, Ali Usman, Amad Butt, Andre Fletcher, Aqib Ilyas, Arshad Iqbal, Asif Mahmood, Bas De Leede, Benny Howell, Bevon Jacobs, Billy Stanlake, Binura Fernando, Bismillah Khan, Blessing Muzarabani, Brandon McMullen, Brett Hampton, Chad Bowes, Chris Green, D'Arcy Short, Delano Potgieter, Dunith Wellalage, Dushman Hemanta, Dwain Pretorius, Fabian Allen, Geroeg Garton, Hammad Azam, Hamza Nazar, Mir Hamza Sajid, Harry Tector, Hasan Mahmud, Hassan Khan, Hilton Cartwright, Imran Butt, Imran Shah, Jack Wildermuth, Jason Smith, Jeffret Vandersey, Joel Davies, Jordan Hermann, Jilani Siddique, Kaleem Sana, Keemo Paul, Khalid Usman, Khawaja Arham, Khuzaima Bin Tanveer, Lachlan Shaw, Laurie Evans, Liam Scott, Lizaad Williams, Lloyd Pope, Locan Tucker, Mark Adair, Mark Steketee, Max Chu, Mirza Tahir Baig, Mohammad Adil, Mohammad Akram, Mohammad Amir Khan, Mohammad Faizan, Mohammad Hamza, Mohammad Huraira, Mohammad Huzaifa, Mohammad Mohsin, Mohammad Rameez Jnr, Mohammad Sarwar Afridi, Mohammad Sayyam, Mohammad



Sahibzada Farhan, Azam Khan, Johnson Charles, Ben McDermott, Bhanuka Rajapaksa, Dinesh Chandimal, Mohammad Akhlaq, Kusal Mendis, Kusal Perera, Litton Kumar Das, Hascebullah, Khawaja Mohammad Nafay, Mohammad Haris, Mohammad Ghazi, Dasun Shanaka, Liam Dawson, Will Sutherland, Jake Fraser-McGurk, Reeza Hendricks, Evin Lewis, Brandon King, Adam Zampa, Moises Henriques, Charith Aslanka, Dian Forrester, Evan Jones, Odean Smith, Jake Weatherald, Will Smeed, Usman

Omar Associates and Y.J. Sports moved into Semi Final of Wing 999 Inter Departmental Cricket League

Sports Desk

KARACHI: Due to some good batting by Hurair Shahid 67, Qadir Khan 63 and Deadly bowling by Abdul Moiz 4/55 Omar Associates defeated One Ten Communication by 63 runs in their last and winning all Group "B" matches moved into Semi Final of the Wing 999 Inter Departmental Cricket League Tournament at KCCA Stadium. Y.J. Sports also winning 5 matches out of 6 in Group "B" to secured second Position to Qualify for Semi Final.

The Tournament is being organized by Regional Cricket Association Karachi with the collaboration of Wing 999 Sports.

Scores in Brief:

Omar Associates beat One Ten Communication by 63 runs at KCCA Stadium. Omar Associates 274/9 in 40 overs. Hurair Shahid 67 11x4, Qadir Khan 63 6x4 1x6, Ashir Ahmed 44 5x4, Adeel Meo 32, Arbaz Khan 25. Fayyaz Hussain (lcm) 3/30, Fareed Shah (mf) 3/38.

In reply One Ten Communication 211 allout in 34.5 overs. Shaharyar Ghani 74 7x4 3x6, Adil Hussain 65 3x4 1x6, Abdul Moiz (rb) 4/55, Arif Yaqoob 2/25, Adeel Meo 2/29, Jawad Ahmed 2/34.

Japan, UN-Habitat & JICA join hands for disaster resilience of schools in KPK



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Government of Japan, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) have signed an Exchange of Notes and a Grant Agreement to strengthen disaster resilience of schools in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The signing ceremony for a project titled 'Strengthen the disaster resilience of educational infrastructure in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province' was held here on Wednesday.

The initiative is supported through a grant of JPY 427 million, equivalent to approximately USD 2.7 million, from the Government of Japan.

Due to the geographical characteristics, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is prone to climate-driven hazards. The 2025 cloudbursts and flash floods damaged 437 schools, severely disrupting education services especially in Swat and Buner among the hard-hit districts.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan, Mr. Akamatsu Shuichi, appreciated the collaborative partnership and reaffirmed Japan's continued support to Pakistan's resilience agenda.

He emphasized that strengthening school infrastructure is a critical investment in protecting children and ensuring continuity of education in the face of climate induced disasters.

Ms. Kazuko Ishigaki, Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific, UN-Habitat, highlighted UN-Habitat's leadership in delivering safer learning environments.

Sugawara Takayuki, Senior Representative of JICA, emphasized that this project addresses the JICA's approach to disaster risk reduction principally by "Promoting Build Back Better".

He mentioned that JICA promotes this concept to ensure that the country as a whole including the affected areas can rebuild in a way that is more resilient to future disasters. It is crucial not to repeat the same damage in a similar disaster to ensure sustainable economic and social development. United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator Mohamed Yahya expressed appreciation to the Government of Japan and JICA for their partnership with Pakistan and the United Nations.

Interview

US President Donald Trump giving interview to Fox Business



Trump discloses Pakistan downed 10 Indian jets during May war

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Once again mentioning the military confrontation between Pakistan and India in May, 2025, US President Donald Trump said on Tuesday that Pakistan downed 10 Indian jets.

In an interview with Fox Business News, the US president said that the confrontation between the two countries was heading towards a nuclear conflict.

Trump boasted of settling

multiple international conflicts through economic pressure, stating that he used the prospect of tariffs to halt the escalation between the two South Asian neighbours.

He also referred to a statement made by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in which he had said that the US president saved millions of lives by stopping wars.

It merits mention here that the US president has, on several occasions, humiliated India by referring to the

downing of its fighter planes by Pakistan Air Force.

On November 6, 2025, US President Donald Trump once again embarrassed India by saying that "a total of eight Indian aircraft were shot down during the three-day clashes in May."

On October 28, 2025, Trump again stated that seven aircraft were shot down during the brief military escalation between Pakistan and India.

Addressing a dinner with business leaders during his

trip to Japan, he said, "If you look at India and Pakistan, they were going at it. Seven brand-new, beautiful planes were shot down."

The May conflict, the worst between the old foes in decades, was sparked by an attack on Hindu tourists in occupied Kashmir, which New Delhi, without evidence, said was backed by Pakistan.

Pakistan denied involvement, with the foreign ministry having questioned the credibility of India's account of the

events, saying it was "replete with fabrications."

US President Donald Trump has said that Iran is fully aware of US's military might, and that his country will take military action in case negotiations fail to produce the desired results.

In an interview, he has said that in the event of failure of talks, another naval fleet will be deployed.

He has further said that this time Iran is holding negotiations seriously and wants to strike a deal with the US.

PM Shehbaz revises foreign tour, skips Germany, visits US on Feb 19

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's overseas travel programme has undergone significant changes, with the premier now scheduled to visit Austria, the United Kingdom, and the United States, while his previously planned visit to Germany has been cancelled, 24News-HD TV channel reported on Wednesday.

Sources said the prime minister will no longer attend the Munich Security Conference in Germany, where he was expected to participate from February 12 to 15. Instead, his European leg will be limited to a bilateral visit to Austria.

During his stay in Vienna, Prime Minister Sharif is

scheduled to meet Austria's leadership on February 15 and 16 for discussions on bilateral relations and matters of mutual interest. Sources described the visit as a two-way engagement aimed at strengthening diplomatic ties.

Following his engagements in Vienna, the prime minister will proceed to London for a

private two-day visit. Sources added that he will depart from London for Washington on February 18.

In the United States, Prime Minister Sharif is expected to attend a meeting of the Board of Peace in Washington on February 19. According to sources, there is also a strong possibility of a bilateral meeting between the Pakistani prime minister and the US president on February 20, though a formal confirmation is awaited.

A high-level delegation comprising senior government officials and key personalities will accompany the prime minister during his foreign visits. Sources said further details regarding the meetings and agenda would be finalised closer to the dates.



Four terrorists killed, four policemen including SHO martyred in DIKhan operation

DERA ISMAIL KHAN: At least four terrorists were killed, while four police personnel, including a Station House Officer (SHO), embraced martyrdom and two others, including a Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP), sustained injuries during an intelligence-based operation (IBO) in the Panyala area of Dera Ismail Khan, police said on Wednesday.

According to a spokesperson for Dera police, the operation was launched on reports about the presence of terrorists in the area. The operation was led by SP Counter Terrorism Department (CTD), SP Paharpur, DSPs of Paharpur and Panyala, along with respective SHOs and heavy contingents of police.

Four terrorists killed, four policemen including SHO martyred in DIKhan operation

effectively, resulting in the killing of four terrorists during the exchange of fire.

In the gun battle, SHO Panyala Faheem Mumtaz Khan, Constable Tauqeer, Constable Irfan and Constable Ghulam Rabbani embraced martyrdom. DSP Paharpur Hafiz Muhammad Adnan and ASI Tariq Khan sustained injuries and were shifted to District Headquarters Hospital for treatment.

Upon receiving information about the incident, the Regional Police Officer (RPO) and District Police Officer (DPO) reached the site to oversee the situation.

Police have cordoned off the area and launched a further search operation. Efforts are underway to locate the bodies of the terrorists in the forested area, the spokesperson added.

Security arrangements were further strengthened across the district, and authorities have initiated a detailed investigation into the incident.

PML-N issues interview schedule as AJK election preparations intensify

Bureau Report

ISLAMABAD: Preparations for the upcoming general elections in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) have gathered momentum, with the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) announcing a detailed schedule for interviews of ticket aspirants across the region.

According to party sources, candidates who have submitted applications for party tickets from nine constituencies of Muzaffarabad division have been summoned for interviews on February 13. Aspirants from 11 constituencies of Poonch division will appear before the parliamentary board in Rawalakot on February 14.

Interviews for candidates from 13

constituencies of Mirpur division will be held in Mirpur on February 15, while those contesting elections on refugee seats will face the board in Islamabad on February 17.

The interviews will be conducted by the party's parliamentary board under the chairmanship of PML-N AJK President Shah Ghulam Qadir. The board will include parliamentary leaders Raja Farooq Haider, Mushtaq Minhas, Farooq Farooq, Iftikhar Gilani, Najeeb Naqi and other senior party figures.

Party officials said candidates from all 33 constituencies of Azad Kashmir have submitted applications for party tickets. Around 180 aspirants are in the race, including 38 from Muzaffarabad division, 51 from Poonch division and 90 from Mirpur division.

President conveys felicitations to Iranian leadership on 47th anniversary of Islamic Revolution



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari on Wednesday conveyed his warm felicitations to Leader of the Islamic Revolution of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei and to the people of Iran on the 47th anniversary of the Islamic Revolution.

In his letter, the president said that Pakistan and Iran share a relationship deeply rooted in common history, language, culture and geography, which has grown stronger and

more vibrant over the years, a Presidency's news release said.

He expressed confidence that this spirit of brotherhood would continue to flourish in the years ahead, contributing to prosperity, stability and harmony for both countries and the wider region.

The president also extended his best wishes for the good health and well-being of Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, and offered prayers for peace, progress and prosperity for the people of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Ishaq Dar announces new diplomatic postings after PM's approval



City Desk

two years.

"I am happy to announce that with the approval of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, the appointment of 19 ambassadors and consuls general has been implemented to represent Pakistan abroad," Dar said.

It is worth mentioning that 24 News had reported the expected appointments and transfers last week, ahead of the official confirmation.

Dar expressed hope that the country's diplomatic representatives would carry forward their responsibilities with clarity of purpose and a special focus on economic diplomacy.

Maqbool Siddiqui stresses education reforms focus on nurturing critical thinking, ethical grounding & creativity

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Federal Education & Professional Training (MoFE&PT), Dr Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui, stressed that Education reform must go beyond textbook revision and focus on nurturing critical thinking, ethical grounding, creativity, and responsible citizenship.

He made these remarks while addressing a two-day national summit opened on Wednesday under the theme "New National Curriculum of Pakistan." The first day of the two-day Summit witnessed participation from distinguished members of Parliament and Provincial Assemblies, Vice Chancellors of universities, representatives of provincial and area education departments, development partners, curriculum experts, and education leaders from across the country.

Addressing the participants, Dr Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui, high-



lighted the urgent need to transform Pakistan's curriculum in light of contemporary challenges.

The Minister emphasized implementation fidelity, coordination with provinces, and the importance of preparing learners for emerging global realities while remaining rooted in Pakistan's cultural and ideological foundations.