



Daily The Spokesman



Aseefa extends best wishes on Chinese new year

First Lady Aseefa Bhutto extended her best wishes to the Chinese people on the occasion of the Chinese new year. "Wishing our Chinese brothers and sisters a very Happy Chinese New Year!" the first lady said in her post on 'X'.



SBP announces bank holiday on 1st of Ramazan for Zakat deduction

The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) has announced that it will remain closed for public dealings on the 1st of Ramadan-ul-Mubarak, 1447 A. H., to observe a "Bank Holiday" for Zakat deduction. In a statement issued on Tuesday, the central bank said that all banks, development finance institutions (DFIs), and microfinance banks (MFs) will also remain closed for public dealings on the same date.

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

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PM address

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif addresses Special Event on Sustainable Development, Pathway for Global Peace and Prosperity held in Vienna International Centre. Vienna on Tuesday.



Photo: PID

PM calls for renewed global commitment to sustainable, inclusive development

Spokesman Report

VIENNA: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday called for renewed global commitment to sustainable and inclusive development, terming it the only viable pathway to durable peace and shared prosperity in a world facing intertwined crises.

Addressing a special event on "Sustainable Development: Pathway for Global Peace and

Prosperity", the prime minister said the world stood at a crossroads where geopolitical hostility, climate stress and technological disruption were converging into a single destabilizing force.

"The defining danger of our time is not any single threat, but the combination of many," he said, warning that poverty, debt distress, mass displacement and unresolved political conflicts were intensifying global instability.

Highlighting the disproportionate burden borne by developing countries, he said nations contributing least to global emissions were paying the heaviest

The prime minister emphasized that sustainable development must be inclusive and equitable, leaving no one behind. "Development cannot be called sustainable if it excludes millions from the promise of a better life," he added.

The prime minister said the country contributed less than one percent to global emissions but remained among the most vulnerable to climate-induced disasters. He also recalled the devastating floods of 2022 that claimed thousands of lives, destroyed crops and infrastructure, and displaced millions,

price in terms of climate change, economic volatility and debt distress.

Adding that subsequent floods had compounded the challenges. Reaffirming Pakistan's commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the prime minister said the government had integrated them into national development planning, focusing on human development, education, healthcare, food security and social protection, particularly for women and youth.

Atta Tarar arrives in London, rules out deal for jailed former PM Imran Khan

News Desk

LONDON: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar arrived in London on Monday night, where he held a detailed discussion with media representatives on political and national matters.

Speaking to journalists, Tarar stated that the jailed former prime minister Imran Khan, who is also founder of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), is neither being offered any deal nor granted any relaxation. He added that Khan's founder's medical condition is not a cause for concern and that unnecessary hype had been created on social media regarding his health.

The minister said that the PTI founder's medical health is very good and that the issue previously reported has been resolved. He further noted that PTI leaders had also been briefed on the founder's health, emphasizing that there should be no politics on health-related matters.

Commenting on sports, Tarar said there was no formal discussion with the Prime Minister



regarding Pakistan's loss to India in a recent match, adding that winning and losing is part of the game. He acknowledged that there is

room for improvement in the national team and expressed hope that performance would improve in the future.

Sh Rasheed wants Imran's personal doctor in panel

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: Awami Muslim League chief Sheikh Rasheed Ahmad has said that there should be no malice in it if the name of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan's personal physician is included in the medical panel regarding his treatment.

While talking to the media outside the anti-terrorism court in Islamabad on Tuesday, Sheikh Rasheed urged the Chief Justice that the appeals of the people should be heard as many people have been in jail for a long time.

Referring to the case of his nephew, he said that he was sentenced to 40 years in prison even though he was not present at the scene and had not even seen Faisalabad.

Sheikh Rasheed said people are unable to shop due to inflation and unemployment, the common man should be shown mercy and special discounts should be announced during Ramazan.

IMF flags tax shortfall but remains cautiously optimistic on Pakistan's economy



Commerce Desk

for the shortfall recorded by the Federal Board of Revenue.

The report added that Pakistan is likely to achieve its revised tax return targets, despite the ongoing challenges in revenue mobilisation.

An IMF review mission is expected to visit Pakistan in the last week of February to assess second-quarter performance under the ongoing programme.

The visiting delegation will review fiscal and economic indicators and evaluate progress against agreed benchmarks.

The fund said Pakistan's economic performance is likely to remain broadly in line with programme standards.

No loadshading during Sehri and Iftar in Ramazan, power minister

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The government has issued orders to ensure an uninterrupted supply of electricity during Sehri and Iftar in the holy month of Ramazan, the Power Division said on Tuesday.

On the instructions of Power Minister

Awais Leghari, the Power Division has issued standard operating procedures (SOPs) for all power distribution companies, including K-Electric, to ensure smooth power supply during the fasting hours.

The federal minister directed all distribution companies (DISCOs) to immediately address consumer complaints and instructed their chief executive officers to establish control rooms to monitor electricity supply during

Ramazan.

Authorities have also issued orders to deal with high-loss areas in line with the ongoing anti-electricity theft campaign.

The Power Division said the measures aim to prevent an increase in arrears and transmission and distribution losses. They added that load shedding will not be carried out during Sehri and Iftar, including in areas with high losses.

Sui Northern announces gas supply timings for Ramazan

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL) has announced gas supply timings for Ramazan to facilitate consumers.

According to the company,

gas will be supplied daily from 3:00 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. throughout the holy month.

Consumers facing low gas pressure have been advised to contact the company's helpline at 1199.

فرمان رسوی
حکومت
جنوبی پاکستان
جنوبی پاکستان کے عوام کے لئے کام
کیا جائے گا اس کے ساتھ یہ اگر یہ کوئی اور
اس کی آگ ٹھیک نہیں کیا جائے گا تو اس کو
گھر پر سوچوں خواہ کرنا یا کوئی
میں نے بھی چھڑ کر حکومت کے عوام کے
لیے کام کے نئے نئے

(جگہ نظری: صدیق نیشنل پرنسپلز
(7130) 7130)

Barkat Rice Mills
(Pvt) Limited

CM orders strict action against profiteers ahead of Ramazan, announces relief for 4m families

 Bureau Report

LAHORE: Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif has directed authorities to take strict action against profiteers and hoarders during Ramazan, while announcing that Ramazan Nigehban cards will be provided to four million families across the province.

Ms Sharif said more than 400,000 Nigehban cards had already been delivered at people's doorsteps and the distribution to all four million beneficiary families would be completed by the 10th of Ramazan. Under the scheme, each family will receive Rs 10,000, withdrawable through ATMs.

She warned that any agent or official found demanding money from the public in connection with the programme would face strict punishment. Authorities informed the meeting that 167 camp sites had been established across districts to facilitate beneficiaries.

The chief minister further directed enhanced security arrangements at mosques, bus terminals and railway stations during Ramazan, along with improved sanitation measures in cities. She said relief would also be provided



through Ramazan and Sahulat bazaars, where essential food items were being sold at around 15pc below market rates.

Ms Sharif said nearly 300 Nigehban dastarkhwans would be set up in 147

cities to provide quality meals to fasting people, adding that special decorations and cleanliness drives were also being carried out across urban centres for the holy month.

She emphasised that Ramazan is a month of compassion and state institutions must fulfil their responsibility to ensure relief for citizens, particularly low-income families.

Protest

RAWALPINDI: Activists of Fresh Milk Association bring buffaloes during protest in the favor of their demands at Murree road in City.



Photo: Online

Massive 'Kashmir Banega Pakistan' Rally Held in Neelum Valley

 Abdul Majeed Tahir

NEELUM VALLEY: The All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference organized a massive and successful "Kashmir Banega Pakistan" rally in Neelum Valley, marking another major political show of strength in the Muzaffarabad Division within a month. Following the recent convention in Muzaffarabad, the rally from Muzaffarabad to Neelum significantly energized the political atmosphere across the region.

Hundreds of party workers, supporters, and local residents participated in the rally, raising enthusiastic slogans in favor of Pakistan and expressing solidarity with the Pakistan Army. The slogans



echoed throughout the surroundings of the Line of Control, reflecting strong public sentiment and commitment to the Kashmir cause.

The rally was led by Muslim Conference Youth Wing Central

Chairman Sardar Usman Ali Khan, along with former minister Shamim Ali Malik, former Member Assembly Sumaiya Sajad, party leaders Yasir Naqvi, Sajjad Abbasi, Haroon Azad, Tasawur Abbas Mousvi, Mir Rizwanur-Rehman, Nasreen Raja, Waheed Mughal, Ghulam Nabi Shah, Sajid Abbasi, and others.

Other speakers, including Shamim Ali Malik, Abid Andaleeb Butt, Saqlain Kazmi, Commander Shafiq, Yasir Naqvi, and Maimoona Kiani Advocate, reiterated their commitment to the Kashmir cause and emphasized the importance of unity, democratic participation, and continued political struggle for the rights and aspirations of the Kashmiri people.

PSCA's Smart Surveillance System Ensures Swift Arrest of 2-Member Motorcycle Theft Gang in Lahore

 Bureau Report

LAHORE: The Punjab Safe Cities Authority (PSCA) has successfully facilitated arrest of two-member gang involved in multiple motorcycle theft and snatching incidents, through its advanced camera network and proactive virtual patrolling system.

The suspects were reportedly involved in several motorcycle snatching and theft cases in the area of Harbanspura, targeting innocent citizens.



According to a PSCA spokes-

motorcycle through Safe City smart surveillance cameras.

Utilizing state-of-the-art surveillance infrastructure, the suspects' movements were continuously monitored across different locations in the city.

PSCA's Operations Team collected digital evidence from multiple points and successfully traced the suspects.

All relevant evidence was shared with Ghaziabad Police, who carried out a swift operation leading to the arrest of the accused individuals.

Kashmir's Right to Self-Determination forged over two centuries of sacrifice, says Masood Khan

 Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador Masood Khan, former President of Azad Jammu and Kashmir and former Ambassador of Pakistan to the United States, China and the United Nations, stated that the people of Jammu and Kashmir have earned their right to self-determination through nearly two centuries of sacrifice, irrespective of the legal instruments later invoked in international forums.



Speaking at an event on Kashmir, Ambassador Masood Khan drew a clear distinction between the issues of Jammu and Kashmir and Palestine. He observed that while Palestine enjoys overwhelming support in the United Nations General Assembly and has attained observer status, the cause of Jammu and Kashmir has not received comparable global mobilization, despite the justice of its claim.

Ambassador Masood Khan underscored that Pakistan's position on Jammu and Kashmir is firmly grounded in the United Nations Charter, UN Security Council resolutions, the International Covenants on human rights, ICJ jurisprudence, customary international law, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and the Geneva Conventions.

Successful Overseas Kashmiris Conference Reflects Strong Kashmir Policy

 Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: President of All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference and former Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan, has stated that the successful holding of the Overseas Kashmiris Conference in Muzaffarabad is a clear reflection of the strong and principled policies of Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir. He congratulated all those who played a role in organizing and ensuring the success of the conference.

He said that Field Marshal Asim Munir in his address on 5 February, reaffirmed Pakistan's unwavering commitment to the Kashmir cause and emphasized that Pakistan will not retreat from its principled stance. He noted that this firm position has boosted the morale of Kashmiris living in Azad Kashmir and abroad, while also strengthening the hope of the people in Indian-administered Kashmir for their right to self-determination.

Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan credited the success of the conference to the leadership of the President of Pakistan, Asif Ali Zardari, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Acting President of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Chaudhry Latif Akbar, Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Raja Faisal Mumtaz Rathore, and the military leadership.

Farmers' day observed in Chak 341 GB

 Zafar Chishti

TOBA TEK SINGH: Under the auspices of the Agriculture Department, a Farmer's Day awareness seminar on biological control and the use of beneficial insects was held in Toba Tek Singh. The program aimed to familiarize farmers with modern, eco-friendly and low-cost agricultural methods to reduce the use of harmful chemical sprays.

The seminar held at Chak No. 341 GB was addressed by Agriculture Officer, Bio Lab Toba Tek Singh, Sadia Parveen, who provided a detailed briefing on biological control methods. She explained that using beneficial insects in vegetables and other crops can effectively control harmful pests, reducing the need for chemical sprays and ensuring healthier produce. She further noted that adopting biological control can lower spray costs, increase crop profitability and protect both soil and the environment.

Deputy Director Agriculture (Extension) Dr. Noshir Khan also attended the seminar and encouraged farmers, emphasizing that the Agriculture Department is continuously working to guide farmers and provide modern agricultural technologies.

Farmers participating in the seminar showed keen interest and received practical guidance. The Agriculture Department informed that cards for biological control insects can be obtained free of cost from the Biological Control Laboratory at the office of the Deputy Director Agriculture (Extension) Toba Tek Singh.

CDA | CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY 

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR WIDENING / REHABILITATION OF ISLAMABAD EXPRESS WAY, SERVICE ROAD (EAST) FROM FAIZABAD TO GULBERG (9 KM)

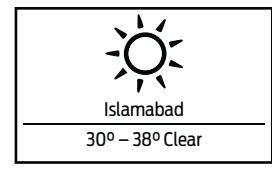
CDA invites electronic proposals from Engineering Consultancy firms registered with Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) / PCATP for year 2025-26, with Project Profile Codes 1215 (i,iii), 1231, Service Codes 0518, 0531, 0532, 0536, 0537, 0538, 0540, 0541, 0542, 0543, 0544 & 0546.

2. Electronic RFP documents containing detailed requirements, terms and conditions is available for the registered consultants on EPADS at www.eprocurement.gov.pk.
3. The electronic RFP documents prepared in accordance with the instructions in the RFP documents, must be submitted through EPADS on or before **March 05, 2026 by 1030 hrs**. Manual proposals shall not be accepted. The electronic RFP will be opened on the same day through EPADS on same date at **1100 hrs** in the office of Director (P&CA-I), Room No 29, Block III, P&C Wing, CDA Secretariat, Sector G-7/4, Islamabad.
4. Notification of the GRC constituted in term of Rule-48 of Public Procurement Rules-2004, is provided on EPADS at www.eprocurement.gov.pk and www.ppra.gov.pk.
5. Project related information may be sought from the office of Dy. Director (Roads-III) CDA, Ground Floor, Old Naval HQ, G-6 Markaz, Islamabad (Contact No. 0300-5994464).

Dy. Director-II (P&CA-I), CDA

P&C wing, Block-III, Room No.28

CDA Secretariat, Sector G-7/4, Islamabad. Ph# 051-9252029


SERVICES
Namaz Timings

Fajr	5:27 am
Zohr	12:22 pm
Asr	4:15 pm
Maghrib	5:54 pm
Isha	7:17 pm

EMERGENCY

Rescue (Police)	15
Bomb Disposal	15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/ Islamabad	1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance	1122 &
& Rescue Services	445122
Motorway Police	9266044
Motorway Police	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	555631-4
RGH	9290301-7
Holy Family	9290322-7
PIMS	9261170-79
Polyclinic	9218300-09
Shifa International	4603666

DEPARTMENTS

CDA	921334-43
CDA	9208301-04
Met Office	9250360-6
RDA	5555864
TMA	5770886
Cantonment Board	9270151-3
Islamabad Metropolitan Corporation	9209224
Potowar Town	9209224
Rawal Town	5773343

COMPLAINTS

Water Tanker Service	9204654
E-7, F-10 & F-11	9204654
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, 922249

Erum Shahzadi Assumes Charge as Assistant Commissioner Kamalia



TOBA TEK SINGH: The Government of Punjab has transferred Assistant Commissioner Kamalia Iqra Nasir. Following her transfer, Assistant Commissioner Erum Shahzadi has formally assumed charge of her office and commenced her official duties.

Soon after taking charge, Assistant Commissioner Erum Shahzadi held an introductory meeting with officers of various departments at the Tehsil Office. During the meeting, she was given a detailed briefing on ongoing development projects in the tehsil, revenue matters, issues related to state land and the overall system of public service delivery. Officers also informed her about the performance of their respective departments and the challenges being faced. Speaking on the occasion, Assistant Commissioner Erum Shahzadi issued clear directives that no delay or negligence in resolving public complaints and issues would be tolerated. She emphasized that all official matters must be handled with complete transparency, integrity and strictly on merit to further strengthen public trust in the administration.

Mobilink Bank posts record PKR 3.62B PBT, reinforcing its position as Pakistan's largest microfinance bank

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's leading digital microfinance bank, Mobilink Bank has announced its financial results for the year ended December 31, 2025. The bank delivered strong growth across key financial and operational indicators while reinforcing its leadership position in Pakistan's microfinance banking sector.

Mobilink Bank delivered a strong financial turnaround in 2025, with Profit Before Tax reaching PKR 3.62 billion, reflecting a 217% YoY growth, while total revenue rose 33% to PKR 89.5 billion. Deposits grew 38% to PKR 214 billion, the highest in the microfinance industry, highlighting strong customer confidence. The Gross Loan Portfolio expanded to PKR 103 billion, up 38%. The Bank also maintained a healthy Capital Adequacy Ratio (CAR) of 19.53% at the year end, underscoring its solid capital position and prudent risk

management.

Commenting on the financials, Haaris Mahmood Chaudhary, President & CEO Mobilink Bank said, "Behind these numbers is a deeper purpose of expanding access to finance for the underserved. As the country's largest microfinance bank, we are grateful to our customers, regulators, shareholders, and teams whose trust and dedication continue to drive our progress. Our growth reflects the confidence of millions who rely on us to support their livelihoods. We remain focused on empowering small businesses and entrepreneurs through responsible, faith-aligned digital banking that creates lasting opportunity and inclusion across Pakistan."

Commenting on the financials, Adil Ali Abbasi, Chief Financial Officer Mobilink Bank said, "Our 2025 performance reflects a strong focus on financial discipline, improved asset quality, and efficient balance sheet management.



Daily problem

ISLAMABAD: A view of the massive traffic jam at Express way in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Public Rejects Pre-Ramadan Fuel Price Hike, Chaudhry Inam Zafar

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Political and social leader Chaudhry Inam Zafar termed the recent increase in petroleum prices before Ramadan as a major blow to inflation-hit citizens. He said the government raised petrol by Rs. 5 per litre and High-Speed Diesel by Rs. 7.32 per litre, adding to public hardship.



He stated that the hike, though linked to international market fluctuations, will increase transport, food, and agricultural costs, leading to further price rises in essential commodities. He urged the government to withdraw the increase and provide relief to the public ahead of Ramadan.

DHA RUN was organized at DHA Phase IX (PRISM)

The Chief Guest Brig Muhammad Kashif distributed the medals to the winners Male and Female runners. Alongwith Brig Mir Saddique Executive Director Sports, Col Shahbaz, Col Attique ur Rehman, Col Umar Najum etc. Chief Guest announced that RUN will be arranged in all other Sports Complexes in the month of Ramadan. People of good crowd both Male/ Female of all age groups participated with enthusiasm for winning. Different DHA sports clubs Karate, Judo, Skating, Gym & others are also took part in this prestigious event. Praise that such events will be continued once in every 2 months. So that children will become more involved in sports activities rather losing their health busy in Mobile etc.

Kyokushin karate Club of DHA-VI capt Fasih Babar Amin Shaheed sports complex Lahore under the supervision of Shihan Atta Hussain Butt, Sensei Saima Batool, Sensei Amjad Prince & Sensei Ghazenfer Ali etc perform a demonstration before the beginning of the RUN which was very much appreciated by the people. Karateka perform Kihon, Kata, Kumite, Nun Chucks Dynamic Kicks etc.

DSP Kharian Shahid Gujjar arrives at Kharian Press Club, congratulates newly elected cabinet

Special Correspondent

KHARIYAN: According to details, DSP Kharian Shahid Gujjar along with his reader Malik Tauseef and Saifur Rahman Bhatti Advocate reached Kharian Press Club, where he offered heartfelt congratulations to the newly elected cabinet of Kharian Press Club. On this occasion, a short but very dignified ceremony was organized at the Press Club.

The ceremony began with the recitation of the Holy Quran by Qari Rizvi Ansari, while Saleem Butt presented the Naat and closed the ceremony. Addressing the ceremony, DSP Shahid Gujjar said that the journalists of Kharian Press Club are performing their professional responsibilities as well as social services in a very good manner, which is undoubtedly a commendable act. He said that he felt happy after visiting Kharian Press Club and the atmosphere here is very pleasant, positive and reflective of journalistic values. He expressed his determination that Kharian Police will continue to cooperate with the journalist community in every possible way and positive, responsible and constructive journalism will be appreciated at all levels. Speaking on the occasion, President Kharian Press Club Syed Tanveer said that all members of Kharian Press Club are working journalists and we have nothing to do with negative journalism like blackmailing.



(Daal Chana). The contents are calculated to sustain an average household for the entire month of Ramazan. Through this initiative, KSrelief reaffirms its continued commitment to addressing food security challenges in Pakistan. The project reflects the Centre's broader humanitarian mandate to alleviate suffering, enhance resilience, and support vulnerable communities during critical periods, particularly during the blessed month of Ramazan.



Home Economics Institute hosts vibrant intercollegiate art and design showcase

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: An atmosphere of colour, creativity, and youthfulness filled the premises of the Institute of Home Economics Art and Design F-11/1 on Tuesday, February 17, 2026, as the institute hosted a vibrant intercollegiate competition. The graceful ceremony commenced with the national anthem, setting a dignified and patriotic tone for the day's festivities. The event unfolded as a delightful tapestry of artistic expression, featuring an array of engaging contests including the

Dress Show Competition, Videography Competition, and Culinary Art Competition.

Gracing the occasion as the chief guest was Ms. Nosheen Sharaf, the creative spirit behind the celebrated brands Hunar by Nousheen and Designer Jewellery by Nousheen. Her presence added charm and inspiration to the event, motivating participants to shine with confidence and creativity.

The Dress Show Competition was evaluated by the distinguished panel of judges comprising Ms. Nadia, Ms. Rubina Anjum, and Mr. Rameez. The Dress Show Competition was evaluated by the distinguished panel of judges comprising Ms. Nadia, Ms. Rubina Anjum, and Mr. Rameez.

Jabbar, The Culinary Art Competition was judged by Ms. Zahra Mustafa and Ms. Sadia Khan, while the Videography Competition was assessed by Mr. Afnan Karim and Ms. Sumaira Zakir.

The competitions witnessed

remarkable talent and creativity. In the Frosty Elegance category of the Dress Show Competition, the first position was bagged by Ms. Larail from IMCG F-6/2, followed by Ms. Aleesa of IMCG F-7/2 in second place, while the third position was awarded to Ms. Aiman Javed from IMCG I-14/3. The second position was secured by Abeeza and her group from IMCG I-14/3, and the third position went to Natasha Zaheer and her group from IMCG F-7/2.

In the Videography Competition, the first position was bagged by Ms. Maham Asif representing IMCG F-7/4. The second position was awarded to Ms. Aiman Javed from IMCG I-14/3. The third position was

shared by Zymal and her group from IHEAD F-11/1 along with

Malaika and her group from IMCG (PG) F-7/4 Margalla. The Culinary Art Competition witnessed a tie for the top prize, with Ms. Laiba Mughal of IMCG F-7/4 (Street 52), while the third position was awarded to Ms. Fatima

Tariq of IMCG F-10/2 both bagging the first position. The second position was secured by Ms. Anum Altaf of IMCG F-7/4 (Street 52), while the third position was awarded to Ms.

Mahnoor Ali of IMCG I-10/4. At the conclusion of the competitions, IMCG I-14/3 was declared the winning college, celebrating overall excellence across all events.

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China celebrates Spring Festival with fusion of tradition, technology

As China ushers in the Year of the Horse, millennia-old Spring Festival traditions are blending seamlessly with cutting-edge technology, carrying enduring wishes through both heritage and innovation.

Ahead of the 2026 Chinese New Year, a waterfront tourist dock in Chun'an County, east China's Zhejiang Province, came alive as over 200 performers, adorned in traditional attire, danced with vibrant "bamboo horses." These were colorful cloth-covered steeds mounted on bamboo frames, which the performers tied around their waists.

In the Chinese zodiac, the horse symbolizes speed, endurance and an enterprising spirit. To jubilant music, the colorful troupe pranced and leaped, forming a lively, joyful procession that offered a fresh and exhilarating experience for the audience.

Pan Yongxia, director of the Chun'an County cultural center, explained that the performance gathered bamboo horse dancers from across the county, marking the largest-ever showcase of Bamboo Horse Dancing. Hundreds of such performances will continue in villages and townships throughout the festival period, CGTN reported.

Originating in the Southern Song Dynasty (1127-1279), Chun'an Bamboo Horse Dancing has long been a staple folk activity during traditional holidays like the Spring Festival and Lantern Festival. It was listed as a National Intangible Cultural Heritage item in 2014.

"Performances have evolved from small groups of five people into large-scale square dances with dozens or even hundreds of participants, actively engaging all age groups. Incorporating modern elements like street dance has made the art more accessible and appealing to younger generations," said Pan.

"It is essential to preserve traditional performance techniques while innovatively blending them with contemporary dance for broader appeal," said Fang Bingkun, 86, a former representative inheritor of the art. Over seven decades, he has documented its traditions and streamlined its formations, making it easier to learn and perform. While this intangible heritage thrived in the ancient county in east China, a high-tech tribute to the Year of the Horse lit up the sky over Shenzhen, a major tech hub in south China's Guangdong Province.

At the Window of the World theme park square, around 200,000 spectators watched a stunning New Year drone show. Thousands of drones formed a magnificent "ten thousand horses galloping" scene, accompanied by powerful traditional drumbeats and hooves sound effects. The fleet even displayed intricate details, such as flowing manes, hoof prints and the Chinese character for "horse."

Welcoming the Blessed Month of Ramadan

Ramadan, the ninth month of the Islamic calendar, is the most sacred and spiritually uplifting season for Muslims. It is a month of self-purification, patience, piety, compassion, and collective harmony. Welcoming Ramadan means more than simply anticipating its arrival; it signifies preparing our hearts and lives for a profound spiritual transformation. The Holy Qur'an was revealed during this blessed month, which makes Ramadan a time of divine guidance, enlightenment, and moral awakening. The true reception of Ramadan lies in self-reflection, repentance for past shortcomings, and a firm commitment to self-improvement. This preparation should not remain limited to outward arrangements but must also bring about an inner revolution, as fasting is not merely about abstaining from food and drink but about disciplining the soul and attaining righteousness (taqwa).

The first requirement for welcoming Ramadan is sincerity of intention and strengthening one's faith. When a special guest is about to arrive, we clean and decorate our homes; Ramadan is a guest that brings with it mercy, blessings, and forgiveness. Therefore, before its arrival, we should cleanse our hearts of hatred, jealousy, resentment, and malice. We should resolve conflicts, reconnect with relatives, and cultivate the courage to forgive and seek forgiveness. Only a pure heart can truly experience the sweetness of worship. If the heart is burdened with negativity, the impact of prayer, recitation, and remembrance of Allah diminishes. Thus, the real beginning of Ramadan's welcome starts with spiritual

purification.

Another essential aspect of preparing for Ramadan is organizing oneself for worship. Along with the five daily prayers, Ramadan includes special acts of devotion such as Taraweeh, Tahajjud, frequent recitation of the Qur'an, remembrance of Allah, and heartfelt supplications. If we begin improving our habits beforehand such as becoming regular in prayers and developing a routine of daily Qur'an recitation then maintaining consistency during Ramadan becomes easier. Many people begin the month with enthusiasm but gradually lose motivation due to lack of preparation. Just as a student prepares before an examination, Ramadan is a spiritual test that requires prior readiness. Proper time management ensures that the moments of Suhoor and Iftar are not wasted and that dedicated time is set aside for worship.

Welcoming Ramadan also demands a sense of social responsibility. Through fasting, we experience hunger and thirst, which helps us understand the struggles of the poor and needy. Therefore, even before Ramadan begins, we should review our finances, plan our Zakat and charitable contributions, and identify deserving individuals. Supporting the underprivileged from the very start of Ramadan spreads goodness and blessings throughout society. Organizing Iftar meals, caring for orphans and widows, and supporting neighbors are all part of embracing the true spirit of the month. Ramadan is not only about personal

devotion but also about becoming a source of comfort and relief for others.

On a household level, preparing for Ramadan is a cherished tradition. Cleaning homes, arranging Suhoor and Iftar, and creating a spiritual atmosphere for family members are all important. However, moderation must be observed. Unfortunately, preparation for Ramadan sometimes becomes centered on shopping, extravagant meals, and outward displays, while the true spirit

is neglected. Ramadan is a month of simplicity, self-restraint, and contentment. Wastefulness and showiness contradict its essence. By adopting simplicity and directing our savings toward charity, we can truly honor the spirit of Ramadan.

Supplication (dua) is also a vital element of welcoming Ramadan. It is reported that the companions of the Prophet (peace be upon him) would pray for six months to witness Ramadan and then pray for six months for their acts of worship to be accepted. This reflects the immense value they placed on the month. We too should pray to reach Ramadan in good health and with sincere intentions, asking Allah for steadfastness and acceptance. Prayer strengthens hope and renews faith that the coming Ramadan can be the best one of our lives.

Intellectual and spiritual preparation is equally important. We should aim to read and understand the Qur'an with translation and reflection, study the life of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), and deepen our

understanding of Islamic teachings. Setting clear goals such as completing the Qur'an with comprehension or studying specific chapters can make Ramadan more meaningful. Moreover, we should resolve to reform our character by avoiding lying, backbiting, and harsh speech, as fasting is not limited to abstaining from food but also requires guarding one's tongue, eyes, and heart.

From a spiritual perspective, Ramadan is an opportunity for self-accountability. We should reflect on what changes have occurred in our lives since the last Ramadan. Have we repented sincerely? Have we improved our character? If not, the coming Ramadan offers another invaluable chance. Each year, Allah grants us this month as an opportunity for renewal and transformation. To neglect it would be a great loss. With determination and sincerity, we should welcome Ramadan as a turning point that can reshape our destiny.

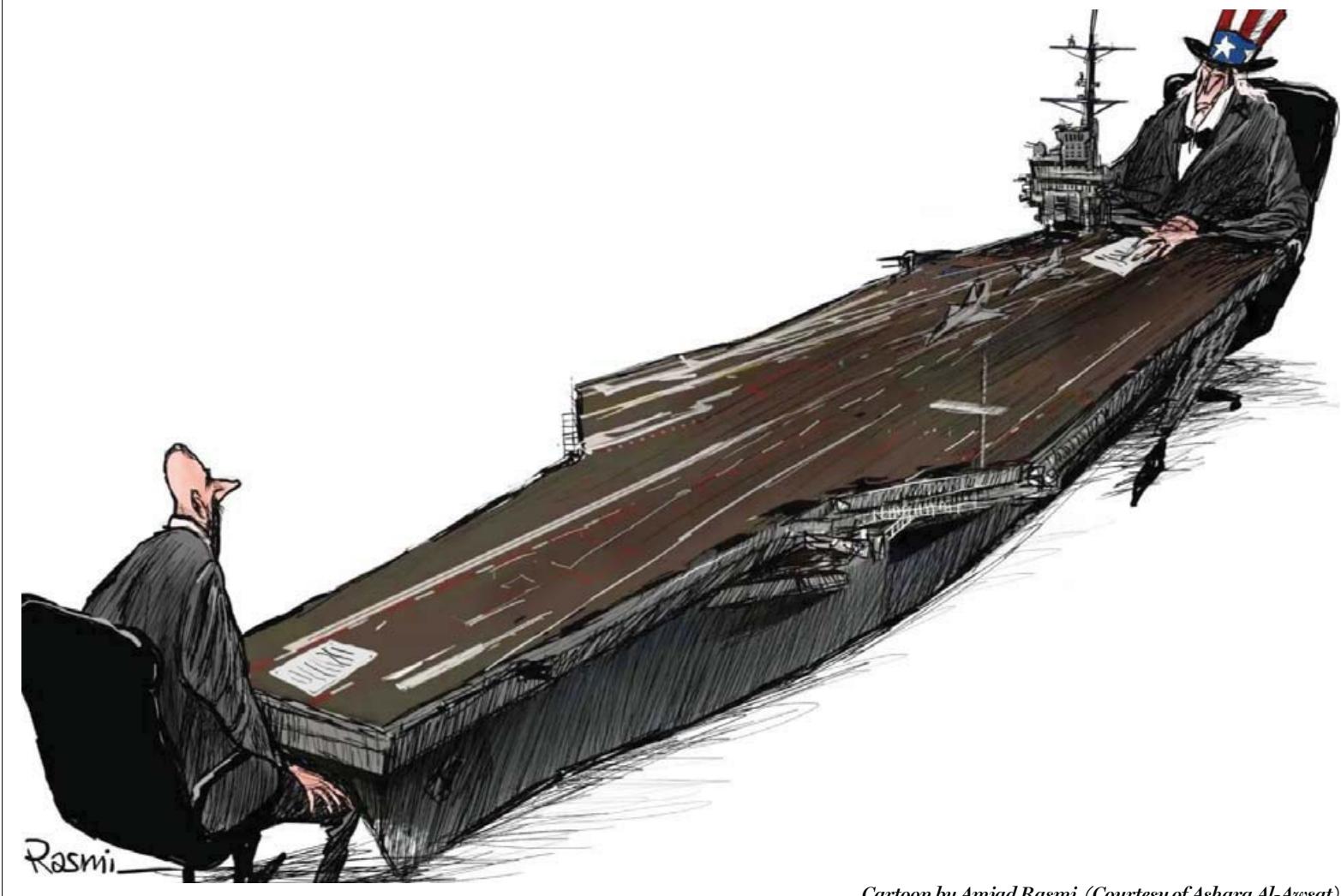
Ultimately, welcoming Ramadan is not a temporary excitement but the foundation of lasting change. If we cultivate habits of patience, piety, worship, and service during this month, these qualities can remain with us throughout the year. Ramadan is a spiritual training camp where we learn self-discipline, time management, and closeness to Allah. Those who truly prepare for and embrace Ramadan emerge from it transformed spiritually refined and morally strengthened.

May Allah grant us the ability to value Ramadan, to welcome it with sincerity, and to benefit fully from its countless blessings. Ameen.

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Muhammad Asif



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

Crisis of Trust and the Changing Police Culture

Newly appointed IGP wants "Rewriting the rulebook" the change of leadership at the Punjab Police, a news report surfaced stating that cameras would be installed in the rooms of station clerks (muharrars) across 747 police stations in the province. At first glance, this appears to be a serious step toward enhancing transparency and accountability. Yet it also raises a bitter question: Have we truly reached a point where our protectors require surveillance to remain upright? And can monitoring devices alone bring about genuine institutional reform? It is deeply concerning that an institution entrusted with safeguarding the lives and property of citizens



Zain-ul-Abideen Abid

For the newly appointed Inspector General of the Punjab Police, this is a golden opportunity to reorganize the administrative structure of police offices. Competent and perceptive officers must be assigned who understand both the letter and spirit of directives. Complainants in long-pending theft and robbery cases should be summoned for hearings, informed of progress, and provided with accountability where negligence exists. If old cases are revisited as part of a focused campaign, public confidence can gradually be restored.

Similarly, numerous complaints have surfaced regarding the "15" emergency service.

Citizens report that despite calling for help, police often fail to reach the scene promptly and instead summon the complainant to the station. If an incident occurs on a public road or open space, it is the police's responsibility to arrive at the location. Citizens are already distressed and fearful; expecting them to appear at the station is neither appropriate nor effective. The true spirit of emergency response lies in the state reaching the citizen, not the other way around.

On February 9, the Chief Minister of Punjab directed the police to adopt a respectful and courteous attitude toward the public. Addressing citizens as "Sir," "Madam," or "Janab," monitoring applications, ensuring functional cameras, and demonstrating sensitivity

in cases involving women and children are commendable measures. Yet the question remains: Will changing titles alone change attitudes? Real transformation will come only when respect for human dignity becomes an intrinsic part of police culture rather than a written directive.

Police reform is not merely an administrative issue; it is a matter of state credibility. Unless accountability, training, ethical development, and professional standards are simultaneously strengthened, even cameras will remain ineffective. The true camera is the human conscience—when it awakens, external surveillance becomes unnecessary; when it sleeps, even a thousand cameras cannot turn darkness into light.

Therefore, reforms must not be limited to temporary measures. A comprehensive and sustainable policy is needed one that institutionalizes internal accountability, transparency, meritocracy, effective oversight, and a citizen-friendly approach. The public does not seek announcements; it seeks justice. When a citizen feels assured that a single call brings the state to their side, only then will the police truly embody their role as protectors. True reform will not come from cameras alone. Sustainable change requires structural accountability, ethical transformation, professional excellence, and a genuine commitment to public service. Only then can trust between citizens and law enforcement be restored.

The writer is senior analyst and he can be reached at zakharnmultan@yahoo.com

Knowledge, Research and Economy: An Integrated Relationship

Knowledge, research, and economy are not separate domains; rather, they are deeply interconnected pillars of national development. A society that invests in knowledge inevitably strengthens its research capacity, and a society that strengthens research ultimately builds a resilient and innovative economy. This triangular relationship determines whether a nation merely survives in the global system or emerges as a leader within it.

In the modern world, economies are no longer built solely on natural resources or manual labor. They are increasingly driven by ideas, innovation, and intellectual capital. Countries that prioritize research and development (R&D) are able to create new technologies, improve productivity, reduce industrial costs, and compete in international markets. Thus, research is not a luxury—it is an economic necessity.

Universities play a central role in this transformation. They are not just degree-awarding institutions; they are engines of innovation. When universities actively collaborate with industries, they become hubs where theory meets application. Students learn to translate classroom knowledge into real-world solutions, and industries gain access to fresh ideas and scientific expertise.

For this relationship to function effectively, structural reforms are required. Research culture must be strengthened through adequate funding, transparent evaluation systems, and performance-based incentives for faculty members. Laboratories should be modernized, libraries updated, and faculty development programs enhanced. Without investment in academic infrastructure, meaningful research cannot flourish.

Furthermore, industries must shift their mindset from being mere consumers of imported technology to becoming partners in domestic innovation. When industrial sectors invest in university-led research projects, sponsor scholarships, and establish joint research centers, they contribute to building a knowledge-based economy. This partnership reduces reliance on foreign expertise and strengthens national self-reliance.

Another important dimension is entrepreneurship. Universities should encourage students not only to seek jobs but

also to create them. Innovation centers, startup incubators, and technology parks can provide graduates with the tools, mentorship, and funding required to transform ideas into viable businesses. A culture that supports innovation and calculated risk-taking is essential for sustainable economic growth.

At the policy level, governments must ensure long-term consistency in education and research strategies. Frequent policy shifts, insufficient budgets, and bureaucratic hurdles weaken the connection between knowledge and economic progress. A stable and visionary framework is necessary to align education, research, and industrial growth.

In essence, knowledge without research remains incomplete, research without industrial linkage remains underutilized, and an economy without intellectual foundations remains fragile. Sustainable development demands harmony among all three.

If we aspire to compete globally, we must move beyond merely increasing the number of universities and instead focus on improving quality, relevance, and impact. The real measure of academic success lies not in the quantity of degrees awarded, but in the contribution of research to national productivity and societal progress.

The future belongs to nations that understand this powerful relationship where classrooms nurture innovation, laboratories generate solutions, industries apply discoveries, and economies flourish through knowledge-driven growth. Only when education inspires inquiry, research drives innovation, and innovation strengthens the economy can a nation truly progress toward stability, prosperity, and global recognition.

It is an encouraging development that the Higher Education Commission (HEC) has recognized the importance of internships and implemented a formal policy in this regard.

Under the HEC Undergraduate Education Policy 2023-2024, all BS students are required to complete a mandatory, supervised internship of 6-9 weeks—usually after the fourth semester—in order to graduate. This 3-credit hour requirement is designed to provide industry-relevant, hands-on experience and is typically fulfilled during the summer session.



Javeria

Pakistan secures dual honors at IFN Deals of the Year Awards 2025

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Finance has warmly welcomed the announcement of the IFN Deals of the Year Awards 2025, in which the Islamic Republic of Pakistan's landmark US\$1 billion syndicated financing has been honoured with two major international accolades. Pakistan has received the IFN Pakistan Deal of the Year 2025 and the IFN Syndicated Finance Deal of the Year 2025, recognizing the successful execution of this significant transaction on the global Islamic finance stage.

Welcoming the achievement, Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb stated that the awards reflect international confidence in Pakistan's economic management and its ability to structure innovative and Shariah-compliant financing solutions in challenging global market conditions. He termed the recognition



a strong endorsement of the Government's efforts to diversify funding sources, strengthen external buffers, and deepen Pakistan's footprint in global Islamic capital markets.

The Minister observed that the US\$1 billion syndicated financing represents not only a financial milestone but also a demonstration of Pakistan's renewed credibility and disciplined approach to macroeconomic management. He emphasized that the success of the transaction was made possible through close collaboration with development partners and financial institutions, and specifically appreciated the role and

support of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for its valued partnership in facilitating the transaction. He further acknowledged the contribution of participating banks, legal advisers, and all stakeholders whose expertise and coordination ensured the successful closure of the deal.

Senator Aurangzeb noted that the IFN Deals of the Year Awards are among the most respected distinctions in the Islamic finance industry, recognizing landmark and groundbreaking transactions across jurisdictions and sectors. The awards are

determined through an independent evaluation process and highlight excellence in structuring, innovation, and market impact.

The IFN Awards Ceremonies, where the honours will be formally presented, are scheduled to take place on Monday, 13 April 2026 at the Palazzo Versace Dubai, and Wednesday, 22 April 2026 at EQ Kuala Lumpur. These ceremonies bring together leading policymakers, financial institutions, investors, and industry stakeholders from across the global Islamic finance community.

The Ministry of Finance congratulates all partners, financial institutions, advisers, and teams involved in the transaction. This recognition further strengthens Pakistan's position in the international Islamic finance landscape and reflects the Government's continued commitment to sound economic governance, innovation, and sustainable financial management.

ABHI Microfinance Bank and TouchPoint partner to strengthen banking access infrastructure

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: ABHI Microfinance Bank Limited has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with TouchPoint (Private) Limited to explore the expansion and modernization of its banking access infrastructure, including ATMs, Cash Deposit Machines (CDMs), card printing systems, and other essential self-service technologies.

The collaboration establishes a structured framework for both organizations to evaluate how modern banking hardware and service capabilities can better support customer convenience and operational efficiency. As financial services continue to evolve, reliable and well-managed physical access points remain a critical bridge between digital banking and on-ground customer needs.

Over the next twelve months, the two organizations will engage in good-faith discussions to assess requirements, explore practical deployment models, and determine how these systems can be scaled to meet growing demand.



The MoU is non-binding in nature, allowing both parties the flexibility to evaluate opportunities carefully before entering into any definitive commercial arrangements. Pricing and detailed service terms will be agreed separately if a formal agreement is executed.

This initiative reflects a shared commitment to strengthening banking accessibility and ensuring

that customers have dependable, convenient channels to carry out everyday transactions. By combining ABHI's banking expertise with TouchPoint's technology and infrastructure capabilities, the partnership aims to support smoother service delivery and improved customer experiences across locations.

The MoU also outlines key principles related to confidentiality, intellectual property protection, and governance. Both organizations have agreed to maintain strict confidentiality regarding shared information, and each party retains ownership of its pre-existing intellectual property. The understanding is governed under the laws of Pakistan, with Islamabad as the designated jurisdiction, and includes structured dispute resolution provisions.

The agreement was signed by Mariam Pervaiz, Chief Commercial Officer at ABHI Microfinance Bank, and Tabish Sabah, Chief Executive Officer at TouchPoint (Private) Limited. The signing ceremony was also attended by Kabeer Naqvi, Entrepreneur in Residence at ABHI, along with senior representatives from both organizations.

Through this collaboration, both organizations signal a continued focus on building a resilient and accessible banking environment – where strong technology infrastructure supports both digital progress and everyday customer needs across communities.

Pakistan Airports Authority in collaboration with Coca-Cola Pakistan launches Spring 2026 Tree Plantation Drive

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Reinforcing its commitment to environmental stewardship, the Pakistan Airports Authority (PAA) has launched a major tree plantation initiative at Islamabad International Airport Pakistan (IIAP), with support from Coca-Cola Pakistan. Under the initiative, climate-resilient, indigenous trees will be planted across designated areas within the airport complex, further strengthening Islamabad's green cover and supporting the Government of Pakistan's national environmental drive.

The initiative was formally launched by Mr. Aftab Gilani, Chief Operating Officer IIAP, alongside Mr. Sami Wahid, Country Head of Coca-Cola Pakistan & Dr. Faisal Hashmi Sr. Director Coca-Cola Pakistan & Afghanistan and the ceremonial plantation of the first tree near Project area.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Aftab Gilani, COO IIAP, said, "As



the capital's primary gateway, Islamabad International Airport plays a symbolic and functional role in representing Pakistan. Through this initiative, PAA aims to position IIAP as a model for sustainable airport operations, blending aviation excellence with environmental responsibility while complementing Islamabad's

scenic backdrop of the Margalla Hills and its planned urban landscape. We value the support of partners like Coca-Cola Pakistan who share this vision and contribute meaningfully to its realization."

Mr. Sami Wahid, Country Head, Coca-Cola Pakistan, expressed support for PAA's leadership, stating: "We are

pleased to support Pakistan Airports Authority in this important initiative. Airports are the first impression of a country, and by contributing to this green effort, we are supporting PAA's vision of presenting a sustainable and environmentally responsible Pakistan to the world."

Dr. Faisal Hashmi, Senior Director of Public Affairs, Communications, & Sustainability at Coca-Cola Pakistan, added: "This collaboration demonstrates how private-sector support can complement public-sector leadership in building infrastructure. We are proud to contribute to PAA's efforts to make airports more environmentally friendly hubs for travelers."

In 2024, The Coca Cola Foundation (TCCF) supported the Recharge Pakistan Project, which aims to transform the country's approach to flood and water resource management by implementing solutions across local watershed sites in the Indus Basin river system.

PSO reports resilient financial performance amid challenges

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Pakistan State Oil (PSO), the nation's energy flagship, announced its financial results for the first half of fiscal year (IHFY26) ended December 31, 2025, demonstrating strong resilience and a continued growth trajectory. The Board of Management reviewed the group's performance for the period at its meeting held on February 17, 2026.

During the period under review, PSO recorded a profit after tax of PKR 12.1 billion for IHFY26, (PKR 11.2 billion for IHFY25). This translates into earnings per share of PKR 25.82,

with gross sales reaching PKR 1.6 trillion.

On a consolidated basis, the group posted a profit after tax of PKR 14.7 billion with earnings per share of PKR 31.34.

PSO, maintaining its leadership in the white oil segment with a 42.2% market share and total sales of 3,418 KMT while black oil sales declined due to reduced power sector offtake. Notably, the company reinforced its near-total dominance in the aviation sector, maintaining a 99% market share in the jet fuel segment. Also, delivered its highest-ever LPG performance, with record sales of 28.4 KMT, representing a 3.6% increase over the same period

last year. Significant progress was made in strengthening the nation's energy infrastructure. The company successfully rehabilitated 39 KMT of storage capacity across key locations including

Mehmoodkot, Keamari, Zulfiqa-rabad, and Habibabad.

Furthermore, the White Oil Pipeline Project reached a major milestone with the federal cabinet's ratification of the project summary and provisional tariff,

moving it toward full implementation. PSO also expanded its physical footprint to 3,638 retail outlets and enhanced its convenience ecosystem through the growth of VIBE stores and the launch of the in-house VIBE through its fintech subsidiary, Cerisma (Pvt.) Limited.

Beyond operations, PSO remains committed to social impact, investing PKR 196 million in healthcare, education, and community development, including the PSO Model Village for flood-affected families. While circular debt remains a persistent challenge with receivables at PKR 412 billion, the company continues to engage proactively with the Government for a sustainable solution.

PSO remains committed to driving Pakistan's energy future through innovation and sustainable growth, ensuring long-term value for both shareholders and the nation.

Pakistan, Iran reaffirm commitment to strengthen agricultural cooperation

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister for National Food Security and Research, Rana Tanveer Hussain on Tuesday underscored the need for enhanced technical cooperation, exchange of expertise and strengthened coordination between relevant departments and research institutions Pakistan and Iran.

The minister chaired a high-level meeting, which was held between Iran's Minister of Agriculture, Gholamreza Nouri Ghezeljeh, Minister for Commerce, Jam Kamal Khan to advance bilateral cooperation in agriculture and food security, said a press release.

The discussions were described as constructive and forward-looking, reflecting a shared commitment to strengthening economic ties between the two neighboring countries.

The meeting reflected the longstanding brotherly relations between Pakistan and Iran, rooted in shared history, cultural affinity, and geographical proximity. Both sides expressed satisfaction on engagement between the two countries and reaffirmed their commitment to further deepening cooperation in areas of mutual interest, particularly agriculture and food security.

The Iranian Minister of Agriculture, Gholamreza Nouri Ghezeljeh, appreciated Pakistan's efforts to promote agricultural development and emphasized the value of closer cooperation in horticulture, livestock, crop management, and modern farming practices.

He noted that both countries possess complementary strengths and can benefit from structured collaboration, joint initiatives, and regular institutional dialogue.

Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan also highlighted the importance of facilitating cooperation through improved connectivity, streamlined procedures, and practical coordination at the operational level. He emphasized that sustained engagement and mutual understanding would help unlock the full potential of bilateral relations across multiple sectors.

The ministers discussed ongoing collaboration under existing agreements, including cooperation in veterinary and animal health, plant protection and quarantine. Both sides agreed on the importance of effectively implementing signed agreements and expediting pending institutional mechanisms to ensure consistent progress.

Matters relating to agricultural exchange, research collaboration, capacity building, and facilitation of farmers and agri-business stakeholders were also discussed. The two sides acknowledged the need to promote joint research in areas such as water conservation, high-value crops, livestock improvement, and sustainable agricultural practices in view of shared climatic and environmental challenges.

Concluding the meeting, the ministers reaffirmed their resolve to strengthen bilateral cooperation through regular engagement, enhanced institutional linkages, and coordinated implementation of agreed initiatives.

Both sides expressed confidence that closer collaboration in agriculture and food security will further reinforce the strong ties between Pakistan and Iran and contribute positively to regional stability and shared prosperity.

NUML Inaugurates State-of-the-Art Padel Courts Complex -



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The National University of Modern Languages marked a significant milestone in the promotion of sports and student well-being with the inauguration of its newly constructed Padel Courts Complex. The facility was formally inaugurated by the Rector of NUML, Major General Shahid Mahmood Kayani, HI (M) (retd).

The inauguration ceremony was graced by renowned Pakistani national cricketer Amir Jamal and NUML alumna and Olympian shooter Kashmala Talat. Director General NUML, Brigadier Muhammad Rafiq Khan, senior university officials, faculty members, students, and sports achievers of NUML were also present on the occasion.

Addressing the gathering, the Rector highlighted the vital role of sports in youth development and termed the inauguration of the Padel Courts Complex as a landmark achievement. Emphasizing holistic development, he remarked, "A healthy mind resides in a healthy body," and encouraged students to actively participate in sports alongside their academic pursuits. He noted that sports serve as an effective means to reduce stress, build discipline, and foster teamwork.

The Rector further underscored the importance of spiritual strength, advanced language proficiency, and artificial intelligence skills, urging students to continuously enhance these competencies to excel in their professional and personal lives.

In their remarks, cricketer Amir Jamal and Olympian Kashmala Talat lauded NUML's consistent efforts in promoting sports culture and providing sports facilities for students. They appreciated the university's vision of nurturing well-rounded individuals through a balanced focus on academics, sports, and personal growth.

NUML's sports achievers were also present at the ceremony, proudly showcasing their trophies and accomplishments, reflecting the university's growing stature in inter-university and national sports arenas.

The newly inaugurated Padel Courts Complex is expected to further strengthen NUML's sports infrastructure and reinforce its commitment to student wellness, excellence, and holistic education.



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Bull & Bears PSX 100-Share Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
173,150.41	174,453.93
Day's High	Day's Low
176,131.35	171,693.39
Index Value	Change
32,759,788,353	-1303.52
Percentage	Time
-0.75%	17 Feb, 2026 4:30 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
10,556.17	+82.48
Percentage	Time
+0.79%	17 Feb, 4:26 pm GMT

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
49,519.52	+18.59
Percentage	Time
+0.038%	17 Feb, 12:33 pm GMT-5

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
56,566.49	-239.92
Percentage	Time
-0.42%	17 Feb, 3:45 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	195.86	200.89
Bahrain Dinar	741.55	751.05
Canadian Dollar	203.89	207.43
China Yuan	38.25	40.15
Danish Krone	43.32	43.72
Euro	331.18	334.92
Hong Kong Dollar	35.30	36.17
Indian Rupee	2.80	3.31
Japanese Yen	1.8143	1.9154
Kuwaiti Dinar	905.15	914.60
Malaysian Ringgit	66.50	67.70
New Zealand \$	167.21	170.75
Norwegian Krone	27.61	27.91
Omani Riyal	726.30	735.80
Qatari Riyal	76	78.85
Saudi Riyal	74.6	75.2
Singapore Dollar	220.03	224.97
Swedish Korona	30.1	30.4
Swiss Franc	361.36	365.25
Thai Bhat	8.55	8.7
U.A.E Dirham	76.25	77.25
UK Pound Sterling	380.76	384.48
US Dollar	280.25	282.22

Pakistan Re-elected as Board Member of Islamic Chamber of Commerce

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Pakistan has once again been elected to the Board of the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Development (ICCD).

According to details, the 41st General Assembly meeting of the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Development (ICCD) was held in Makkah during the Third Makkah Halal Forum. The forum took place from February 14 to 16, 2026, at the Makkah Chamber of Commerce Exhibition and Events Center under the patronage of Saudi Arabia's Minister of Commerce, Majid bin Abdullah Al-Qasabi. Previous editions of the forum were attended by participants from 120 countries.

The President of the Chamber, Sheikh Abdullah Saleh Kamel, warmly welcomed all guests from approximately 40 countries. The Turkish delegation was the largest, led by President Rifat. Representing Pakistan, former FPCCI President and President of the United Business Group (UBG), Zubair Tufail, attended the meeting.

Building a Smarter Pakistan: Huawei's Commitment to AI and Digital Excellence

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Huawei, a global leader in ICT solutions, has reinforced its commitment to Pakistan's digital transformation journey. As Pakistan enters a critical phase of digital transformation, Artificial Intelligence (AI) is positioned as a key enabler for economic growth, governance efficiency, and ICT innovation. Huawei is uniquely positioned to support this transition with its full-stack, end-to-end solutions.

Artificial Intelligence is increasingly recognized as a cornerstone of Pakistan's digital future. The government has emphasized AI adoption across governance, industry, and education, with initiatives to establish Centers of Excellence, expand AI curricula in universities, and train professionals in advanced digital skills. AI is expected to transform public services and all industries like smarter healthcare, predictive analytics in agriculture, intelligent transport systems etc. These national priorities



align closely with Huawei's vision, as the company continues to deliver technologies that empower societies and accelerate digital progress.

Building on this momentum, Huawei is not just a hardware provider – it is a facilitator of comprehensive solutions that integrate infrastructure, services, and platforms. Unlike fragmented offerings from other market players, Huawei ensures supply chain reliability, availability, and assured delivery. The company has already shared a clear AI and ICT roadmap, demonstrating long-term dedication to Pakistan's future.

Addressing the media, Ahmed Bilal Masood, CEO of AI and Cloud Business, said: "Huawei is committed to empower Pakistan's digital future. By bringing full-stack AI and ICT solutions, we aim, not only to provide technology but also build capacity to handle capability, strengthen local ecosystems, and ensure that Pakistan is ready to compete globally in the era of intelligent transformation."

Inauguration

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Austria to Pakistan Wolfgang Oliver Kutschera cut the ribbon to inaugurate the Islamic Calligraphy Exhibition "Zikr" at Satrang Gallery in Federal Capital.



Women traders angered over postponement of press conference

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Office-bearers of major Women Chambers of Commerce and Industry from Karachi and other key cities across the country have expressed strong anger over the postponement of a press conference that was scheduled to oppose the amendment bill to the Trade Organizations Rules 2013 presented in the National Assembly.

They alleged that FPCCI President Atif Iqbal Sheikh postponed the press conference at Federation House on Tuesday in an attempt to suppress women's voices. Despite what they termed as injustice, they stated that they remain aligned with the leadership of their respective groups.

Sahibzadi Mahin Khan, Founder President of the Korangi Women Chamber,

stated that women's concerns are rarely heard at the Karachi Chamber, and if the amendment is passed, the voice of women chambers advocating for women's rights would be suppressed.

Nazli Abid Nisar, Founder President of the Karachi Women Chamber of Commerce Malir, said that they intended to hold a press conference against changes to the 2013 Act, but their voices were silenced.

Naheed Masood, former President of the Bahawalpur Women Chamber, said she has always supported women traders and is completely opposed to any proposed changes to the Trade Organizations Rules 2013. Women entrepreneurs Farida Qureshi, Shamim Mumtaz Khan, and Shabana Asif also criticized the decision to abruptly end the press conference.

Pakistan Customs Destroys Smuggled Goods Worth Rs812.125 Million in Dera Ismail Khan

Syed Tauqeer Zaidi

DERA ISMAIL KHAN: In line with directives from the federal government of Pakistan, the Pakistan Customs has destroyed narcotics and other illegal, hazardous goods worth Rs812.125 million in Dera Ismail Khan.

The destruction ceremony was held at Ratta Kulachi Stadium in the presence of media representatives.

Addressing the event, Assistant Collector Customs Umar Jan said the confiscated goods had been seized during various anti-smuggling operations and were being disposed of in accordance with the law.

He stated that the action not only reaffirms Pakistan Customs' firm commitment to curbing smuggling but also serves as a practical demonstration of eliminating goods that pose serious threats to public health and societal

values. Umar Jan added that the primary objective of the operation is to prevent smuggling, safeguard legal trade, and protect national revenue.

According to details shared at the ceremony, the destroyed items included 60,597 kilograms of betel nut (Chhalia) worth Rs121 million, 129,472 sleeves of cigarettes valued at Rs534.44 million, 30,670 kilograms of Chinese salt worth Rs50.78 million. Liquor and other narcotics valued at Rs105,905 million.

Officials reiterated that strict action against smuggling networks will continue to ensure economic stability and public safety.

Indonesian Consul General Visits MCE to Forge SME Partnership

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Mehran Commercial Enterprises (MCE) hosts meeting at Korangi Creek offices with Chief Guest Mr. Mudazakir, CG Indonesia, to boost Pakistani SMEs and foster Indonesia-Pakistan collaboration.

Mashood Khan highlights government-backed SME clusters showcasing potential in engineering, cutlery, knife hunting, surgical, sports goods, micro women's products.

Mashood Khan stresses joint growth opportunities, highlighting Sindh's microfiber project.

CG agrees to promote SMEs collaboration, suggesting bilateral trade.

Post-Eid, he'll visit Super Highway industrial area to meet SMEs. CG presented a memento



to Executive Director (MCE) Ghazanfar Khan for supporting the consulate in Karachi.

21st Edition of Pakistan Auto Show 2026 Launched in Lahore

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: Pakistan Association of Automotive Parts & Accessories Manufacturers (PAAPAM) organized a special ceremony in Lahore to officially announce and launch the 21st edition of Pakistan Auto Show (PAPS) 2026 under the theme "Make in Pakistan," highlighting the country's growing industrial and automotive capabilities while promoting indigenous manufacturing and local production excellence.

The exclusive event was attended by PAAPAM members, leading figures from Pakistan's automotive industry, manufacturers, and key stakeholders.

During the ceremony, PAAPAM's Organising Committee formally announced PAPS 2026 and outlined the strategic vision and roadmap for the exhibition, reinforcing the "Make in Pakistan" theme as a platform to showcase innovation, local manufacturing strength, technological advancement, and investment opportunities.

A detailed briefing session was held to introduce the official PAPS 2026 website, explaining the exhibitor registration process, participation guidelines, and digital booking system. The organizing committee announced that the website will go live on Wednesday, February 17, at 8:00 PM, enabling exhibitors to book their slots online.

Even prior to the launch, the response from industry participants was overwhelmingly positive, reflecting strong confidence in the exhibition's scale, potential, and national industrial vision.

The launch ceremony was attended by Usman Aslam Malik (Chairman, PAAPAM), Syed Nabeel Hashmi (Chief Organizer, PAPS 2026), Salman Saleem (Convener, PAPS 2026 Organising Committee), Mr. Muhammad Nasim (Co-Convenor, PAPS 2026), Col. Attiq (Secretary, PAAPAM 2026), Anas Haroon (Project Manager, PAPS 2026), Irfan Qureshi (Committee Member), Taufiq Sherwani (Committee Member), Javed Hafeez (Committee Member),



Muhammad Ashraf (Committee Member), and other distinguished members of the association.

Pakistan 'A' qualifies for ACC Women's Asia Cup Rising Stars semis

 Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan 'A' sealed their semi-final berth with a dominating nine-wicket win over United Arab Emirates (UAE) in the final Group A match in ACC Women's Asia Cup Rising Stars here at the Terdthai Cricket Ground in Bangkok on Tuesday afternoon.

According to details, after being asked to bat first, UAE were bowled out for a meagre 79 in 17.2 overs, which Pakistan were required to chase in 15.5 overs or less to qualify for the semi-final. Pakistan 'A' and UAE finished with four points each but Pakistan maintained a better net run-rate after chasing the target in 11 overs.

The semifinals will be played on Friday, February 20. The two semi-finalists from the Group B are likely to be Bangladesh 'A' and Sri Lanka 'A' and will be confirmed on Wednesday.

Eman Naseer (12, 16b, 2x4s) was promoted to open the batting with Shawaal Zulfiqar and the duo put on 25 runs before the former fell in the sixth over. From this juncture, Shawaal and Huraina Sajjad came together to seal the chase for Pakistan 'A' with an unbeaten 56-run stand.

Shawaal finished with 38 not out off 31 balls hitting five fours and one six, while Huraina hit five fours in her 19-ball 26 not out. Henna Hotchandani picked up the only wicket for UAE.



Earlier, player of the match Anosha Nasir picked up three for 18 to leave UAE 58-5 in 10.1 overs. Waheeda Akhtar drew the first blood as she castled Esha Oza for a mere three. Opening batter Theertha Satish top-scored with a five fours-laden 27-ball 32.

Rinita Rajith was the only other

UAE batter to enter double figures as she contributed 14 off 19 balls hitting two fours. UAE lost five for 11 in the end as skipper Hafsa Khalid picked up two for four in her two overs, while Gull Rukh and Momina Riasat dismissed one batter each. Anosha Nasir (Pakistan women's 'A') was declared Player

of the match.

Scores in brief: UAE 79 all out, 17.2 overs (Theertha Satish 32, Rinita Rajith 14; Anosha Nasir 3-18, Hafsa Khalid 2-4).

Pakistan 'A' 81-1, 14 overs (Shawaal Zulfiqar 38 not out, Huraina Sajjad 26 not out).

Sports are very important especially for female students and women

 Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Punjab Colleges Multan organized the annual sports gala with great enthusiasm and participation of a large number of female students.

The annual sports gala was organized today with great enthusiasm and full participation at the Punjab Group of Colleges for Women, in which female students actively participated in various sports competitions. The aim of the sports gala was to promote healthy activities among the students, instill endurance, instill the spirit of winning and develop the ability to accept defeat in a positive manner.

The special guests of the inaugural ceremony were Sadiq Ali Dogar, City Police Officer and Muhammad Mustafa (Chief Executive Officer FDO). On this occasion, City Police Officer DIG Sadiq Ali Dogar said that sports are very important especially for female students and women should come forward in every field of life. He said



that the deployment and practical role of female police personnel in Multan is proof that the participation of women in the development of society is inevitable, while sports help in reducing crime and social problems by attracting the young generation towards positive activities. Therefore, female students

should participate in more and more sports and Punjab Group of Colleges is number one in sports along with education.

Speaking at the ceremony, Muhammad Mustafa, Chief Executive Officer, FDO, said that Punjab Colleges Multan has a long and glorious tradition

in the field of sports. The institution's teams have achieved significant successes at the regional, provincial and national levels, while some players have also won international awards.

On this occasion, Punjab Group of Colleges Director Professor Usama Bashir Qureshi said that organizing such activities is very important for the mental and physical development of students because sports are not only a guarantee of a healthy mind and body, but also play a fundamental role in the promotion of co-curricular activities and Punjab Group of Colleges is also honored to have the Education Board Sports Champion Trophy for the last 20 years.

Various exciting competitions were held in the sports gala, including tug-of-war, sack race and potato race, 50-meter race, musical chair, Malta race, mehndi application and other games. The students not only participated enthusiastically but also demonstrated sportsmanship and teamwork

Female Players of Multan Division Showed Excellent Performance

 Quratulain Asim



MULTAN: The outstanding performance of the female players of Multan Division is a matter of pride. Atta-ur-Rehman Khan

On the instructions of Punjab Chief Minister, Ms. Maryam Nawaz, the ongoing Khelat Punjab Pink Games organized by the Sports and Youth Affairs Department of Punjab in Lahore has come to an end. In this, the female players of Multan Division showed excellent performance and secured the third position in the entire Punjab, which caused a wave of joy in the sports circles in Multan. Under the leadership of Atta-ur-Rehman Khan, Divisional Sports Officer Multan, a 170-member squad of under-21 female players of Multan Division won a total of nine gold and six silver medals, securing the third position for the first time in Punjab. Last time, Multan Division had secured the eighth position, on which Commissioner Multan Division Amir Karim Khan expressed his happiness. Atta-ur-Rehman Khan congratulated the players and coaches and paid tribute to them for their outstanding performance. Divisional Sports Officer Atta-ur-Rehman Khan explained in detail that the girls of our division created history by showcasing their full potential. Multan Division won a gold medal in archery. Two gold and one silver medal in boxing, one gold and one silver medal in karate, four gold medals in mass wrestling, one gold medal in taekwondo, one silver medal in volleyball and three silver medals in wushu. Thus, Multan division secured the third position with nine gold and six silver medals, which we are all proud of. Chief Minister of Punjab, Ms. Maryam Nawaz, distributed cash prizes among these players and said that these successful players will also be given scholarships. She further said that organizing such events is commendable in which new talent comes out from all cities and that talent makes Pakistan famous in the world with the best training. This is our mission. According to the vision of Chief Minister of Punjab, Ms. Maryam Nawaz, such competitions will be organized in the future as well to enable female players to showcase their talents.

Canada's Yuvraj Samra breaks Ahmed Shehzad record in T20 World Cup

CHENNAI: Canada's rising star Yuvraj Samra has broken a record previously held by Pakistan batter Ahmed Shehzad during the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 clash against New Zealand at the MA Chidambaram Stadium on Tuesday.

The 19-year-old batter produced a remarkable innings of 110 off 65 balls, striking 11 fours and six sixes in a fearless display against a quality New Zealand bowling attack.

With this knock, Samra etched his name into the record books, becoming the youngest player ever to score a century in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup.

At 19 years and 141 days, Samra broke the long-standing record held by Ahmed Shehzad, who was 22 years and 127 days old when he scored his century against Bangladesh in the 2014 edition.

The Canadian prodigy also became the first player from an Associate nation to register a hundred in the history of the Men's T20 World Cup. His milestone knock made him only the second batter to score a century in the 2026 tournament, following Sri Lanka opener Pathum Nissanka.

Youngest centurions in Men's T20 World Cup

19y 141d – Yuvraj Samra (Canada) vs New Zealand, Chennai, 2026
22y 127d – Ahmed Shehzad (Pakistan) vs Bangladesh, Mirpur, 2014

Samra's brilliant century powered Canada to a competitive total of 173-4 against a formidable bowling lineup featuring Matt Henry, Jacob Duffy and Kyle Jamieson. Despite his heroics, the effort ultimately went in vain. New Zealand chased down the target comfortably in 15.1 overs, courtesy of unbeaten half-centuries from Rachin Ravindra and Glenn Phillips, sealing victory and overshadowing Samra's historic night.

Stakeholder Dialogue Calls for Integrated Climate, Nutrition and Food Security Action in Pakistan

 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Food System Transformation Secretariat (PFSTS), housed at the Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC), in collaboration with the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN), convened a high-level stakeholder dialogue titled "From Policy to Practice – Advancing Integrated Climate, Nutrition and Food Security Action in Pakistan" at IFQ, Islamabad.

The dialogue brought together senior representatives from government ministries, development partners, academia, and technical experts to advance coordinated and actionable approaches at the intersection of climate change, nutrition, and food security.

Pakistan remains among the world's most climate-vulnerable countries, facing recurrent floods, droughts, and extreme weather events that disrupt food systems and exacerbate malnutrition. With average annual disaster-related losses estimated at USD 2 billion – 83% attributed to floods – the need for integrated and resilient solutions has never been more urgent.

Opening the session, Dr. Ghulam Sadiq Afridi, Secretary PFSTS, emphasized the importance of breaking policy silos and moving toward coordinated implementation mechanisms. He highlighted PFSTS's commitment to aligning national food systems transformation efforts with climate resilience and improved nutrition outcomes.

Speaking on I-CAN's relevance in Pakistan, Faiz Rasool Head of Policy & Advocacy GAIN Pakistan highlighted findings from the I-CAN Baseline Assessment,

Farrah Naz Country Director GAIN Pakistan, in her welcome note, underscored the importance of cross-sectoral collaboration and evidence-based dialogue to ensure that climate action delivers tangible nutrition and food security benefits.

The dialogue was further enriched by opening remarks from Tomoko Koto (Asian Development Bank) and a global overview of the Initiative on Climate Action and Nutrition (I-CAN) by Oliver Camp, who emphasized the importance of aligning climate commitments with nutrition outcomes.

The dialogue concluded with expert reflections from which emphasized the need for institutional alignment across planning, financing, and monitoring systems. Government representatives, including officials from the Green Balochistan Initiative and

which revealed limited integration between national climate, nutrition, and food security policies. He noted that while frameworks exist, coordinated implementation, financing mechanisms, and accountability structures require strengthening.

A high-level panel discussion featuring senior officials explored practical pathways to strengthen policy coherence, clarify institutional roles, and mobilize innovative financing for climate-resilient nutrition interventions.

The dialogue concluded with expert reflections from which emphasized the need for institutional alignment across planning, financing, and monitoring systems. Government representatives, including officials from the Green Balochistan Initiative and

provincial Environmental Protection Agencies, reiterated their commitment to advancing integrated approaches at both national

and sub-national levels.

Through platforms such as I-CAN, Pakistan is advancing toward coordinated, climate-re-

silient food systems that improve nutrition and strengthen food security outcomes for vulnerable populations.

While slamming PTI founder, Zardari says alliance with PML-N to continue

 Continued from Page 8

Zardari alleged that during PTI's four-year tenure in government, the country experienced stagnation. He went further, claiming that the period was effectively governed not by PTI but by former intelligence chief Li General Faiz Hameed. The assertion reflects ongoing political disputes over civil-military dynamics during that administration.

In comments directed at the

Pakhtunkhwa, the president said that political actors there appeared more focused on confrontation than on constructive nation-building.

Zardari has said that while efforts are underway to ensure stability in Pakistan, tangible and meaningful improvement in the country's economic and governance landscape will take time.

He described the farming sector as the only sustainable solution to Pakistan's mounting economic challenges, arguing

that long-term prosperity depends on strengthening farmers and modernising agricultural practices.

"Agriculture is the backbone of our economy," he said, emphasising that empowering cultivators and investing in rural infrastructure would not only boost productivity but also address food security and export potential. He stressed that national progress is inseparable from the welfare of the farming community.

The president underscored

the critical importance of water management, noting that water is indispensable not only for crop production but also for public health.

He observed that Pakistan is endowed with abundant natural resources, yet policy inconsistencies and implementation gaps have hindered the country from fully leveraging its potential.

In an effort to modernise the sector, Zardari revealed that he has directed the Sindh government to allocate specific funds

for drip irrigation systems and other advanced agricultural technologies.

He described water-efficient irrigation methods as essential in the face of climate change, depleting groundwater levels and erratic rainfall patterns.

Reflecting on his earlier tenure, Zardari recalled that wheat production had been in a worrying condition when he first assumed office. He suggested that strategic planning and targeted interventions had since contrib-

uted to improvement in the sector.

The president also reiterated his party's longstanding commitment to women's empowerment. He stated that in Sindh, land titles and housing schemes are being allotted in women's names to promote financial independence and social security.

On governance and political culture, Zardari remarked that effective administration requires flexibility, dialogue and political maturity. He criticised the

previous government's four-year tenure, saying the country had experienced stagnation during that period.

Political cooperation, he argued, is essential to prevent extremist approaches from overshadowing democratic processes.

By placing agriculture and institutional reform at the forefront of his address, Zardari sought to frame stability as a gradual process rooted in structural change rather than short-term fixes.



Public addressed

VEHARI: President Asif Ali Zardari addressing a public gathering at the residence of former Minister of State, Nawab Shehyar Ali Khan.



Photo: Online

While slamming PTI founder, Zardari says alliance with PML-N to continue

By Asim Tanveer

VEHARI: President Asif Ali Zardari has reaffirmed his commitment to political cooperation with the ruling Pakistan Muslim League-N, declaring that he intends to continue working alongside the party in the future to ensure stability and continuity in governance.

Speaking at a public gathering at Nawab Palace in

Vehari, the president emphasised that effective governance demands flexibility and political maturity.

He argued that cooperation among political forces acts as a safeguard against extremist tendencies and institutional instability.

In a period marked by economic strain and political polarisation, he framed collaboration as a pragmatic necessity rather than a matter of convenience.

Turning to regional tensions, Zardari issued a warning regarding India's threats to suspend water flows, describing such statements as merely "a trailer" of more serious challenges ahead.

He reiterated Pakistan's longstanding position on Kashmir, calling it the country's "jugular vein" and asserting that not even an inch could be compromised.

Referring indirectly to the

events of August 2019, when India revoked the special constitutional status of Indian-administered Kashmir, he criticised what he portrayed as a passive response at the time, recalling that a prime minister had asked, "What can we do?"

The president's remarks also included sharp criticism of former prime minister and PTI founder Imran Khan. Zardari said that imprisonment is endured with dignity

and resilience, but accused the former premier of relying solely on rhetoric.

"If one wants to pursue politics, sacrifices are required," Zardari said, adding that true leadership is tested during adversity. He further remarked that the PTI founder now remembers his children while in jail, suggesting that political struggles demand fortitude.

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AJK Assembly Session Adjourned Indefinitely After Discussions on Projects and Doctor Vacancies

By Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: A session of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly was held under the chairmanship of Speaker Chaudhry Latif Akbar on Tuesday. The meeting began with the recitation of the Holy Scriptures. In the meeting, MP Sardar Mir Akbar Khan drew attention to the suspension of development projects of the federal government. There is a need to establish an irrigation department on a permanent basis to irrigate the agricultural lands regularly. A committee comprising Sardar Javed Ayub, Syed Bazil Ali Naqvi and Members of Assembly Raja Farooq Haider Khan, Khawaja Farooq Ahmed was directed to present the recommenda-



tions under the rules to appoint doctors in the process to ensure provision of basic health facilities to the public.

AJK Minister Sardar Javed Ayub informed the House on the behalf of Information Minister regarding the attention notice of Assembly member Khawaja Farooq Ahmed in a session of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly that the payments of advertisement allowances were made from the normal advertising budget while the advertising allowances of the developmental budget were paid in accordance with relevant departments.

Speaker Assembly Chaudhry Latif Akbar adjourned the session of the Legislative Assembly indefinitely.

dations in the House. Azad Jammu and Kashmir Public Health Minister Syed Bazil Ali Naqvi drew attention to the change of doctors from

Dadijal medical center on behalf of MP Chaudhry Azhar Sadiq. There are vacancies of doctors in 45 medical centers and the appointment

of doctors will be implemented on an ad hoc basis in the next 12 days. In this regard, the Department of Health has issued an important adver-

Maryam lifts shop timing restrictions across Punjab for Ramazan

By Bureau Report

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz on Tuesday announced the removal of restrictions on shop timings across the province during the holy month of Ramazan, allowing round-the-clock commercial activity.

According to an official notification, traders have been exempted from the earlier

requirement to close shops at 10:00 p.m.

The decision was approved by the chief minister and communicated to all commissioners, deputy commissioners, and allied departments.

The directive was issued following a Zoom meeting chaired by CM Maryam, in which she instructed authorities to suspend enforcement of business hour limits



throughout Ramazan.

Under the new policy, commercial activities will be allowed 24 hours a day, providing relief to traders and facilitating citizens during late-night shopping and Iftar and

Sehri preparations.

Administrative officers have been directed to ensure the smooth implementation of the decision and avoid imposing any restrictions on business timings during the

holy month.

The move has been described by the provincial government as a Ramazan relief measure aimed at boosting economic activity and public convenience.

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PM reaffirms Pakistan's support for IAEA in promoting responsible use of nuclear technology



Spokesman Report

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar, Special Assistant to Prime Minister Syed Tariq Fatemi and Foreign Secretary Amna Baloch were also present during the meeting. Director General Grossi acknowledged Pakistan's experience and expertise in the peaceful uses of nuclear technology and the high quality of its engineers, scientists and technicians.

Deputy Prime Minister & Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar and DG Grossi signed the agreement on behalf of Pakistan and the IAEA respectively.

Global cricket legends urge Pakistan to ensure Imran Khan's medical care

By Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Fourteen former international cricket captains have written an open letter to the Government of Pakistan, expressing concern over reports about the health of PTI founder Imran Khan and calling for his immediate medical examination.

The signatories include legendary cricketers such as Sunil Gavaskar, Kapil Dev, Ian Chappell, Steve Waugh, Nasser Hussain, Clive Lloyd, Michael Atherton, and Allan Border.

In the letter, the former captains expressed regret over reports suggesting damage to Imran Khan's eyesight and urged authorities to arrange examinations by qualified specialists.

They wrote that Imran Khan was a globally recognised figure and that, despite sporting and political rivalries, humanitarian values and mutual respect should take precedence.

The signatories demanded that Imran Khan be provided with healthcare facilities in line with international standards. No Pakistani cricketer was among the signatories.

Reports of deteriorating health had emerged during Imran Khan's incarceration at Adiala Jail. Following these concerns, the Supreme Court of Pakistan appointed Salman Saifdar as amicus curiae to inspect his health conditions and available facilities.

In his report, Salman Saifdar claimed that Imran Khan had lost 85 per cent of vision in one eye.

Federal Minister A. Aleem Khan Condemned Bajour Incident



Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Communications and President of Istehtak-e-Pakistan Party Abdul Aleem Khan has paid glowing tribute to the Pakistan Army for successfully foiling the terrorist attack on the Bajour Check Post. He commended the Army's professional capabilities and swift response, stating that the brave Armed Forces remain steadfast against terrorists at all times and that the entire nation stands shoulder to shoulder with its forces. In his statement, Federal Minister Abdul Aleem Khan said that security institutions are deter-

mined to eradicate the menace of terrorism from its roots and that this struggle will continue until lasting peace is established in the country. He termed the ongoing operations by security agencies against "Fitna al-Hindustan" and "Fitna al-Kharaj" as unavoidable, adding that clearance operations against miscreants are tantamount to a "surgical" strike on terrorists.

In a message posted on the social media platform X, Abdul Aleem Khan praised the timely and effective strategy of the security institutions, stating that suppressing anti-state elements is essential for national security.