

AJK PM vows investment focus for development, job creation

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Azad Kashmir, Faisal Mumtaz Rathore has said overseas Kashmiris' investment was key to achieving sustainable development, prosperity and strengthening the private sector.

He expressed these views while speaking to a journalists delegation which was led by President Kashmir Press Club Mirpur, Syed Abid Hussain Shah here today.

He said that the aim of Overseas Convention was to directly involve overseas Kashmiris in the process of economic development and to build investors' confidence. Terming unemployment as the biggest challenge, he said that the public sector no longer has the capacity to meet the growing demand for jobs."

The government, he said, believes in a policy of cooperation with the media and views constructive criticism as a means of reform.

On the occasion, the delegation congratulated the Prime Minister on the successful organization of the Over-



seas Convention and presented suggestions regarding the issues faced by journalists and the promotion of media.

Vice President of Pakistan Press Club UK, Arshad Richyal; Vice President Rana Muhammad Shabbir Rajorvi; former President Sajjad Jarjal; and

Secretary Information (Electronic Media) Usama Khizar were present in the meeting.

Meanwhile Prime Minister Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Faisal Mumtaz Rathore has expressed deep sorrow and grief over the sad demise of the mother of Syed Imdad Hussain Gardezi, Corps Commander Gujranwala. In his condolence message, the Prime Minister, while extending his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family, prayed to Almighty Allah to rest the departed soul in eternal peace.

Group photo

MUZAFFARABAD: A group photo with Spokesperson Azad Kashmir Prime Minister Shaukat Javed Mir, Azad Kashmir Information Secretary Rashid Hanif Qureshi, DG Information Bashir Mirza, Information Officers Raja Sohail Khan, Khizar Hayat, Shiraz Chaudhry and Maqadas Iqbal.



Kashmiri steadfast in self-determination demand despite Indian repression, says Ambassador Masood

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 continue to suffer incarceration, torture, and systemic repression under Indian occupation, yet remain steadfast in their demand for the realization of their right to self-determination.

He delivered these remarks while addressing more than 700 students and faculty members at the National Defence University, speaking directly to the youth of Pakistan on the theme "Kashmir at the Crossroads." The students were from



the various universities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi as well as the University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir.

Ambassador Khan emphasized

that nations rise through enlightened and educated youth, noting that nearly 160 million young Pakistanis constitute the majority of the coun-

try's 250 million population. He urged students to prepare themselves intellectually, technologically, and morally to shoulder the responsibility of nation-building, stressing that Pakistan's economic strength, military resilience, and strategic clarity are indispensable for securing justice for Kashmir.

Recalling his decades of advocacy at the United Nations in Geneva and New York, Ambassador Khan said his commitment to Kashmir was driven not by office or position, but by witnessing the suffering of Kashmiri widows and children, the torture of their political leaders, and the illegal detention of thousands in India and IIOJK's most notorious prisons and detention facilities in Indian-occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

Secretary Information & IT Visits Central Press Club Muzaffarabad

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: Secretary Information & IT, Government of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Muhammad Rashid Hanif, visited the Central Press Club Muzaffarabad and congratulated the newly elected cabinet on assuming their offices.

The Secretary extended his felicitations to President Sohail Mughal, Secretary General Shahzad Lolabi, and

other office bearers on their successful election. President Sohail Mughal and fellow office bearers thanked the Secretary for visiting the Press Club and briefed him on the history and role of the Central Press Club.

Director Public Relations Muhammad Bashir Mirza, Vice Chairman Press Foundation Sardar Zulfiqar Ali, former President of the Central Press Club Tariq Naqash, Syed Afaq Hussain Shah, Wahid Iqbal



Butt, along with senior journalists and officers of the Information Depart-

ment were also present on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, Secretary Information Muhammad Rashid Hanif stated that the Central Press Club is a custodian of high traditions and represents journalistic values, freedom of expression, and democratic norms. He emphasized that media plays a vital role in intellectual development, social responsibility, and shaping the national narrative.

Azad Kashmir PM vows full resource mobilization for education sector overhaul



Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: Prime Minister Azad Kashmir, Faisal Mumtaz Rathore has said that the Government was utilizing all possible resources to improve the education sector. He said this during his visit to Anglonord International School here today. The prime minister said that the educational institutions equipped with modern-day requirements play a key role in the development of society. He said that providing quality education was his government's top priority. He also appreciated the efforts of the school administration for their commendable work to further enhance educational standards and introducing new initiatives in the field of education. On this occasion, the PM was accompanied by senior minister, Main Abdul Waheed. Earlier, the school administration gave him a detailed briefing on academic activities and teaching standards.

Upper Neelum Faces Severe Landslide Threat; 35 Houses at Risk in Grace Thangi Village



Bureau Report

NEELUM: A serious landslide threat has emerged in the upper belt of Neelum Valley, placing an entire neighborhood of approximately 35 houses at imminent risk of destruction. The affected locality is Grace Thangi village, situated near Sharda, between Saonar and Sardari, in the upper region of the valley.

According to local sources, the landslides began following the cutting of the main highway, which destabilized the already sensitive mountainous slope. Since then, large masses of soil and rocks have continued to slide downward, posing a grave threat to dozens of families who have been residing in the area for generations.

Residents report that the situation has become extremely critical. Cracks have appeared in several houses, and in certain areas the ground is visibly sinking. Affected families warn that if immediate and emergency protective measures are not undertaken, the entire settlement could be washed away, reducing homes to rubble and potentially causing irreparable human and material loss.

Sardar Atiq Condemns Bajaur Attack, Expresses Solidarity with Security Forces

Spokesman Report



RAWALPINDI: President of the All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference and former Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Sardar Atiq Ahmed Khan, has strongly condemned the recent terrorist attack in Bajaur allegedly carried out by Khawarij elements. He expressed deep sympathy with the security forces and the families of the martyred personnel.

In his statement, Sardar Atiq Ahmed Khan said that enemies of Pakistan are targeting innocent civilians and security forces to achieve their malicious objectives. However, he emphasized that such cowardly acts can never demoralize the Pakistani nation or its armed forces. He stated that the entire nation stands firmly behind the armed forces in the fight against terrorism.

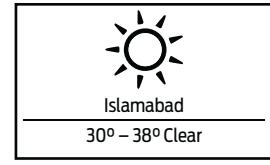
He remarked that Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir is a brave and resolute commander, and that enemies are unable to withstand Pakistan's decisive response and ongoing operations against terrorism. He asserted that hostile forces, frustrated by their repeated failures, have resorted to desperate tactics, but must understand that the people of Pakistan and Azad Kashmir stand united like a solid wall behind the Pakistan Army.

Sardar Atiq Ahmed Khan termed the targeting of innocent children, women, places of worship, and unarmed citizens as the height of cowardice. He said that true bravery is not demonstrated by launching attacks from hiding or using the soil of other countries for subversive activities. He paid tribute to the martyred security personnel, stating that while their sacrifice is a matter of profound sorrow, it is also a source of pride that they laid down their lives for the protection of the nation.

He added that the courage displayed by the families of martyrs reflects the resilience of the nation, and the enemy should realize that such sacrifices only strengthen national resolve. He urged the governments of all four provinces to extend full cooperation to the Pakistan Army in eliminating terrorism and extremism, emphasizing that sustainable peace and national progress depend on collective unity and determination.

Sardar Atiq Ahmed Khan prayed for the eternal peace of the martyred personnel and swift recovery of the injured, stating that no cowardly act can weaken the spirit of the Pakistani and Kashmiri people.

Meanwhile, the former Prime Minister also expressed deep sorrow over the demise of the mother of Corps Commander Gujranwala, Syed Imdad Shah Gardazi. He prayed that Almighty Allah grant her the highest ranks in Jannat-ul-Firdous and bestow patience and strength upon the bereaved family during this difficult time.


SERVICES
Namaz Timings

| | |
|--------|----------|
| Fajr | 5:26 am |
| Zohr | 12:22 pm |
| Asr | 4:16 pm |
| Magrib | 5:55 pm |
| Isha | 7:18 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 |

Women Police
Stations

| | |
|------------|------------|
| Islamabad | 9222596 |
| Rawalpindi | 9270601-20 |

ENQUIRY

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

Rabies Threat Looms Over Rural Thatta, Awareness Session Warns

Kamran Khamiso Khowaja

THATTA: Dr. Sajid Shaikh, Medical Superintendent of RHC Var, district Thatta, sounded a grim warning about the dangers of rabies at an awareness session at Government Middle School Peer Patho. Addressing students during the morning assembly, he emphasized the urgent need to take emergency measures against the fatal infection transmitted through the bite of a rabid animal, highlighting that the saliva of infected animals contains the rabies virus.

Dr. Shaikh lamented that despite rabies being a fatal infection, people in remote areas and villages often underestimate its severity. "In villages, people resort to home remedies such as rubbing turmeric on the bite-wound or covering it with betel-leaf," he said, adding that such practices only worsen the situation, ultimately leading to the victim's death.

He explained that the final symptom of rabies is hydrophobia, and stressed that immediate action is crucial. "Instead of relying on outdated tactics, it is necessary to immediately wash the wound with running water and soap for at least 15 minutes and approach the nearest Government health facility to get the victim vaccinated against rabies," he advised.

Dr. Shaikh proposed awareness sessions in other schools and villages in Thatta, where literacy rates are low, to educate people about rabies prevention and healthy habits. He urged students to maintain healthy habits to avoid other communicable diseases, get their pets vaccinated, and control stray dogs.

Jahangir Khan Tareen announces Girls' Degree College in Mian Channu

Iram Asim

MULTAN: Former Federal Minister

Jahangir Khan Tareen has said that education is the foundation of progress and prosperity for any society. Providing talented students with quality educational facilities is an urgent need so that they can align themselves with modern-day requirements and effectively serve the nation.

He expressed these views while addressing a ceremony held at Government Girls Higher Secondary School, Talamban, on the occasion of the inauguration of a modern Technology Block. The Technology Block includes a state-of-the-art science and computer laboratory aimed at enhancing students' academic and technical skills.

On the occasion, Jahangir Khan Tareen announced the establishment of a Girls' Degree College in Mian Channu and stated that five acres of land have already been dedicated for the college. He further announced that science and computer laboratories in 50

government schools across Tehsil Mian Channu will be upgraded at an estimated cost of Rs. 70 million.

It is worth mentioning that previously, through the Tareen Education Foundation, science and computer laboratories have been established in various educational institutions across District Khanewal at a cost of Rs. 110 million. These institutions include Khanewal Public School, Government Model Boys Higher Secondary School, Government Girls Higher Secondary School Kachh Khoh, Government Girls Model High School Mian Channu, and Government Boys High School Chak 27/10-R.

Among those who addressed the inaugural ceremony were Additional Deputy Commissioner (Revenue) Khanewal Ghulam Mustafa Sahi,

Assistant Commissioner Mian Channu Sajida Razzaq, Chief Executive Officer Education Fayyaz Sindhu, Chief Executive Officer of Tareen Education Foundation Akbar Khan, and Principal

Irshad Bibi, along with other officials.



Truck Art

ISLAMABAD: A skilled Artist Ejaz Mughal is making traditional Truck Art on ancient scooter at his working place in Sector G-13 to export to the Saudi Arabia as a goodwill gesture from Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

One-Day Training Session Organized For Public Information Officers in Multan

Kiran Asim

MULTAN: A one-day training session was organized for Public Information Officers in Multan in collaboration with Punjab Information Commission Lahore and FDO.

The objective of the training was to effectively implement the Punjab Transparency and Right to Information Act 2013. To promote transparency in government departments and ensure timely access to information to citizens.

The training session was led by Ms. Bushra Saqib, Information Commissioner Punjab Information Commission, and Mr. Qadeer Ahmed, Registrar Punjab Information Commission, Lahore. They provided detailed awareness to the participants regarding the important provisions of the



law, the stipulated period for provision of information, exemption provisions and complaint procedure. On this occasion, FDO Chief Executive Officer Mr. Ghulam Mustafa thanked the officials of the Punjab Information Commission and said that such training would play an

important role in establishing transparent and accountable governance.

He said that similar training sessions would be organized in other districts of Punjab in the future so that the capacity of Public Information Officers and related staff could be further

enhanced.

Syed Shahaz Hussain, Convener of Punjab Civil Society Network, representing the partner organizations, praised this good initiative and emphasized on conducting such training sessions in other districts in future.

Punjab Govt Committed to Sports Development in Toba Tek Singh, says DSO Ch Jamil

Zafar Chishti

TOBA TEK SINGH: District Sports Officer(DSO) Toba Tek Singh Chaudhry Muhammad Jamil, in an exclusive conversation with our correspondent, stated that detailed visits are being conducted to various playgrounds and stadiums across the district to promote sports and improve sports infrastructure.

He said that the purpose of these visits is to review ongoing development works, assess the facilities being provided to players and examine the overall condition of the grounds to

ensure a quality and safe sporting environment for the youth.

Chaudhry Muhammad Jamil informed that he inspected Gojra Hockey Stadium, Sports Complex Toba Tek Singh, Shaheen Football Ground Toba Tek Singh, Kamalia Sports Complex and Hockey Stadium Pir Mahal.

During these visits, he thoroughly reviewed cleanliness, pitch conditions, players' dressing rooms, availability of clean drinking water, washroom facilities, lighting systems and security arrangements.

He directed the staff that no negli-

gence in the maintenance of sports grounds would be tolerated and that all facilities must be kept functional and up to standard.

He said that the Government of Punjab is taking practical steps for the promotion of sports, and under the vision of Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif, engaging youth in positive activities is the need of the hour.

He added that sports not only improve physical health but also instill discipline, tolerance, teamwork, and leadership qualities among young people. Therefore, it is essential to keep

all stadiums and grounds in the district fully operational so that maximum youth can benefit from these facilities.

The District Sports Officer further stated that the Inter-Club Competition Program is being conducted regularly in the district, under which various sports competitions are being organized.

These include matches of the Women Hockey Club Gojra, Toba Tek Singh Marathon 2026 and the Inter-Club Football Championship Toba Tek Singh. A large number of young athletes are participating in these events and talented players are being



provided opportunities to progress further.

DG SCO inaugurates renovated Divisional Headquarters Complex in Mirpur

Bureau Report

MIRPUR: The offices of the Divisional Headquarters Complex of the Special Communications Organization (SCO) Mirpur have been completely renovated and upgraded in line with modern standards. The impressive project was formally inaugurated by Director General SCO, Major General Omar Ahmed Shah, Hilal-e-Intiaz (Military), at a dignified ceremony.

The ceremony was attended by Sector Commander SCO Azad Kashmir Colonel Yousef Javed, Commissioner Mirpur Division Raja Tahir Mumtaz, Commanding Officer SCO Mirpur Division Colonel Adeel Malik, Deputy Commissioner Mirpur Dr. Raja Muhammad Sadaqat Khan, and SSP Mirpur Khuram Iqbal, among other distinguished guests.

The Director General inaugurated the newly upgraded Accounts Office, Customer Services Center, and Hill Exchange, all equipped with modern facilities. On the occasion, Colonel Adeel Malik provided a comprehensive briefing on ongoing and upcoming projects in the division, outlining future targets and expansion plans.

Speaking at the ceremony, the Director General emphasized that the new complex is not merely a collection of offices but a symbol of a new era of public service. The facility reflects SCO's commitment to delivering dignified, transparent, and efficient service to citizens. The infrastructure represents a harmonious blend of modern technology, effective administrative management, and a customer-friendly environment.

Expressing satisfaction over the provision of affordable, high-quality, and modern telecom services to the people of Mirpur Division, the Director General highly appreciated the professional performance of Colonel Adeel Malik and his entire team, assuring full support for future initiatives.

Multan approves 21 environmental cases, makes tree plantation mandatory for commercial projects


Zain Khan Malghani

MULTAN: A meeting of the Divisional Environmental Committee was held under the chairmanship of Aamir Kareem Khan, where the Environment Department presented a total of 38 cases for review.

After a detailed evaluation, 21 cases were approved while 17 were rejected. Commissioner Aamir Kareem Khan stated that no case is currently pending and that all matters are being reviewed on a regular basis. He emphasized that no case would be approved without complete documentation and reaffirmed the administration's commitment to ensuring environmental protection at all costs.

During the meeting, it was decided that tree plantation would be mandatory alongside approvals for commercial and warehouse projects. The Commissioner directed that at least six-foot-tall trees must be planted in all approved projects. He further stated that the responsibility for the maintenance and upkeep of these trees would lie with the concerned institutions. He added that copies of all approvals would be provided to the Parks and Horticulture Authority (PHA), which would conduct regular monitoring and inspections of the plantation. The Commissioner announced that environmental No Objection Certificates (NOCs) would be issued for a period of three years. Upon renewal after three years, inspection of the plantation would be compulsory.

He made it clear that renewal of the NOC would not be granted without certification from the PHA, stressing that tree plantation is essential to tackling the growing challenges of climate change.

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Punjab govt announces development package worth billions for Murree

The Punjab government has announced a historic development package worth billions of rupees for the development of Murree. In this regard, Pakistan Muslim League (PML-N) President Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif chaired a meeting.

A review of the Murree Development Plan was held in a meeting held at Government House Murree. Senior Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb gave a detailed briefing in the meeting.

Meeting also decided that Patriata chair lift to be repaired and upgraded.

A 50-bed hospital to be built in Bhurban and water supply scheme for the hospital with a bus stand completed.

Bidding for Murree Glass Train Project to take place in March.

Murray Glass Train to run on 40-km route from Lake View Park to Murree Bus Stand.

Murray Glass Train project agreed to extend from Islamabad Airport to Muzaffarabad.

The meeting decided to restore historical buildings of Murree according to ancient design.

Meeting also decided to establish a separate department for the protection of historical and cultural buildings of Murree.

Renovation and restoration of 23 buildings and 76 shops of Mall Road Murree completed.

Meeting further decided to establish standard hotels at a specific location in Murree.

It was also decided to build Murree Hotel Complex under Public Private Partnership.

It was further decided to identify a suitable location to Deputy Commissioner Murree.

The meeting agreed to remove illegally constructed three-storey buildings affecting the natural beauty of Murree.

The meeting decided to remove three-storey buildings in Murree to create parks and green areas.

It was decided to remove three-storey buildings in Upper Jhikka Gali to widen the road.

The meeting agreed to remove three-storey buildings on Mall Road, Hall Road and Imtiaz Shaheed Road.

Progress in water supply schemes in Murree were also reviewed in the meeting.

The meeting decided additional supply of 2.8 million gallons of water in Murree for five to seven hours instead of one hour.

Maryam Nawaz expressed happiness over successfully completion of first phase of rainwater harvesting project in Murree.

Three thousand houses will benefit from the second phase of the rainwater harvesting project.

Maryam Nawaz Sharif directed steps for rainwater harvesting project in Rawalpindi as well.

The meeting was briefed on Bansara Gali Eco Forest Park, construction and renovation of PIA Bagh Shaheed and Nursery Botanical Garden.

Briefing was also given on the restoration of Bostal Mor to Bururi Road and Murree Express to Patriata Road.

The decided in-principle to make Rawalpindi-Murree and Kashmir Road, state-of-the-art roads.

A Humanitarian Initiative by Kulsoom Bai Valika Social Security Hospital

In the field of public health, some initiatives go beyond mere administrative decisions; they become shining examples of social awareness, state responsibility, and human compassion. Recently, Kulsoom Bai Valika Social Security Hospital has launched a formal program to deliver medications to children affected by AIDS at their homes a step that extends beyond traditional medical services and gives practical shape to the concept of a welfare-oriented state. This initiative was implemented under the guidance of Consultant General Surgeon Dr. Ghyasuddin and the Medical Superintendent, with the primary goal of ensuring continuous and timely treatment for children who face economic, social, or geographic barriers to regular hospital visits.

In a developing country like Pakistan, AIDS is not merely a medical issue but a complex crisis intertwined with social stigma, lack of awareness, and economic vulnerabilities. Children, in particular, who are unaware of the causes and consequences of their condition, suffer doubly: physically due to weakness and the challenges of long-term treatment, and socially due to harsh societal attitudes. Any interruption in treatment can lead to serious consequences. Medical experts emphasize that consistent and timely use of antiretroviral therapy is crucial for patients with HIV/AIDS; disruptions in medication can increase the virus's severity and may lead to drug resistance.

Within this context, the home delivery of medications is not just a convenience; it represents a revolutionary step in treatment strategy. Under this program, registered children's lists are prepared, and medical staff along with dedicated teams deliver medications to their homes. This ensures continuity of treatment while reducing the burden of travel costs and time for parents. The initiative acknowledges that access to healthcare should not be limited to hospital walls but must reach patients at their doorstep.

Furthermore, the involvement of renowned pediatrician Dr. Fatima Mir from Aga Khan University Hospital in providing treatment expertise highlights the program's scientific and technical rigor. Delivering treatment based on modern medical research and global guidelines ensures that this initiative is not a temporary arrangement but part of a standardized and sustainable healthcare system. Collaboration between public and semi-public institutions and expert professionals amplifies positive outcomes, not just for patients but for the health system as a whole.

An important aspect of the program is its emphasis on interdepartmental cooperation in healthcare. Efforts by Commissioner CEC and the Medical Advisor demonstrate that when administrative insight and medical expertise are combined, significant results can be achieved even with limited resources. Initiatives like these bridge the gap often seen between policy formulation and practical implementation, translating decisions from paper into tangible

improvements in public life.

It is also important to note that care for children with AIDS should not be limited to medication alone. Nutritional guidance, psychological support, and social acceptance are essential components of treatment. If home delivery of medication is integrated with community awareness programs and parental counseling,

its impact can multiply, spreading accurate information about the disease and gradually breaking down social stigma.

From a broader public health perspective, this initiative aligns with the global concept of community-based health care, which emphasizes adapting the health system to the patient's needs rather than forcing the patient to conform to the system. If seriously adopted in Pakistan, this model could significantly improve treatment for not only HIV/AIDS but also tuberculosis, hepatitis, and other chronic illnesses. Kulsoom Bai Valika Social Security Hospital's program could serve as a pilot model, potentially expanding to other districts and provinces.

Socially, the program reinforces the idea of state responsibility in providing special attention to vulnerable and underprivileged populations. Children with AIDS often belong to families already struggling economically, and repeated hospital visits add to their burden. Delivering medications to their homes effectively conveys the state's message that they



Dr. Muhammad Tayyab Khan Singhani



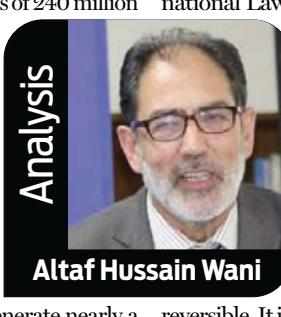
Cartoon by Amjad Rashi. (Courtesy of Asharq Al-Awsat)

India's Suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty Threatens Millions and Violates Int'l Law

In April 2025, following the tragic Pahalgam attack, India's Cabinet Committee on Security took a step that threatens to unravel one of the most resilient achievements of international cooperation in South Asia: the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT). By holding the 65-year-old agreement in "abeyance" and vowing to divert waters to Rajasthan, New Delhi has not only breached its legal obligations to Pakistan but has weaponized the most fundamental resource of life itself—water—putting the human rights of 240 million people at grave risk.

The IWT has survived wars, nuclear tests, and decades of hostility precisely because both nations recognized that water flows must transcend political enmity. The treaty allocates the western rivers—Indus, Jhelum, and Chenab—to Pakistan, irrigating 18 million hectares of farmland that constitute 80% of Pakistan's arable land and generate nearly a quarter of its GDP. For a nation already ranked among the ten most vulnerable to climate change, with limited water storage capacity, the unimpeded flow of these rivers is not a diplomatic luxury; it is the difference between food security and famine, between livelihood and destitution.

The legal justifications offered by India—population growth, energy needs, and security concerns—fail to meet the stringent criteria for treaty suspension under customary international law, reflected in the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties (VCLT). The doctrine of rebus sic stantibus (fundamental change of circumstances) requires changes that imperil a state's existence or render obligations "essentially different" from those originally undertaken. Mere demographic shifts or clean energy ambitions do not meet this threshold. Similarly,



Altaf Hussain Wani

claim of "material breach" by Pakistan falters; disputes over hydropower projects were already subject to the treaty's sophisticated dispute resolution mechanisms, which India has increasingly circumvented rather than utilized.

Even if one accepts India's security concerns—a proposition requiring credible evidence linking the Pahalgam attack to Pakistani state actors that New Delhi has not publicly disclosed—the suspension of water flows cannot qualify as a lawful countermeasure. Under the International Law Commission's Articles on State

Responsibility, countermeasures must be proportionate, temporary, and reversible, and must not affect obligations for the protection of fundamental human rights. Deliberately disrupting water supplies to a nation of 240 million people, threatening their rights to food, water, health, and development, is neither proportionate nor reversible. It is collective punishment masquerading as statecraft.

The human rights implications are catastrophic and immediate. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights has affirmed that states must refrain from actions that interfere with the right to water in other countries, emphasizing that "water should never be used as an instrument of political and economic pressure." Yet India's Home Minister has declared India will "never" restore the treaty, proposing instead to divert western river waters to Rajasthan—a move that would permanently sever Pakistan's agricultural lifeline. Such actions violate not only treaty obligations but erga omnes duties to prevent significant transboundary environmental harm, recently affirmed by the International Court of Justice as foundational to international law.

Beyond the immediate humanitarian crisis lies the unresolved wound of Jammu and Kashmir, perpetuated by the persistent non-implementation of United Nations Security Council resolutions mandating a plebiscite to determine the region's future. The IWT's suspension cannot be divorced from this dispute that has poisoned relations between these nuclear-armed neighbours for decades, demands urgent resolution of the Kashmir dispute accordingly. As the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy recognizes, protracted unresolved conflicts create conditions conducive to terrorism. By escalating water disputes rather than addressing the root causes of regional instability, India risks transforming a manageable technical disagreement into an existential conflict, potentially triggering Pakistan's declared characterization of water diversion as an "Act of War."

The path forward requires immediate de-escalation and legal compliance. India must restore the IWT without conditions, participate in good faith in the PCA proceedings it has boycotted, and abandon plans to divert trans-boundary waters. The international community must recognize that in an era of climate crisis, water cannot become a tool of coercion. The right to water is universal, non-negotiable, and non-derogable.

Sixty-six years ago, leaders scarred by partition chose cooperation over conflict. Today, with the climate crisis deepening and regional tensions simmering, that wisdom is needed more than ever. To sacrifice the Indus Waters Treaty on the altar of political retaliation is to endanger not just Pakistan's future, but the very possibility of peaceful coexistence in South Asia. Water must flow; so, must diplomacy.

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Nigehban Ramzan Package: A New Benchmark of Public Relief

Maqbool Malick

The holy month of Ramadan brings with it the message of mercy, blessings, compassion, and social solidarity. It is a sacred period in which people of means are encouraged to care for the underprivileged and promote the values of justice, generosity, and mutual support in society. However, rising inflation, unemployment, and the increasing cost of essential commodities have made it extremely difficult for low-income families to meet their Ramadan expenses. In such circumstances, welfare initiatives undertaken by the government not only help address social challenges but also strengthen the bond of trust between the state and its citizens.

Under the leadership of Chief Minister Punjab, Ms. Maryam Nawaz Sharif, the launch of the Rs. 40 billion "Nigehban Ramzan Package" is a highly commendable step towards public welfare. The primary objective of this package is to provide direct financial support to deserving and low-income families across the province and assist them in meeting their essential food requirements during the holy month of Ramadan. Through this initiative, the Government of Punjab has adopted a comprehensive strategy to protect vulnerable segments of society from the harsh effects of inflation.

The government's efforts to ensure effective monitoring of these Sahulat Bazaars and to improve the supply chain are equally praiseworthy, as this initiative is not merely an announcement but is being implemented practically on the ground.

In addition, under the "Nigehban Dastarkhwan" initiative, arrangements will be made daily for iftar meals for thousands of individuals. This step truly reflects the spirit

of Ramadan, as providing iftar is not only an act of compassion but also promotes the values of brotherhood, unity, and goodwill within society. For those individuals who are unable to afford proper iftar arrangements due to poverty, unemployment, or other hardships, the Nigehban Dastarkhwan will serve as a source of hope and support.

It is also important to note that welfare initiatives like the Nigehban Ramzan Package provide not only immediate relief but also contribute towards long-term social stability. When the state takes responsibility for the basic needs of its citizens, it creates a sense of security and satisfaction among the people. The decision to distribute financial assistance through the Nigehban Card is also a positive step towards transparency, as it increases the likelihood that the aid will reach the truly deserving families.

Public circles have widely welcomed this package, particularly the significant increase in the ration card assistance amount, which is being viewed as a major breakthrough in public relief measures. If implemented with complete transparency, timely distribution, and effective monitoring, this initiative can become a source of genuine happiness for millions of families during the holy month of Ramadan.

In conclusion, it can rightly be said that under the leadership of Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif, the Nigehban Ramzan Package is an excellent example of public service and the practical realization of the concept of a welfare state. The government's efforts during the blessed month of Ramadan are truly appreciable. It is hoped that this package will reach deserving individuals in a timely manner and provide meaningful relief, ensuring that the blessings of Ramadan extend to every household.

The writer is Director Public Relations, Faislabad

Strengthening the Peace Agenda

Uzbekistan Aims to Advance Constructive Initiatives within the Peace Council

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: On 17-19 February, the President of Uzbekistan, Shavkat Mirziyoyev, will pay a visit to the United States and take part in the inaugural meeting of the Peace Council, a new international body established as a multilateral platform to promote dialogue and the peaceful resolution of pressing global and regional conflicts.

The Peace Council was founded in January 2026 at the World Economic Forum in Davos, where the founding charter was formally signed in a ceremony attended by heads of state and government, as well as representatives of several founding countries.

Launched earlier this year, the initiative has garnered the support of a number of states, including Uzbekistan, which joined as a founding member, thereby reaffirming its commitment to the principles of peaceful diplomacy, multilateral engagement, and shared responsibility for maintaining international stability.

The establishment of the Peace Council represents a logical continu-

ation of the international community's efforts to develop effective mechanisms for conflict prevention and to seek political and diplomatic solutions to the most acute crises of our time, particularly in the Middle East.

Uzbekistan's participation in the creation of this structure reflects Tashkent's consistent foreign policy course aimed at promoting dialogue, respect for international law, and the rejection of force-based scenarios. The country's position on the Palestinian issue – grounded in support for a just and sustainable peace settlement in accordance with United Nations resolutions – has gained additional international resonance within the framework of this initiative.

The upcoming participation of the Uzbek head of state in the first meeting of the Peace Council also aligns with the recent intensification of Uzbek-American political dialogue. Over the past six months, high-level contacts between Tashkent and Washington have significantly increased, signaling a qualitatively new stage in bilateral relations.



In September of last year, the President of Uzbekistan visited New York to attend a regular session of the United Nations General Assembly, where he held meetings with world leaders and heads of international organizations and discussed key issues on the global and regional agenda.

Further momentum was generated in early November 2025 during

the Uzbek President's working visit to the United States, which included talks with the U.S. President, as well as meetings with representatives of the American establishment, Congress, and business circles. Particular attention during the visit was devoted to strategic partnership, economic cooperation, investment engagement, and regional security, including the "C5+1"

format, viewed by both sides as an effective mechanism for coordinating efforts in Central Asia.

Contacts between Tashkent and Washington have been maintained across various channels, including telephone conversations and interagency cooperation. An additional indication of growing mutual trust has been the expansion of economic dialogue and the establishment of new business cooperation platforms, reflecting a shared interest in deepening practical engagement. In the United States, Uzbekistan is increasingly perceived as a reliable, predictable, and responsible partner pursuing a balanced and pragmatic foreign policy.

Uzbekistan's participation in the Peace Council is thus seen as further evidence of the country's growing international standing and recognition of its constructive role in global affairs. For Washington, it also confirms that Tashkent is an important partner in advancing initiatives aimed at strengthening peace, security, and sustainable development across Eurasia and beyond.

Amid the intensification of political dialogue, Uzbek-American cooperation continues to expand across key areas. These include collaboration in regional security, support for economic reforms in Uzbekistan, the development of trade and investment, and the deepening of humanitarian and educational ties. Joint projects in energy, digitalization, infrastructure, and human capital development are laying a solid foundation for a long-term partnership.

In sum, the forthcoming participation of the President of Uzbekistan in the inaugural meeting of the Peace Council not only underscores the country's active role in shaping a new architecture of international dialogue, but also complements the positive trajectory of Uzbek-American relations. The visit to the United States will undoubtedly contribute to elevating interaction between Tashkent and Washington to a stable strategic level, serving the interests of both sides and the broader goal of strengthening peace and stability in the region and worldwide.

Algeria to host Global Africa Tech 2026; To Boost Africa's Digital Transformation

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Algeria will host an unprecedented continental event in the field of communications and technology: Global Africa Tech 2026. The event will take place from March 28 to 30, 2026, at the International Conference Center, under the high patronage of President Abdelmadjid Tebboune. This event represents a strategic platform to solidify Algeria's position as a regional hub for digital innovation and to promote technological integration within the African continent.

–A Digital Vision for a Unified Africa:

The Minister of Post and Telecommunications, Sid Ali Zerouki, affirmed that the organization of Global Africa Tech is part of a comprehensive vision aimed at building a digitally unified Africa, and explained that the event's slogan, "All Networks, One Convergence," reflects a strategic approach based on integrating terrestrial, satellite, and submarine networks, and establishing a modern, secure, and sustainable communications system capable of supporting economic growth and digital transformation across the continent.

–Strategic Pillars for Developing

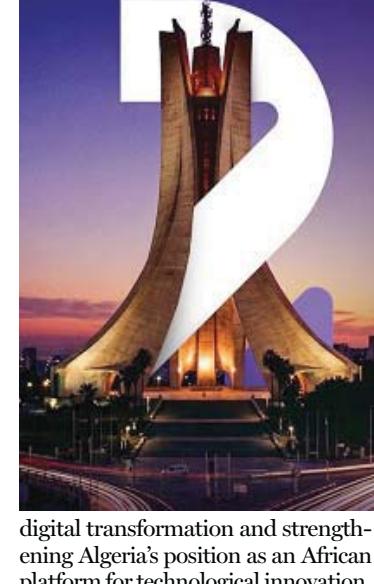
Digital Infrastructure: Strengthening Fiber Optic Networks: The event will feature in-depth discussions on developing terrestrial infrastructure and expanding fiber optic networks to ensure faster data flow and improved quality of digital services.

Satellite and Air Communications: Advanced initiatives in satellite and air communications will be launched to enhance digital coverage in remote areas and bolster digital security.

Protecting Submarine Cables and Smart Ports: A key focus will be on securing submarine cables and connecting smart ports, supporting

digital trade and strengthening continental connectivity among African countries.

– Broad International Participation and High-Quality Presence:



Global Africa Tech 2026 is expected to attract more than: 5,000 participants representing 45 countries, approximately 50 ministers and decision-makers, global technology companies, and experts in the telecommunications and technology sector. The event is organized by the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications in partnership with Algeria Telecom, reflecting the country's commitment to accelerating

digital transformation and strengthening Algeria's position as an African platform for technological innovation.

Algeria: A Leading Multi-Sectoral Continental Platform:

Following the resounding success of the 4th Intra-African Trade Fair (IATF) from September 04-10, 2025, and the 3rd African Startup Conference from

December 03-06, 2025, Algeria will host Global Africa Tech 2026 from March 28-30, 2026. Subsequently, it will also host the Africa ICT Summit 2026 from April 21-23, 2026, which will become the largest and most important technology event in Africa. This summit will serve as a pivotal point in the continent's digital transformation

journey, bringing together innovators, investors, startups, and decision-makers from across Africa and beyond. This positions Algeria as a leading continental gateway and platform in various fields, including partnership, investment, trade, startups, technology, and innovation, communications, digitalization, and more.

Ambassador Albert P. Khorev delivered a lecture on Russia-Pakistan relations to students of Bahria University

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Ambassador highlighted that, despite the difficult nature of international relations, cooperation between Moscow and Islamabad has always been constructive, as evidenced by industrial projects implemented in Pakistan with the support of the Soviet Union in the 1970s and 1980s, including the construction of the Karachi Steel Mills and the Guddu Thermal Power Plant.

He emphasized that



modern Russia-Pakistan relations are characterized by increasingly dynamic political, economic, and humanitarian contacts. Ambassador Khorev also

updated the students on the situation in and around Ukraine. He focused on the root causes of the Ukrainian crisis and the destructive role of Western countries in

destabilizing the Eurasian region. Ambassador also drew the audience's attention to the Russian Federation's vital efforts to uphold the rights of the Russian-speaking population in Ukraine.

On the sidelines of the event, the Ambassador met with the Rector of Bahria University, Vice Admiral Abid Hameed HI(M).

The parties discussed the prospects of developing partnerships with relevant Russian universities and expressed interest in continuing academic cooperation

Ambassador of Pakistan visits Russian Federal Tax Service

Spokesman Report

MOSCOW: Ambassador of Pakistan to the Russian Federation, H. E. Faisal Niaz Tirmizi, visited the Federal Tax Service of Russia today to meet with Commissioner Daniil Egorov.

The meeting focused on the implementation of cutting-edge technology to improve fiscal transparency and tax administration. Ambassador Tirmizi was briefed on various digital solutions developed and successfully employed by the Russian side, including the automated VAT control system, the online cash register system that enables real-time monitoring of retail



transactions, and other digital solutions for taxpayer convenience.

Ambassador Tirmizi commended the high level of digitalization within the

Russian tax system and invited Russian professionals to share technical expertise and best practices with Pakistani counterparts to support Pakistan's digitalization efforts.

The sides agreed to maintain an active dialogue and to step up engagements at the institutional level between the Pakistani and Russian tax administrations.

Beaconhouse Jubilee Campus Hosts Grand Exhibition Promoting Sustainable Resources

City Desk

KARACHI: Beaconhouse Jubilee Campus Middle Section recently organized a vibrant and thought-provoking exhibition titled 'From Waste to Art,' centered around the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – SDG 13 (Climate Action) and SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production).

The event was honored by the presence of distinguished guest artists, including Aliya Yousuf, Assistant Professor at IVS, known for her multi-disciplinary exploration of harmony with nature; Zabab Anwer, a Karachi-based visual artist blending

art, design, and storytelling; and Aliya Faizi, recognized for her unique fusion of abstraction, figuration, and calligraphy reflecting human existence and spirituality.

Speaking on the occasion, Ms. Tabinda Raza, School Principal, stated "I'm thrilled to see our students embracing sustainability and creativity. This exhibition is a testament to their talent and dedication to environmental stewardship."

Ms. Humaira Shahab, Headmistress, added "From Waste to Art" serves as a poignant reminder of the urgent need for environmental protection, encouraging participants to reassess their daily habits and make conscious choices

towards reduced consumption, reuse, and recycling. This initiative aligns with our mission to foster sustainability and environmental awareness among students, empowering them to become responsible citizens."

The exhibition was also attended by Mr. Ahsan Afzal, Regional Director South, and Ms. Tasneem Karbalai, Manager Education Operations, from the Beaconhouse Regional Office.

Beaconhouse Jubilee Campus expressed gratitude to parents, teachers, and staff members whose support contributed to the success of the event.

Looking ahead, Beaconhouse Jubilee Campus plans to expand this initia-



tive further by collaborating with local communities and institutions, contin-

uing its commitment to nurturing environmentally responsible citizens and promoting sustainability through education.

Islamabad Airport Privatization moves forward with ADB Negotiation Committee Formation

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Privatisation Commission Board (PC Board), in its 248th meeting held today under the chairmanship of Mr. Muhammad Ali, Adviser to the Prime Minister on Privatisation and Chairman, Privatisation Commission, constituted a Negotiation Committee to engage with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to negotiate the terms of a potential Financial Advisory Services Agreement (FASA) in connection with the proposed privatisation of Islamabad International Airport (IIA).

This decision follows the Board's earlier approval to initiate direct negotiations with ADB in accordance with the Privatisation Commission (Hiring of Financial Adviser) Regulations, 2018.

The Negotiation Committee has been mandated to undertake negotiations and submit its recommendations to the Board for consideration and approval, in line with the applicable regulatory framework.

The proposed transaction envisages the outsourcing of airport operations under a concession model through an



open and competitive process, with the objective of enhancing operational efficiency and improving service delivery standards, while ensuring optimal value realization for the Government of Pakistan.

In a separate agenda item, the PC Board reviewed and approved the audited financial statements of the Privatisation Commission for the fiscal year 2024-25, in accordance with statutory requirements.

The PC Board reaffirmed its commitment to undertaking all privatisation transactions in a transparent, competitive, and rule-based manner to safeguard public interest and maximize value for the national exchequer.

Traditional Sehri Item

ISLAMABAD: People are buying traditional breakfast item "Phani" from confectioner during the preparation for the First "Sehri" in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Nestlé strengthens partnership with Federal Directorate of Education with Nestlé for Healthier Kids room in Islamabad



Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Nestlé Pakistan strengthened its collaboration with Federal Directorate of Education (FDE) Islamabad with the inauguration of Nestlé for Healthier Kids (N4HK) room at the Islamabad Model College for Boys, Chak Shahzad making it the 20th N4HK room across Pakistan, to foster and promote nutrition awareness. Under the partnership Nestlé Pakistan plans to establish three

N4HK rooms and train 350 teachers to outreach 15,000 students in the next two years in collaboration with FDE. Earlier, a three-day training at the National Special Education Centre was also conducted for 45 faculty members and professionals Directorate General of Special Education, Islamabad Capital Territory.

The N4HK program is part of Nestlé's global nutritional awareness initiative to ensure children understand the value of nutri-

tion as they grow older. To date, over 3000 teachers have been trained across the country, positively impacting more than 440,000 children through the N4HK program.

Inaugurating the room, Federal Secretary of Education Nadeem Mahbub said, "Nestlé's N4HK program has been extremely significant in creating positive awareness about nutrition across our schools and communities. The development of this room is a positive step towards promoting healthier nutrition in the country."

RCCI Pushes for Reforms as U. S. Investors Show Strong Interest in Pakistan

Spokesman Report

RAWALPINDI: President of the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Usman Shaukat, addressed a press conference following the Chamber's high-level trade delegation visit to the United States, highlighting strong investor interest across multiple sectors and emphasizing that structural economic reforms are essential to unlock large-scale foreign investment.

He said U. S. investors expressed keen interest in Pakistan in areas including rare earth minerals, mining, information technology, pharmaceuticals, healthcare, medical devices, construction, and data infrastructure. He stressed that targeted policy support—particularly for the mining sector—can position Pakistan as a competitive destination for global capital.

Underscoring the broader context, he noted that countries worldwide are strengthening economic engagement with the United States, while Pakistan maintains approxi-



mately \$10 billion in bilateral trade. He emphasized that the strong diplomatic relationship between Pakistan and the United States should be effectively leveraged to expand trade, investment, and technology partnerships.

The RCCI delegation comprised leading business figures from IT, pharmaceuticals, healthcare, medical devices, construction, and allied sectors. During meetings with U. S. lawmakers, government agencies, and business organizations, American stakeholders highlighted the importance of investor protection, legal certainty, and policy continuity to facilitate invest-

ment in Pakistan.

Usman Shaukat announced that a major business conference will be held in the United States on March 24, bringing together prominent Pakistani entrepreneurs to promote bilateral investment and commercial collaboration.

He observed that pharmaceutical prices in the United States are among the highest globally, creating opportunities for Pakistan to expand cooperation in medical devices and healthcare products. Various U. S. states also signaled readiness to deepen trade ties with Pakistan, while expecting recip-

rocal facilitation for American investors.

Reaffirming RCCI's non-political role, he stated that the Chamber supports reforms that improve the cost of doing business, strengthen regulatory transparency, and build investor confidence. The Chamber seeks accelerated progress in B2B trade linkages that ensure mutual economic benefit for Pakistan.

Prior to the U. S. visit, RCCI held consultations with an IMF delegation, which sought private sector input on the upcoming federal budget, business cost reforms, and policy priorities. He expressed optimism that continued engagement with international institutions will support economic stability and business facilitation.

Highlighting domestic challenges, he pointed to regulatory burdens, taxation pressures, and limited institutional support for SMEs. He emphasized the need for effective arbitration mechanisms and trust-building measures to strengthen the investment climate.

88% of Unlisted Licensed Companies Publicly Disclose Financials

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD, FEB 18: In line with the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan's (SECP) directive, 88% of unlisted licensed companies are now publicly disclosing their annual audited financial statements through the Pakistan Stock Exchange's (PSX) Financial Portal for Unlisted Companies (FPUC).

In January last year, SECP directed all unlisted licensed companies to upload and publicly disseminate their audited financial statements on the dedicated PSX portal. Companies were also required to sign an agreement with PSX to obtain access to the FPUC and ensure timely disclosure within prescribed deadlines.

The directive was issued to enhance transparency, improve disclosure standards, and strengthen governance in entities operating in areas of significant public interest. Public availability of financial statements enables investors and stakeholders to better assess the performance and financial health of these companies.

As part of its supervisory role, SECP conducted an extensive sector-wide compliance drive covering brokers, insurance companies, Non-Banking Finance Companies (NBFCs), Modarabas, and other licensed entities. Compliance has increased from negligible levels to 88% of companies now publishing their audited financials through the portal. Interested stakeholders, people can view the financial statements at portal link at <https://ulfinancials.psx.com.pk/unlistedfinancials/home/getYearDataByDate/2024>

SECP has also initiated supervisory actions under the applicable legal framework against the remaining non-compliant entities.

SECP continues to pursue a firm regulatory approach, actively promoting transparency, accountability, good governance, and investor protection across Pakistan's financial services sector.

Petroleum price hike during Ramadan unjust, says Sheikh Abdul Waheed

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Trader leader Sheikh Abdul Waheed has termed the recent increase in petroleum prices as unjust and demanded its immediate withdrawal.

Trader leader Sheikh Abdul Waheed has rejected the recent increase in petroleum product prices, calling it open injustice against the public. He demanded that the government immediately withdraw the hike. He said that with essential commodities already beyond the reach of the common man during Ramadan, the hike has added to public hardship. Urging the government to provide relief, he called for an immediate reversal of the decision to ease citizens' financial burden.

FrieslandCampina Engro Pakistan Ltd Announces Financial Results for FY, 2025

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: FrieslandCampina Engro Pakistan Limited (FCEPL) announced its financial results for the year ended December 31, 2025.

The Company pursued disciplined cost management and efficiency initiatives across the value chain. This included optimization of procurement, manufacturing, logistics and overheads, while maintaining quality, safety, and service standards. The combined impact of improved commercial execution and cost optimization resulted in an expansion in gross margin of 70 basis points and growth in operating profit of 16% vs 2024.

The uneven playing field for packaged UHT milk created by the implementation of the sales tax in 2024 remains a big challenge for the dairy sector. Despite these external challenges, the Company maintained a strong focus on its commercial agenda by continuing to invest behind its brands and delivering customer-centric offerings. These actions led to an increase in market share and improvement in volume mix.

The consumption of loose milk, remains outside tax net, the documented economy, and food safety frameworks. This taxation is misaligned with the government's stated objectives of improving access to safe and nutritious food, strengthening documented supply chains, and supporting sustainable livelihoods for dairy farmers. Furthermore, the prevailing tax regime eliminates the ability of organized dairy companies to invest in category development, dairy development programs and long-term initiatives aimed at improving farmer livelihoods and productivity across the value chain.

Training academy to also be established at the Punjab International Squash Complex: Sports Minister

 Sports Desk

LAHORE: Punjab Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs Malik Faisal Ayub Khokhar has presided over an important General Body meeting of Sports Board Punjab at the National Hockey Stadium on Wednesday in which an 8-point agenda was discussed in detail.

The key meeting was attended by Vice Chairman Sports Board Punjab Malik Sulaiman Saleem, Secretary Sports Muhammad Ali, MPA M Ajmal Khan Chandia, former Olympian Shabana Akhtar, Secretary Pakistan Wrestling Federation Arshad Sattar, Secretary Punjab Swimming Association Atif Shafiq, Sports Editor Zahid Maqsood. The representatives of Finance Department, Regulations, S&GAD Department, Board of Revenue, Higher Education and School Education were also present in the meeting.



Addressing the meeting, Punjab Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs Malik Faisal Ayub Khokhar said that the performance of coaches, divisional, district and tehsil sports officers will be evaluated regularly under a well prepared

mechanism. "Under this system, it will be assessed minutely that how many events were held in a year in each division of the province and how many new players were introduced."

Punjab Minister for Sports and Youth

Affairs Malik Faisal Ayub Khokhar said that a database will be developed for profiling all the players. "This database will help a lot in evaluating the performances and achievements of athletes from across the province".

Punjab Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs Malik Faisal Ayub Khokhar said that Punjab Sports Department is taking all essential measures so that Sports Board Punjab could generate sufficient revenue to meet its expenses. "For this purpose shops and commercial markets will be built around multiple sports complexes, grounds and stadiums across all divisions of the province".

Punjab Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs Malik Faisal Ayub Khokhar further said that top standard sports facilities are being ensured in every tehsil and district for the bright future of sports in the province. "The renovation of all district offices will also be ensured

 ICC Men's T-20 Cricket World Cup 2026

Sahabzada Farhan's brilliant not out century and Tariq Usman excellent bowling



 Asim Tanveer

Agha contributing a useful 38 and Shadab Khan adding an unbeaten 36 that included two sixes in the final over of the innings.

Early on the wicket wasn't that easy to bat on, I told (opener) Sain (Ayub) we'll take some time (to settle in) and I was confident that with time we could set a target," said Farhan, who was named the man of the match.

The partnership with Shadab was important. The idea was to build a partnership and once the partnership gets going, I would take charge and Shadab can hit as well.

Winless Namibia Finish Bottom Of Group

Namibia's chase never gained

momentum despite a promising start from opener Louren Steenkamp, who raced to 23 before the African side began losing wickets at regular intervals.

Shadab (3-19) proved instrumental with the ball as well, dismissing skipper Gerhard Erasmus before having Alexander Busing-Volschenk stumped for 20 when the middle-order batter charged down the pitch as the required run rate mounted.

Spinner Usman Tariq cleaned up the tail and finished with career-best figures of 4-16 as Namibia were dismissed for 97, ending their World Cup campaign without a win to finish bottom of the group.

Pakistan skipper Salman Agha was beaming when he described the win as a "complete performance".

"We started really well and in the middle, we put partnerships on and then finished well," he said.

"Sahibzada has been outstanding, the way he's been batting for us for the last six months. He scored a hundred today and I'm very happy for him.

"When it comes to bowling, we were lethal and we were ruthless. We bowled in the right areas."

All teams in the Super Eight have also secured automatic qualification for the next edition of the tournament in Australia and New Zealand in 2028.

Yango Pakistan partners with NowPDP to empower drivers with disabilities

 Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Yango Pakistan, part of the global tech company Yango Group, has partnered with NowPDP, a non-profit organization, to launch 'Baikhtiyar Pakistan' – an inclusive mobility and livelihood program designed to create earning opportunities for persons with disabilities through the Yango platform.

Speaking at the launch event, Miral Sharif, the Country Head at Yango Pakistan stated, "Disability should never become an obstacle between will and opportunity. A person with a disability is no less capable than any other indi-

vidual. We are proud to pioneer a program that promotes sustainable earning opportunities for persons with disabilities within the ride-hailing industry in Pakistan. This is only the beginning of our journey in advancing digital inclusion, and we remain committed to expanding such partnerships to create meaningful and lasting empowerment."

Amin Hashwani, President of NOWPDP, emphasizing the systemic importance of collaboration stated: "Pakistan's inclusion journey requires strong public-private partnerships. Initiatives like Baikhtiyar Paki-



realme Celebrates the Holy Month with "Craft Your Ramadan" Creative Workshops

 Commerce Desk

LAHORE: As Ramadan approaches, a season of togetherness and shared moments, realme is introducing a vibrant, youth-focused community initiative designed to add creativity and color to the month. Titled "Craft Your Ramadan," the experience invites individuals and families to customize their Ramadan vibe through hands-on DIY workshops in an energetic in-store setting.

Taking place every weekend throughout Ramadan from 4pm to 11pm at Dolmen Mall Lahore, the campaign transforms the retail space into an interactive, creative hub instead of a traditional retail setup. Blending art, personalization, and technology, the initiative encourages participants to customize realme smartphone back covers in a fun, Iftar-ready environment inspired by self-expression and youthful energy.

Make this Ramadan more colorful and creative by joining "Craft Your Ramadan" every weekend, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, at Dolmen Mall Lahore. Visitors can walk into the realme outlet, register on-site for the DIY workshop, complete their customized design, and instantly enter the lucky draw for a chance to win exciting prizes. To stay updated on timings, activities, and announcements, follow realme Pakistan on social media and be part of the celebration.

Al-Karam Sports and Fazlur Rehman win in Riazuddin Memorial Inter-Club Cricket Tournament

 Sports Reporter

KARACHI: Two more matches have been decided in the ongoing first Riazuddin Memorial Inter-Club 40 Overs Knockout Cricket Tournament organized by the Regional Cricket Association Karachi Zone One. In the first match, Al-Karam Sports defeated Rafiq Sherazi Memorial Cricket Club by seven runs after an exciting contest, while in the second match played, Fazlur Rehman Cricket Club defeated Abu Rehan Cricket Club by five wickets. In the first match played at the Students' Ground, Al-Karam Sports batted first and was dismissed for 135 runs in 31.5 overs. Abdullah scored 31, Hameed Khan 23, Syed Shahzeb 22 and Faizan Ali 16 runs, Ahmed Modi took four wickets while Imad Akbar took two wickets.

In reply, Rafiq Sherazi Memorial Cricket Club was bowled out for just 128 runs in 31.5 overs. Saqib Raees scored 38, Mohsin Hussain 30 and Waqas Ahmed scored 17 not out. Aurangzeb Ahmed and Shahroz Alvi took three wickets each, Muhammad Fasil took two, while Sudais Gaba and Gul Nawab took one wicket each. In the second match played at the Student Ground, Fazlur Rehman Cricket Club defeated Abu Rehan Cricket Club by five wickets. Abu Rehan Cricket Club, batting first, scored 248 runs for the loss of 6 wickets in the stipulated 40 overs. Muhammad Hammad batted brilliantly and scored an unbeaten 113 runs with the help of 13 fours and a six, while Muhammad Faheem scored 39, Shahbaz Khan 23 and Muhammad Moez 20 runs. Umar Murtaza and Ali Nawaz took two wickets each. In reply, Fazlur Rehman Cricket Club achieved the target in 30.4 overs for the loss of five wickets. Majid Hussain scored a brilliant century of 115 runs with the help of 13 fours and five sixes, while Ali Nawaz scored 37 not out and Muhammad Kamil scored 35 runs. Aftab Zahoor took two wickets.

Kaspersky Uncovers Keenadu Malware Hidden in Brand-New Android Devices

 Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Kaspersky has detected a new malware for Android devices that it dubbed Keenadu. This malware is distributed in multiple forms – it can be preinstalled directly into devices' firmware, embedded within system apps, or even downloaded from official app stores such as Google Play. Currently Keenadu is used for ad fraud, with attackers using infected devices as bots to deliver link clicks on ads, but it can also be used for malicious purposes, with some variants even allowing full control of the victim's device.

As of February 2026, Kaspersky mobile security solutions detected over 13,000 devices infected with Keenadu.

Similar to the Triada backdoor that Kaspersky detected in 2025, some versions of Keenadu are integrated into the firmware of several models of Android tablets at one of the supply chain stages. In this variant, Keenadu is a fully functional backdoor that provides the attackers with unlimited control over the victim's device. It can infect every app installed on the device, install any apps from APK files and give them any available permissions. As a result, all information on the device, including media, messages, banking credentials, location, etc. can be compromised. The malware even monitors search queries that the user inputs into the Chrome browser in incognito mode.

When integrated into the firmware, the malware behaves differently depending on several factors. It will not activate if the language set on the device is one of Chinese dialects, and the time is set to one of Chinese time zones. It will also not launch if the device doesn't have Google Play Store and Google Play Services installed.

Condolence

LAHORE: February 18, 2026: President Asif Ali Zardari visited the residence of the late Mian Manzoor Ahmed Wattoo to offer Fatiha and express his condolences to Begum Perveen Wattoo and other members of the bereaved family.



Photo: PID

31 of 37 points implemented in pact with JKJAC, PM monitoring AJK development closely: Muqam

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs, Gilgit-Baltistan and SAFRON Engineer Amir Muqam said Wednesday that substantial progress has been made on the agreement with the Jammu and Kashmir Joint Awami Action Committee (JKJAC), with 31 out of 37 points either completed or progressing according to plan.

He shared the update during a press conference after a meeting of the Monitoring and Implementation Committee reviewing the



pact along with Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Tariq Fazal Chaudhry.

According to the briefing, 17 demands have been fully implemented, while several development schemes and

administrative measures remain underway on a priority basis.

Completed steps include reducing the cabinet size to 20 members, reinstating suspended

linked to JKJAC activities, releasing detained protesters, withdrawing 177 FIRs, compensation payments exceeding Rs120 million for victims of the September 2025 incidents, open-merit admissions, electricity tariff adjustments, property tax parity, telecom governance improvements, and waiving electricity bills related to the Mangla Dam raising project. A PASCO wheat mix arrangement was also introduced.

Development initiatives currently progressing include bridge rehabilitation projects, hospital infrastruc-

ture upgrades, a proposed Rs10 billion electricity system package, district-level water supply feasibility studies, solid waste management plans, MRI and CT facility proposals, feasibility work on the Kahuta-Azad Patti road, and proposed Kalhori-Kamsar tunnels.

Other measures include efforts to secure scheduled bank status for the Bank of AJK, a student unions code of conduct, Mirpur Airport feasibility work, rehabilitation planning for additional Mangla Dam-affected families, and a property rights policy for Mendor Colony.

NAB Chairman Meets Qatar's Ambassador to Discuss Cooperation

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Chairman of the National Accountability Bureau (NAB), Lieutenant General (Retired) Nazir Ahmed, held an important meeting today with the Ambassador of Qatar to Pakistan, His Excellency Ali Mubarak Ali Essa Al-Khater. A high-level NAB delegation also attended the meeting.

The Chairman welcomed the Ambassador and briefly explained NAB's history, goals, and its role in fighting corruption in Pakistan. During the discussion, he thanked Qatar



for its role as a reviewer in Pakistan's second country review under the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC), and presenting a positive image of Pakistan in the Review Report.

The Chairman also congratulated the Qatari government for successfully hosting the 11th Conference of the States Parties (CoSP) and the 15th International Association of Anti-Corruption Authorities (IAACA) meeting in Doha in December 2025.

During the meeting, both sides discussed finalizing a Memorandum of Under-

standing (MoU) for cooperation in criminal matters between NAB and Qatar's Administrative Control and Transparency Authority (ACTA). NAB expressed hope for a prompt response from Qatar to the request for a virtual meeting to discuss proposed amendments to this agreement.

Additionally, the Chairman introduced the "Pakistan Anti-Corruption Academy (PACA)" as the "Centre of Excellence," suggesting that both countries cooperate on training and professional development.

Departmental Selection Board approves promotion of 266 officers to grade 19

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Departmental Selection Board has approved the promotion of civil and police officers and Office Management group to grade 19, which was approved by the Establishment Division.

The Departmental Selection Board meeting was chaired by the Secretary Establishment Division.



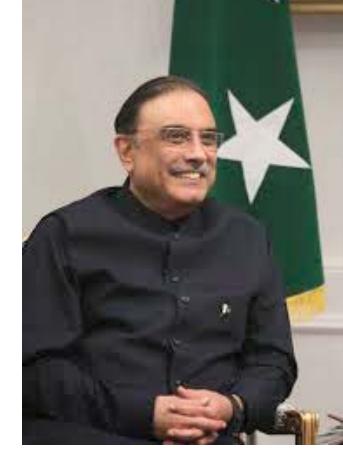
The Departmental Selection Board meeting was held on February 13 and 14 of this month. A total of 266 officers of the three services were granted promotion or acting charge. There was approval for promotion of 28 officers of the Police Service to Grade 19. Approval was given for acting charge to 14 more officers of the Police Service.

Departmental Selection

Board gave approval for promotion of 64 officers of Pakistan Administrative Service to Grade 19.

Departmental Selection Board also approved acting charge to 24 officers of Pakistan Administrative Service. The Board also gave recommendation for promotion of 114 officers of Office Management Group to Grade 19 and acting charge to 22 officers of OMG.

President greets nation on advent of Ramazan; calls for unity, compassion



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari on the advent of the holy month of Ramazan extended greetings to the nation and the Muslim Ummah, describing the sacred month as a period of mercy, forgiveness and salvation.

In his message, the president said Ramazan offered an opportunity for self-reform, strengthening faith and promoting patience, sacrifice and closeness to Allah. He noted that fasting was not merely abstaining from food and drink but a means of spiritual training, moral purification and a practical expression of responsibility.

Quoting a verse from Surah Al-Baqarah, he said fasting had been prescribed to believers so that they might attain piety, adding that the holy month reminded people of the values of patience, gratitude, forgiveness and compassion for the poor and vulnerable.

The president said Ramazan encouraged Muslims to strengthen their bond with the Holy Quran, observe prayers, engage in supplication and remembrance of Allah, and promote brotherhood, tolerance and unity in society. He said the month also inspired collective awareness to eliminate social injustices.

PM felicitates nation on advent of Ramazan, stresses upon earning blessings with devotion, worship

City Desk

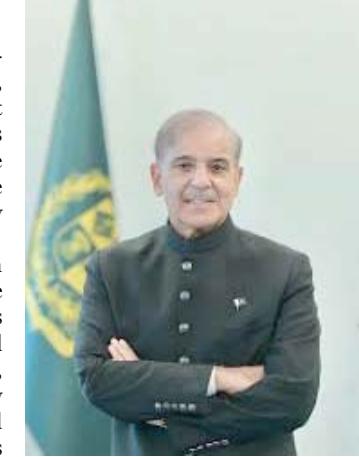
ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Wednesday, extended his heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to the people of Pakistan and the Muslims around the world on the advent of blessed and spiritually filled holy month of Ramazan.

In his message on the occasion of Ramazan 1447 Hijra, the prime minister observed that indeed, this great and sacred month was a special blessing from Almighty Allah, granting Muslims the opportunity to renew the values of devotion and humility in worship, righteousness and piety and spiritual purification.

He stressed that Ramazan reminded them, both individually and collectively, that the true spirit of worship was hidden in reforming their characters, fostering mutual sacrifice and compassion and fulfilling the social responsibilities

and rights of people.

"Fasting is not merely the observance of a religious obligation; rather, it is practical training in patience, discipline and a sense of responsibility in our daily lives," PM Office Media Wing in a press release, quoted the prime minister as saying.



Now you can get vehicle registration number of your choice for up to Rs2 million in Sindh

Bureau Report

KARACHI: The Sindh government has fixed the fee for obtaining preferred vehicle registration numbers at up to Rs2 million.

The provincial Excise and Taxation Department has issued an official notification stating that vehicle owners wishing to acquire special or registration numbers of their choice can do so by paying the approved amount, with the maximum fee reaching Rs2 million.

Similarly, owners applying for numbers ranging from 100 to 900 will be charged Rs500,000, while plates carrying numbers 001 to 009 will also cost Rs500,000.

All other choice registration numbers will be available for a fee of Rs300,000.

Appeals of Imaan Mazari and Hadi Ali Chattha in controversial tweets case fixed for today

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court has fixed appeals filed by lawyers Imaan Mazari and Hadi Ali Chattha in the controversial tweets case for hearing tomorrow.

The case will be heard by Justice Muhammad Asif, who will also take up applications seeking suspension of sentences awarded to the appellants.

Both lawyers have challenged the trial court's order issued on 24 January. The trial court had earlier sentenced them to 10 years' imprisonment each along with fines.

The hearing is expected to decide whether temporary relief is granted while the court proceeds with detailed examination of the appeals.