

Inaugural Session of Aman Dialogue 2025 Held in Karachi



BUREAU REPORT

KARACHI—The two-day AMAN Dialogue, a maiden event conducted as an adjunct to Exercise AMAN 2025, commenced at Pakistan Naval Academy, Karachi. The dialogue, organized under the aegis of the Pakistan Navy, has brought together Chiefs/

Heads of Navies, Maritime Organizations, and renowned academicians from around the globe. The inaugural session was attended by the Defence Minister of Pakistan, Khawaja Muhammad Asif, as the Chief Guest.

In his welcome address, Chief of the Naval Staff underscored the significance of the AMAN Dialogue and emphasized the need for sharing experiences among maritime nations to formulate actionable strategies for countering emerging maritime threats.

Delivering the keynote address, Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed applauded Pakistan Navy's efforts in promoting a collaborative approach to tackle complex maritime security challenges. He also highlighted Navy's contributions towards raising awareness about Blue Economy and supporting the socio-economic uplift of coastal communities at the national level. Under the overarching theme, "Secure Seas, Prosperous Future," the AMAN Dialogue features multiple panel discussions and deliberations by Chiefs of Navies and heads of delegations on a wide range of topics, including maritime security, maritime cooperation, blue economy, and the impact of technology on maritime security.

AC Dr. Zuhail Qarnain chaired a meeting to review revenue recovery in Faisalabad



RANA IQBAL HASSAN

FAISALABAD—Assistant Commissioner Dr. Zuhail Qarnain chaired a meeting to review revenue recovery in Faisalabad. He assessed the progress of recovery over different periods and directed officials to tighten the noose around tax defaulters. He emphasized that officers must fulfill their responsibilities.

Dr. Qarnain also instructed officials to achieve revenue recovery targets in other sectors. He stressed the importance of completing incomplete collections promptly and assigned tasks to locate missing documents and complete records.

Faisalabad: Khuli Katchries are being started at village level to resolve the public complaints are their door steps



RANA IQBAL HASSAN

FAISALABAD—Under the directions of CM Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif, the Khuli Katchries are being started at village level to resolve the public complaints are their door steps.

In this regard Khuli Katchri was conducted at 474 GB Tehsil Samundri, Commissioner Faisalabad Division Maryam Khan and Deputy Commissioner Nadeen Nasir listed the public complaints and directed the concerned departments for resolved the problems at earliest time.

They sat on traditional village cot and said that khuli katchries would be held regularly at far flung areas of division and district. On complaints of public Commissioner directed the Chief Officer FWMC to solve the complaints of cleanliness and send pictorial evidence to her. She said that anti encroachment operation would continue with more powers. She also directed the ADCR to provide necessary revenue

Pak-KSA to further strengthen digital, economic partnership: Shaza Fatima

BT NEWS

ISLAMABAD—Pakistan and Saudi Arabia are expanding their digital and economic partnership, aiming to foster innovation and investment in key technology sectors said, State Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja at the LEAP 2025 technology event in Riyadh.

Under the theme "Into New Worlds," LEAP 2025 aims to expand business networking and investment opportunities in the tech sector. Highlighting the deepening collaboration between the two nations, she highlighted Pakistan's commitment to leveraging technology for economic growth, said a news release received here on Sunday.

She said Pakistan's IT exports have surged by 28%, reaching \$1.86 billion, underscoring the sector's robust expansion.

She also described the Digital Nation Act 2025 as a transformative initiative set to reshape Pakistan's digital economy.

The minister revealed that Islamabad will soon host the Digital Foreign Direct Investment (DFDI) Forum, inviting global investors to explore Pakistan's expanding digital landscape.

She stressed that Pakistan seeks a strong tech partnership under Saudi Vision 2030, urging Saudi investors to explore opportunities in fintech, cybersecurity, and cloud computing.

"This is a golden opportunity for digital investment and technological collaboration between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia," she said, adding that Pakistan offers world-class digital services with lucrative investment prospects.

Highlighting Pakistan's largest-ever participation in LEAP 2025, the minister shared that over 100 tech companies and 1,000 participants from Pakistan are attending the event. "We are not just signing MoUs; we are securing real economic growth through strategic agreements," she asserted.

Pakistani athlete Huraira wins bronze at International Taekwondo Championship

BT NEWS

ISLAMABAD—Pakistani taekwondo athlete Syed Abu Huraira Shah secured a bronze medal in the senior category at the International Taekwondo Championship in France on Sunday.

According to event details, over 2,000 athletes from more than 20 countries participated in the prestigious competition. At just 19 years old, Huraira has already represented Pakistan in over six international tournaments, showcasing his dedication to martial arts.

Huraira said that Master Syed Rehman Shah served as the coach for Pakistan's contingent, ensuring strong representation at the global event. In August 2024, Huraira Shah won a gold medal for Pakistan in Malaysia, further solidifying



his reputation as a rising star in taekwondo.

Meanwhile, Pakistan secured two bronze medals at the 11th Seongnam Open International Taekwondo Championship 2024, reinforcing the country's growing presence in international martial arts.

Huraira, while speaking to APP online, expressed his gratitude to Karachi Mayor Murtaza Wahab for his continuous support in consecutive tournaments. Huraira also announced plans to participate in a two-day training camp in Germany and Switzerland before returning to Pakistan on February 19.

KASHMIR AND PAKISTAN: A STRUGGLE FOR PEACE

DR. MUHAMMAD SHAHZAD ASHFAQ

The region of Kashmir has been at the center of a longstanding conflict between India and Pakistan, with both countries claiming it as their own. This territorial dispute has led to numerous conflicts and tensions in the region, resulting in a significant impact on the lives of Kashmiris. While various efforts have made to resolve the conflict and establish peace in the region, the struggle continues. Kashmir and Pakistan, focusing on the ongoing struggle for peace.

The history of Kashmir's conflict dates back to the partition of Hindustan in 1947 when the princely state of Jammu and Kashmir claimed by both Hindustan and Pakistan. The situation escalated into full-scale wars between Hindustan and Pakistan in 1947, 1965, and 1971, with both countries failing to reach a lasting resolution on the status of Kashmir. The Line of Control (LoC) now separates the region into Indian-administered Jammu and Kashmir and Pakistan-administered Azad Jammu and Kashmir.

Pakistan has been a strong advocate for the right to self-determination of the Kashmiri people, arguing that they allow deciding their own political future through a referendum as promised by UN resolutions. However, India maintains that Kashmir is an integral part of its territory and has rejected any third-party intervention in the dispute. This differing stance has led to a deadlock in negotiations and perpetuated the conflict in the region.

The struggle for peace in Kashmir involves not only the territorial dispute between India and Pakistan but also the human rights violations and unrest faced



settlement. External factors, such as the United Nations and the international community, have also been involved in mediating the dispute.

UN facilitate a lasting resolution s in Kashmir, including its special status by added to the challenges faced by the region. The decision to bifurcate the state into two Union Territories has raised concerns about the erosion of Kashmiri identity and autonomy, leading to widespread protests and international criticism.

The communication blackout and restrictions on movement have intensified the sense of isolation and uncertainty among Kashmiri residents.

The persistent violence not only destabilizes South Asia but also hampers socioeconomic development

in Kashmir, perpetuating a cycle of poverty and resentment that fuels extremism. One key argument for the resolution of this conflict lies in the humanitarian implications. The people of Kashmir have suffered immensely due to military operations, loss of life, and displacement. A peaceful resolution would prioritize human rights and provide a platform for dialogue that acknowledges the aspirations of Kashmiri citizens. Furthermore, it would foster regional stability, allowing both India and Pakistan to redirect resources towards education, healthcare, and infrastructure rather than militarization.

Pakistan views its claims as a matter of self-determination for the Kashmiri people, while India emphasizes its sovereignty over the region. This fundamental difference in perspective highlights how historical narratives shape national identities and influence diplomatic relations. Despite their conflicting positions, both countries share common challenges that hinder peace efforts. Economic instability, religious extremism, and political unrest are prevalent in both Pakistan and India. These internal issues often exacerbate hostility towards one another, diverting attention from collaborative solutions to the Kashmir problem.

Moreover, international involvement complicates matters further; external powers often leverage the conflict for strategic interests rather than promoting genuine reconciliation.

Netflix hikes price of subscription

INT. DESK

WASHINGTON—Netflix has hiked the price of its monthly subscription – including for existing members.

The standard subscription will go up by £2, and will now cost £12.99. But tiers of subscription are affected by their own price changes, including the one that requires viewers to watch ads before their films and TV shows. Netflix said that it will use the extra money from the price hike to "continue to invest in programming and deliver more value for our members."

"We will occasionally ask our members to pay a little more so that we can re-invest to further improve Netflix," it said.

The cheapest standard subscription with ads will now cost £1 more, at £5.99, and the most expensive premium version will have its own £1 rise to £18.99.

It will also raise the cost of adding an extra member onto an account by £1, to £4.99. That is part of a crackdown by Netflix that targeted accounts that are shared across households, and led the company to offer the option to add other people for a smaller fee.

The changes come after similar price rises in the US, Canada, Portugal and Argentina, where prices went up by a similar amount.

Netflix announced those earlier price rises in the wake of its results from the end of the year, which showed an influx of new subscribers. It said that it ended 2024 with 300 million subscribers – up 41 million from 2023, and faster growth than its previous best year in 2020.

The latest rises led to a flurry of users announcing on social media that they would cancel their account.

That can be done through the website, and Netflix offers a help page that includes directions to that page, as well as answers to questions about what will happen when an account is cancelled.



NUTECH Inaugurates Point of Contact Office at Karachi Chamber of Commerce & Industry

BUREAU REPORT

KARACHI—The National University of Technology (NUTECH) has officially inaugurated its "Point of Contact (PoC) Office" at the "Karachi Chamber of Commerce & Industry (KCCI)", marking a significant milestone in fostering academia-industry collaboration in Pakistan.

The inauguration ceremony was led by Dr. Syed Adnan Qasim, Registrar NUTECH, along with Mr. Aftab



Director Research, and Mr. Salman, Director Industrial Collaboration. The event was graced by Mr. Zia-ul-Arfeen, Senior Vice President KCCI & Mr. Ifthikhar Ahmed along with other distinguished members of the chamber. Speaking at the occasion, Dr. Syed Adnan Qasim emphasized the significance of bridging academia and industry, stating NUTECH is committed to providing industry-driven education and research. This new office at KCCI will serve as a vital link for businesses to collaborate with our university, enabling knowledge exchange, skill development, and technological advancements.

Mr. Ifthikhar Ahmed Sheikh welcomed the initiative, highlighting the importance of academia's role in driving industrial growth through research-based solutions. Senior vice president Mr. Zia-ul-Arfeen also expressed his enthusiasm for enhanced collaboration between KCCI members and NUTECH, stating that this initiative would contribute to skill development and workforce training, making Pakistan's industries more competitive on a global scale.