

Domain Name Dispute Resolution Center (DNDRC)

Arbitration and Mediation Center

COMPLAINT PANEL DECISION

Case No. 2025-0026

Also in PDF C2025-0026

1. The Complainant

The Complainant is News Publication Pvt. Ltd., having its office at Al-Rahman Building, I.I. Chundrigar Road, Karachi-74200. The Complainant has initiated the Complaint vide their authorized representative, Asif Lateef, with their address at Jang Geo Media Group, Akhbar Manzil, I.I. Chundrigar Road, Karachi-74200

2. The Domain Name and Respondent

The domain name upon which the Complaint is based is <thenews.pk>, hereinafter referred to as the Disputed Domain Name [“the DDN”].

PKNIC has informed DNDRC that the DDN is registered by Mohammad Saeed, with the contact address at 72 Zeenat block Allama Iqbal town City Lahore, and that the email address provided at the time of registration of the DDN is saeedusa@gmail.com.

3. Procedural History

DNDRC was informed of the Complaint against the Respondent in accordance with the PKNIC - Internet Domain Registration Policy upon receiving notification from the Complainant, on 10 September 2025. DNDRC completed an administrative review of the Complaint and communicated the same to the Complainant on 12 September 2025.

Upon the Complainant’s fulfillment of the procedural obligations on 16 September 2025, DNDRC formally requested the Respondent’s registration details from PKNIC on 26 September 2025. PKNIC provided the requested details on 26 September 2025.

DNDRC issued a formal notification of the dispute to the Respondent on 26 September 2025, enclosing a copy of the Complaint and a Response Form, informing the Respondent that failure to

submit a Response within 10 days would result in the dispute proceeding ex parte. The Respondent filed the Response Form on 07 October 2025.

The Complaint, along with all relevant material, was referred to the appointed arbitrator for review and decision on 13 October 2025. The arbitrator completed the review and issued a decision on 17 October 2025. DNDRC, following the completion of the procedural obligations, transmitted the decision to the concerned parties on 18 October 2025.

Applying Paragraph 4(a) of the Rules for Uniform Domain Name Dispute Resolution Policy (the Rules), DNDRC appointed Mr. Muhamad Amaan Latif as the sole Arbitrator who has verified that the Complaint satisfies the formal requirements of the Policy and the Rules.

Factual Background

4. Parties Contentions

(a) Complainant

The Complainant's brief contentions are reproduced below:

The Complainant, Jang Geo Media Group's company News Publication Private Limited, is the owner and publisher of The News International, Pakistan's leading English- language daily newspaper. Established decades ago, The News enjoys a longstanding reputation in Pakistan and abroad as a trusted source of news, analysis, and commentary. The Complainant owns trademark rights and significant common law goodwill in the mark "The News", which has become distinctive of the Complainant's services in print and digital media. The Complainant operates the official website www.thenews.com.pk, which is widely accessed by readers in Pakistan and internationally.

Therefore, the Complainant seeks the following remedy:

In accordance with Paragraph 4(i) of the Uniform Domain Name Dispute Resolution Policy (UDRP), as adopted by PKNIC and administered by DNDRC, the Complainant respectfully requests that the Panel order the transfer of the disputed domain name — thenews.pk— to the Complainant.

(b) Respondent

The Complainant's trademark registration is held by News Publications (Private) Limited and is for the entity/publication name, not specifically the domain name thenews.com.pk. The Complainant should not be granted a monopoly over a generic, highly descriptive term like "The News," especially when their registered mark is not an exact match for the domain in dispute.

The Complainant alleges the domain was registered for "selling purposes" (cybersquatting), which requires proof of both bad faith registration and bad faith use. The evidence directly contradicts

This claim. The domain thenews.pk has been owned since 2016 and it was released in 2016 due to non payment to pknrc registrar by previous owner and it was original registered back in 2006.

The domain has never had an active landing page, a "for sale" sign, or any other commercial solicitation to suggest an intent to sell or extort money from the Complainant.

Snapshot Complaint attached with the complain is simply the default page when a domain name is not accessible and it is no way shows that domain name is registered to sell for profit. There are millions of domain names which cannot be resolved and shows the error page in any browser.example is news.pk which also goes to unresolved and show an error. 1414.

Therefore, the Respondent seeks the following remedy:

Based on the facts stated in our reply, The complaint should be dismissed because the Complainant fails to demonstrate an exclusive right over the generic and widely used term "The News" in the media and publishing sector in Pakistan. Furthermore, the domain owner has a legitimate defense against the "bad faith" claim, as the domain has been held for an extended period since 2016 without any evidence of it being offered for sale or used to trade off the Complainant's goodwill. The existing registration of multiple other "news"-related entities in the Pakistani market further confirms that "The News" is a descriptive, non-distinctive term for which an exclusive domain right cannot be reasonably claimed

5. Jurisdiction

The Panel's jurisdiction over this dispute between the Complainant and the Respondent is established by virtue of the Internet Domain Registration Policy version 4.4 (2019-08-19) and the Rules.

The Respondent applied for and was granted registration of the DDN on the basis of these regulations, and has submitted to, the PKNIC - Internet Domain Registration Policy version 4.4 (2019-08-19) and the Rules and correspondingly to the arbitral jurisdiction of the DNDRC and its arbitration decisions.

6. Discussion and Findings

In the landmark case of *Standard Chartered PLC v. Hosting Campus Domain* (case no. C2007-0001) available on the DNDRC website (http://www.dndrc.com/cases_resolved/pdf/c20070001.pdf), the Panel laid down the following four heads under which to analyze cases, under the Internet Domain Registration Policy version 4.4 (2019-08-19) and the UDRP:

1. *Illegality, unlawfulness or otherwise invalidity of the Application & Registration (a criteria in terms of the PKNIC - Internet Domain Registration Policy June 20, 2006 version 4.1 in addition to the criteria of the UDRP)*
2. *Identical or confusing similarity to a trademark or service mark in which the Complainant has rights (a UDRP criteria)*
3. *Legitimate interest in Domain Name (a UDRP criteria)*
4. *Registration and use in bad faith (a UDRP criteria)*

The decision of the dispute shall be addressed with respect to the following aspects:

- i. Illegality, unlawfulness or otherwise invalidity with respect to the Application & Registration (a PKNIC - Internet Domain Registration Policy version 4.4 (2019-0819) criteria).
- ii. Identical or confusing similarity with a trademark or service in which the Complainant has rights (a UDRP criteria).
- iii. Legitimate interest in the domain name (a UDRP criteria).
- iv. Registration and use of the domain name in bad faith (a UDRP criteria).

I. Illegality, unlawfulness or otherwise invalidity of the Application & Registration

The PKNIC - Internet Domain Registration Policy version 4.4 (2019-08-19) states that it creates an exception for, and thus excludes the registration of a domain name that:

- a. infringes upon a registered tradename,*
- b. is not bona fide as recognized by international best practice,*
- c. in the opinion of PKNIC, a contravention of the latest version of the Pakistan Penal Code Act, 1860 (including offences of defamation & blasphemy)/ Anti-Terrorism Act, 1997/any applicable criminal law,*
- d. has been declared by a Criminal Court of appropriate jurisdiction to have contravened the latest version of Pakistan Penal Code Act, 1860 (including offences of defamation & blasphemy)/Anti-Terrorism Act, 1997/any applicable criminal law), or*
- e. in the opinion of PKNIC is not appropriate for registration.*

As per the PKNIC - Internet Domain Registration Policy version 4.4 (2019-08-19),

If a party claims that a domain name already registered with PKNIC violates their registered tradename, an obvious derivation of their registered company name is not bona fide as recognized by international best practice, and is a contravention in the opinion of PKNIC to be a contravention of the latest version of the Pakistan Penal Code Act, 1860 (including offences of defamation & blasphemy)/ Anti-Terrorism Act, 1997/any applicable criminal law, PKNIC reserves the right to cancel, or transfer the domain to the claiming party as per the ICANN's Uniform Domain Name Dispute Resolution Policy [UDRP] (with PKNIC amendments) or as per the orders of a court judgment in Pakistan.

Therefore, for the purpose of assessing illegality, unlawfulness or otherwise invalidity of the Application & Registration of the DDN, the application and registration of the DDN shall be assessed in consideration of the following criteria:

- i. Whether the DDN infringes upon a registered trade name / trademark?*
- ii. Whether the application and/or registration of the DDN is bona fide?*
- iii. Whether the application and/or registration of the DDN contravenes the Pakistan Penal Code, 1860 (the “Penal Code”) or any applicable criminal law?*

The Complainant has made the following submissions:

The Complainant, Jang Geo Media Group’s company News Publication Private Limited, is the owner and publisher of The News International, Pakistan’s leading English- language daily newspaper. Established decades ago, The News enjoys a longstanding reputation in

Pakistan and abroad as a trusted source of news, analysis, and commentary. The Complainant owns trademark rights and significant common law goodwill in the mark “The News”, which has become distinctive of the Complainant’s services in print and digital media. The Complainant operates the official website www.thenews.com.pk, which is widely accessed by readers in Pakistan and internationally.

The respondent has made the following submissions:

Complainant’s own trade mark as shown in Annexure-1(The News int TM) is expired in 27th Feb 2023.it was renewed for 15 years from 1998 and second one for 10 years from 27th February 2013 so it expires in Feb 27th ,2023 in the name of News Publications(private) Limited

For the purposes of this criterion, it must be established that the Complainant has trademark rights. In this regard, the Panel takes note of the submission by the Respondent which suggests that the Complainant’s registered trademark for “The News int TM” expired on February 27, 2023.

The Complainant has not made any specific submissions to counter the claim of an expired trademark registration. Instead, the Complainant argues that it possesses significant common law goodwill and trademark rights in the mark “The News”, asserting that the mark has become distinctive of its services in print and digital media through decades of use as Pakistan’s leading English-language daily newspaper.

To establish unregistered or common law trademark rights under the Policy, a complainant must demonstrate that its mark has acquired distinctiveness or “secondary meaning” as a source identifier. As outlined in the WIPO Overview 3.0, section 1.3, this requires relevant evidence concerning factors such as duration of use, advertising, sales, and public recognition. Conclusory allegations of common law rights are generally insufficient.

The Panel observes that while the Complainant has asserted a longstanding reputation and significant goodwill and submitted previous Certificates of Registration from the Government of Pakistan's Trademarks Registry for the trademark "THE NEWS INTERNATIONAL". This trademark was registered under number 109820 as of February 27, 1991, in class 16, covering newspapers, magazines, and periodicals. The documentation provided also includes certificates showing the trademark was subsequently renewed, for instance on February 27, 1998, and later for ten years from February 27, 2013, as referenced in **Annexures 1, 2, and 3**

The Respondent, for its part, has focused solely on the status of the registered trademark and has not addressed the Complainant's claim to common law rights and trademark rights.

However, the submissions and contentions are still insufficient to prove the concept of illegality and for a complaint to be successful, the Panel must also consider and be satisfied with the other 3 substantive criteria laid out in the Uniform Domain Name Dispute Resolution Policy (UDRP).

II. Identical or confusing similarity to a trademark or service mark in which the Complainant has rights

The Complainant has made the following submissions:

The disputed domain name, thenews.pk, is identical to the Complainant's trademark "The News," differing only by the addition of the country code top-level domain .pk. Such addition does not avoid confusion and, under UDRP precedent, domain names that incorporate a trademark in its entirety are considered identical or confusingly similar. Internet users are highly likely to assume that the domain thenews.pk is owned, operated, or endorsed by the Complainant.

The Respondent has made the following submissions:

Generic Nature of the Term "The News" and Lack of Exclusive Right

The term "The News" is fundamentally generic and descriptive in the context of news publication and media services.

Common Use: "News" is the common name for the class of goods or services offered by both parties (i.e., information and media). The addition of the definite article "The" does not render it distinctive.

Widespread Use in Pakistan: Numerous operating websites and registered entities in Pakistan utilize the word "News" or variations of "The News," demonstrating a lack of exclusivity, including:

Existing Websites: thenewstoday.com.pk, thenewsmill.com, newz.pk, [ttps://news.com.pk/](https://news.com.pk/)

Market Usage in Pakistan

Multiple companies, newspapers, and digital outlets in Pakistan legally use the word “News” in their titles, demonstrating its generic and non-exclusive nature:

Examples of Registered Companies (SECP Database):

News Inn (Pvt.) Ltd.

News Leaf Publications (Pvt.) Ltd.

News Guru (Pvt.) Ltd.

News Champion (Pvt.) Ltd.

News 11 Network Ltd.

News Call Digital Ltd.

News 4U City Ltd.

Examples of Newspapers / Media Outlets:

The News International – Jang Group (national English daily)

Daily News – Karachi-based English daily

Daily Jahan-e-News – Urdu regional paper

City News – multiple editions across Punjab & Sindh

Evening News – Urdu editions in different cities

Awami News – Urdu, Karachi

Khyber News – Pashto (with TV channel)

Business News – supplements/editions

Pakistan News – multiple online portals

This shows the extensive use of “News” as a generic industry term in Pakistan

Global Example: Even the domain thenews.com is currently listed for sale at Afternic.com, suggesting the term is treated as a commercial, descriptive asset globally, not a unique brand belonging to the Complainant. If the complainant’s intent is truly to secure rights, they could purchase that instead of targeting smaller generic domains

The Complainant contends that the DDN is identical to its trademark “The News,” as it incorporates the mark in its entirety, with the only difference being the addition of the country code top-level domain (ccTLD) “.pk.” The Complainant submits that under established UDRP precedent, this addition is insufficient to prevent a finding of confusing similarity and that Internet users are highly likely to believe the DDN is affiliated with the Complainant.

In response, the Respondent asserts that the term “The News” is fundamentally generic and descriptive, and therefore the Complainant cannot claim exclusive rights to it. The Respondent

argues that "News" is a common term for the services offered and that numerous other entities in Pakistan utilize the word in their websites, registered company names, and media outlets, demonstrating a widespread industry practice.

To assess confusing similarity, the Panel refers to Paragraph 1.7 of the WIPO Overview 3.0, which provides that the first element of the UDRP serves as a standing requirement and involves a straightforward comparison between the mark in which the Complainant has rights and the DDN. It is well established that where a domain name incorporates the entirety of a trademark, confusing similarity is generally found for the purposes of the UDRP. The Respondent's arguments regarding the generic or descriptive nature of the Complainant's mark are typically considered more relevant to the assessment of the second and third elements of the Policy and do not prevent a finding of confusing similarity under the first element's threshold test.

Applying this test, the Panel finds that the Complainant's mark "The News" is clearly recognizable and incorporated in its entirety in the DDN. The dominant component of the DDN is the term "the news," which is identical to the Complainant's mark.

Furthermore, in line with Section 1.11.1 of the WIPO Overview 3.0, the country-code top-level domain (ccTLD) ".pk" is a technical requirement for registration and is disregarded when assessing similarity under the first element.

Accordingly, the Panel finds that the DDN is identical to a trademark in which the Complainant has asserted rights.

III. Legitimate interests in a domain name

As per paragraph 4(c), the UDRP requires the Respondent's claim to be of legitimate interest and shall be:

"proved based on all evidence presented" that "shall demonstrate" the Respondent's "rights or legitimate interests to the domain name for purposes of Paragraph 4(a)(ii). "

Paragraph 4(c) states that:

"(i) before any notice to you of the dispute, your use of, or demonstrable preparations to use, the domain name or a name corresponding to the domain name in connection with a bona fide offering of goods or services; or

(ii) you (as an individual, business, or other organization) have been commonly known by the domain name, even if you have acquired no trademark or service mark rights; or

(iii) you are making a legitimate noncommercial or fair use of the domain name, without intent for commercial gain to misleadingly divert consumers or to tarnish the trademark or service mark at issue.”

The Complainant has made the following submissions:

The Respondent has no rights or legitimate interests in respect of the disputed domain name. The Complainant has not licensed, permitted, or otherwise authorized the Respondent to use the mark “The News.” There is no evidence that the Respondent is commonly known by the domain name or is making a bona fide offering of goods or services under it. The mere passive holding of the domain name.

The Respondent has made the following submissions:

A generic term, by definition, cannot function as a trademark unless it has achieved secondary meaning (i.e., consumers exclusively associate it with a single source), which is challenged by the multitude of similar entity and publication names.

The Complainant's trademark registration is held by News Publications (Private) Limited and is for the entity/publication name, not specifically the domain name thenews.com.pk. The Complainant should not be granted a monopoly over a generic, highly descriptive term like “The News,” especially when their registered mark is not an exact match for the domain in dispute.

The Complainant contends that the Respondent has no rights or legitimate interests in the DDN. The Complainant asserts that it has not licensed, permitted, or otherwise authorized the Respondent to use its “The News” trademark. Furthermore, the Complainant submits that there is no evidence to suggest that the Respondent is commonly known by the DDN or is using it in connection with a bona fide offering of goods or services. The Complainant argues that the Respondent's passive holding of the DDN does not confer any rights or legitimate interests under the UDRP Policy.

The Respondent counters that “The News” is a generic term and cannot function as a trademark unless it has achieved secondary meaning. The Respondent challenges the existence of such secondary meaning by pointing to the multitude of other entities and publications with similar

names, arguing this prevents consumers from exclusively associating the term with the Complainant.

Pursuant to Section 2.1 of the WIPO Overview 3.0, a complainant is required to establish a prima facie case that the Respondent lacks rights or legitimate interests. Once such a prima facie case is made, the burden of production shifts to the respondent to present evidence demonstrating its rights or legitimate interests. If the respondent fails to do so, the complainant is generally deemed to have satisfied the second element.

The Panel finds that the Complainant has successfully established a prima facie case. The Complainant has confirmed that it has no relationship with the Respondent and has not granted any authorization for the use of its mark. The DDN is identical to the Complainant's trademark, which does not suggest that the Respondent would be commonly known by it.

The Panel also considers the Respondent's rebuttal. The Respondent's core argument is that the DDN is a generic term. However, this argument misinterprets a key concept in trademark law. While the words "the" and "news" are indeed generic and descriptive, the combined phrase "The News" can function as a protectable trademark if it has acquired distinctiveness, also known as "secondary meaning".

A descriptive mark acquires secondary meaning when, in the minds of the public, its primary significance is to identify the source of the product rather than the product itself. The Complainant, as the publisher of one of Pakistan's leading English-language daily newspapers for decades, has provided substantial evidence of its long-standing reputation and goodwill under the name "The News". Through its extensive and continuous use, the mark "The News" has transcended its primary descriptive meaning and now serves as a strong source identifier for the Complainant's publication.

Therefore, the Panel finds that "The News" is a descriptive mark that has acquired strong secondary meaning and is entitled to trademark protection. The Complainant's previous trademark registration further supports the conclusion that the mark is distinctive of its services. The Respondent's use of a domain name identical to this well-established mark is therefore likely to cause confusion.

To establish rights or legitimate interests in a domain name based on its dictionary meaning, a respondent must show that the domain name is genuinely used (or demonstrably intended for use) in connection with that dictionary meaning, and not to trade off the goodwill of a third-party trademark. Here, the Respondent has provided no evidence whatsoever of any such legitimate use.

The Respondent has not demonstrated any preparations to use the DDN for a website about the concept of news, for example. Instead, the undisputed evidence shows the DDN is being passively held.

Given the fame of the Complainant's mark in the region, the passive holding of an identical DDN strongly suggests an intent to capitalize on the reputation and goodwill of the Complainant, rather than a legitimate interest in the generic meaning of the words.

The Respondent has failed to provide any evidence that it meets any of the circumstances outlined in Paragraph 4(c) of the Policy. It has not shown use in connection with a *bona fide* offering of goods or services, that it is commonly known by the DDN, or that it is making a legitimate noncommercial or fair use.

In view of the Respondent's failure to rebut the Complainant's prima facie case with a credible claim, the Panel finds that the Respondent has no rights or legitimate interests in the disputed domain name.

IV. Registration and use in bad faith

The Complainant has made the following submissions:

The disputed domain name was registered and is being used in bad faith. Given the fame and recognition of the mark "The News" in Pakistan and globally, it is inconceivable that the Respondent was unaware of the Complainant's rights at the time of registration. By holding the domain name inactive, the Respondent prevents the Complainant from reflecting its trademark in the .pk domain space, which is a classic form of cybersquatting. Under established UDRP precedent (including Telstra Corporation Ltd. v. Nuclear Marshmallows, its WIPO Case No. D2000-0003), passive holding of a domain identical to a well-known trademark constitutes bad faith use. The circumstances clearly demonstrate that the Respondent registered the domain name either to disrupt the Complainant's business, block legitimate use, or potentially to sell the domain for profit in the future.

The Respondent has made the following submissions:

3. No Bad Faith Registration or Use (Against Cybersquatting Claim)

The Complainant alleges the domain was registered for "selling purposes" (cybersquatting), which requires proof of both bad faith registration and bad faith use. The evidence directly contradicts this claim.

Long-Term Ownership: The domain thenews.pk has been owned since 2016 and it was released in 2016 due to nonpayment to PKNIC registrar by previous owner and it was original registered back in 2006 when .pk extension was launched by PKNIC.

No "For Sale" or Use: The domain has never had an active landing page, a "for sale" sign, or any other commercial solicitation to suggest an intent to sell or extort money from the Complainant.

Lack of Targeting: The registration date in 2016 and the subsequent non-use for sale negate the claim that the registration was primarily undertaken to disrupt the Complainant's business or profit from their reputation.

Alternative Domains: The Complainant's failure to acquire the higher-value global domain thenews.com (which is publicly for sale) undermines their claim that thenews.pk is uniquely disruptive to their market in Pakistan.

Conclusion:

The complaint should be dismissed because the Complainant fails to demonstrate an exclusive right over the generic and widely used term "The News" in the media and publishing sector in Pakistan. Furthermore, the domain owner has a legitimate defense against the "bad faith" claim, as the domain has been held for an extended period since 2016 without any evidence of it being offered for sale or used to trade off the Complainant's goodwill. The existing registration of multiple other "news"-related entities in the Pakistani market further confirms that "The News" is a descriptive, non-distinctive term for which an exclusive domain right cannot be reasonably claimed

The Complainant asserts that the Respondent registered and is using the DDN in bad faith. The Complainant argues that given the fame of its "The News" trademark in Pakistan, it is not possible that the Respondent was unaware of its rights. It contends that the Respondent's passive holding of the DDN prevents the Complainant from using its mark in the corresponding .pk domain space, which constitutes bad faith use under UDRP precedent.

In response the Respondent denies bad faith registration or use, citing ownership since 2016 without commercial activity or targeting the Complainant. They argue "The News" is generic in

Pakistani media, and the Complainant's failure to secure other domains weakens its claim of targeted disruption.

For the purpose of this criterion, the Panel must determine whether the DDN was registered and is being used in bad faith pursuant to Paragraph 4(a)(iii) of the Policy.

With respect to registration, the central test is whether the Respondent was aware of the Complainant's mark and registered the DDN to target the Complainant. The Complainant, "The News," operates one of the most prominent and widely circulated English language daily newspapers in Pakistan. The Panel finds it highly improbable that the Respondent, in registering a .pk domain, would be unaware of the Complainant's well-established trademark and its strong association with that name within the country. The Respondent's argument regarding the generic nature of the term "News" is unpersuasive in this context, as the DDN is an exact match to the Complainant's specific and famous brand, not merely a generic keyword. The Panel therefore finds that the Respondent targeted the Complainant's trademark at the time of registration.

Moreover, the Respondent argues that its inaction and the absence of a "for sale" notice demonstrate a lack of bad faith. However, UDRP panels have consistently held that the passive holding of a domain name can constitute use in bad faith. The Panel refers to the principles established in *Telstra Corporation Ltd. v. Nuclear Marshmallows*, WIPO Case No. D2000-0003, which considers factors such as the fame of the trademark, the respondent's failure to demonstrate any actual or contemplated good faith use, and the implausibility of any legitimate use the respondent could make of the domain.

Applying these factors, the Panel notes: (i) the Complainant's trademark "The News" is highly reputable and well-known in Pakistan; (ii) the Respondent has not provided any evidence of a legitimate business plan or use for the DDN since its registration in 2016; and (iii) it is difficult to conceive of any legitimate use of the DDN by the Respondent that would not create a misleading association with the Complainant and its newspaper.

By registering and holding the DDN, the Respondent prevents the Complainant, a clear and obvious entity associated with the name, from reflecting its mark in the corresponding .pk domain. This act of "blocking" a trademark owner from its natural domain name is a recognized indicator of bad faith under Paragraph 4(b)(ii) of the Policy.

The Respondent's argument regarding the availability of thenews.com is irrelevant to the determination of bad faith for the DDN in question. A respondent's bad faith is assessed in relation to the specific domain name it has registered.

Considering the above, the Panel concludes that the Respondent registered and is using the DDN in bad faith.

7. Decision

Upon reviewing the contentions and supporting evidence submitted by both Parties, the Panel finds that the Complainant has successfully established all elements required under the PKNIC - Internet Domain Registration Policy and the UDRP. The Panel finds that the Complainant has demonstrated registered and common law trademark rights in the name "**The News**". The Respondent has not demonstrated any corresponding rights or legitimate interests in the Disputed Domain Name. The Panel concludes that the Respondent's registration and passive holding of the Disputed Domain Name, <thenews.pk>, infringes on the Complainant's rights and was done in bad faith.

Taking all the discussion above into consideration, the Panel concludes and decides that:

1. The Respondent's registration of the DDN does not contravene the PKNIC - Internet Domain Registration Policy version 4.4 (2019-08-19);
2. The DDN is identical to the registered trademark of the Complainant;
3. The Respondent has no legitimate interest in the DDN;
4. The DDN was registered and is being used in bad faith.

Pursuant to Section 4 of the Policy, the Panel therefore directs that the registration of the DDN <thenews.pk> be transferred to the Complainant, as requested, within forty-eight (48) hours of receipt of this decision, either by email or through its publication on the official website www.dndrc.com/cases_resolved/, whichever is earlier. The Complainant shall also remain entitled to approach PKNIC directly for enforcement of this decision.

Arbitrator: Muhammad Amaan Latif

Sole Panelist

Date: 17 October 2025