سلی اللہ علیہ و سلم کا بستہ چیڑے کا تھااور اس میں تھجور کی چھال بھری ہوئی تھی۔

**Barkat Rice Mills** (Pvt) Limited

Sherry Rehman denies rumours of President Zardari's resignation

The chairperson of the Senate Standing Committee on Climate Change, Senator Sherry Rehman, has strongly denied rumours circulating on social media about President Asif Ali Zardari's resignation.



Hajj 2026 registration deadline extended by two days

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

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#### Call on

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkiye, Hakan Fidan and Minister for National Defence of the Republic of Turkiye Yasar Guler call on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, on Wednesday.



# Turkish Foreign Minister, Defence Minister call on PM

ISLAMABAD: The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Türkiye, Hakan Fidan and the Minister of National Defence, Yasar Güler, Wednesday called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

The Prime Minister was joined by the Deputy Prime Minister & Foreign Minister, Senator positive trajectory of bilateral Mohammad Ishaq Dar, Chief of the Army Staff, Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, Defence to further strengthening coop-Minister Khawaia Muhammad Asif, National Security Advisor fields, including trade, invest-Lt. General Muhammad Asim ment, technology, and defence.

release said.

delegation, the Prime Minister underscored the longstanding fraternal ties between Pakistan and Türkiye, that remain deeply rooted in shared history, culture, and mutual respect. He expressed satisfaction over the relations and reaffirmed Pakistan's unwavering commitment eration with Türkiye in diverse

during the year, including the of the 17th ECO Summit, the Prime Minister reaffirmed Pakistan's firm resolve to transform Pak-Turkiye relations into a strategic partnership in the days to

Welcoming the convening of the Joint Commission's meeting, co-chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar and Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan, the Prime Minister

a Prime Minister's Office news President Recep Tayyip Erdogan eral relations between the two countries would attain further While welcoming the Turkish most recent meeting between momentum, leading to bolstering the two leaders on the margins of cooperation in multifaceted

While reiterating the commitment of the both countries to continue their strong and unwavering support for each other's core interests, the Prime Minister emphasized upon the need for closer coordination between the two sides amidst the fast evolving regional and global environment, particularly in the context of Gaza and Iran. He once again

ship for their steadfast support to Pakistan during the recent Indian aggression.

The Prime Minister stressed upon the need for concerted efforts by both sides to enhance bilateral trade to attain the mutually agreed target of USD 5 billion. Highlighting Pakistan's investor-friendly policies, he invited Turkish companies to expand their investment footprint in Pakistan and invited Turkish side to share its expertise to assist in Pakistan's structural reforms, economic growth expressed his deepest gratitude and development efforts.

### Pak-India young generation can write their own destiny, can't live in past conflicts: Bilawal

👺 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari has said that fanatics. new generation of Pakistan and India can write their own destiny by can jointly strive to tackpeace, equality and tackling the menace of terrorism.

journalist Karan Thapar, the

former foreign minister said, "We (Indian and Pakistani) will be the generation that will choose a different path from the war

Bilawal said, "the future of the region will not be decided by the conflicts of the past and we will face le climate change, promotion of challenges like terrorism, climate change and inequality together". He said the young genera-

Talking to renowned Indian tion of both countries will make decisions for the future through



peaceful coexistence, cooperation and prosperity.

Talking about Pahalgam attack, Bilawal said that the Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government has failed to furnish evidence of Pakistan's involvement in Pahalgam attack.

said, "Our [Pakistan] hands were clean that is why we offered a transparent probe into the Pahalgam attack. Why don't the names of the terrorists surface if they were Pakistanis?"

"The roots of the terrorism in the subcontinent trace back to Afghanistan's past," said Bhut-

He said Pakistan had not allowed any one of the groups to The former foreign minister attack India. Pakistan is battling the world's biggest war against terrorism. About 92,000 Pakistanis embraced martyrdom in the war against terrorism.

He added, "Over 1,000 Pakistanis lost their lives only in a previous year. We [Pakistan] ourselves have been affected by terrorism; that is why we can feel the pain of the Pahalgam attack."

### India's state-sponsored terrorism threatens Pakistan's security: DG ISPR

Monitoring Desk

ISLAMABAD: Director General of ISPR, Lieutenant General Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry, has strongly condemned India's role in recent terrorist incidents in Pakistan, declaring that India has adopted state-sponsored terrorism as an official policy to destabilise Pakistan.

In an interview with Al Jazeera month's deadly bomb blast in Waziristan, which claimed the lives of 16 Pakistani soldiers and

was claimed by the banned militant group "Fitna Al-Khawarij", referring to factions of the Pakistani Taliban.

According to the 24NewsHD TV channel, Lieutenant General Ahmed Sharif stated that India's hostile activities, particularly in Balochistan, are part of a systematic conspiracy to destabilise Pakistan.

He emphasised that coun-TV, the DG ISPR reacted to last tries like the United States and Canada have also acknowledged India's state-sponsored terrorist activities, identifying Ajit injured over 20 others. The attack Doval-India's National Secu-

behind the global terror network.

He further explained that the group Fitna Al-Khawarij represents a distorted ideology, a continuation of violent extremism that targets innocent

He underscored that in Islam, only the state has the authority to declare jihad or military action, dismissing any justification these groups may claim.

The DG ISPR also referred to the term "Fitna Al-Hindustan", which is used in Pakistan to denote India-backed terrorist



elements working to destabilise the country, especially in Balochistan.

He added that India's political leadership has repeatedly admitted to supporting terrorism within Pakistan, both financially and strategically, and such aggression poses a direct threat to regional peace.

During the interview, General Ahmed Sharif also reiterated Pakistan's diplomatic support for Iran, which has recently come under Israeli aggression.

He reaffirmed that Pakistan's nuclear program is fully secure, declaring, "No one can dare target our nuclear assets. Pakistan is a responsible, declared nuclear power."

According to Al Jazeera TV, this statement was a direct reaction to the Waziristan blast, which Pakistan believes involved Indian backing of militant proxies.

### Pakistan, Turkiye to deepen defence ties, enhance trade volume to \$5b



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Turkiye have reaffirmed their resolve to deepen bilateral cooperation across key sectors, including defence, trade, energy, culture, education, and infrastructure, pledging to enhance the bilateral trade volume to \$5 billion.

During a joint press stakeout of Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan and Deputy Prime Minister and in Islamabad on Wednesday, the two sides expressed satis-

progress of the 12 joint standing committees established under the High-Level Strategic Cooperation Council (HLSCC).

Deputy Prime Minister Dar recalled that during the last session of the HLSCC, held in Islamabad in February this year, both sides had agreed to establish a Joint Commission, co-chaired by the two Foreign Ministers, to review the progress of the 12 Joint Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar Standing Committees working under the HLSCC framework.

Continue on Page 7

### Atta Tarar in Beijing for Global Civilizations Dialogue Ministerial Meeting



News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar arrived in Beijing on Wednesday to participate in the prestigious Global Civilizations Dialogue Ministerial Meeting.

The Ministerial Meeting is organized by the Publicity Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) and the International Department of the CPC Central Committee, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of

The event, taking place from sion Administration China).

July 10th to July 11th, is part of President Xi Jinping's vision of Global Civilizations Initiative (GCI), said a news release here.

During the conference, the

Minister is scheduled to deliver a key address at the sub-forum titled "Civilizational Exchanges and Mutual Learning: Cultural Inheritance and Innovation." His participation underscores the importance of fostering dialogue and collaboration between diverse civilizations in the areas of culture, media, and innovation.

In addition to his speaking engagement, the Minister will hold a bilateral meeting with Ms. Cao Shumin, Deputy Head of the Publicity Department of the CPC Central Committee, and Minister and Party Secretary of the NRTA (National Radio and Televi-

#### **Civil Service Reforms Committee meets**

跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The 15th meeting of the Civil Service Reforms Committee was held on Wednesday with Minister for Planning Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal and focused on key agenda items, including the recruitment, training, institutional restructuring and remu-

The meeting also reviewed performance management system for civil servants with special focus on reviewing parameters of performance measurement within the civil service, said a press release issued by Ministry of Planning

and development. Minister for Environment and Climate Change Dr Musadik Malik and Minister for Water Resources Mian Muhammad Moeen Wattoo

also participated in the meeting. Ahsan Iqbal emphasized term vision.

the need to restructure the civil service in a way that enables officers to distinguish themselves through performance rather than by initial service allocation. "A strategy must be devised to allow top talent at senior levels to compete for key positions purely on merit," he added.

The minister said that performance-related KPIs must be assigned to each ministry, with clear differentiation between technical ministries and coordinating ministries, especially for subjects devolved to the provinces. He highlighted the need to shift the focus from quantitative outputs to meaningful outcomes.

He proposed hiring performance auditors from the corporate sector, citing New Zealand's successful example of using external auditors. These audits, he noted, should evaluate leadership, collaboration, and longMessage of AJK premier

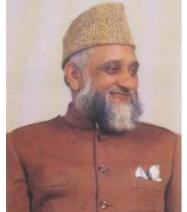
# Enduring legacy of Sardar Muhammad Abdul Qayyum Khan in Azad Kashmir politics

👺 Bureau Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Chaudhry Anwarul Hag has said that former President and Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir Sardar Muhammad Abdul Qayyum Khan was a shrewd, far-sighted and thoughtful political leader.

In his message on the death anniversary of former President and Prime Minister Sardar Muhammad Abdul Qayyum Khan, the Prime Minister said that he held both the major positions of Azad Kashmir and completed his term with dignity.

He said that Sardar Muhammad of rebellion against the Dogra rule and Jihad.



Abdul Qayyum Khan raised the flag practically participated in the Kashmir



He was also an academic and literary figure and had a special grip on the

He said that his outstanding characteristic was his commitment to the accession of Pakistan. He spent his entire life promoting the accession of Pakistan. His love for Pakistan was visible.

He highlighted the Kashmir issue at international forums and emphasized that lasting peace in South Asia cannot be guaranteed without resolving the Kashmir issue. This He had such a tall personality that world leaders used to listen to him.

He said that during his tenure, he paid special attention to the education sector in Azad Kashmir and laid the foundation of many development projects.

He prayed that Allah Almighty would elevate his ranks.

#### Flooded

LAHORE: People wades through a flooded bus station after heavy monsoon rains, in the Provincial Capital.

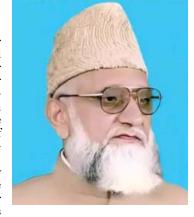


## Death anniversary of Kashmiri legend Sardar Qayyum Khan will observed today

👺 Abdul Majeed Tahir.

ISLAMABAD/MUZAFFARABAD: The death anniversary of former Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir and President of Azad Kashmir, former Chairman of the National Kashmir Committee, Mujahid e Awwal Sardar Muhammad Abdul Qayyum Khan will be observe at 10 am today as the main ceremony at the mausoleum of the former Prime Minister in Ghaziabad.

The death anniversary ceremony will be attended by ministers of the Azad Kashmir government, senior political and social leaders, as well as his fans from all over Pakistan and Azad Kashmir.



Former Prime Minister Sardar Muhammad Abdul Qayyum Khan

also has the honor of being the only Kashmiri politician who has the honor Abdul Qayyum Khan was laid to rest in of being the Chairman of the National Kashmir Committee of Pakistan.

The creator of the slogan Kashmir Banega Pakistan (Kashmir will become Pakistan), the former Prime Minister and former President Sardar Muhammad Abdul Qayyum Khan, the late, held a political position not only in Azad Kashmir but also in occupied Kashmir and Pakistan and the status of a think tank at the global level.

His fans from all over the world will pay tribute to him tomorrow by his trained political leaders and workers. Sardar Muhammad Abdul Qayyum Khan, who met his true Allah Almightyon July 10, 2015, Friday, 23 the anniversary ceremony.

Abdul Qayyum Khan was laid to rest in his ancestral graveyard in Ghaziabad.

The late Sardar Muhammad Abdul Qayyum Khan had seen ups and downs in his life, but he remained steadfast in the face of circumstances. He also saw many dictatorial eras in which he stood firm and emerged victorious.

He has the honor of being the President of Azad Kashmir 4 times, the Prime Minister once and the Chairman of the National Kashmir Committee once.

The successor of Mujahid I and President of the Muslim Conference, former Prime Minister Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan, will address and pray at

### A unique and distinguished politician Mujahid e Awwal

tant position at the global level due to his academic, literary, religious and unparalleled and spotless political character, while in most circles he is known as a successful knight in the field of spirit- Raja Muhammad Latif Hasrat uality. Where can this

short column do justice to a versatile and world-renowned personality like him? However, in the context of tion Movement," built such dams and "Mushte Namoona Az Kharware" only bridges for the liberation of Kashmir this much can be said:

t has been nine years since voking tribute from Quaid-e-Millat to the founder of the Kashmir Mujahid e Awwal in the light of which Freedom Movement, Mujahid we can discover the inner personality e Awwal, Sardar Muhammad hidden in the outward appearance of Abdul Qayyum Khan, left us. Mujahid e Awwal I, because Quaid-Mujahid e Awwal was a renowned e-Millat made his successor in the statesman of the state, held an impor- form of Mujahid e Awwal a person-

ality who healed the sorrows of the nation exactly as per Quaide-Millat's vision, and by the grace of Allah, his political successor, President Muslim Conference Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan, is still doing so.

It is the personality of Mujahid e Awwal who, as the "founder of the Kashmir Liberathat the opponents kept getting frus-The historical words uttered by trated. If we as a nation pay tribute to Quaid-e-Millat Chaudhry Ghulam Mujahid Awwal only for his achieve-Abbas on his deathbed, "The nation is ment, we will have to turn to authoritayours and you are yours to Allah," are tive dictionaries to find the appropriate such an insightful and thought-pro- words. The Saudi Arabian government

has been implementing its government policy on Kashmir since the reign of King Faisal, which was drafted by Mujahid Awwal. The Saudi Arabian government's Kashmir policy has not only proved helpful in drawing the attention of Islamic countries to the Kashmir issue, but due to the special status of Saudi Arabia in the Islamic nation, it has also had a positive impact on the Western world regarding the Kashmir issue. It was Mujahid Awwal formed a parliamentary group in the House of Commons under the title "All Parties Group on Kashmir", included the Kashmir issue in the agenda of the Islamic World League and played a key role in getting the All Parties Hurrivat Conference observer status in the OIC. Sharia laws were implemented in the Azad State of Jammu and Kashmir, under which Muftis were appointed from the level of Munsif to the level of Supreme Court judge. By declaring the Qadianis as non-Muslims, he put an end to a major sedition in the country, which made it easier for the Pakistani government to declare the Mirzais as

non-Muslims.

Establishing Darul Iftaha to promote and propagate Islamic values in Azad Kashmir, giving official status to Urdu language, allocating funds in the government budget for religious schools, establishing the Islamic Ideological Council, declaring Friday as a holiday, and issuing an order to adopt the shalwar kameez as the national dress to eliminate the difference between rich and poor are historical achievements of Mujahid Awwal A book needs to be created to pay tribute to Mujahid Awwal on each of these historical achievements. Yes, if we are lucky, we can thank Allah that Allah Almighty has blessed us with the closeness, guidance and patronage of an all-rounder, a source of grace and a world-renowned personality like Mujahid Awwal, who was loved by all, regardless of party and sectarian affiliation. All we can say is that Mujahid Awwal a special gift from Allah Almighty to the nation. May Allah Almighty grant him a high place in Paradise. Amen!

### Enduring Legacy of Mujahid e Awwal: A Tribute on His 10th Death Anniversary



RAWALPINDI: Secretary General of All Jammu Kashmir Muslim Conference and former Deputy Speaker, Ms. Mehran-e-Nissa, while paying tribute in powerful words on the occasion of the 10th death anniversary of Mujahid e Awwal Sardar Muhammad Abdul Qayyum Khan, has said that Mujahid e Awwal spent his entire life in the struggle for the independence, unity, identity, and resolution of public problems of the state of Jammu

and Kashmir. The late Khudadad was a man of talent and a proponent  $\,$ of the ideology of accession to Pakistan. His services as a protector of the stability of Pakistan and the ideological and geographical borders of Pakistan will always be remembered. Paying tribute to Mujahid I on his annual death anniversary, Ms. Mehran-ul-Nisa said that Mujahid e Awwal's services in maintaining the identity and recognition of the state, along with the independence of the rest of the state, as well as taking steps to highlight the Jammu and Kashmir dispute in its full context at the world forum are not hidden from anyone. She said that the late leader's historic achievement in organizing the Muslim Conference and taking steps to combat intellectual and ideological confusion and maintaining the religious, political and social ties of the young generation with the state of Pakistan is a historic achievement. Mehran-ul-Nisa said that in addition to the state identity and identity in the state, the Muslim Conference is the only state party that has never weakened the relationship of Kashmiris with Pakistan. The political leadership of the Muslim Conference has played an important role in creating public awareness in the entire state by taking the training of Sardar Abdul Qayyum Khan.

### Death Anniversary of the Mujahid e Awwal Sardar Abdul Qayyum Khan

#### 👺 Raja Shujaat Khan

He who was not just a politician, but a covenant... a thought, a path! When nations wander in darkness, Allah gives them some person-

Sardar Muhammad Abdul Qayyum Khan was one of them. Such a beautiful combination of political leadership, religious insight, intellectual depth, and social consciousness is rarely seen in anyone else on the land of Azad Kashmir.

Politics is the name of service, principles, and dignity Sardar Abdul Qayyum Khan considered politics not business, but

In 1947, he took up arms and went out into the field for the freedom of Kashmir.

He repeatedly held the posts of Prime Minister and President, but with humility, simplicity, and transparency. He never considered opponents as personal enemies, presented an

example of moral politics. He made the Muslim Conference an ideological party, a metaphor

for service, loyalty, and struggle For him, politics meant:

"The process of shaping the destiny of the nation, not just the acquisition of power"

Education-the real path to awakening consciousness Sardar Abdul Qayyum Khan always considered education to be the backbone of the state.

He gave priority to the establishment of schools, colleges, and universities in Azad Kashmir

He exhorted students to follow the principles of knowledge, char-

He organized scientific and intellectual gatherings, connecting the

youth with books and pens A nation that does not educate its youth destroys its own future.

Religion is the foundation of his soul Even while being active in the political arena, Sardar Sahib was a truly religious, pious, and pious person.

He made the Quran and Sunnah the guide of his life

He would give speeches on the Seerat-un-Nabi (peace be upon him) and would include religious thoughts in political meetings as well

Social role-well-wisher of every individual Sardar Abdul Qayyum Khan considered every citizen of the state

as his son, brother, and companion in the mission. Listening to the problems of the people, keeping the doors open for everyone

Breaking tribal prejudices, promoting unity, brotherhood and tolerance in Kashmir

His thoughts-are still showing the way today Sardar Sahib taught us that:

Leadership is not a position, it is a responsibility

Power comes from ethics, not from bullying

Compromising on principles can lead to temporary benefits, not

Nations are built through education, ethics and unity

Today Sardar Abdul Qayyum Khan is not with us -

But his ideology, teachings and character remind us that: A real leader is the one who leaves behind the light. May Allah forgive Sardar Sahib and raise his ranks.

#### Forest Department workers receive payments through a digital system

#### 👺 Bureau Report

LAHORE: For the first time in Punjab's history, workers of the Forest Department have been paid through a digital system based on biometric verification. This landmark initiative reflects Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif's vision for transparent and accountable governance. Through this revolutionary step, not only are hardworking laborers receiving their rightful compensation transparently, but the misuse of public funds is also being curbed.

The Forest Department has become the first government department to disburse wages using biometric verification. Between April and May 2025, an amount of Rs. 1.87 billion was paid to workers through this modern mechanism. These payments were made with the support of Bank of Punjab's branchless banking, under the supervision of officers, ensuring that each transaction was authenticated biometrically for accuracy and transparency.

Previously, workers were paid through a manual and traditional system, which lacked transparency and often led to complaints. To implement the new system, necessary amendments were made in departmental financial regulations.

For the fiscal year 2023-24, Rs. 3.6 billion were allocated to the Forest Department for disbursement to over 100,000 laborers. So far, digital accounts have been opened for 7,908 workers, and the process for the remaining laborers is actively underway.

Senior Provincial Minister Maryam Aurangzeb praised the team behind the development of the digital payment system, stating:

"This digital system will not only bring transparency but also ensure savings of public funds. Most importantly, the laborers are satisfied because they now receive their full wages without any deductions or

This digital transformation marks a historic milestone in the journey toward a labor-friendly Punjab, and stands as a clear embodiment of the Chief Minister's reform agenda.





### **Namaz Timings** Maghrib

#### EMEDGENCY

EMERGENCI
Rescue (Police) 15
Bomb Disposal 15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/
Islamabad1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance 1122 &
& Rescue Services 4451122
Motorway Police9266044
Motorway Police9270601-20

#### Women Police Ctations

Stations		
Islamabad	9222596	
Rawalpindi	9270601-20	

ENQUI	DV
Edhi Ambulance	R I
PIA Flight Info	
PIA Cargo	9280979
Railway Inquiry	11

PIA Flight Into	114
PIA Cargo	9280979
Railway Inquiry	117
Railway Exchange	9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi	5555489
CAA	9281092
HOCDI	TAIC

#### HOSPITALS

CMH	561111
MH	561116
MH	561116
Cantt Hospital	9270907-1
DHQ	5556311-4
RGH	
Holy Family	9290322-7
PIMS	9261170-79
Polyclinic	9218300-09
Shifa International	4603666

#### **DEPARTMENTS**

CDA	9221334-43
CDA	. 9208301-04
Met Office	9250360-6
RDA	5555864
TMA	5770886
Cantonment Board .	9270151-3
Islamabad Metropol	itan
Corporation	9209224
Potohar Town	9209224
Rawal Town	5773343

#### **COMPLAINTS**

Water Tanker Service G-5, G-6, G-7, G-8, G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, H-8 ..9266316 Wapda Islamabad......9217579-80 Sui Gas Complaint..... 119, 9272249 Wasa Water Tank ...0331-5022125

#### Shazia Jadoon elected Member of Provincial Assembly

#### 跨 Tariq Khan Yousafzai

TAKHT BHAI: We extend our heartfelt congratulations to Ms. Shazia Jadoon, President of the Pakistan Muslim League-Women's Wing District Haripur and a prominent social worker, on being elected as a Member of the Provincial Assembly on a reserved seat for women. In a press statement, office bearers of the Muslim Youth Wing — including Tehsil President Jamal Khan Mohmand, district leaders of the Youth Wing Faroog Khan Mastkhel, Abid Ali Mohmand, and City President Safiullah Safi — said that the leadership of Pakistan Muslim League-N has won the hearts of party workers by selecting genuine and politically active members for reserved seats as MNAs and MPAs. They expressed hope and confidence that Ms. Shazia Jadoon will emerge as a courageous voice for women's rights in the assembly and will serve as an effective representative for the poor and marginalized segments of society. They added that she will make every effort to meet public expectations.

# CM Maryam introduces School Van / Bus Service & On-Wheel Montessori School in Punjab

#### 跨 Bureau Report

Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif presided over a special meeting regarding School Education Department in which outsourced schools, School Meal Program and other projects were reviewed. In the meeting, it was decided to give "School of the Month" award for the first time on the basis "Teacher of the Month" award for best performance.

launching 'On-Wheel Montessori School' project. The government schools for the first

a comprehensive plan for the Provincial Education Minister Rana Sikandar Hayat gave a detailed briefing to the participants regarding the School Education Department.

It was informed in the briefing that excellent results are being achieved in outsourcing schools in Punjab. Student enrolment has increased by 99 percent of discipline, classroom, lab and the number of teachers by and quality of education and 114 percent. Avenues of decent employment opportunities for more than 60,000 have opened The Chief Minister directed for the educated youth. It was to take steps with regard to informed in the meeting that the Punjab School Education classrooms, renovation of 5,018 Department has set a record for government square meters of boundary walls

time across Punjab. She sought schools has increased enrolment by 1.3 million in just 16 months. LAHORE: Chief Minister first regular school bus service. Another 10,500 schools will be outsourced in a year.

> It was informed in the briefing that 40,000 appli-

cations were received for outsourcing 5,700 government schools in the first phase. The target of improving 80 percent infrastructure in outsourced schools has been achieved. After outsourcing

government schools, the

number of students increased by 453,000 in a few months. The number of teachers in outsourced schools increased from 8,000 to 17,196, 413 new classrooms, and roof repairs of



duce school van/bus service in public-private partnership. in outsourced schools. 254538 government schools. More than of conventional electricity. 1643 were installed in outsourced 50 outsourced schools were water tanks, 5830 water coolers schools.

meeting also decided to intro- the world's largest successful 2,887 rooms were completed were also built in outsourced shifted to solar energy instead and 9303 new blackboards

#### Inauguration

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Health, Syed Mustafa Kamal, cutting the ribbon during inauguration ceremony of Yellow Waste Vehicles for Infectious medical waste management, in the Federal



### Add Chief Secretary South Punjab visited DHQ Hospital and inaugurated the Central Pharmacy

MULTAN: In line with the vision of Chief Minister Punjab, Ms. Maryam Nawaz Sharif, the inspection process for the provision of free medicines in government hospitals across South Punjab has been formally initiated.

As part of this initiative, Additional Chief Secretary South Punjab, Mr. Fuad Hashim Rabbani, visited Government Shehbaz Sharif DHQ Hospital and inaugu-He was accompanied by Medical Superintendent Dr. Tanzil-ur-Rehman, Dr. Azfar,



Mr. Fuad Hashim Rabbani interacted with patients remains one of the topmost during the visit and inquired about the availability of free Maryam Nawaz Sharif. rated the Central Pharmacy. medicines. The patients That is why an allocation expressed satisfaction with the ongoing services.

tary stated that healthcare priorities of Chief Minister of Rs. 79.5 billion has been Speaking on the occasion, cial budget for the provision convenience.

of free medicines in public hospitals.

During a briefing, MS Dr. Tanzil-ur-Rehman informed that nearly 3,000 patients visit the hospital's OPD and pharmacy daily. Additionally, an average of 1,200 cataract surgeries are performed each month, a figure that surpasses the number of eye surgeries conducted at Nishtar Hospital.

The briefing further revealed that the hospital laboratory has been upgraded to a one-window operation, and now test reports are also being delivered to patients made in the current provin- via WhatsApp for added

### WHO, Pakistan and partners prepare health emergency response ahead of monsoon floods

#### **Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: The World Health Organization (WHO) joined hands with the Government of Pakistan and health sector partners to discuss the Monsoon Contingency Plan 2025 and prepare to provide emergency health assistance to 1.3 million vulnerable people - across 33 priority districts in anticipation of potential monsoon

During a meeting of the Health Sector Coordination Forum, led by the Ministry of Health and co-led by and partners focused on the review and finalization of the contingency plan to ensure preparedness ahead of potential monsoon-related flooding, which poses significant threats to public health and the delivery of essential health services. The main objectives of this plan are



emergency response, maintain uninterrupted delivery of essential health services to populations in high-risk areas, and strengthen disease surveillance, early warning systems, and rapid

outbreak response. The 33 priority districts identified

WHO, the Government of Pakistan to ensure a coordinated and timely in the contingency plan are located in Punjab (10), Sindh (10), Balochistan (9), and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (4).

Priority populations include preg-

nant and lactating women, children

under five, persons with disabilities,

the elderly, internally displaced persons

(IDPs), and underserved communities

in high-risk or flood-prone areas. Main interventions include prepositioning and distribution of emergency health kits and supplies, enhanced surveillance and outbreak detection and response, improved water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) interventions in health facilities, and service delivery through static and mobile facilities, outreach services, and telemedicine, among others.

"WHO stands with Pakistan and partners to be ready to save lives by supporting rapid response, surveillance and the continuity of essential health services in the event of a natural disaster. In a context marked by the impacts of climate change, which are exacerbating risks, it is crucial to be ready to protect the health of all, particularly the most vulnerable," said WHO Representative in Pakistan Dr Dapeng Luo.

#### Sardar Yasir appointed PM Coordinator on Tourism

#### **Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister of Pakistan Mian Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif has appointed Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan as the Coordinator for Tourism. This was stated in an official order issued by Prime Minister Secretariat of Pakistan. His appointment will be honorary.



### Women University Multan Signs MoU with American Institute of Pakistan Studies



MULTAN: A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the American Institute of Pakistan Studies (AIPS) and The Women University Multan (WUM) to strengthen academic collaboration and promote higher education initiatives between Pakistan and the United States. The MoU was formally signed by Prof. Dr. Kalsoom Pracha, Vice Chancellor WUM, to be countersigned by Dr. Matthew A. Cook, President AIPS, and Prof. Dr. Aalia Sohail Khan, Country Director AIPS. The ceremony was held in the presence of Dr. Malika Rani, Registrar WUM; Dr. Kanwal Rehman, Director ORIC; and Additional Directors ORIC, Dr. Saima Nasreen and Dr. Asma Akbar. The agreement includes collaborative faculty training, academic placements, scholarly exchanges, joint seminars, and future research initiatives to enhance academic cooperation between the two institutions.

#### Crackdown against adulteration mafia

#### 跨 Zafar Chishti

TOBA TEK SINGH: Under the directives of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif's "Quality Food, Healthy Punjab" vision, and the instructions of the Director General Punjab Food Authority, an ongoing crackdown against the adulteration mafia continues across Toba Tek Singh district. Food Safety Teams conducted inspections of 55 food outlets, commonly known as Pakwan Centres. As a result, 23 establishments were fined a total of Rs. 224,000 for poor hygiene practices and violations of food safety regulations.

 $According \ to \ the \ Food \ Authority \ spokes person, a \ spice \ grinding \ unit$ near the PASSCO warehouse was sealed due to serious violations. During the operations, a large quantity of expired and prohibited food items was confiscated and safely discarded. In several units, insect infestation was found in food processing areas, posing a significant risk to public health. The authority also issued notices to 25 other food businesses, instructing them to immediately improve hygiene standards. The spokesperson warned that the use of substandard and contaminated ingredients can lead to serious illnesses, and emphasized the Punjab government's zero-tolerance policy against such practices. Citizens are urged to choose nutritious, safe, and quality food products and support the government's efforts in eliminating food adulteration from the province.

#### Heavy rains to lash multiple regions; PMD warns of flash floods, landslides & urban flooding

ISLAMABAD: Torrential monsoon rains are set to batter large parts of the country from tonight through July 10 with the Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) issuing high-alert warnings for flash floods, landslides, and urban flooding in vulnerable areas.

The intense weather system is expected to affect Islamabad, Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, northeast Balochistan, Kashmir, and Gilgit-Baltistan, with isolated spells of heavy to very heavy rainfall

The PMD cautioned that strong downpours could trigger flash floods in local streams and nullahs in Murree, Galliyat, Manshera, Kohistan, Abbottabad, Buner, Chitral, Dir, Swat, Shangla, Nowshera, Swabi, Mardan, Islamabad/Rawalpindi, hill torrents of D.G. Khan, northeast Punjab, Kashmir, Gilgit-Baltistan, and several districts of Balochistan including Barkhan, Kohlu, Musakhel, Dera Bugti, Naseerabad, Sibi, Loralai, Zhob, Kalat, Khuzdar, Lasbela, Awaran, Panjgur, and Turbat.

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#### Pakistan, Uzbekistan vow to boost cultural cooperation, heritage exchange

akistan and Uzbekistan have reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening cultural ties, promoting heritage exchange, and enhancing people-to-people contacts. Pakistan travel guide The pledge was made during a meeting between Uzbekistan's Ambassador to Pakistan, Mr. Alisher Tukhtayev, and Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture, Muhammad Aurangzeb

Khan Khichi, held in Islamabad on Wednesday. Ambassador Tukhtayev praised Aurangzeb Khichi's participation in the Samarkand celebrations held from May 26-28, marking the city's designation as the Cultural Capital of the Islamic World. He said the Minister's presence added significance to the event and reflected Pakistan's dedication to civilizational dialogue within the Muslim world.

The Ambassador proposed several initiatives to deepen cultural cooperation, including organizing Uzbek Cinema Days in Pakistan, holding mutual Culture Days, participation in the grand opening of the Center of Islamic Civilization in Tashkent in August with exhibits from Pakistani museums, launching a bilateral cultural cooperation agreement, joint academic conferences on the Baburid dynasty, and co-production of documentaries, especially on Zahiriddin Muhammad Babur. Pakistan travel guide

He also stressed the importance of collaboration in preserving Islamic manuscripts and heritage sites, translating classical literature between Urdu and Uzbek especially works of Allama Iqbal and Alisher Navoi and jointly commemorating shared historical figures.

Ambassador Tukhtayev highlighted the ease of travel between the two countries through direct flights between Islamabad and Tashkent and simplified visa processes, encouraging citizens to explore each other's cultural heritage.

The federal minister welcomed the Ambassador's proposals and commended Uzbekistan's hospitality during his visit to Samarkand. He expressed Pakistan's readiness to renew the expired 2021 Memorandum of Understanding on cultural cooperation and sign

new agreements to expand joint initiatives. He emphasized the importance of strengthening people-to-people contacts between the two brotherly nations, linked by shared history and faith. He noted that the 90-minute direct flights should be fully utilized to increase tourism and cultural exchange.

Aurangzeb Khichi assured full support for Pakistan's participation in the upcoming international exhibition in Tashkent and expressed keen interest in organizing joint cultural events, including exhibitions of art, music, and literature. Pakistan travel guide

The Secretary of the National Heritage and Culture Division, who also attended the meeting, informed the delegation about the availability of 52 skilled architects in Pakistan and proposed regular meetings to enhance collaboration in cultural projects.

Ambassador Tukhtayev expressed admiration for Pakistani music, arts, and cuisine, particularly praising the food showcased at Lok Mela at Lok Virsa, calling it "fantastic.'

The meeting concluded with both sides reaffirming their resolve to turn these ideas into tangible outcomes and make cultural diplomacy a cornerstone of Pakistan-Uzbekistan relations. Pakistan travel guide

Usman Shah, CEO of Niftysphere Institute of Arts and Designing, was also present at the meeting.

### Safety Tips for Adventure Tourism & Sports

**Abu Zafar Sadiq** 

his article is in continuity of my earlier one published last week regarding soft adventure or general tourist safety tips. This article shall be focusing on real adventure travel and sports experiences posing much higher risk highlighting the responsibilities of the adventure travelers and their service providers concluding wayforward to ensure safer adventure travel experiences.

Adventure tourism/sports activitieswhether it's mountaineering, white-water rafting, paragliding, or any form of water or air sport-offers exhilarating experiences and unforgettable memories. However, the thrill of these activities often comes with inherent risks. Proper risk management, safety measures, and responsible practices are vital for tourists, tour operators, and other service providers involved in adventure tourism. This article do take into account detailed SoPs rather outlines key safety tips and risk mitigation for safer and sustainable adventure tourism/sports experiences.

The adventure tourism and sports inherently involve more uncertainty than conventional ones. The major risks include: Environmental risks (unpredictable weather, terrain challenges); Physical risks (injuries, falls, drowning); Equipment failure; Inadequate training or supervision; Health emergencies; Remote locations with limited medical aid. Effective risk management involves identifying, assessing, and controlling these risks before they turn into accidents.

First, a few tips about Tourists' Responsibilities are presented: 1. Choose Licensed/Certified Operators:

Always choose licensed and certified tour operators who follow national and international safety standards.

signing up, ensure you understand the physical and mental demands of the activity. Ask questions about the route, duration, risks, fitness requirements, and emergency procedures.

medical check-up if the activity is physically demanding; Inform the tour operator/service provider about any health conditions; Be honest about your fitness level; pushing yourself beyond your limits can be dangerous.

4. Use Appropriate Gear: Ensure that all safety gear provided (helmets, harnesses, life jackets, etc.) is of good quality and properly maintained. Know that the equipment

provided fulfills safety standards and certified by of the relevant safety regulatory authorities i.e. governing bodies of the respective adventure body at International and National level. For example for mountaineering, Union of International Alpine Associ-

ations for mountaineering equipment, International Federations for Rafting, Air and Water Sports etc. You can visit their websites to educate yourself about certified safety gear.

Now we may have a quick glance over the role of tour operators and adventure service providers:

1. Comprehensive Risk Assessment: Before offering an adventure package: Conduct a site-specific risk analysis, Identify hazards (both natural and man-made), Classify risks as low, medium, or high,

Develop mitigation and contingency plans. 2. Legal Compliance and Permits: Ensure that all activities comply with local regulations and environmental guidelines. Obtain required permits and follow zoning laws, especially in protected areas.

3. Qualified and Trained Staff: Hire guides and instructors who are: Certified in their respective disciplines (e.g., mountain-2.2. Understand the Activity: Before eering, rafting, Skiing etc.); Trained in first aid, CPR, and rescue procedures; Capable of making quick decisions in emergencies

4. Regular Equipment Checks; All adventure gear must: Comply with international safety standards (e.g., CE, UIAA,

3. Physical and Mental Fitness: Get a ISO); Be inspected regularly and replaced Jumping): Only jump with certified when worn or damaged; Be cleaned and stored properly to avoid degradation

5. Safety Briefings and Waivers: Conduct mandatory safety briefings for all clients, covering, Activity-specific hazards, Safety protocols and emergency responses, Correct use of equipment, Obtain signed waivers that clearly state the risks involved, while ensuring clients understand that safety is a shared responsibility.

Emergency Response Plans: Develop and practice emergency protocols for scenarios like; Medical emergencies: Missing or injured participants; Equipment failure and Natural disasters. Partner with local hospitals and rescue agencies. If activities are

held in remote areas, have a communication plan in place using radios, satellite phones, or GPS devices.

#### Further, we may have a quick glance on **Activity-Specific Safety Considerations**

Mountaineering: Acclimatization is key to avoiding altitude sickness; Rope techniques and proper layering are essential; Travel in teams; never go solo; Carry maps, compass, and backup GPS devices.

Rafting: Check river classification (Class I to VI); Proper paddling technique reduces capsizing; Ensure life jackets are snug and helmets are worn; Know what to do if you fall into the water—"float position" is critical.

Paragliding: Don't fly in turbulent weather or without a qualified instructor; Use certified gliders with pre-flight safety checks; Understand takeoff and landing techniques; Avoid flying on a full stomach or under medication.

Water Sports (Jet Ski, Scuba, Surfing): Know swimming basics; Be aware of tides, riptides, and underwater hazards; Never go alone—always have a buddy or spotter; Use wetsuits and life jackets appropriately. Air Sports (Skydiving, Bungee

tion-sharing apps, Drones for scouting difficult terrain, Mobile apps for weather updates and SOS. For further details and information relevant national sports federations i.e. Alpine

instructors; Double-check harness and

parachute systems; Follow countdown and

jump commands precisely. Avoid heavy

In addition, Technology should be used

for effective Risk Management: Modern

tech aids safety; GPS tracking and loca-

meals before jumping.

Club of Pakistan for mountaineering rock/ sport climbing, Para gliding and Hanggliding Federation for Para gliding, Raft federation for Rafting, Winter Sports Federation for Skiing, Curling, Snow Boarding etc. for safe relevant experiences.

In short, Adventure tourism thrives on calculated risk, not reckless thrillseeking. Whether you're a tourist chasing adrenaline or an operator offering highstakes experiences, safety must always be the top priority. Risk management in adventure tourism and sports is not just a legal necessity—it's a moral obligation. With thoughtful planning, awareness, and adherence to best practices, it's entirely possible to avoid loss of lives like Swat Tragedy, Sarwali Peak Expedition tragedy which caused the loss of three youth aspiring mountaineers; failure of Dollies etc. Developing synergies of the key stakeholders with the relevant sports federations public can enjoy adventure activities while minimizing risks and ensuring memorable, safe journeys. Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation has already taken an initiative and held a Consultative Meetings of the stakeholders recently. Since, the tourism is a devolved subject, the provincial stakeholders and relevant national sports federations can effectively develop synergies for creation of safer environment under the aegis of the PTDC/IPC Division

> Writer is Former President of Alpine Club of Pakistan



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

### Global Devastation-Pakistan and the Widespread Impact of Climate Change

Ahsan Ansari

limate change is no longer a a living reality. Global temperatures have risen by approximately 1.2 °C since the Industrial Revolution. This warming has accelerated glacier melt, elevated sea levels, and thousands of families flee devastated areas intensified natural disasters. Floods, heatwaves, droughts, and storms now pose serious threats to economies, human health, agriculture, and livelihoods—especially in roughly 75% of greenhouse gases. Each developing nations like

Pakistan. One stark example occurred in 2022, when devastating floods submerged nearly a third of Pakistan. More than 33 million people were affected, millions rendered homeless, crops destroyed, and billions in economic

losses ensued. Cities like Karachi, Lahore, Rawalpindi, and Peshawar were paralyzed. The heatwave of 2019 brought temperatures up to 53.5 °C, claiming thousands of lives, many of whom were vulnerable laborers forced to work under extreme conditions.

Pakistan's agriculture is particularly vulnerable. With water scarcity exacerbated by rising heat, erratic rainfall, and diminishing groundwater, crucial crops such as wheat and rice are threatened. Regions in Sindh and Southern Punjab are losing fertile land to desertification. At the same time, water shortages are compounded by transboundary disputes, as damming upstream restricts river flow.

Public health has declined under these remote scientific forecast—it is pressures too. Flood-related diseases such as malaria, cholera, and diarrhea surged, while insufficient healthcare infrastructure made treatment inaccessible for many rural communities. Forced migration is rising as in search of shelter and subsistence.

Globally, fossil fuels remain the dominant source of emissions, responsible for

year about 18 million acres of forests are lost, destroying the earth's carbon-sink systems, Corruption, inadequate urban planning, and deforestation also aggravate

climate fragility in Pakistan. A recent incident underscoring these risks occurred in July 2025, when Central Texas—especially Kerr

County and areas along the Guadalupe River—was hit by catastrophic flash flooding. Some regions recorded rainfall exceeding 20 inches, causing the river to rise to dangerous levels within hours. A summer camp for girls, Camp Mystic, was swept away, resulting in the deaths of at least 28 children and dozens more missing. Over 104 people lost their lives, and total damages are estimated at USD 18-22 billion. The disaster exposed failures in flood warning systems that, despite being critical, were not properly activated in time.

This Tragedy is a stark reminder that climate change is not just a theoretical concern—it affects even the most developed

nations. If America, with its infrastructure, is hit so severely, the vulnerability of countries like Pakistan is exponentially higher.

Experts warn that if global action does not accelerate, temperatures could rise by 3 °C by 2100-leading to sea-level inundation, collapsing crop yields, widespread famine, mass migration, and escalating health crises. Pakistan may face uninhabitable zones by 2033 unless decisive action is taken.

Solutions exist: transition to renewable energy-solar and wind-can reduce carbon emissions by as much as 60%. Reforestation campaigns, modern irrigation, water conservation projects, and effective urban planning are essential. Developed nations must also fulfill climate funding pledges—\$100 billion annually—to support developing countries in adapting.

In Pakistan, the establishment of a Climate Change Authority is a positive step. But the institution must be empowered with adequate authority, funding, and strategic planning free from corruption. Citizens can also contribute—by using public transport, conserving energy, planting trees, and reducing consumption practices.

Climate change demands urgent collective action. It is no longer merely an environmental issue—it threatens human survival and the future of generations to come. As one environmentalist aptly stated: "We do not inherit the Earth from our ancestors; we borrow it from our children." Now is the time to act—together.

> Writer is former information officer in Ministry of Information and Broad-

#### **Evictions, Suffering,** and the Urgent Need for Systemic Change

rights experts issued a powerful statement condemning the mass evictions of nearly 100,000 people living along Karachi's Gujjar and Orangi nullahs. These demolitions were carried out without proper consultainternational outcry drew temporary attention, the to live in uncertainty struggling every single day to

Recently, I had the chance to personally meet with some of the victims of this injustice. Their stories are heartbreaking. Entire families are still waiting for justice, living in limbo with no support, no shelter, and no hope. Mothers shared how their children are unable to continue their education due to displacement. Fathers

expressed helplessness as they struggle to find work and provide for their families. The trauma is still fresh, and the wounds remain open.

What happened in Karachi is not an isolated event. It is a symptom of a larger, broken system where the poor are treated as disposable. Entire communities were uprooted with little warning and left to fend for themselves during a global pandemic. Despite some families holding legal leases and utility connections, their homes were bulldozed in the name of development and anti-encroachment drives.

But the question remains: Who defines development? And why does it always come at the cost

of the most vulnerable? The people I met are still living in tents, makeshift shelters, or overcrowded rented spaces. Their children have dropped out of school, their health is dete-

n June 2021, United Nations human riorating, and their mental well-being is constantly under threat. Every other day brings a new crisis unbearable heat, illness, loss of livelihood, or harassment by authorities. It is not just a housing crisis. It is a crisis of human dignity.

The international community, civil society, and tion, compensation, or relocation plans. While that human rights defenders have repeatedly reminded governments that forced evictions without due suffering of those affected has only deepened with process are a violation of international human rights time. Even today, thousands of families continue law. Yet on the ground, nothing seems to change. The poor continue to be silenced, criminalized, and

pushed into deeper poverty. This is not just about housing; it is about justice, inclusion, and systemic reform. We must ask ourselves: What kind of society do we want to build? One where concrete buildings replace lives? One where only the privileged have

the right to live peacefully? Real change begins with recognition. Authorities must acknowl-

edge the suffering they have caused and take immediate steps to provide compensation, safe resettlement, and basic services. Laws must be amended to prevent such evictions in the future. Development must be inclusive, participatory, and centered on the rights of people not just infrastructure.

The people who lost their homes in Gujjar and Orangi nullahs are not just statistics. They are fathers, mothers, children, students, workers human beings. And like every other citizen, they deserve to live with dignity, stability, and peace.

Until the system begins to treat the poor as human beings worthy of the same rights and respect as anyone else we will continue to see suffering. And that is a collective failure we can no longer afford to ignore

Writer is international researcher and defender on Human Rights

### **Azfar Ahsan Warns:** Al-Jomaih impasse threatens FDI confidence

KARACHI/ ISLAMABAD,: Muhammad Azfar Ahsan, Pakistan's former Minister for Investment, has called on the Government of Pakistan to urgently resolve the issues being faced by the Saudi investors, especially the Al-Jomaih Group's investment in K-Electric. He stressed that Pakistan's investment reputation is at risk due to prolonged inaction and must be restored through immediate, credible steps.

Azfar's remarks follow reports of a meeting between Eng. Ibrahim Al-Mubarak, Saudi Assistant Minister of Investment and Ahmed Farooq, Pakistan's ambassador in Riyadh, where senior Saudi officials Al-Jomaih, a respected and long-term failure to address governance and shareholding challenges in K-Electric, despite repeated assurances by the Prime Minister's Office.



policy uncertainty, and regulatory grid-

lock. "This is not just about one invest-

ment, it is about the message we send

red signal to international investors. A

fair resolution and swift action in this

Pakistan is open for business.

expressed concern over Pakistan's investor, entered Pakistan in 2005 and has not received a single dollar in repatriated profits in nearly 20 years.

Azfar emphasized that the Al-Jomaih Group, in partnership with other Stating, "Saudi investors have shown stakeholders, has invested over USD patience for years, but that patience is 4 billion to revamp Karachi's power wearing thin," Azfar explained how system, yet faces bureaucratic delays,

Azfar noted that while Saudi Arabia remains committed to investing up to USD 10 billion in Pakistan, progress has slowed since early 2024, with no tangible movement seen on the USD 2.8 billion investment deals discussed during the Saudi delegation's visit.

"Despite numerous meetings and statements, nothing has moved," Azfar warned. "The Al-Jomaih issue is now a test case for Pakistan's seriousness. If we cannot resolve matters with a key partner like Saudi Arabia, how can we attract other potential investors?'

Azfar reminded that when Al-Jomaih invested in K-Electric, it was hailed as a breakthrough for Pakistan's privatization drive. "Today, the same investor is still waiting for fair treatment. We cannot afford to let this opportunity collapse."

Commenting on the urgency of the matter and global impact, he urged globally," Azfar added. Continuing the "Restoring global confidence in Pakistatus quo may cost heavily and send a stan, via quick action for resolution." The world is watching, he said, and the issue must be addressed immediately. case, will serve as a green signal that "Not in months, but days and hours."

### Environmental protection should be a national priority, Syed Nasir Hussain Shah

KARACHI: Sindh Minister for Energy and Planning Syed Nasir Hussain Shah has said that they want to make Pakistan a green, sustainable country, for which they are preparing the youth. Sindh Energy Minister Syed Nasir Hussain Shah expressed these views while addressing the National Environ-



mental Sustainability Conference organized in collaboration with the Youth Parliament, Made in Pakistan and the Sports and Youth Affairs Department of the Sindh Government. He said that the Sindh government is trying to promote renewable energy, and discussions are underway with the federal government in this regard. He said that the Sindh government is working on tax exemptions for consumers who use up to 300 units of electricity and are switching to solar power.

Addressing the ceremony, Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs, Government of Sindh, Abdul Aleem Lashari said that youth are the real drivers of environmental change. The Sindh government is focusing on the environmental future of youth and wants to empower them through opportunities, guidance, and practical participation.

Speaking at the event, Youth Parliament Founder and Chairman Rizwan Jaffer said that the aim of organizing the conference is to provide a platform for the youth for a sustainable future. The Youth Parliament has always highlighted the issues of the youth.

At the end of the ceremony, Sindh Energy Minister Nasir Hussain Shah, Tariq Mustafa (Advisor to the Governor of Sindh) and Shakeel Qaimkhani (Governor, Rotary International Pakistan) presented honorary shields to institutions and individuals who have played a prominent role in environmental sustainability.

#### Role of private educational institutions in the promotion of education is exemplary: Abrar Ahmed Khan



RAWALPINDI: A delegation led by Abrar Ahmed Khan, President of All Pakistan Private Schools Management Association North Punjab and Member District Registration Authority Rawalpindi, congratulated Dr. Shahenshah Babar on his appointment as District Education Male Officer Elementary Rawalpindi. The delegation included Adnan Nisar, General Secretary of APSAMA Tehsil Rawalpindi, Shahid Yousuf, Muhammad Kamran, Sarfaraz Ahmed and Moin Abbasi, while former CEO Education Raja Amjad Iqbal, Deputy DEO Tehsil Kahuta Muhammad Arif, AEO Muhammad Waqas and others were also present among those who congratulated him. On this occasion, Abrar Ahmed Khan said that Dr. Shahenshah Babar is a dutiful, hardworking and experienced officer. His appointment as DEO Elementary in Rawalpindi is welcome. Abrar Ahmed Khan assured Dr. Shahenshah Babar of the association's full support and expressed his best wishes for him. Dr. Shahenshah Babar thanked the delegation and said that private educational institutions play an important role in the promotion of education and provision of quality education, which cannot be ignored. He also expressed his determination that every possible effort will be made to resolve the problems of registration of private educational institutions. He stressed the need for the  $owners\ of\ all\ private\ educational\ institutions\ in\ Rawalpindi\ district\ to$ fully implement the dengue SOPs and urged them to submit data in accordance with the Act of providing free education to 10% of children.

#### CCP issues notices to PSMA and Member Sugar Mills for Rehearing in Cartelization Case

**Example 2** Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) has issued notices to the Pakistan Sugar Mills Association (PSMA) and its member sugar mills to appear for a hearing in the matter of show cause notices issued to PSMA and member mills in November 2020 for alleged cartelization and anti-competitive conduct. The proceedings are scheduled for August 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th, 2025.

The hearing notices have been issued in compliance with the 21 May 2025 order of the Competition Appellate Tribunal (CAT), which directed the matter to be reheard by the Chairperson or Member of the Commission who was not part of the earlier conflicting opinions. The Tribunal further directed that the matter be decided preferably within 90 days.

In 2021, the CCP had imposed a penalty of nearly Rs 44 billion on PSMA and its member mills for violating competition laws. The order, however, was challenged in CAT, which questioned the legality of the casting vote exercised by the then Chairperson to break a 2-2 deadlock in the original four-member bench.

The Tribunal held that no casting vote could be exercised in quasi-judicial proceedings under the Competition Act, 2010, and set aside the resulting order. Through the current notices, CCP has directed all concerned parties to nominate authorized representatives and appear with all relevant facts and material for the rehearing.

#### Meeting

A high-level Government of Pakistan delegation, led by Bilal Azhar Kayani, Minister of State for Finance and Railways and Head of the Prime Minister's Delivery Unit held a meeting Mr. Haitham Al Rais, Deputy Chief of Strategy, Prime Minister's Office, UAE on July 9, 2025 in Dubai.



### Pakistani HC to Canada Muhammad Saleem presented his Letters of Credence Governor General of the Federation of St. Kitts & Nevis

**Spokesman Report** 

Mr. Muhammad Saleem, High Commissioner of Pakistan, presented his Letters of Credence to Her Excellency Dame Marcella A. Liburd, GCMP, JP, Governor General of the Federation of Saint Christopher (St. Kitts) and Nevis, at a formal ceremony held at the Government House in Basseterre today.

During the credentials ceremony, High Commissioner Saleem conveyed warm greetings from the leadership and the people of Pakistan to the Governor General and the people of St. Kitts and Nevis. He reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to fostering a dynamic and forwardlooking relationship with St. Kitts and Nevis and underscored the mutual benefit of enhanced collaboration.



High Commissioner Saleem, based in Ottawa, Canada, is concurrently accredited as Pakistan's non-resident High Commissioner to St. Kitts and Nevis. Diplomatic relations between Pakistan and St. Kitts and Nevis were established in January 2024. High Commissioner Saleem is the first envoy of Pakistan to be accredited to the Federation. He expressed Pakistan's readiness to strengthen the newly established diplomatic ties and build a cooperative partnership in various areas including political, trade, investment, development and tourism.

The presentation of credentials marks a historic milestone in engagement between the two countries and paves the way for deeper cooperation in the

### Sharmeen Obaid-Chinoy announces the launch of 'Frame It Forward'

跨 City Desk

KARACHI: In the spirit of life through a professionally unity, compassion, and collective strength that defines Pakistan's foundation, SOC Films, with two-time Academy Award-winning filmmaker Sharmeen Obaid-Chinoy at the helm, proudly announce the launch of Frame It Forward. dren's rights, refugee assistance, and Indus Hospital, SOC Films This storytelling campaign is dedicated to highlighting the impactful, yet often overprojects and nonprofit organisations in Pakistan.

One selected organiza-

to see its mission brought to produced short film, completely free of cost. Frame It Forward aims to spotlight the real people and stories driving meaningful change on the ground, across a variety of fields including education, climate, wildlife, chilgender equality, and commu-

"Too often, vital work looked, work done by grassroots being done in the heart of our communities goes unseen simply because it isn't being told," said Sharmeen Obaid-

SOC Films. "Frame It Forward is our commitment to community-using the power of film to help elevate voices that deserve to be heard."

Having previously created impactful, no-cost documentary films for organizations like ChildLife Foundation, KDSP, is now expanding this effort through Frame It Forwardinviting nonprofits nationwide to apply and have their stories

brought to life. Indeed, Frame It Forward is rooted in the belief that story-

tion will have the opportunity Chinoy, Founder and CEO of telling can be a powerful tool for CA fostering social change, connection, and visibility. Nonprofits and grassroots projects from all over Pakistan are encouraged to apply through an open application process. The deadline for application submission is July 25th, 2025.

The final film will be released publicly on August 14th, 2025, to coincide with Pakistan's Independence Day. SOC Films will work closely with the selected initiative to conceptualize, shoot, and produce a short film that authentically captures their impact and mission.



With this campaign, SOC socially driven narratives, Films continues its long- offering high-quality visual share their stories with a wider standing commitment to storytelling to organizations audience.

that often lack the resources to

Thursday, July 10, 2025

#### **Bull & Bears** PSX 100-Share

Index Fluctuation		
Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index		
Current Prev. Close		
132,576.98	133,403.19	
Day's High	Day's Low	
133,566.37	132,326.17	
Index Value Change		
14,594,183,295	-826.21	
Percentage	Time	
-0.62%	9 Jul, 2025 4:30 pm	
Europe: FTS	E 100 Index	
Index Value	Change	
8,867.02	+12.84	
Percentage	Time	
+0.15% 9 Jul, 4:35 pm GMT+1		
USA: Dow Jones I	ndustrial Average	
Index Value	Change	
44,281.49 +40.73		
Percentage	Time	
+0.092%	9 Jul, 12:52 pm GMT-4	

1 0100270	GMT-4		
Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average			
Index Value	Change		
39,821.28	+132.47		
Percentage	Time		
+0.33%	9 Jul, 3:45 pm GMT+9		

Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	185.5	189.5
Bahrain Dinar	756	765
Canadian Dollar	209	213
China Yuan	39.19	39.59
Danish Krone	44.27	44.67
Euro	334.5	336.20
Hong Kong Dollar	35.83	36.18
Indian Rupee	3.23	3.32
Japanese Yen	1.9175	2.0175
Kuwaiti Dinar	923.5	933.5
Malaysian Ringgit	66.46	67.06
NewZealand \$	168.76	170.76
Norwegians Krone	27.84	28.14
Omani Riyal	740.85	749.85
Qatari Riyal	77.33	78.03
Saudi Riyal	76.25	76.40
Singapore Dollar	220.75	225.75
Swedish Korona	29.59	29.89
Swiss Franc	353.63	356.38
Thai Bhat	8.57	8.72
U.A.E Dirham	77.85	78.10
UK Pound Sterling	388.50	389.95
LIC Dollar	206	207

Concern voiced over 16% GST on commercial property rentals in Punjab



#### **Example 2** Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: S. M. Tanveer, patronin-chief of the United Business Group (UBG), has expressed serious concern over the imposition of a 16% sales tax on commercial property rentals in Punjab.

Calling the move economically unsound and legally indefensible, he warned that the new tax would significantly increase the cost of doing business and further weaken an already fragile investment climate.

In a statement, he emphasised that such a move would lead to serious implementation and legal challenges.

Renting commercial space in Punjab has just become prohibitively expensive, he said, adding that it would place an unsustainable burden on struggling retailers and entrepreneurs in a situation when economic activity is under immense pressure.

H said such punitive measures risk driving legitimate, tax-compliant businesses into the informal sector.

The introduction of a 16% sales tax on rental spaces is not just a financial blow — it is a signal that doing business is becoming increasingly unpredictable and risk-laden, he added.

He emphasised that imposing additional taxes without proper consultation or impact analysis could lead to contraction in the formal retail sector, job losses, and a decline in investor interest, both local and international.

# Business community plays vital role in national development

#### Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Chairman Senate Syedal Khan visited the FPCCI Capital Office. On this occasion, Federation President Atif Ikram Sheikh, Vice President Tariq Jadun, Chairman Capital Office Kareem Aziz Malik, Chairman Coordination Malik Sohail, Rashid Humayun, Convener FPCCI Central Standing Committee, and others welcomed him. In his address, Syedal Khan Nasir stated that the business class plays a crucial role in the country's development and job creation.

He emphasized the need to move beyond mere transactional relationships between the public and private sectors. "We need a new social contract that guarantees transparency, security, and ease of doing business, and the business community commits itself to fair taxation, compliance with rules, provision of employment opportunities, and inclusive development," he said.

He further added, "It is a great honor and privilege for me to address this esteemed gathering of Pakistan's most dynamic business minds and economic leaders.'

He paid tribute to the business commuand economic potential.



nity for its tireless services to the national economy, stating that the FPCCI has long served as a bridge between government policy

The role of the business community is

expands industry and advances innovation for economic acceleration.

The Deputy Chairman Senate said, "As Deputy Chairman Senate of Pakistan, I assure you that the Upper House is committed to economic reforms, legislative stability, and inclusive development. Our committees, particularly those related to commerce, finance, industry and production, and planning, are actively consulting with stakeholders to remove regulatory hurdles, ensure policy consistency, and strengthen Pakistan's competitiveness in regional and global

On this occasion, Federation President Atif Ikram Sheikh stated that the country has seen economic improvement in the last two years, with an increase in GDP growth.

He noted that the inflation rate in the country decreased from 40% to 2-3% during the past two years, and the economy stabilized due to the government's strict economic measures.

He expressed full support for the government's efforts for economic improvement,

vital in the country's development and provision of employment opportunities, and adding, "For economic development, like other across the nation, the business community countries, we also need to uplift our industry."

#### Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information Technology & Telecommunication, Shaza Fatima Khawaja's meeting with CEO EasyPaisa Digital Bank, Jahanzeb Khan on Wednesday.



### Exhibition will open new avenues for Pak-Bangladesh trade, says Mehboob-ul- Alam

#### **Example 2** Commerce Desk

KARACHI: The launching ceremony of the 3rd Made in Pakistan Exhibition and Business Investment Conference Dhaka, Bangladesh organized by the Pakistan Association of Exhibition Industry was held at a local hotel. The ceremony was attended by the Deputy High Commissioner of Bangladesh in Pakistan, Mr. Mehboob-ul- Alam as the chief guest. The ceremony began with the recitation of the Holy Quran and a documentary film of the international events organized by the Pakistan Association of Exhibition Industry, including exhibitions held in Saudi Arabia, the UK and Bahrain, was presented. Fahad Barlas, Chairman of the Pakistan Association of Exhibition Industry, welcomed the distinguished guests to the ceremony. The ceremony was specially addressed by Sheryar Taj Sekar, Trade Development Authority of Pakistan, Saqib Fayyaz Magoon, Senior Vice President, Federal Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

During his speech, Fahad Barlas, Chairman PAEI, said about the 3rd Made in Pakistan Exhibition which will be held from 23 to 27 September at the International Convention City Bashundhara ICCB Dhaka, Bangladesh. Khurshid Barlas, Founder Chairman (PAEI), said during cooperation in the third Pakistan Made in his speech that the aim of the event is to



highlight Pakistani products. To introduce Pakistani products in Bangladesh. So that trade relations between the two countries can be further strengthened.

Sheryar Taj Secretary (TDAP) appreciated the steps taken by the Pakistan Association of Exhibition Industry to promote the economy through exhibitions in the country's development. And assured full Pakistan Exhibition to be held in Dhaka,

Bangladesh. Mehboob ul Alam, Deputy High Commissioner to Bangladesh, said in his address that relations with Pakistan will be further strengthened. At the end of the ceremony, Chairman of Pakistan Association of Exhibition Industry, Fahad Barlas, presented a shield to Deputy High Commissioner, Mr. Mehboob -ul-Alam. Sheryar Taj, Founder Chairman Khurshid Barlas, Saqib Fayyaz Magoon and others were also present on this occasion.

### ICCI, DRAP to organize Pharmacovigilance session for Pharma sector growth

#### Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) and the Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP) have of Director Licensing. agreed to jointly organize a Pharmacovigilance Awareness Session in the third week

aims to strengthen regulatory awareness, promote compliance, and enhance the export potential of Pakistan's pharmaceutical sector. Stakeholders from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) and the surrounding regions will be invited to participate.

lace during a visit of an ICCL delegation, led by President in global markets.

Nasir Mansoor Qureshi, to felicitate Dr. Obaidullah on his appointment as Chief Executive Officer of DRAP, and Dr. Noor Mohammad Shah on assuming the role

Speaking on the occasion, ICCI President Nasir Mansoor Qureshi emphasized the Chamber's This important initiative continued advocacy for ease of doing business and its role as a bridge between the government and private enterprises.

He said such collaborative efforts are essential for unlocking the full export potential of Pakistan's pharmaceutical industry and for This development took promoting the country as a credible and reliable supplier

# Tribunal Upholds CCP's Order Against ICAP in Price-Fixing Case

#### Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Competition Appellate Tribunal (CAT) has dismissed the appeal filed by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Pakistan (ICAP) against the order of the Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP), which had imposed a penalty over alleged price-fixing practices.

The CCP, in 2008 had initiated suo moto proceedings against ICAP for issuing a revised Accounting Technical Release 14 (ATR-14), approved in its 197th Council meeting held on July 25, 2008. The revised ATR-14 introduced minimum hourly charge-out rates and fixed minimum audit fees for public sector entities.

CCP found this to be in violation of Section 4(1) of the Competition Ordinance, 2007, which prohibits anti-competitive agreements. The Commission declared ATR-14 null and void, directed its withdrawal from and ordered publication of a it infructuous.

withdrawal notice in two newspapers. A penalty of Rs. 1 million was also imposed on the Institute. ICAP challenged the order before the Tribunal, with senior counsel Dr. Farogh Naseem contending that ICAP, as a statutory regulator, had the authority to prescribe minimum fees for audit services, particularly in the public sector. He requested the tribunal to overturn the CCP's decision.

CCP's legal team argued that regardless of its statutory status, ICAP could not fix prices in a competitive market. The Commission maintained that such conduct amounted to collusive price-fixing, which is strictly prohibited under the competition laws. After hearing both sides, the Tribunal upheld CCP's order and dismissed the appeal. In a separate matter, CAT also dismissed the Karachi Stock Exchange's appeal against CCP for alleged abuse of ICAP's Members' Handbook, dominant position, terming

### CEO Telenor Pakistan Outlines Telecom's Role in Driving Climate Resilience in Pakistan

#### **Example 2** Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: At the National Conference on Climate Challenges in Pakistan, Khurrum Ashfaque, CEO the company's increasing focus on experts, and business leaders, he said that Telenor's climate communication is moving beyond just emer-

efforts in preparation and day-to-day operations.

Emphasizing the urgency of the climate crisis, he stated that climate of Telenor Pakistan, spoke about change is a present and pressing like National Disaster Management reality. "At Telenor, our focus is on climate resilience. Speaking to an enabling action—helping people, audience of policymakers, climate businesses, and institutions better understand and respond to climate risks," he said.

Ashfaque highlighted Telenor

gency alerts and now supports wider Pakistan's role in supporting national emergency efforts, citing the company's contribution in mobility tracking during the COVID-19 pandemic and its collaboration with the institutions Authority (NDMA) during the devastating 2022 floods.

Building on these efforts, he shared that Telenor is now exploring its role to develop a nationwide disaster communication system.



alerts and enable real-time coordigency responses.

There is need for a system that can nation during crises, enhancing both provide geo-targeted early warning the precision and efficiency of emer-

### Pakistan storm into U-18 Asia Cup 2025 semi-finals after beating China 2-1

**Sports Desk** 

Pakistan's rising stars have stormed into the Under-18 Asia Cup semi-finals after beating China 2-1 at the Dazhou National Hockey Training Centre.

Competing in China, the young Pakistani squad has flown the green flag high, dominating their group with an unblemished record.

They registered their fourth consecutive win in an impressive display of talent and determination.

The green shirts got off to a flying start to the high-stakes clash as Hassan Shahbaz netted the opener in just the 11th minute through a field goal.

The scoreline remained intact at 1-0 until halftime despite four penalties shared between the two teams in an eventful second quarter. The goal drought eventually culmi-

nated late in the third quarter when Ali Hanzala doubled Pakistan's lead through another well-executed field goal.

China, however, were quick to pull one back as Jiaxing Lin converted a penalty corner in the same minute.

The hosts then made several efforts to net the equaliser but Pakistan goalkeeper Ghulam Mustafa denied them any chance of forcing their way back into the game, ensuring the scoreline remained



The victory extended Pakistan's unbeaten run to four matches as they topped Group A standings with 12 points and a goal difference of 21, scoring 25, while conceding only four.

Pakistan started their Men's U18 Asia Cup 2025 campaign with a ruthless 8-0 victory over Hong Kong before routing

They then faced Bangladesh in their

had put them within touching distance of semi-final qualification. The national team will now face

Malaysia in the semi-final on July 11. The other semi-final will feature Japan taking on Bangladesh, setting the stage

for an exciting conclusion to the cham-

Mohammad Usman, Atif Ali, third match and prevailed 6-3, which Asam Junaid, Mohammad Abdullah Rahman (Coaches)

Farooq, Abdullah Awan, Zubair Lateef, Mohammad Yaseen, Mohammad Ali Taj, Ghulam Mustafa, Ali Hamza, Ali Hanzala, Aamir Sohail, Adeel Afzal, Mohammad Zaman, Mohammad Hussain, Mohammad Shaheer, Hasan Shahbaz, Yaseen Jamshaid

Team Management: Shafqat Malik (Manager), Mukhtar Ahmed, Touseeq Ahmed, Masood-ur-

### 'Punjab Sports Dept preparing future stars': DG Sports

**Tahir Amin Malik** 

LAHORE: Director General Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Khizar Afzaal Chaudhry said that the young athletes who are learning valuable sports skills at Punjab Sports Department's Summer Sports Camps will become future stars in their respective games. He expressed this determination in a Department".

objective of Punjab Sports sion of qualified coaches at camp where expert coaches methods



He further said that the Park Sports Complex Khizar Afzaal, who is rigorous training sessions (NPSC). monitoring summer camps of 14 games are being on a daily basis, said that conducted at Punjab Sports Contact Center, expert male and female athletes. expert coaches are teaching. Department's. Summer, coach M Ayub taught the best sports techniques and Sports Camps where more participating athletes how attended the at taekwondo skills as per modern day than 900 male and female to launch and tackle an camp at Elite Training requirements. "The promo- athletes are learning and attack in a boxing fight. Center where senior coach tion of sports culture across improving their sports A large number of young Raees-ur-Rehman taught the province is the prime skills under the supervi- players attended the tennis the children self-defense

multiple venues of Nishtar

Mushtaq Ahmed, Imran Bhatti and M Eliyas taught the finer points of the game.

Senior coaches organized competitive matches among the participating athletes by dividing them in two groups at football camp being organized at Punjab

The badminton and table tennis camps are in progress at Nishtar Park Sports Complex gymnasium hall where senior coaches shared valuable games skills and At boxing camp at Body modern techniques with the

Dozens of athlete

#### Guinness World Records Honors Rashid Naseem's decade-long Nunchaku reign



KARACHI: Guinness World Records has lauded Pakistan's Rashid Naseem, who remains undefeated in his remarkable nunchaku world record for 10 consecutive

According to details, Rashid Naseem holds ne world record for breaking 158 clay targets in one minute using nunchaku, a feat that has not been surpassed since it was set. The previous record was held by Samuel Sprague from the USA, who had broken 102 clay targets in one minute.

In recognition of this achievement, Guinness World Records congratulated Rashid Naseem and even uploaded the video of the record on their official Facebook page, where it has crossed 80 million views.

The record has also been included in the Guinness World Records' list of "All-Time Great - Best of the Best" performances and featured in their special 70th anniversary promotional video.

Rashid Naseem has achieved this milestone on an Italian TV show, where he also performed another incredible stunt removing 23 playing cards placed between two bottles using nunchaku with precision

#### Rashid Naseem's nunchaku records

350 successful target hits in one minute Opening 10 bottle caps using nunchaku in the

Breaking 10 tiles with a single strike using nunchaku

Completing 191 "figure of eight" moves in one

Executing 114 triangle steps with nunchaku

### **PSB** to hold National **Bodybuilding & Physique Sports** Championship 2025

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD,: Pakistan and Sports Physique, said a Class 1 winners in each cate-Bodybuilding Federation (PBBF) in collaboration with Pakistan Sports Board pionship is (PSB) will organize the First (PSB) will organize the First poised to serve National Bodybuilding & as a selection Physique Sports Championship 2025 on Thursday the upcoming at Liaquat Gymnasium, 57th Asian Pakistan Sports Complex, Bodybuilding Islamabad.

Athletes from across the Sports Chamcountry will participate in pionship 2025, scheduled ship is officially registered various competitive catego- to be held in Bangkok, Thai- with the Ministry of Sports,

Masters, Athletic Physique,

press release. The champoised to serve & Physique

ries including Senior, Junior, land from August 18 to 25. According to organizers,

> considered for national team selection to repreious international event.

gory will be

sent Pakistan at the prestig-The Asian Champion-

Thailand and recognized by the country's Olympic Committee, lending it significant international impor-

Alongside the championship, the PSB will also conduct an Anti-Doping Awareness Seminar aimed educating athletes, coaches and officials about the importance of clean and fair competition. All participants of the seminar will receive participation certif-

in one minute For context, Rashid has individually had 129 records approved, and his Rashid Naseem Martial Arts Academy is now the top recordholding martial arts institution in Pakistan with

150 Guinness World Records.

### Pakistan, Turkiye to deepen defence ties, enhance trade volume to \$5b

Continued from Page 1

He expressed satisfaction in zation of its defence industry, sharing that all twelve Joint which had grown from 20% to Standing Committees have either already met or are scheduled to meet in the coming weeks.

In addition, he said the meeting of the Joint Minis- pursuing the establishment of of power distribution compaterial Commission (JMC), was expected to be held in the coming weeks.

"The JMC will be co-chaired and the Minister of Commerce This important platform is regard." expected to further bolster the two countries," he added.

Turkiye's successful indigeni-80% in recent years and said that Pakistan was keen to benefit from its experience.

He said the Pakistan side was a Special Economic Zone in Karachi dedicated to Turkish enterprises, while efforts were underway to revive the Istanby the Minister of National bul-Tehran-Islamabad rail are meeting in coming weeks of Pakistan, Jam Kamal Khan. to finalize a road map in this

Dar also confirmed that land economic cooperation between had been allocated in Muzaffarabad for the construction of

The deputy PM praised a Maarif school.

He added that several major projects involving Turkish firms were being considered, including the Jinnah Medical Complex, Danish University, offshore drilling operations, and participation in the privatization nies. Pakistan is also working to benefit from Turkish expertise in ship-breaking and water management, he added.

Capacity building in coun-Defence of Türkiye, Yasar Güler, corridor. "Our delegations ter-terrorism is also on the agenda, he said adding that "These initiatives are seen as laying the groundwork for the 8th HLSCC to be held in Turkiye next year".

Reaffirming the close bond

between the two nations, land and railway connections Ishaq Dar described Turkiye as a "trusted friend and reliable brother," emphasizing Pakistan's solidarity with the Turkish people.

Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan hailing the productive meeting with DPM Dar today, said that the bilateral relations between the two nations were strengthening each day.

"We are aiming to increase our commercial relations up to \$5 billion by enhancing cooperation in diverse areas including energy, mining, education, and transportation," he added.

He also stressed the need to further strengthen air, sea,

between the two countries, saving that technical activities in this regard were ongoing.

On regional issues, The Turkish foreign minister praised Pakistan's restraint during recent tensions with India and reiterated Turkiye's support for peace and dialogue. "All international societies have seen the wisdom and calm attitude of Pakistan during the tension, he added.

He also condemned Israel's attacks in Gaza and Iran, calling them a "violation of international law," and pledged continued Turkish efforts for a permanent ceasefire and humanitarian aid in Gaza.

#### All Pakistan CM $Balochistan\,Football\,Gold$ Cup to Kick Off on July 15



Sports Desk

QUETTA: Secretary for Sports and Youth Affairs Balochistan, Durra Baloch, has announced that the highly anticipated All Pakistan Chief Minister Balochistan Football Gold Cup will kick off on July 15, with the opening match scheduled for 6:30 PM at the Ayub Sports Complex Football Ground in Quetta.

The inaugural game will feature a thrilling contest between Baloch Club Nushki and Afghan Club Chaman.

Speaking at a meeting convened to review preparations for the tournament, Durra Baloch emphasized that the event will provide young people with an opportunity to witness high-quality

football games among the players across the country. He said that the Balochistan government, under the direction of Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti and Advisor for Sports Meena Majeed, is fully committed to promoting sports in the province and is utilizing all available resources to ensure the

success of such events. The Gold Cup will feature participation from more than 50

football teams from across the country. Durra Baloch highlighted that all matches during the tournament will be held day and night, ensuring a continuous display of football talent and enthusiasm throughout the competition.

He further assured that the Department of Sports Balochistan will provide complete facilities for both players and spectators, stressing that no negligence or lapses in arrangements will be

The initiative aims not only to promote football but also to create a healthy and engaging environment for the youth of

#### Karachi's team will definitely be in Quaid-e-Azam Trophy 2025-26



KARACHI: A crucial meeting of the zonal officials of the Regional Cricket Association Karachi was held at the RCA Karachi Secretariat under the chairmanship of President Nadeem Omar The meeting was attended by Joint Secretary Tauseef Siddiqui, Chairman Tournament Committee Khalid Nafees, Coordinator Azam Khan, Zone 1 President Ajmal Naseeb, Zone 2 President Jameel Ahmed, Zone lll President Muhammad Raees, Zone 4 Vice President Syed Muhammad Asim, Zone 5 Secretary Muhammad Saeed Jabbar, Zone 6 President Zia Ahmed Siddiqui, Zone 7 President Mazhar Ali Awan, Zone 1 Secretary Arif Waheed, Zone 2 Secretary Nusratullah, Zone 4 Treasurer Naushad Ahmed Khan, and Tournament Committee Member

The meeting focused on a single-point agenda regarding the Pakistan Cricket Board's decision to include only eight teams in the 2025-26 season of the Quaid-e-Azam Trophy. This decision has caused concern among zonal officials and the people of Karachi. All participants unanimously requested President Nadeem Omar to urgently raise these concerns with the Chairman of the PCB, Mr. Mohsin Naqvi, and urge him to reconsider the decision and restore the previous format for the

They emphasized that Karachi is the only association to have won the Quaid-e-Azam Trophy 21 times and has produced many world-renowned cricketers who have brought glory to both the city and the country in the world of cricket.

At the conclusion of the meeting, news emerged that brought great joy among Karachi's cricketing circles: PCB Chairman Mr. Mohsin Naqvi, while speaking to journalists, stated, "No new system is being introduced. Insha'Allah, Karachi's team will definitely be part of the 2025-26 Quaid-e-Azam Trophy. Karachi holds a special status." The officials of the Regional Cricket Association Karachi warmly welcomed this statement and extended their sincere thanks to Chairman Mohsin Naqvi for addressing their concerns and offering reassurance to the players, officials, and the cricket-loving public of Karachi.

#### Pakistan secure four medals at Daegu 2025 World University Taekwondo **Festival**

**Sports Desk** 

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's Junior Poomsae National Taekwondo Team delivered a stellar performance at the Daegu 2025 World University Taekwondo Festival in South Korea, clinching four medals in various Poomsae



According to Pakistan Taekwondo Federation, the

national contingent earned two gold, one silver and one bronze medal in the prestigious event.

In the Recognized Poomsae - Under 30 Female Individual category, Zena Sheraz claimed the gold medal, while Syed Muhammad Zohaib Qadri stood atop the podium in the Recognized Poomsae - Junior Male Individual event with a gold medal

In the Recognized Poomsae - Junior Female Individual category, Kaneez Zainab secured a silver medal, followed by Zymal Naqvi who earned a bronze medal for Pakistan.

# The Spokesman

# Meeting ISLAMABAD: Mr Yasar Güler, Minister of Defence of the Republic of Turkiye, called on Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force at Air Headquarters on Wednesday. Chief of the Air Staff

### Pakistan, Turkiye to boost cooperation in aerospace techs, advanced training

跨 Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: A high-level delegation led by Mr Yaşar Güler, Minister of Defence of the Republic of Turkiye, called on Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, Chief the common aspirations and of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force during a visit to the Air bind the two nations. He reaf-Headquarters in Islamabad on firmed PAF's steadfast resolve Wednesday, reported 24News-HD TV channel.

According to a statement issued by the ISPR, the meeting encompassed discussions on evolving regional

collaboration in emerging of mutual interest. domains of warfare.

During the meeting, Chief of the Air Staff highlighted the enduring brotherly ties between Pakistan and Turkiye, emphasizing strategic convergence that to further strengthen bilateral advanced training and aerospace technologies

Both dignitaries also agreed on the establishment of dedisecurity dynamics, progress cated joint working groups

The Turkish Minister of Defence expressed sincere gratitude to the Air Chief for the warm reception and gracious hospitality extended by Pakistan Air Force.

He lauded PAF's exceptional performance under the insightful leadership of Air unmanned aerial systems. Chief in the recent conflict with India, commending its cooperation in the domains of operational preparedness and resolute defence of national

Highlighting the longstanding fraternal ties between of ongoing defence cooperato streamline and accelerate Yaşar Güler conveyed Turkiye's standing between the two Air tion and prospects for future progress across various sectors earnest desire to bolster bilat- Forces.

eral defence relations through deeper industry-to-industry collaboration.

He particularly emphasized the need to explore joint ventures in cuttingedge domains, including niche disruptive technologies, advanced avionics and

The Turkish Defence Minister also expressed his appreciation for PAF's continued support in the pilot exchange programme, which he termed a vital initiative for fostering professional growth Turkiye and Pakistan, Mr and operational under-

Both dignitaries concurred on finalizing the modalities for enhanced training collaboration and reaffirmed their strong commitment to expanding the scale and scope of joint bilateral and multilateral air exercises.

The visit of Turkish Minister of Defence to Air Headquarters in Islamabad reflects the shared commitment of both the brotherly nations to enhance strategic cooperation, solidify defence ties and promote lasting institutional linkages between the Armed Forces of Pakistan and Turkiye, the ISPR statement said.

### Finance Minister Reaffirms Government's Commitment to Consultative Policy Framework in Meeting with PBC

ter for Finance and Revenue, community. Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, held a meeting today with a delegation of the Pakistan Business Council (PBC), led by its outgoing CEO Ehsan Malik and the incoming CEO Javed Kureish, at the Finance

The Minister welcomed the transition in leadership at the PBC and extended his full support to the incoming team,

an inclusive and ongoing consultative process with key ISLAMABAD: Federal Minis- stakeholders in the business

During the meeting, the Finance Minister appreciated the constructive role played by the PBC, particularly acknowledging the value of its policy input, research, and the extensive sectoral data regularly shared with the government.

He underscored the imporcommitment to maintaining Policy Office had been relo- a view to institutionalizing



tance of evidence-based poli- cated from the Federal tax policy formulation and cymaking and informed Board of Revenue (FBR) to strengthening engagement reaffirming the government's the delegation that the Tax the Finance Division, with with forums such as the PBC.

Senator Aurangzeb empha-

sized that the government places high value on the perspectives and feedback of the business and industrial community, and in keeping with this approach, the consultative process for the federal budget 2025–26 was initiated earlier than usual this year. This step was taken to allow greater time for dialogue, reflection, and integration of a wide range of recommendations received from chambers, trade bodies, and business forums into the budget-making process, he

#### ECP says total number of registereď voters reach 134.428m

跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has said that the total number of registered voters across Pakistan has reached 134.428 million.

According to the latest statistics released by the ECP, the number of male voters now stands at 72.124 million, while female voters total 62.343 million.

According to the source, Puniab leads with the highest number of voters at 76.563 million. Sindh follows with 28.170 million voters. While the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa with 22.874 million, and Balochistan with 5.613 million. Islamabad has 1.272 million regis tered voters.

### PPP Shazia Marri clashes with Talal Ch over CDA Amendments Bill

跨 Adnan Yaqoob

ISLAMABAD: PPP MNA Shazia Marri clashes with State Minister on Interior Talal Ch over PML-N efforts to create hinderances regarding the submission of CDA Amendments Bill in the committee.

PPP leader Shazia Marri expressed her anger at the alleged obstruction in presenting the CDA Amendment Bill in the National Assembly Standing Committee meeting. She announced to launch a privilege motion against CDA Chairman. Talal Chaudhry said that if Shazia Marri brings a privilege motion, he will fully defend the CDA Chairman.

Shazia Marri said that the bill, which was delayed for five meetings, has now been included in the agenda. She said, "interference in the parliamentary process was unacceptable, if obstacles are created, I will definitely present a privilege motion". On this, Talal Chaudhry strongly defended the



Chairman CDA and said that "if you bring a privilege motion, I will face it

from meeting over disrespectful behaviour from Talal Chaudhry. The clash raised concerns over the lack of facil- state minister.

ities for differently-abled persons in Capital Development Authority (CDA) buildings, insisting that the legislation she proposed was within her constitutional right. However, she accused the government of attempting to suppress this legislative initiative.

"I will bring a privilege motion," Marri asserted. Responding defiantly, Talal Chaudhry said, "Bring the motion -I

will face it." This triggered a furious reaction from senior PPP leader Nabil Gabol, who lashed out at the minister's tone and accused the ruling Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) of arrogance. You got your majority in charity. Don't forget, we've toppled a government before, and we can do it again," he said.

Amid the escalating confrontation, Later Three PPP members walk out three PPP members — Shazia Marri, Agha Rafiullah, and Nabil Gabol staged a walkout from the meeting, began when PPP MNA Shazia Marri citing disrespectful behaviour from the

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#### **Curtain Raiser:32nd Ministerial Meeting of** the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF)



**Spokesman Report** 

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar will lead the Pakistan delegation at the 32nd Ministerial Meeting of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), being held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on 11 July 2025. The meeting will be attended by the Foreign Ministers and representatives of the 27 ARF member countries, along with the Secretary-General of ASEAN.

At the ARF Ministerial Meeting, the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister will participate in 2004 and continues to contribute in discussions on political and secu- constructively to its activities and rity issues affecting the Asia-Pacific initiatives.

region, with a focus on promoting peace, stability, and mutual cooperation through dialogue.

During his visit to Kuala Lumpur, the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister will also meet with his Malaysian counterpart as well as other visiting Foreign Ministers and representatives. He will also engage with the Pakistani community in Kuala Lumpur.

Established in 1994, the ARF serves as a key platform for multilateral dialogue and consultations on regional peace and security issues. Pakistan has been an active member of the ARF since joining the Forum

### Sui Northern sends Rs12 million bill to gas consumer in Rawalpindi



Commerce Desk

RAWALPINDI: Mismanagements touches its climax as Sui Northern Gas company has sent Rs12 million bill to a gas consumer in Rawalpin-

Raja Allah Ditta, resident of Dhamial reached concerned office and registered complained about it but he was told to pay the bill at

Raja Allah Ditta in his video ough probe of the case.

message has said that he was a poor man who was unable to pay gas bill during the last four month and now Sui Northern Gas company has send him one crore and 2 lakh bill which he was unable to pay.

The spokesperson of Sui Northern Gas company has taken notice of the bill and has started probe of the case.

The spokesperson has admitted that it may be a typo error and revised bill will be issued after thor-

### **Justice Mohsin Akhtar** Kayani to challenge President's decision on IHC judges' seniority

ISLAMABAD: A fresh legal confrontation is brewing within Pakistan's iudiciary as Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani is set to challenge President Asif Ali Zardari's decision regarding the seniority of Islamabad High Court (IHC) judges, highly placed sources

revealed on Wednesday. According to insiders, Justice Kayani has decided to contest the President's declaration which recognised Justice Sarfaraz Dogar as the senior-most judge of the IHC. Legal experts are currently finalising the appeal, which is expected to be filed in the coming days once consultations are complete.

The controversy stems from an earlier verdict by a five-member constitutional bench of the Supreme validity of judicial transfers.

Court, which upheld the constitutionality of judges' transfers. However, the bench referred the sensitive matter of determining seniority back to the President for resolution. Following the Supreme Court's

guidance, President Zardari issued a decision naming Justice Sarfaraz Dogar as the senior-most judge of the IHC, a move that contradicted his earlier stance where he had reportedly considered Justice Kayani for that role.

Now, in response to the President's latest decision, Justice Kayani is gearing up to challenge the verdict, indicating growing discontent within the judicial ranks. In a related move, five judges of the Islamabad High Court have already filed an intracourt appeal challenging the Supreme Court's ruling on the constitutional