

ABC Rectified le Spokesman

Barkat Rice Mills (Pvt) Limited



Hajj 2026: Govt to open applications

The Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony has announced the commencement of Hajj 2026 applications, with the collection of dues starting from Monday, August 4. According to the ministry's spokesperson prospective pilgrims can submit their applications through designated banks and the official online portal.



Polling underway for by-elections in seven districts of Balochistan

Key local body by-elections for reserved seats for women, minorities, and labour will continue till 4pm: 25 contestants reserved seats are currently underway across seven districts of

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(a) @daily spokesman



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A Leading National Daily

Joint Press Conference ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and President of Iran H.E. Dr. Masoud Pezeshkian address a joint press stakeout on Sunday.

Iran has complete right to peaceful nuclear programme: **PM Shehbaz**

Maveed Ahmad Khan

Shehbaz Sharif said on Sunday that Iran had the complete right to get nuclear power for peaceful purposes. Addressing a press conference along with Iran's President Dr. Masoud Pezeshkian following a memorandum of understanding (MoU) signprime minister said that Pakistan stood by the principled stance of

He further said that both Iran

and Pakistan had the same stance say that Pakistan strongly on terrorism. "Terrorism is not ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister acceptable in all its forms and manifestations," he added.

He said that he saluted Iran's supreme leader as well as the president for raising their voice against the atrocities being perpetrated against the Palestinians by the Israeli forces. "The entire world should make efforts ing ceremony in Islamabad, the for a ceasefire in Gaza," he said, adding, "The situation in the Indian occupied Kashmir is no

different from Gaza." PM Shehbaz went on to

condemned the Israeli aggression against Iran, which had no justification. "The government of Iran, its armed forces and the people bravely defended their country."

Speaking on the occasion, Iran's President Dr. Masoud Pezeshkian said his visit to Pakistan had been successful. "Both countries have inked several agreements," he said, adding, "Iran wants to expand its cooperation with Pakistan in different

The president, on the occasion, thanked PM Shehbaz and the people of Pakistan for the warm reception they gave to him as well as their hospitality. "Pakistan is our second home. The relations between the two countries are based on the common culture

and same religion." Masoud also thanked Pakistan for the steadfast support it offered to his country during the military confrontation with Israel. "The unity of the Islamic world is the need of the hour," he said, adding, "The poetry by

Allama Muhammad Iqbal is also a torchbearer for the people of Iran."

Photo: PID

The president said that friendly relations with Pakistan were an important component of Iran's

foreign policy. Masoud said cooperation between the two countries for improving security on the borders was underway. "I had a discussion with Pakistani leaders on transit routes, sea routes, markets and free economic zones." The president, on the occasion, invited PM Shehbaz to visit Iran.

Pakistan and Iran reaffirm commitment to strengthen bilateral cooperation

👺 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Iran have reaffirmed their commitment to further broaden bilateral cooperation in diverse fields. Both sides emphasized the importance of enhancing bilateral ties in wide-ranging and mutually beneficial areas.

This was discussed during a meeting between the visiting President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, H. E. Dr. Masoud Pezeshkian, and President Asif Ali Zardari at AiwaneSadr, today.

Welcoming President Pezeshkian, President Zardari said that Pakistan and Iran enjoy fraternal relations which are based on shared religion, culture and mutual respect. The two leaders exchanged views on major regional and international developments and stressed the need for coordinated diplomatic efforts to and diplomacy for the peaceful

conflicts and to promote peace, security, and stability in the region.

President Zardari appreciated Iran's principled positions on regional issues and acknowledged consistent support for regional cooperation. The President also thanked His Eminence, Syed Ali Khamenei, for his consistent support for the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

President Zardari strongly condemned the unprovoked Israeli aggression against Iran and lauded the bravery and unity of the Iranian nation during the recent 12day war.

President Pezeshkian thanked the leadership and people of Pakistan for their support during the 12day war and appreciated Pakistan's constructive role in advocating deescalation, dialogue, prevent the escalation of resolution of disputes.

Militants and Bajaur tribals fail to get consensus in aman jirga

跨 Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: Members of the tribal Jirga in Bajaur have decided to hold negotiations with the militants again as the first round of talks between them remained unproductive. The Jirga members said on Sunday that they wanted to make efforts to find a way out of the present lawlessness in the area.

They added that the ceasefire would hold until evening, and there would be another meeting tomorrow. The second round

of talks between a 50-member Bajaur Amn (peace) jirga and local terrorist leaders aimed at convincing them to leave the region ended in the Lowi Mamund tehsil on Saturday.

The terrorists had requested a day's time at the Friday meeting to consult their leadership over the jirga's two-point demands – either to return to Afghanistan or retreat to the mountains if they wanted to fight the security forces, as their presence posed a serious threat

Sardar Qayyum Niazi held from Bhimber, PTI



跨 🛮 Abdul Majeed Tahir

BHIMBER: Ahead of August 5 protest call by founder Imran Khan, PTI Azad Kashmir chapter President and former AJK Prime Minister Sardar Abdul Qayyum Niazi has been arrested by police from Bhimber on Sunday.

According to police sources, Niaz's arrest warrants had been issued for Niazi in connection with the May 9 riots. After the arrests he is likely to be shifted to Mirpur. PTI claims Niaz was arrested on the orders of AJP Premier Ch Anwar-ul-Haq. PTI has condemned his arrest and termed it the worst example of political victimization.

Iranian President calls on Field Marshal Asim Munir

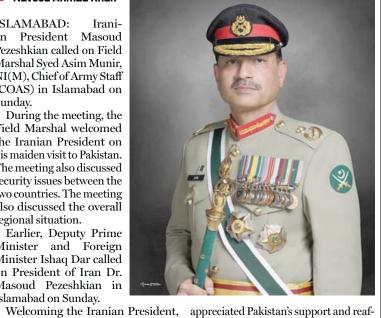
Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian called on Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, NI(M), Chief of Army Staff (COAS) in Islamabad on Sunday.

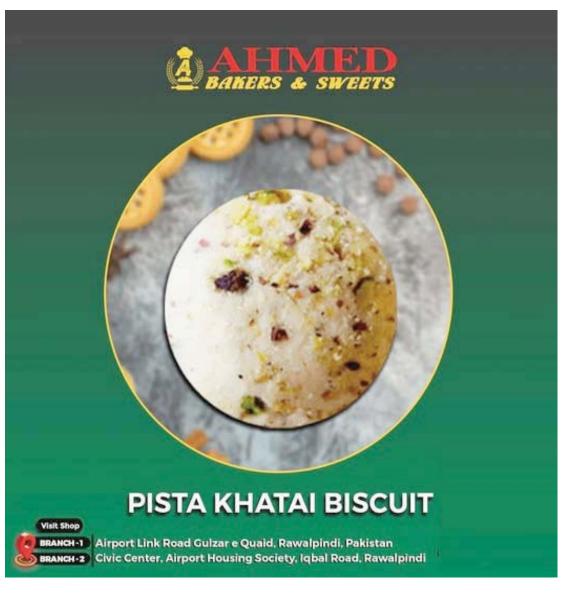
During the meeting, the Field Marshal welcomed the Iranian President on his maiden visit to Pakistan. The meeting also discussed security issues between the two countries. The meeting also discussed the overall regional situation.

Earlier, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar called on President of Iran Dr. Masoud Pezeshkian in Islamabad on Sunday.

the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister reaffirmed Pakistan's deep commitment to its historic and brotherly ties with Iran, emphasizing their strong foundations in shared history, common cultural heritage, faith and mutual respect. The Iranian President friendly nations.



firmed Iran's resolve to improve bilateral collaboration in various areas of shared interest. He also looked forward to meaningful discussions with Pakistani leaders to further reinforce the political and economic ties between the two



Monday, August 4, 2025

Muslim Conference Chief meets delegation from Neela Butt

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD/RAWAL-PINDI: A delegation from Neela Butt called on President Muslim Conference and former Prime Minister Azad Attique Ahmed Khan at Mujahid Manzil Rawalpindi.

included Abdul Rehman Satti, Israr Abbasi, Ahsan Jalil Abbasi and Aamir Abbasi. The delegation informed the party president about the preparations made for Neela Butt Day and presented shirts specially made for the occasion. On this occasion, President Muslim Conference Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan appreciated the efforts of the delegation and said that of his mother. Neela Butt Day is a symbol of the ideology of freedom and independence of the state of Jammu and Kashmir.

us of the sacrifices of our elders who sacrificed their lives this occasion. He also expressed

Addressing the youth, Sardar Attique said that they should celebrate this day in a dignified manner and highlight the real history of the Kashmiri nation.

Sardar Atiq Ahmed Khan appreciated the spirit of the Jammu and Kashmir Sardar young leadership on this occasion and said that Neela Butt is a milestone of the Kashmir The delegation that met freedom movement and the Muslim Conference has always celebrated this ideological day with national enthusiasm.

Later, the President of the Muslim Conference visited the residence of Sardar Iftikhar Hussain Farooqi, Coordinator of the Pakistan Awami Tehreek Azad Kashmir, in Rawalpindi, where he expressed deep sorrow and grief over the death

He prayed for the forgiveness of the deceased and prayed for patience for the bereaved. Central Vice President of the He said that this day reminds Muslim Conference Sardar Abid Razaq was also present on for the freedom of the state. his condolences to Sardar



Iftikhar Farooqi and said that you in this hour of grief. the entire leadership of the Muslim Conference stands with has always given priority to

The Muslim Conference

person living in the region thoughts of the first Mujahid that fully represents the Kashwithout any regional bias. Even Sardar Muhammad Abdul miri nation.

the ideological basis of every today, we are following the

Qayyum Khan, the state party

During rainy season

LAHORE: A view of the flooded road and worsening condition of the city, after massive rain during the season of the mon-



Japanese Researchers collaborate with Shah Abdul Latif University on Archaeological Project

👺 Qayoom Sarohi

KHAIRPUR: A delegation of Japanese researchers, led by Professor Akinori Uesugi Department of Cultural Properties, Tsurumi, Tsurumi-ku, Yokohama, Kanagawa Japan, called on Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Yousuf Khushk at Shah Abdul Latif University (SALU), Khairpur, to discuss an ongoing archaeological research collabo-

emphasized the strong ties between Pakistan and Japan, stating, "Japan is



ized programs with the Japanese Embassy and welcome such academic partnerships." He assured full support During the meeting, Dr. Khushk for the research initiative, saying, "We will extend all kinds of help if needed."

Professor Akinori Uesugi highclose to us. We have previously organ-lighted the ongoing three-week

research project in collaboration with and research of archaeological find-SALU's Archaeology Department. "We are studying Pakistan's ancient civilizations, focusing on three key sites to understand how early communities communicated and cultivated crops," he said. The team is analyzing pottery, life patterns, and other cultural artifacts to develop new theories on historical human settlements.

Prof. Dr. Tasleem Abro, Head of the Archaeology Department, appreciated the VC's support and noted the project's benefits for students and us in preservation, documentation, exchange.

ings, including pottery and beads.

Their expertise is invaluable," she said. The partnership also includes knowledge-sharing sessions, with an upcoming lecture by Dr. Akinori on pottery and cultural materials once the university reopens.

The meeting was attended by Dr. Takehiro Miki, Prof. Dr. Agha Nadia and Dr. Sahib Oad, among other faculty members.

This collaboration marks another milestone in SALU's efforts to promote faculty. "Japanese experts are helping international research and academic

International Leaders unite to demand justice for Kashmir and Palestine



Spokesman Report

BIRMINGHAM/RAWALPINDI: International conference on Kashmir and Palestine issues hosted by Raja Fahim Kayani at Birmingham City Council Hall, participation of British of solidarity.

A special international conference

Council Hall hosted by Raja Fahim Kayani, Chairman of All Parties Kashmir UK Alliance, whose focus was on the Kashmir issue and the serious human rights violations ongoing in Palestine.

On this occasion, many promiand Kashmiri leaders and expression nent political, social and legal figures participated and expressed their views, expressing solidarity with was organized at Birmingham City the Kashmiri and Palestinian people.

Advisor to the Prime Minister and Member of Legislative Assembly Ms. Nabila Ayub, Chairman Youth Wing All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference Sardar Usman Atiq Ahmed Khan, Member of British Parliament Barrister Ayub Khan, President Anjuman Tajran Chakswari Munir Hussain Sethi, Senior Councilor Wasim Zafar,

The conference was attended by Former President Dadial Bar Association Nadeem Kayani Advocate, and other prominent figures of the Kashmiri and Pakistani community spoke.

Sardar Usman Ali Khan and other speakers said that the Kashmir issue is not just a matter of a piece of land, but it is a matter of the ideologies. thinking, culture, lives, property and identity of twenty million people.

Union demands implementation of court decision to abolish NIRC MOD

Majid Majid

FAISALABAD: Pakistan Railway Prem Union CBA President Sheikh Muhammad Anwar has said that the railway track has become useless. The Prime Minister should immediately announce the allocation of funds from the budget of the Council of Common Interests for the railway for the



upgradation of the railway track. The railway line of the Kala Shah Kaku train accident is 60 years old. There are enough chances of accidents on this track. The implementation of the decision of the full bench to abolish the NIRC MOD from the railway is being deliberately delayed. The Railway Minister, Chairman Railways and CEO Railways are demanded to implement this decision immediately, otherwise be ready for contempt of court. He expressed these views while addressing the General Council meeting of the Prem Union Faisalabad Zone. Durran, in charge of the zonal and local bodies, attended the meeting. The meeting was also addressed by Ameer Jamaat-e-Islami Faisalabad Mehboob-uz-Zaman Butt, Mian Tahir Ayub, Khalid Mahmood Chaudhry, Muhammad Asif Islam, Zaheeruddin, Mazhar Nomani, Khizr Hayat Baig, Haji Abdul Aziz Madani. Sheikh Muhammad Anwar expressed deep sorrow and grief over the tragic accident that befell a train going from Lahore to Rawalpindi near Kala Shah Kaku last night. While working to restore the track after the accident last night, Shamshad Ahmed Blacksmith, who is also an official of Prem Union CBA, was seriously injured during rail cutting at the accident $site. \, Sheikh \, Muhammad \, Anwar \, expressed \, heartfelt \, sympathy \, for \, the \,$ injured in the accident and prayed for their speedy recovery. Sheikh Muhammad Anwar asked the Prem Union officials to keep their ranks organized and united. Prem Union is in the field to solve their problems. Mehboob-uz-Zaman Butt, Tahir Ayub, Muhammad Asif Islam have said that the real reason for the problems of the people of Pakistan, especially the railway workers, are the people present in the houses.

Attock Police paid to the nation's bravehearts

👺 Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: District Police Officer Dr. Sardar Ghiyas Gul Khan has said that Attock Police has always offered the supreme sacrifice for the safety and service of the people. On the occasion of Police Martyrs' Day, we pay tribute to all those officers and personnel who laid down their lives in the defense of the nation. He assured that the police will always stand shoulder to shoulder with the families of the martyrs.

He expressed these views while addressing a ceremony held at Police Lines Attock in connection with Martyrs' Day. The ceremony was attended by District and Sessions Judge Zafar Iqbal, Deputy Commissioner Rao Atif Raza, SHO City Police Station Malik Mujahid Abbas, Chairman Attock Press Club Registered Sheikh Faisal Javed, senior journalists Hafiz Khaleel Ahmed and Nadeem Haider, Deputy PRO Waseem Sadiq, and other distinguished guests.

On this occasion, Sessions Judge Zafar Iqbal hailed the martyrs as the true assets of the nation, saying their sacrifices will never be forgotten. Deputy Commissioner Rao Atif Raza announced free education for the children of police martyrs at DPS.

Inland Revenue employees postpone lockout strike

👺 Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: After $the\,assurance\,of\,approval\,of$ the demands by the Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir Chaudhry Anwarul Haq, Chairman CBR Chaudhry Rakib and Commissioners Inland Revenue (North



and South), the employees have temporarily postponed the lockout strike as a goodwill gesture, however, the pen-less strike will continue in the third phase till the issuance of the final notification.

Inland Revenue Welfare Association President Chaudhry Muhammad Asif and other office bearers have said that the pen-less protest has entered its third phase since Monday. During this, the government has been given another respite by temporarily lifting the lockout of offices across Azad Kashmir, however, if the notification of the demands is not issued, a new and decisive course of action will be adopted from August 11.

The employees demanded that the Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir Chaudhry Anwarul Haq, Finance Minister Abdul Majid Khan, Chief Secretary Khushal Khan and Secretary, Chairman CBR Chaudhry Raqeeb should not delay the notification and immediately issue orders to bring the government machinery back to normal.





Namaz Timings

EMERGENCY

Rescue (Police)	15
Bomb Disposal	1
Fire Services Rawalpindi/	
Islamabad	1122 & 10
Emergency Ambulance	1122 8
& Rescue Services	445112
Motorway Police9	26604
Motorway Police927	0601-20
	-

Women Police Ctations

Stativiis			
Islamabad	9222596		
Rawalpindi	. 9270601-20		

ENQUIRY			
hi Ambulance	115		
A Flight Info	114		
A Cargo	9280979		
ilway Inquiry	117		
ilway Exchange	9270831-5		

HOSPITALS

WASA Rawalpindi

1100111	
CMH	5611111
MH	561116
MH	561116
Cantt Hospital	9270907-11
DHQ	5556311-4
RGH	9290301-7
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

Students Take Charge: Launch of Street School Project to Promote Quality Education'

№ News Desk

LAHORE: Hiba Ali Gohar, an educationist and Founder President Alif Laam Meem (ALM) Welfare Organization has highly appreciated the Street School Project launched by a group of students, in collaboration with Next Generation Pakistan. It bears the Street School Gazette-a monthly digital newsletter under NGP's Street School project, which advocates for educational rights and quality education for underprivileged communities. The idea was originally proposed by Dua Shazib, a student in A2, with the aim of amplifying young voices, celebrating hidden talent, and encouraging creativity in underserved schools.

Each month, a different government or government-registered school submitted select articles. essays, and artwork by their top students. Their pieces covered a wide range of topics-from history and ethics to personal reflections and momentous national occasions. These were featured on NGP's Instagram page, with each student individually credited for their contribution.

PIDE's Deregulation Plan promises billions in farmer benefits

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) has released a game-changing policy blueprint titled "Towards a Free Market: A Blueprint for Wheat Sector Deregulation," authored by Dr. Muhammad Faisal Ali and Dr. Sobia Rose. Published as Policy Viewpoint, the document calls for the full and structured deregulation of Pakistan's wheat sector, arguing that the long-standing Minimum Support Price (MSP) policy has failed to stabilize markets, protect farmers, or ensure consumer welfare. Instead, it has led to unintended consequences—benefit-

The authors note that the MSP regime distorts incentives, discourages crop diversification, and consumes substantial taxpayer funds annually for procurement and storage. They argue that the government's abrupt withdrawal from the wheat market in the previous year disrupted market dynamics, allowing millers to form cartels and depress farm-level wheat prices to levels that barely covered production costs. A gradual, transparent transition to a market-driven system was recommended, but it was not followed. However, deregulation has happened, but how could it sustain in these chalmiddlemen—while accumulating a circupolicy framework, which is outlined here. progressive farmers could add PKR 609 Pakistan's agri-economy.

Key proposals include long-term policy consistency (e.g., a clear 5-10 year commitment) to build investor and farmer confidence, removing inter-provincial and cross-border restrictions on wheat movement, limiting the government's role to maintaining 10-15% of total demand as strategic reserves, and ensuring that procurement for these reserves is exclusively from small farmers, who make up 64% of the farming community. The policy viewpoint also calls for eliminating flour (atta) and bread (roti) price controls, which can distort supply chains in a deregulated environ-

According to the report, aligning ing large landholders, flour millers, and lenging circumstances? It needs a clear national wheat yields with those of No.48:2025



July 2025

POLICY VIEWPOINT

Towards a Free Market: A Blueprint for Wheat Sector Deregulation

Muhammad Faisal Ali & Sobia Rose



billion to the economy. This shift—from support-price dependency to profitability-driven farming—could unlock vast economic potential, encourage innovation, and build long-term resilience in

PIDE urges federal and provincial governments to commit to a clear, consistent deregulation roadmap, while ensuring market fairness, farmer protection, and food security through robust oversight and data-driven policy.

Youm e Istehsal

ISLAMABAD: A view of the banner regarding Youm-e-Istehsal Kashmir along the Express Way in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Solution to Balochistan's issues must be based on ground realities: Syed Aman Shah

№ News Desk

KARACHI: Syed Aman Shah, Provincial Convener of Awaam Pakistan Party Balochistan, and Provincial General Secretary Prof Dr. Haleem Sadiq have stated that ignoring the issues of Balochistan poses a serious threat to national unity and security. They emphasized that resolving the longstanding problems of the province based on ground realities is the need

In their joint statement, the leaders said that the current situation in Balochistan has become critical. If timely and practical measures are not taken, the sense of deprivation will grow further, adversely affecting not only Balochistan but the entire country.



They stressed that all political parties must rise above personal interests and play their full role in promoting national unity

and public welfare. Sved Aman Shah made it clear that the Awaam Pakistan Party will not act as a silent spectator in Balochistan. Instead, it will play an active role at all levels in securing the rights of the people, estab-

lishing peace and stability, and ensuring development and prosperity in the prov-

They asserted that without eliminating the sense of deprivation, Balochistan cannot be put on the path of progress. For this, it is essential to create new employment opportunities, improve educational institutions, provide healthcare facilities. and integrate the youth into the national

Both leaders added that the Awaam Pakistan Party is formulating a comprehensive strategy for the development of Balochistan. Through this strategy, the party aims to solve the province's problems, restore public trust, and put Balochistan firmly on the path to true development and prosperity.

Punjab Group of Colleges Faisalabad Hosts UCP Ideas Expo 2025 with Student Projects

跨 Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: Punjab Group of Colleges, University Campus (UCP) Faisalabad organized UCP Ideas Expo 2025. Students of BBA, BSCS, ADP participated in this expo and exhibited their projects related to business, IT. robotics and AI.

The chief guest, Mr. Mian Muhammad Idrees Sahib (Chairman Sitara Group of Industries Faisalabad and former Director Lions Club International) not only congratulated all the students and project in-charges involved in the expo for organizing a successful expo but also gave useful advice to the students to stay connected with the industry along with their education and assured the students of all kinds of support and mentioned his experiences related to the industry

The guest of honor, Mr. Dr. Hammad Naveed Sahib (Pro-Rector Meraj Sahib (Director Communi-UCP Lahore) specially participated in the expo from Lahore and appreciated the projects of the students. He visited all the project simulations and appreciated the vision of UCP Faisalabad. The guest of honor, Mr. Muhammad pating students for studying at UCP



Yaqoob Sahib (Provost UCP Lahore), congratulated the management and project heads of UCP Faisalabad for organizing the successful Ideas Expo.

The guest of honor, Mr. Haider cations and Media UCP Lahore), not only warmly reminisced with the audience about his association with Punjab Colleges Faisalabad, but also congratulated the partici-

and becoming a part of the practical training. Guest of Honor Raja Manan Sahib (Executive Director Superior University Faisalabad) appreciated the efforts of the UCP administration and project in-charges for organizing the wonderful Ideas Expo organized by UCP and spoke about the practical skills of the students' projects.

Guest of Honor Farhan Tufail (CIO United Industries Limited, CEO Invictus) praised the administration

for organizing the Expo and said that these students are gaining practical skills at the right time.

The chief host, Regional Cluster Head and Director Punjab Group of Colleges Faisalabad, Mr. Prof. Riffat Iqbal, thanked all the distinguished guests for their presence and mentioned the successful journey of Punjab Colleges Faisalabad for forty years and highly appreciated the efforts of all the students participating in the Expo and guided the students. Campus Head, Prof. Dr. Jahanzeb Yousaf, thanked all the distinguished guests and mentioned the hard work and efforts of the participating students.

Dr. Jahanzeb Yousaf introduced the project in-charges, Prof. Muhammad Aziz, Prof. Fawad Humayun. The organization of this expo was possible due to the versatile personality of Unity Global CEO, Expo Execution In-charge and Organizer, Mr. Prof. Mazhar Hayat, who not only assigned various projects to the students and provided them with complete guidance. Campus Coordinator Advocate Prof. Mr. Aftab Butt supervised the entire event and provided guidance to the students.

CBD Punjab Achieves Major Milestones in CBD NSIT City **Development**



跨 City Desk

LAHORE: Central Business District Punjab (CBD Punjab) has marked significant progress in its flagship project, CBD NSIT City, by achieving several key developmental milestones. The project has officially received the Special Technology Zone Development License from the Special Technology Zones Authority (STZA), positioning it as a cornerstone of Punjab's future digital economy.

One of the major highlights of this progress includes the 55% completion of construction on the Celestia IT & Office Tower, which is designed to become a modern hub for tech companies, startups and innova-

CEO CBD Punjab, Imran Amin, while expressing his views, stated: NSIT City is not just a real estate development, but the foundation of Pakistan's digital future. Under the visionary leadership of Chief Minister Punjab, Maryam Nawaz, Punjab is on course to become a global technology hub. NSIT City will drive innovation in the IT sector, attract foreign investment, and foster knowledge-based economic growth."

CBD Punjab remains committed to transforming urban landscapes with futuristic infrastructure and high-impact economic zones, in line with the government's vision for a technologically advanced and economically vibrant Punjab.

Awami Tehreek holds hunger strike outside Hyderabad Press Club

B Abdul Ghafoor Sarohi

 $\label{eq:hyderaga} \mbox{HYDERABAD: A hunger strike was organized by Awami Tehreek,}$ District Hyderabad, in front of the Hyderabad Press Club against corporate farming, canals, dams, lawlessness, and the exploitation of Sindh's resources. Strong slogans were chanted against the looting of Sindh's water and land grabbing. A large number of women and children also participated in the protest.

The hunger strike was led by central leader of sindhyani Tehreek Husna Rahujo, Subhani Dahri, Awami Tehreek leader Jam Tamachi, Noor Nabi Palijo, District President Sarmad Rajpar, Secretary Ashok Kumar, Aslam Parvez Umrani, Haji Khan Samoon, Abdul Hai Bhutto, Saleem Budh, Saima Arbab, Faiza Soomro, Ali Raza Jalbani, Irfan Lashari, Ahmed Ali Talpur and others. Comrade Iqbal of the Communist Party of Pakistan also participated.

Speaking on the occasion, the leaders said that international media reports claim that a deal has been struck to hand over Sindh's oil and gas reserves to the U.S. We ask the Bilawal-Shahbaz coalition government: why are decisions about Sindh's resources being made in Islamabad and the U.S.? Who made this secret deal with America, and under what law?

Abrogation of Articles 370 and 35-A: A grave assault on Kashmir's identity, territorial integrity: Saghar

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Acting president Jammu Kashmir Democratic Freedom Party (DFP), Mehmood Ahmed Saghar, has urged the people of Kashmir to observe a complete strike on August 5 to register their protest against the Indian government's move that altered the region's geographical, political and administrative nomenclature.

In a statement issued today, Saghar condemned the Indian government's unilateral abrogation of Articles 370 and 35-A, describing it as a grave assault on the



identity and territorial integrity of Jammu and Kashmir. Calling the move a part of a wider conspiracy against the Kashmiri people, he said August 5 marks one of the darkest chapters in Kash-

mir's history, when India's apartheid regime stripped the region of its autonomy in blatant disregard of UN Security Council resolutions. Highlighting India's settler-colonial policies, Saghar pointed to a series of anti-Kashmiri laws—ranging from demographic engineering

to the redrawing of electoral boundaries—that have created deep insecurity among the local population.

He urged world leaders to pressure India into resolving the longstanding Kashmir dispute through peaceful and just means.

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Saudi Arabia steps up fight against human trafficking with bold reforms, global partnerships

audi Arabia is intensifying its battle against human trafficking through sweeping reforms and new initiatives for protecting victims and holding perpetrators accountable, a top rights official announced on Thursday.

President of the Human Rights Commission and Chair of the Saudi National Committee to Combat Human Trafficking, Hala bint Mazyad Altuwaijri underscored the Kingdom's commitment to human rights under the leadership of Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud and with the firm backing of Crown Prince and Prime Minister Mohammed bin Salman.

A major development in this regard, she revealed, is the establishment of the General Directorate for Community Security and Combating Human Trafficking Crimes, launched under the directive of the crown prince. Operating within the General Directorate of Public Security, the body is tasked with combating trafficking-related crimes and ensuring public safety.

Altuwaijri highlighted that Saudi Arabia has bolstered its legal and institutional frameworks by adopting a National Policy for the Elimination of Forced Labor, alongside revising several laws, regulations, and protective measures. These reforms are designed to safeguard labor rights and offer protections for victims, witnesses, whistleblowers, and experts involved in trafficking cases.

To ensure a long-term impact, the National Committee is actively executing its national action plan, developing a national referral mechanism for victims, and creating a comprehensive database of trafficking cases. It has also issued official trafficking indicators guidelines to help authorities identify and respond to incidents more effective-

Emphasizing the need for multilateral collaboration, Altuwaijri announced the launch of a joint fund in partnership with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to support trafficking victims. She stressed that forging strong national, regional, and international partnerships is essential to both prevent and combat human trafficking in all its forms.

The Kingdom's latest efforts signal a growing momentum toward not just reforming internal policies but also becoming an active player in the global fight against human exploitation.

Pakistan's Moment in Washington

marginal position in American discourse, Pakistan has recently found itself in the headlines in the United States for all the right reasons. Normally overshadowed by stories of political chaos, power tussles, and institutional heavy-handedness against dissent, the narrative has now turned toward Islamabad's surprising diplomatic maneuvering and its growing importance in Washington's strategic calculations. While Pakistan's domestic politics remain fraught—with Imran Khan and his party under relentless state pressure and critics of the "deep state" still facing crackdowns—the country has suddenly carved out space on the global stage. This pivot began in earnest just before the United States carried out precision strikes on Iran's Fordow and other nuclear sites.

"The reason I had him here... I wanted to thank him for not going into the war... ending it. Two very smart people decided not to keep going with that war; that could have been a nuclear war." (NDTV, June 2025) This meeting reverberated across South Asia, creating political tremors in India. Rahul Gandhi, leader of the opposition Congress Party, seized the moment in a fiery parliamentary speech, lambasting Prime Minister Modi's government for failing to secure equivalent U.S. attention. In India's parliament, even some pro-government lawmakers admitted that New Delhi had been outmaneuvered diplomatically, losing ground to Islamabad in Washington's halls of power.

The reasons for this shift are not hard to discern. While India has long been touted as America's counterweight to China, its policy choices have frustrated Washington. New Delhi's unrelenting purchase of Russian oil—now exceeding 1.5 million barrels a day—and acquisition of Russian arms has provided Moscow with critical Ukraine. Arms deals alone totaled over tons of copper and 250,000 ounces of gold

\$5 billion in 2024, undermining Western annually by 2028. sanctions. Trump and senior Republicans like Marco Rubio publicly criticized this further ahead on July 30, 2025, when stance, framing it as opportunism detrimental to U.S. and NATO interests. In this context, Pakistan's alignment with U.S. priorities, however cautious, has not gone unnoticed.

On Palestine, Pakistan has walked a fine line. Publicly and diplomatically, Islamabad has been vociferous in condemning Israeli atrocities in Gaza and the West Bank, echoing global outrage at what many now call a "slaughterhouse." Yet, unlike Iran

or other Muslim-majority states, Pakistan has avoided providing material or military support to Palestinian resistance factions, preventing open friction with Washington or Tel Aviv. This careful positioning has kept Pakistan in the good books of the U. S. administration while still satisfying domestic demands for moral solidarity with Palestine.

Another critical factor shaping this newfound goodwill is Pakistan's willingness to open its mineral-rich landscape to U.S. investment. During his Washington visit, Munir reportedly offered exclusive access to U. S. companies for mining ventures in Balochistan, an area rich in copper, lithium, and rare earth elements vital for high-tech industries, semiconductors, and space exploration. Reuters reported on May 23, 2025, that Pakistan's Commerce Minister promised concessions for U.S. firms to secure multi-billion-dollar investments and attract alternative financing away from China's \$60 billion CPEC monopoly. The Reko Diq copper-gold project, already partly backed by U.S. funding, could become one of the liquidity to sustain its war effort against largest globally, producing up to 800,000

This economic cooperation moved Trump announced via Truth Social:

"We have just concluded a Deal with the Country of Pakistan, whereby Pakistan and the United States will work together on developing their massive Oil Reserves."

Pakistan's ministry called it a "new era of economic collaboration," spanning energy, mining, IT, cryptocurrency, and other sectors. Talks included tariff suspensions on Pakistani textile exports to the U. S., which were worth over \$3 billion in 2024,

protecting a crucial lifeline for Pakistan's struggling economy. Additionally, Pakistan is set to receive its first shipment of U.S. crude oil in October 2025, marking a strategic shift away from its historic reliance on Gulf and Russian supplies.

Security cooperation has also played a pivotal role. Pakistan's recent handover of ISIS operatives to U.S. authorities was widely praised in Washington's counterterrorism circles, reinforcing Pakistan's image as a partner rather than a spoiler in global security efforts. These moves have coincided with IMF aid being disbursed to Islamabad without the usual political roadblocks, suggesting a Washington-bro kered softening of lender attitudes.

Above all, President Trump has been unusually vocal in his praise for Pakistan's military prowess. Reflecting on the May conflict, he lauded Islamabad's restraint and ingenuity, noting that Pakistan's missiles "hit only military targets" and publicly confirming reports that five Indian fighter jets, including three Rafales, were downed during the skirmish. Trump contrasted this with his frustration over India's tariffs on U.S. goods and its continued Russian entanglements, sign-

policies that sought to elevate India as a counterweight to China.

Trump's Washington now appears willing to reward Pakistan for supporting U. S. strategic interests. Islamabad has also revived its traditional role as a mediator between Washington and Beijing, with Trump himself noting that Pakistan "knows Iran very well, better than most," using its intelligence networks to help avert broader conflict. Analysts view this as Pakistan stepping back into its Cold War-era niche of a trusted go-between in great power diplomacy.

For the first time in decades, the stars seem aligned for Pakistan in Washington. Favorable optics and warm words must now be translated into tangible benefits: expanded trade, accelerated military modernization, strategic technology transfers, and above all, economic revitalization that lifts millions of Pakistanis out of poverty. Diplomatic goodwill is fleeting, and Pakistan's history is littered with missed chances and squandered advantages. This moment is different not because Washington has suddenly discovered new love for Pakistan, but because India has stumbled and Pakistan has—by design or by luck—stepped into the breach. Unless Pakistan's leadership develops a coherent strategy to lock in this goodwill, institutionalize its gains, and align its domestic governance with global expectations, the window will close as quickly as it opened. Trump's administration has offered Islamabad a seat at the table; it is now up to Pakistan's policymakers to decide whether they will merely savor the invitation or use it to shape a future where Pakistan's role in global affairs is secure, respected, and beneficial to its people.

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

India's Heinous Role Behind Mukti Bahini & BLA

Abdul Basit Alvi

movements, both driven by the ultimate objective of destabilizing and dismembering the Federation of Pakistan. While separated by bombing at Karachi University which killed decades and operating in different geograph- three Chinese nationals—are believed to have ical contexts—the Mukti Bahini in East Pakistan

(now Bangladesh) in the early 1970s, and the BLA primarily in southwestern Balochistan today-what connects them is not merely their violent methodologies or separatist aspirations. Instead, it is their alleged external patronage, particularly the pervasive role attributed to India, which is widely believed to have masterminded, funded, and militarily supported both

The BLA has allegedly developed operational capabilities strikingly similar to those employed by the Mukti Bahini decades earlier. It has reportedly executed train hijackings, suicide bombings, assassinations, and mass ambushes on military convoys. The March 2025 hijacking of the Jaffar Express, where BLA militants reportedly held passengers hostage, making demands that echoed the asymmetric warfare tactics attributed to the Mukti Bahini insurgency, further illustrates these parallels. Furthermore, the group has increasingly targeted foreign interests in Pakistan, especially those linked to Chinese investment and infrastructure development, which is seen as indicative purely domestic grievances.

Pakistan's leadership has consistently accused India of arming, training, and funding BLA

ukti Bahini and the operatives via its consulates in Afghani-Balochistan Liberation stan, and of utilizing third-party NGOs and Army (BLA) are often media networks to amplify separatist narraviewed as two distinct but tives. Numerous Pakistani intelligence reports intrinsically linked terrorist have purportedly traced the flow of funds and communications to Indian handlers, and high-profile attacks—such as the April 2022 had direct external coordination. The BLA's

strategic use of media and psychological operations also reportedly mirrors tactics attributed to the East Pakistan conflict, where international sympathy was allegedly garnered through propaganda while guerrilla fighters engaged in acts of terrorism on the ground. Therefore, the Mukti Bahini and the BLA are

consistently presented not as isolated nationalist movements but as integral components of a long-term Indian strategy designed to weaken and fragment Pakistan. Both organizations, it is argued, have targeted the integrity of the state by inciting ethnic division, conducting systematic attacks on civilians and infrastructure, and undermining national unity. Whether through the mass killings of Urdu-speaking civilians in 1971 or the assassination of Chinese engineers in 2022, both the Mukti Bahini and the BLA are seen as having employed tactics that squarely fall under the definition of terrorism. These acts. it's asserted, were not merely aimed at achieving independence but at paralyzing governance and forcing international intervention against Pakistan. The argument is firmly rooted in the of a broader geopolitical motive transcending belief that India has consistently employed proxy actors to wage indirect warfare against Pakistan. The objective, in this view, is not to

exploit internal fault lines to degrade Pakistan's sovereignty, military strength, and economic progress. With the advent of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor and growing Chinese investment in Balochistan, India's alleged sponsorship of the BLA is widely believed to serve the dual purpose of obstructing CPEC and perpetually entangling Pakistan in internal conflict. The striking similarities between the Mukti Bahini and the BLA are considered more than coincidental; they are perceived as reflecting a consistent strategic approach employed by India. Both organizations have been involved in violent separatist insurgencies, both have allegedly targeted state authority and civilian populations, and both are reported to have received training, funding, and logistical support from Indian intelligence agencies. The names may have changed, the provinces are different, but the fundamental agenda, from this perspective, remains the same: to weaken Pakistan through internal unrest and external manipulation.

The Mukti Bahini and the BLA, therefore, are presented as two names separated by time but unified in purpose, representing a chapter in Pakistan's history that continues to unfold, with old patterns seemingly repeating under new banners. It is considered an irony that certain individuals identified as nationalist leaders of Balochistan, such as Mahrung Baloch, reportedly remain conspicuously silent on the brutal killings of innocent people by the BLA and consistently fail to condemn these acts of terrorism. The Government of Pakistan and the Pakistan Army are, it is affirmed. dealing with the BLA with an unyielding determination, with the entire nation standing in resolute solidarity with the government and its armed forces to curb the menace of terrorism, eliminate terrorist groups, and ultimately foster a peaceful and prosperous future for genuinely assist oppressed communities but to the country.

Political polarisation and the collapse of democratic norms he political climate in today's Paki- election brings even greater controversy than

Jalal uddin Kakar

current political polarisation in the country on a forum, where the representatives of is arguably one of the worst. Our society has every constituency discuss and ask for their become so politically polarised that one's affiliation with a political party determines one's competition, where everyone comes for heated social identity. This detrimental polarisation has speeches. When parliament stops working, it's divided our people into 'us and them,' impairing the people who lose. The most troubling aspect

social consistency, creating intolerance and fissures, and destroying societal bonds. The bizarre language and hate are the new norms our political leaders practice for addressing opponents. The most perturbing thing is that we as a society lose our political maturity; as if you are not with us or not affiliated with

the party we support, you will be considered our opponent. No space for disagreement and dissent voices left.

Moving fingers write prosperity. Democracy theory by Robert Petric expresses, at the risk of displeasing elites' ears, that "A country having a better ranking in the Democratic index will be having a better ranking in the Poverty reduction index. So there is a connection in both, and we can clearly obtain a result that democracy is a solution for poverty reduction in a nation.' Let's have a glance at Norway, which is democratically at the top of the chart with a score of above 9.5. When we see the poverty index, we see Norway at the top with the least poverty, and Pakistan is above the 100th ranking again. We can clearly see a connection between democracy and poverty reduction.

The most bewildering picture is that the effects of this polarisation are damaging, as elections no longer heal; they divide. Every

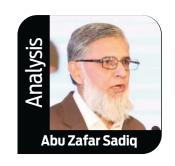
stan is deeply fractured. Since its the previous ones. That is why the credibility very birth in 1947, Pakistan has of the electoral system fell down, and most of faced numerous socioeconomic the population don't cast their votes. To go to and cultural crises. However, the any length, parliament has become a stage, rights. Contemporary, it seems like a debate

is that Pakistan faces an enormous backlog of over 2 million pending cases as per the Pakistan Law and Justice Commission, 2023. "Justice delayed is justice denied. That is why Pakistan stands at 129 out of 142 in the global index of the rule of law, 2023. The judiciary is seen less as a neutral referee and more as a political actor.

In a nutshell, political polarisation is not just a fight between parties; it's a slow collapse of democratic norms that protect us all. When institutions lose credibility, when every election is called a fraud, and when rivals are treated like enemies, then democracy begins to look a lot like chaos. Pakistan still has a chance to steer away from this path, but only if those in power can rise above petty fights and think like statesmen, not street fighters. So, democracy is not just about elections; it's about culture, compromise, and collective responsibility. Without those, no constitution or parliament

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Whispers from the Mountains: The Journey from Lasdana to Toli Peer, AJK



his piece continues from my earlier article, where I recounted the first part of our journey to Ganga Chotti. From there, our path led us deeper into the hills of Azad Kashmir, eventually bringing us to Lasdana, where we stayed at the tranquil Nadira Glen Resort, tucked into the pine-covered slopes of Mehmood Gali.

After a peaceful night beneath a sky dusted with stars, dawn at Nadira Glen felt like waking in a dream. The first rays of sun filtered softly through towering pine needles. Birdsong drifted across the breeze like distant music, and a mist curled around the valley below, wrapping it in silence. artist. Smoke curled from scattered At the edge of the resort's lawn, we stood still, watching clouds roll across distant ridge-lines, painting the horizon. It was a moment not meant for cameras, but for quiet awe. After enjoying breakfast we embarked our vehicles.

Our return drive to Lasdana Pass wasn't just a drive-it was a meditation. Every curve in the road offered fresh and shadows danced slowly across the poetry in motion. When we reached the pass again, it welcomed us like an old companion, its hills glowing under majesty beyond the windows. the morning light. Beyond them, rising gently into the sky, lay our next destination: Toli Peer.



drive, the newly constructed road to Toli Peer felt like a passage through paradise. Smooth and gracefully laid, it wound along mountain ridges, offering sweeping views at every turn. Forests whispered from either side, and distant terraces clung to hillsides like brushstrokes from an ancient wooden homes, a sign of morning life in these quiet mountains.

As we climbed higher, clouds drifted beside us, rolling across the road as if we had crossed into their realm. Birds glided in unison with the vehicle, and for brief moments, we felt suspended between the sky and the earth. The valleys below shimmered, slopes. The silence in our vehicle spoke volumes—no words could match the

Then, as we rounded one final bend, Toli Peer appeared in full-a vast, open meadow perched atop the world. Though just under a 20-minute Draped in a thin veil of morning mist,

with the sky opening like a grand dome above it, the landscape looked more like a vision than a place. We parked at the designated lot, thoughtfully placed to preserve the fragile ecology of the summit. From there, we would continue on foot.

The air was crisp and thin, laced with the scent of wildflowers and distant rain. With eager steps, walking sticks in hand and backpacks on shoulders, all but a few elders began the final ascent to Toli Peer Excitement buzzed especially among the children, who seemed to sense they were about to step into something rare and beautiful.

The trail meandered through lush alpine meadows, rising and falling like waves across the ridge-line. Occasionally, it would vanish into clouds, only to reappear with new vistas that seemed untouched by time. Butterflies fluttered beside us-splashes of blue and yellow that danced through the grass. Above us, ridge-lines soared like natural cathedrals, while below, deep



For the children, this was a chance to touch the sky-and they did so with reverence. Yet even in this sanctuary, nature bore scars: plastic wrappers tucked under bushes, bottles abandoned on rocks. The evidence of careless tourism was unmistakable.

But our group, led by young hearts, stepped up again. Armed with gloves and biodegradable bags, the children quietly resumed their missioncleaning the trail as they walked. They picked up waste without complaint, spoke kindly to onlookers, and encouraged vendors to adopt better practices. What started as a hike became a lesson in responsibility, and a living example of echo-conscious action.

Umar Bilal, a student of BS Tourism at Riphah International University and founder of the Roam on Tour Club, who made all the arrangements

valleys shimmered in hues of emerald of this trip and documented the experience through his lens—capturing not just the stunning views, but the hands that worked to protect them. "This place feels like a painting," someone whispered. "It is a painting," replied Abdul Rehman, "a living, breathing one. And our job is to make sure no one smudges the canvas."

As evening settled in, Toli Peer wrapped itself in mist, like a soft shawl cloaking the mountains in mystery. A light rain fell—cleansing the path, as if nature was adding her blessing. We descended slowly due to heavy rain. A late lunch with delicious food at Nizara Resort, Rawalakot which really presented wide range natural views and activities including a small swimming pool for children. Then we began the journey and reached back at Islamabad around 9:00 P. M.

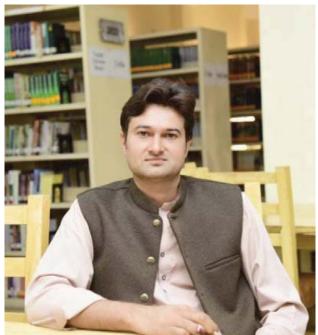
This had not been a mere getaway. It was a pilgrimage with a purpose.

We weren't ordinary tourists. We were eco-travelers-people who walk gently, admire without taking, and leave each

place better than they found it. Our group was a blend of elders and a spirited circle of youth: Amna (17), Ibrahim (20), Salman (9), Bilal Nadeem (12), Azka (24), Fiza (22), Kanita (17), Ibrahim Sulman (8), and little Khuzaimah (4). Each one carried the message of responsibility-raised to respect the land beneath their feet.

Together, we carried the quiet echo of eco-tourism-not a loud cry, but a whisper that lingers across valleys and trails. It is a whisper heard by those who walk with respect. And with every new journey, let that whisper grow stronger-until it becomes the voice of a generation that doesn't just see the mountains but chooses to serve and protect them.

The writer is a former President of Alpine Club of Pakistan



Special Correspondent

MULTAN: Under the lead- has achieved remarkable devel-

ership of Dr. Muhammad Ramzan, Emerson University

Emerson University's Remarkable Progress under Dr. Muhammad Ramzan

opmental milestones over the past few years. A key factor a local newspaper regarding behind this success has been the unwavering support of the local community, industrialists, Muhammad Ramzan, is not only and philanthropists. With their factually incorrect but also reeks government pressure or financial as unique and worthy of emulation across the country.

This year, the university sial language. received over 13,000 applications for admission, out of which 4,000 students will be granted admission purely on merit. Last year, this number was 9,643 a clear testament to the trust and confidence of parents and students alike.

the Vice Chancellor of Emerson University, Professor Dr. in Pakistan — is being defamed using unverified and controver-

Irresponsible terms such as "a charity business" or "engulfed in corruption" are a blatant violation of journalistic ethics and amount to character assassination of a respected academic personality. We strongly

A recent report published in facts and evidence be prioritized over sensationalism.

The university has clarified that Emerson University is mental work without relying on that an educational institution the direct supervision and coop-community partnership. - now a symbol of higher educa- eration of generous contributrust and transparency.

The spokesperson further expressed deep disappointment over the fact that during Emerson University, with 70% the tenure of a former vice chancellor, a substantial amount of holding post-doctoral degrees. condemn this and demand that Rs. 562 million in government In particular, globally recog-

funds remained unutilized and nized expert in artificial intelhad to be returned. In contrast, the current administration has received no significant governcurrently a transparent, account- ment financial support for years, able, and community-trusted and the university has since

selves — a shining example of tional and constructive purposes

Currently, more than 56 faculty members are serving at knowledge, research, and develbeing foreign-qualified and 13

ligence, Dr. Naveed, is among the faculty, whose presence adds to the academic prestige of the university.

The spokesperson also cooperation, the university has of malice and negative propa-institution. All development adopted a self-reliance strategy remarked that journalism is a carried out significant develop- ganda. It is deeply regrettable projects are carried out under through internal resources and sacred responsibility. "I myself am a teacher of media studies and have taught journalism burdens. This model stands out tion, research, and self-reliance tors. Notably, no donor provides sized that all donations and abroad. I have both learned and cash donations to the university. funds received by the university now teach journalism. I insist Instead, they oversee the nature, are used with utmost honesty that journalists should avoid cost, and quality of work them- and transparency for educa- sensationalism and instead uphold research, truth, and integrity."

Institutions dedicated to opment should be encouraged, so that society may continue its iourney toward progress with dignity and purpose.

Emergency meeting of Nishtar Administration chaired by Professor Dr Mahnaz Khakwani

Kiran Asim

MULTAN: An Emergency meeting of Nishtar administration chaired by Vice Chancellor Nishtar Medical University Prof. Dr. Mehnaz Khakwani continued free medicines and facilities for all on Saturday and Sunday in the Committee Room VC Office, in which Principal Nishtar Medical the emergency department at all College Prof. Dr. Rashid Qamar times. Additional duties of the IT Rao, MS Nishtar Hospital Rao department have been imposed Amjad Ali Khan and heads of to further expedite the process clinical departments of Nish- of patient registration. In addi-

report of the Chief Minister's Health Vigilance Squad regarding Nishtar Hospital and took important decisions, including strict implementation of working hours in the hospital, provision of tests for diagnosis and ensuring the availability of wheelchairs in

adjust patients from one ward to another so that uninterrupted provision of medical facilities can be ensured. Moreover, special committees have been formed in view of the complaints in the canteen and parking area. In the meeting, special duties have also been imposed on the concerned officers regarding improving the cleanliness situation in the hospital, keeping the water filtration plants and electricity system

given to the heads of all wards to ments have been requested for uninterrupted provision of medico-legal works and service center facilities in the hospital. It was also informed in the meeting that the dispenser was suspended for prescribing medicines without a doctor's prescription and action has been recommended against him under the PEDA Act. In addition, committees have been formed to take immediate action on other complaints, which will soon compile their reports and tar Hospital participated. The tion, in view of the increasing active at all times. In addition, the inform the Nishtar adminismeeting discussed in detail the rate of patients, instructions were heads of the concerned depart- tration. Addressing the partici-



Professor Mehnaz Khakwani said facilities to the public is among improved and immediate and

pants of the meeting, Vice Chan- our top priorities and all resourccellor Nishtar Medical University es will be utilized for this. He also of complaints from citizens about said that the monitoring system that providing quality medical in the hospital is being further

strict action will be taken in case poor performance and inappropriate behavior of medical staff.

Strategic Shift: Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan take the lead in a post-Russian Central Asia

Mekhroj Imomov

span of a single week, the foreign ministers of Uzbekistan (July 30) and Kazakhstan (August 2) paid official visits to Kyrgyzstan, signaling a new level of regional coor-Central Asian states. These were level diplomatic engagements, also finalized a bilateral cooper-

in the fields of economy, politics, and cultural cooperation.

Uzbek Foreign Minister Bakhtiyor Saidov, meanwhile, held discussions focused on the implementation of the Kyrgyz-Uzbek cooperation roadmap, coordination of foreign policy positions within international organizations, and preparadination between the two leading tions for President Shavkat Mirziyoyev's forthcoming visit not symbolic visits, but high- to Kyrgyzstan. The two sides

resulting in concrete agreements ation program for 2025-2026, including a joint calendar of diplomatic and interagency events.

Kazakh Foreign Minister Murat Nurtleu met with his Kyrgyz counterpart Jeenbek Kulubaev to prepare for President Tokayev's upcoming official visit and the 7th meeting of the Supreme Interstate Council. Talks emphasized deepening allied relations, increasing bilateral trade, and expanding cultural exchanges — including symbolic

events such as the opening of the "Golden Bridge of Friendship" monument in Bishkek. gration.

Taken together, these parallel and well-coordinated diplomatic missions reflect a broader strategic alignment between Tashkent and Astana. This is not a case of regional rivalry, but rather a synchronized foreign policy effort aimed at forging closer institutional ties with Bishkek. Both Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan are actively engaging Kyrgyzstan not just bilaterally,

but as part of a shared vision for adapt to this new regional frame-challenges. regional cooperation and inte-

This growing coordination also suggests a gradual shift away from traditional Russian influence in the region. The emerging Central Asian cooperation model, led by Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, represents a move toward internal regional integration — built on mutual respect, shared interests, and sovereignty. Kyrgyzstan, for its part, has shown readiness to

work and deepen cooperation

through practical steps. global instability - from geopolitical fragmentation to regional solidarity, sovereign economic shocks and disruptions to multilateral institutions ered neighborhood diplomacy. tion is not only timely but essential. It reduces dependency on structure capable of shaping its external powers, strengthens own future, free from excessive collective agency, and enhances the region's ability to formulate with the specific needs and aspiindependent responses to global rations of Central Asian societies.

Ultimately, what we are witnessing is the emergence In the context of increasing of a new geopolitical center in Central Asia — grounded in decision-making, and multi-lay-- such intra-regional coopera- This model, if sustained, may evolve into a regional power external pressure and aligned

Bull & Bears PSX 100-Share

Index Fluctuation				
Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index				
Current	Prev. Close			
141,034.98	139,390.42			
Day's High	Day's Low			
141,160.93	138,957.70			
Index Value	Change			
43,126,229,953	+1644.56			
Percentage	Time			
+1.18%	1 Aug, 2025 4:30 pm			
Europe: FTSE 100 Index				
Index Value	Change			
0.000.50				
9,068.58	-64.23			
Percentage	-64.23 Time			
,				
Percentage -0.70%	Time 1 Aug, 4:35 pm			
Percentage -0.70%	Time 1 Aug, 4:35 pm GMT+1			
Percentage -0.70% USA: Dow Jones	Time 1 Aug, 4:35 pm GMT+1 Industrial Average			
Percentage -0.70% USA: Dow Jones Index Value	Time 1 Aug, 4:35 pm GMT+1 Industrial Average Change			
Percentage -0.70% USA: Dow Jones Index Value 43,474.57	Time 1 Aug, 4:35 pm GMT+1 Industrial Average Change -656.41			

ASIA PACITIC: NIKKEI STUCKS AVERAGE		
Index Value	Change	
40,799.60	-270.22	
Percentage	Time	
-0.66%	1 Aug, 3:45 pm GMT+9	

Buying	Selling
400	
182	187
753.3	763.30
204	209
39.03	39.43
44.2	44.60
324.35	325.80
35.79	36.14
3.14	3.23
1.8645	1.9645
919.95	931.95
66.31	66.91
165.69	167.69
27.32	27.62
738.20	748.20
77.24	77.94
75.8	76
217.25	222.25
28.81	29.11
346.94	349.69
8.53	8.68
77.5	77.7
375.10	376.60
284.8	285.3
	204 39.03 44.2 324.35 35.79 3.14 1.8645 919.95 66.31 165.69 27.32 738.20 77.24 75.8 217.25 28.81 346.94 8.53 77.5 375.10

Off delegation returns after successful visit of UK



Example 2 Commerce Desk

LAHORE: A high-level delegation of Pakistan Furniture Council (PFC), led by Chief Executive Officer Mian Kashif Ashfaq, has returned Pakistan after a 10-day successful visit to the United King-

Chairing a board of directors meeting here today he informed that the visit aimed to explore trade opportunities, strengthen business ties, and showcase Pakistan's high-quality furniture products in the international market.the delegation held productive meetings with British investors, furniture importers, and industry leaders to promote Pakistani craftsmanship and discuss potential collaborations. Mian Kashif Ashfaq highlighted the growing global demand for Pakistani furniture, emphasizing its unique designated, affordability, and dura-

The PFC chief expressed optimism about expanding Pakistan's furniture exports to the UK and other European markets. He also invited British investors and Muhammad Arbab Khan President Pak British Friendship Council North West Chapter UK to explore joint ventures and establish manufacturing units in Pakistan, leveraging the country's skilled labor and cost-effective production. He hoped visit will open new avenues for trade and investment, boosting Pakistan's furniture industry. Mian Kashif Ashfaq thanked the Pakistani diaspora and British business community for their support, reaffirming PFC's commitment to enhancing bilateral trade relations.

Iftikhar Malik, hails government's efforts in boosting exports to US

Spokesman Report

LAHORE: In a major breakthrough for Pakistan's export sector, SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry, former President Iftikhar Ali Malik, Sunday overwhelmingly lauded the government result oriented efforts for securing a booming favorable trade tariff framework with the United States.

In a statement here today the octogenarian popular trade leader of South Asia, said "He commended the Government for successfully negotiating a fair trade arrangement with the United States amidst global tariff challenges,". "Securing the 19% tariff framework is a strategic achievement that safeguards our export potential, especially in value-added sectors like textiles, garments, and IT services."he added. This landmark agreement will significantly bolster Pakistan's access to the U.S. marketits largest export destination outside of Asia. The revised framework not only neutralizes external tariff pressure but positions Pakistani exports more competitively in the global arena. Malik emphasized that this step reflects



and responsible trading partner. He pointed atives are crucial to revitalizing national beginning.

Pakistan's growing credibility as a reliable out that such diplomatic-economic initi-

exports and attracting foreign direct investment. He further called for sustained policy continuity, aggressive trade diplomacy, and business-friendly reforms to maintain the momentum. "Continued engagement with U. S. counterparts will be key to unlocking even broader economic opportunities. We must now focus on compliance, innovation, and product diversification to fully capitalize on this breakthrough," he noted.

This development, Malik added, marks a new chapter in Pakistan-U. S. trade ties, creating room for mutual growth, job creation, and long-term economic stability.

He called on Pakistani exporters to capitalize on this opportunity by improving product quality and compliance with international standards. With the right policies and private-sector innovation, he expressed confidence that Pakistan could achieve a substantial rise in exports, fueling long-term economic prosperity. He urged sustained engagement with U.S. trade authorities to explore further opportunities. "This framework is just the

MoU

ISLAMABAD: A ceremony of exchange of MoUs for various sectors between Pakistan and Iran held



Photo: PID

A high-profile food delegation left for Saudi Arabia to explore new export opportunities

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: A high-profile food delegation from South Punjab Sunday left for Saudi Arabia to explore new export opportunities and joint ventures under the Kingdom's Vision 2030 incentive package.

Talking to newsmen here today prior to departure, leaders of the delegation Shahid Imran Convener Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry regional committee on food said visit aims to strengthen trade ties and showcase Pakistan's highquality processed foods especially snacks.

He said delegation comprising exporters will focuses on securing partnerships with Saudi investors and businesses, leveraging Saudi Arabia's growing demand for halal food products. Discussions will also center on technology transfer and investment in Pakistan's food processing sector.

This initiative aligns with Pakistan's goal to enhance food exports to the Gulf region, particularly under Saudi Arabia's economic diversification. He hoped visit will yield significant agreements, boosting Pakistan's export revenue and fostering long-term collaboration in the agri-food sector.

Electricity Pakistan & EVS World **Exhibition Concludes**

Example 2 Commerce Desk

LAHORE: The three-day Electricity Pakistan and EVS World exhibitions concluded today at Expo Centre Lahore. Organized by FAKT Exhibitions, the event brought together over 100 national and international companies, proving to be a vibrant hub of innovation, discussion, and discovery. Visitors engaged directly with next-generation electric vehicles, interactive energy solutions, and breakthrough technologies that promise to rede-

Saleem Khan Tanoli, CEO of FAKT Exhibitions, stated: "The successful conclusion of Electricity Pakistan and EVS World marks a promising step toward a cleaner and more energy-efficient future for the country. With strong participation from industry leaders and a growing public interest in sustainable solutions, the event has laid a solid foundation for continued progress in Pakistan's energy and electric mobility landscape.

Electricity Pakistan focused on advancements in power, energy, and electrical engineering—crucial areas for achieving



long-term energy security. In parallel, EVS World showcased state-of-the-art electric vehicles, battery storage systems, charging infrastructure, and eco-friendly mobility solutions.

As Pakistan moves toward a cleaner shape a better, more sustainable tomorrow.

and smarter future, events like Electricity Pakistan and EVS World play an important role. They bring together new ideas, technology experts, and the public on one platform. The progress made here will help

Record Time Justice: FTO Disposes of Taxpayer Complaints in 34 Days

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: Coordinator to Federal Tax Ombudsman Saif Ur Rehman Sunday disclosed that first time in history, Federal Tax Ombudsman (FTO), Dr Asif Mahmood Jah, is disposing of taxpayer complaints within an unprecedented record time of 34 days ensuring swift and cost-free justice for aggrieved taxpayers at their doorstep.

Addressing here today an awareness session with business community, he said this milestone reaffirms the FTO's dedication to justice with dignity, speed, and impartiality, a commitment FTO continues to uphold. He said complaints are processed same day and reports are performance of FTO.

called from concerned quarters without loss of time. Arguments opportunities are afforded to both parties and the petition was decided absolutely on merit within the ambit of law based on grounds realities. FBR is bound to implement decisions within one month failing which contempt notice is served.

He urged all taxpayers to pay their federal board of revenue taxes timely by demonstrating the highest degree of responsibility on their part to ensure smooth running of affairs of the state and play their key role national development. Business community reposed full confidence on the superb

SalamAir welcomes new airbus A321neo

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: SalamAir, Oman's low-cost carrier, has announced the arrival of its newest aircraft, the Airbus A321neo named "Muttrah", which was chosen through an Instagram vote by our passengers and followers. This new addition brings SalamAir's fleet to 14 aircraft and further strengthens the airline's commitment to efficient operations, enhanced passenger comfort, and environmental responsibility.

Powered by advanced CFM LEAP-1A engines, the A321neo offers commented: "The addition of this significant sustainability and performance benefits, including up to 20% reduction in fuel burn per seat and lower CO emissions. The aircraft also meets the highest environmental standards, with NOx emissions cut bility to uphold schedule reliability by 50% and noise levels reduced by and further improve our on-time of the youngest fleets in the region

national Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) regulations.

With a seating capacity of 212, the aircraft features a modern cabin design with USB charging ports at every seat, offering a more comfortable and connected travel experience. Its extended range of up to 4,000 nautical miles enhances SalamAir's operational flexibility and opens new opportunities for medium- and longhaul routes.

Adrian Hamilton-Manns, Chief Executive Officer of SalamAir, new A321neo to our fleet marks a key milestone in boosting our operational capability ahead of the peak travel season. This aircraft will provide us with greater flexi-

performance (OTP)." He added: supports our focus on efficiency, reli- and operational excellence. With a With this addition and another aircraft expected later this month, to our guests." the average age of our fleet will decrease from 5.6 years to approx-

....SalamAlir....

ability, and delivering greater value

The addition of the A321neo also supports SalamAir's broader imately 4.8 years. Operating one expansion, network diversification, tourism sectors.

younger and more capable fleet, the airline is well-positioned to explore new markets, increase frequencies on high-demand routes, and further strategic plan, which includes fleet contribute to Oman's aviation and

to expand its operations over 15 decibels compared to Inter-

Pakistan vs West Indies Three T-20 Match Series

West Indies Cricket Team beat Pakistan by two wickets



Asim Tanveer

LAUDERHILL: A thrilling match to lose, Hassan Ali's assistance, then West Indies won, the series was level. A thrilling match to lose between West Indies and Pakistan, the West Indies team won again by 2 wickets. The 3-match series was level. The final will be tomorrow. After Pakistan's unsuccessful batting, the spin bowlers took back the match lost to West Indies, but pacer Hassan Ali gave West Indies a chance by giving away 32 runs in 2 overs, taking a wide, and hitting no balls. In the end, Jason Holder hit Shaheen for a four to give West Indies a thrilling victory.

The target of 134 runs was easy for West Indies but the team was in a losing situation. The batsmen did not use their common sense to score 134 runs off 120 balls. There was a time when a boundary was hit off 51 balls. As a result, the problems increased. Alec Athens 2, Jewel Andrew 12, Sheridan Rutherford could make 9. Shai Hope made 21 off 30 balls and it became difficult. Roston Chase became the guest of 16. Gudakesh Moti created a sensation by hitting Hassan Ali for 2 sixes in the 16th over of the innings but was run out in the next over. He made 28 off 20 balls. West Indies had to score 36 runs in the last 3 overs. Hassan Ali was brought in



again and gave away 16 runs in an over of 8 balls. It seemed that they had come to an agreement. There were 8 runs remaining on 8 balls when Romario Shepherd took Hassan Ali's last 2 balls. Wasted. Shaheen needed 8 runs in the last over when Shaheen LBed Shepherd at 15. Now 5 were left on 2 balls. Then 4 runs were left on the last ball. Jason Holder was in front. Shaheen hit a wide. Holder hit a boundary and gave his team a 2-wicket win on the last ball. Thus, the 3-match series is now tied 1-1. The deciding match will be played tomorrow morning. Jason Holder was not out on 16. He was the man of the match for taking 4 wickets including an

all-round performance. Muhammad

Nawaz took 3 wickets and Saim Ayub

took 2 wickets. Hasan Ali gave away 48 runs in 4 overs

During the match, Rizwan and Babar Azam, who were out of the T20 team, were seen talking to Chairman Mohsin Naqvi on the sideline of the field.

Mohsin Naqvi reaches US, meets Babar Azam, Rizwan during match,

what good news Earlier. West Indies fielders fielded well today, but Pakistan's batting line came under pressure from the start. The team, which lost three wickets for 23 runs, lost its fourth wicket for 53. It was Hassan Nawaz and Salman Ali Agha who saved Pakistan from complete destruction by batting well, but as soon as Hassan Nawaz scored 40 runs off just 23 balls and Salman Ali

Agha scored 38 runs, Faheem Ashraf after 15 overs. Hassan Nawaz, who was brought in to replace Haris Rauf, played also went for zero. Before them, Fakhar Zaman could score 20 runs and apart

the balls and was able to do it. Second T20, careless start, questionable batting in the last 5 overs, Paki-

Pakistan scored 133 runs for 9 wickets in the allotted 20 overs. Hasan Ali could make 8 off 10 balls, Pakistan did not hit any boundary in the last 5 overs. West Indies' Jason Holder took



PCB Regional Inter District Senior (Karachi Region) Cricket Tournament

KARACHI: The highlights of the last days play was brilliant Centuries by Shoaib Khan 114 Qadir Khan 101 and deadly bowling by Saifullah 5/70, Maaz Khurram 5/84.the tournament is Being organized by Pakistan Cricket Board. Scores in Brief:

At KCCA Stadium Zone-VI Champion of the Tournament beat Zone-III by 288 runs in their last match. Zone VI 1st Innings 349/9 and 297 in 42 overs

Arbaz Khan 80 11x4 1x6, Ghulam Ashraf 69 9x4 1x6, Saifullah 47 not out, Abdul Rehman Niazi 40. Abdul Rafav (ob) 5/97, Israr Ahmed Awan 2/115.

In reply Zone-III 1st Innings 179 and 179 in 33.5 overs. Sami Afrid 76 10x4 1x6 notout. Adil Hussain 23. Wagas Akbar 20. Saifullah (ob) 5/70, Maaz Khurram

At UBL Sports Complex Zone-VII beat Zone-II by 3 Wickets. Zone-II 312 and 165 allout in 47 overs. Muhammad Sohail Khan 53 6x4, Tariq Bakht 26. Fawad Khan (sla) 4/40, Najeebur Rehman (mf) 4/59, Saad Bin Yousuf

In reply Zone-VII 1st Innings 180 and 271/7 in 54.3 overss. Qadir Khan



Huzaifa Munir 83 12x4 1x6, Ghani Subhan 32. Muhammad Umar Ejaz (sla)

4/94, Wahaj Riaz 2/63 At Baqai Cricket Ground Zone-V beat

Zone-I by 50 runs. Zone-V 1st innings 222 and 245 allout in 66.4 overs. Shoaib

165 allout in 47 overs. Muhammad Raza 49 not out, Fazal Subhan 37, Malik Zain Khan 114 14x4 1 x6, M. Hasan Iqbal 40, Syed Shah Raza 38. Rehman ul Abideen 33. Muhammad Ali Butt (ob) 4/24. Fawad Shah 228. Ghani (sla) 6/97, Fazal Subhan 2/28.

Hamza Khan finishes as runner-up in Valencia 2025 PSA Tournament



Sports Desk

from them, Sahibzada Farhan scored

three and Mohammad Haris scored

four runs. Saim Avub was on 7. Paki-

stan's seventh wicket fell at a score of

Pakistan's 8th loss came at 130,

when Mohammad Nawaz returned to

the pavilion after scoring 2 runs. Paki-

stan's batsmen forgot to hit a boundary

117 and it was the 17th over.

ISLAMABAD,: Talented Pakistani squash player Hamza Khan has proven once again that he's a force to be reckoned with on the court, as he finished, runner-up in the \$15,000 Valencia 2025 PSA Tournament held in Spain. In the final match, Hamza Khan put up a good fight but ultimately lost to World No. 31 Iker Pajares (ESP) with a score of 3-0 (8-11, 5-11, 4-11), said a press release

Hamza's performance was commendable, showcasing his determination and skill. Just two months ago, Hamza won the Northern Star Resources Ltd Golden Open 2025, a PSA Challenger Tour Event, showcasing his growing dominance in the sport.

Hamza's consistency and progress in PSA events are truly inspiring, and fans of squash and Hamza Khan can't wait to see what's next for this talented player.

The Pakistan Squash Federation has congratulated Hamza on his remarkable achievement, and wished him all the best for his future endeavors in the world of squash.

Candyland U17 football trials underway

₿ Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD,: Under the banner of Candyland, U17 football trials are currently being conducted across the country, aimed at finding young football talent in Pakistan.



The Pakistan Football Feder-Pakistan Football Federation ation (PFF) has commended Candyland's consistent efforts and long-term vision for the promotion of football at the youth level. Talented players identified through Candyland trials will be referred to the PFF's official national U-17 trials, said a press release.

The national trials will be conducted by coaches appointed by the PFF. Players who perform exceptionally well in these national trials, will be selected for the National U17 training camp. The goal of this initiative is to form a competitive national squad that will represent Pakistan at the upcoming SAFF U17 Boys' Championship, scheduled to be held in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

The final squad for the tournament will be selected by the PFF's technical team based on players performing exceptionally during

Bint-e-Hawa Forum honors Sana Mir with achievement award

Sports Desk

PESHAWAR: The Bint-e-Hawa Forum has presented its 4th Achievement Award to Sana Mir, the former captain of the Pakistan women's cricket team. The award recognizes her exceptional career and significant contributions to the sport both nationally and internationally.

Sana Mir was widely regarded as a pioneer of women's cricket in Pakistan. Her achievements include captaining the national team in 137 international matches, leading the country to two gold medals at the Asian Games in 2010 and 2014, and becoming the ICC's top-ranked ODI bowler in 2017. She was also the first Pakistani woman cricketer



to take 100 wickets in One Day Inter-

nationals.

In reply Zone-I 1st Innings 252 and

Alam Zeb, the founder of the Binte-Hawa Forum, praised Sana Mir as a 'symbol of strength and inspiration for women across the country."

In her acceptance speech, Sana Mir noted that such national recognition motivates women to strive for more. She said that awards like this not only honor individuals but also encourage young women to pursue their dreams

with confidence. The Bint-e-Hawa Achievement Award is given to women who have made extraordinary contributions in their fields and serve as role models for future generations.

PCB imposes 'blanket ban' on future WCL participation

LAHORE: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has decided to impose a 'blanket ban' on future participation in the World Championship of Legends (WCL) following the conclusion of the 2025 edition.

The decision came in the wake of the WCL 2025 row, with the board citing double standards and politically motivated conduct by the organizers.

The cricket board took the the chairmanship of Mohsin Naqvi. During the meeting, PCB 2025. expressed disappointment over

awarding a point to a team that willfully forfeited.

The winners of the inaugural 2024 WCL edition, India Champions, refused to play two games against Pakistan Champions and willfully forfeited one league stage fixture and the all-important semi-final due to the strained

ties between both countries. As a result, during the group stage match, both teams were awarded one point for cancelladecision during its 79th BoG tion. In the semi-final, Pakistan meeting held virtually under Champions received a walkover, advancing to the final of WCL

"The PCB has always advocated

for the separation of sports and politics. Our unwavering belief is that cricket, like other international sports, should solely serve as a platform for goodwill, healthy competition, and mutual respect,"

the board said in a statement. "For a tournament involving legendary players to be dictated by sentiments that undermine this fundamental principle is not only regrettable but also deeply concerning for the future of independent sporting events," it

added.

Additionally, the board condemned the press release issued by the WCL following the team to future editions of the cally compromised.

cancellation of the Pakistan-India legends match, terming it a biased and politically charged document.

"The championship's purpose was compromised by political influence," the PCB noted. "The press release was nothing short of a manifestation of prejudice."

"The WCL's subsequent apology appeared to be issued under the pressure of a particular form of nationalism," the statement added, calling such double standards unacceptable in international sports.

formally decided not to send its in any event that has been politi-



Consequently, the PCB has WCL, stating it will not take part

The virtual BoG meeting was Sved, CEO PSL Salman Naseer, Zafarullah Jadgal.

Zaheer Abbas, Zahid Akhtar attended by COO Sumair Ahmed Zaman, Sajjad Ali Khokhar, and



DPM Dar sends off 17th consignment of humanitarian aid to Gaza with support of NDMA

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Today, the Deputy Prime Minister/ Foreign Minister, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, oversaw the dispatch of Pakistan's 17th consignment of humanitarian aid to Gaza, consisting of 100 tons of vital supplies, including food, ready-to-eat meals, powdered milk, and medical equipment. This relief effort is part of Pakistan's ongohumanitarian crisis in Gaza.

Since October 2023, Pakistan has sent multiple consignments of humanitarian aid to Gaza, totalling 1,615 tons of relief goods. This ongoing effort aims to alleviate the this operation a success. suffering of civilians, particularly women and children, affected by the brutal conflict.

consignment has been made possible due to the dedisuffering amid an ongoing swift dispatch of aid to Gaza.

ensuring that vital relief itarian assistance. Additionally, national forums, including reaches those in need without delay. The NDMA's seamless collaboration with relevant international partners has been instrumental in making

In his statement, the Deputy Minister/Foreign Minister emphasized that The timely delivery of this Pakistan remains steadfast in its support for Palestine during these trying times. He cated efforts of Pakistan's reiterated Pakistan's call for ing commitment to support- National Disaster Manage- an immediate and uncondi- accordance with international ing the Palestinian people, who ment Authority (NDMA), tional ceasefire in Gaza, the law and relevant UNSC resocontinue to endure extreme which has coordinated the protection of civilians, and lutions. Pakistan has actively relief and advocate for a just unhindered access for human- participated in various inter-

he called for renewed international support for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), which is essential for the survival of millions of Palestinian refu-

He added that Pakistan also continues to advocate for the restoration of a political process leading to a just and lasting two-state solution based on pre-1967 borders in

the UN Security Council, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), and the International Court of Justice (ICJ), to ensure accountability for Israel's actions.

The humanitarian assistance provided by Pakistan reflects the country's unwavering commitment to the Palestinian cause and its determination to help bring peace, dignity, and justice to the Palestinian people. Pakistan will continue to provide resolution to the ongoing crisis.

Iran and Pakistan strengthen bilateral ties with focus on transportation and infrastructure

Example 2 Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Iranian Minister for Roads & Urban Development, Farzaneh Sadegh, who accompanied the Iranian President on official visit to Pakistan, participated in a joint session held with Pakistan's Federal Ministers for Communications Abdul Aleem Khan, Commerce Jam Kamal Khan, and Railways Hanif Abbasi. The discussions focused on strengthening the longstanding friendly and bilateral relations between the two countries, particularly by enhancing transportation, connectivity network and road infrastructure.

During the meeting interest was



Road initiative with Pakistan and China and discussed expanding mari- Iran on his great success & firm stance time trade via the Gwadar-Chabahar against Israel, describing it as a matter Route. Welcoming the Iranian delega- of pride and solidarity for the entire

expressed by Iran in joining the Silk tion, Federal Minister for Communications Abdul Aleem Khan congratulated

Muslim World. He emphasized that Pakistan and Iran have always stood by each other while recent developments have brought the two nations more closer.

Federal Minister Abdul Aleem Khan invited the Iranian Minister for Roads and Urban Development to attend the upcoming Ministerial Conference in Pakistan on October 23-24, which will be hosted by Pakistan and Ministers from 20 countries be participating. In response, the Iranian Minister Ms. Farzaneh Sadegh expressed her deep appreciation for Pakistan's support against Israeli aggression and extended sentiments of goodwill to the people

Ahsan Iqbal meets President CIKD

Example 2 Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Professor Ahsan Iqbal has met with Lu Hao, President of China's Development Research Center (DRC) and Centre for International Knowledge on Development (CIKD).

During the meeting, both sides discussed further strengthening economic cooperation between Pakistan and China, said a press release issued by the Ministry of Planning **Development and Special Initiatives** on Sunday.

The strong economic collaboration between Pakistan and China is key to national development, he said adding that CPEC has transformed the everlasting friendship between Pakistan and China from political cooperation into a comprehensive economic and social partnership.

eager to learn from China's economic



He emphasized that Pakistan is China's scientific planning as a guiding light for achieving longand reform successes, and termed term and sustainable development.

try's economy is moving toward 2035.

The minister noted that under the stability, with the target of becoming Uraan Pakistan program, the coun- a one-trillion-dollar economy by

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Pakistan-Iran business forum, Commitment to boost bilateral trade to **\$10 billion by 2028**



Example 2 Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan-Iran business forum on Sunday Committed to boost bilateral trade to \$10 billion

Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan has reaffirmed Pakistan's strong commitment to expanding trade and economic relations with Iran, expressing confidence in achieving the target of \$10 billion in bilateral trade by 2028.

He was addressing the Pakistan-Iran Business Forum in Islamabad, held as part of the two-day official visit of Iranian President Dr. Masoud Pezeshkian to Pakistan.

In his welcome remarks, Jam Kamal Khan greeted the high-level Iranian delegation and emphasized the historical, cultural, and geographic ties between the two neighboring countries. "As someone from Balochistan, I know firsthand how vital cross-border trade with Iran is for our region's livelihood," he said.

The event was marked by the presence and speeches of President of Iran Dr. Masoud Pezeshkian and Pakistan's Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar, reflecting the strong political border infrastructure development.

will on both sides to deepen bilateral economic engagement.

Iranian Minister of Industry, Mining, and Commerce Mohammad Atabak also addressed the forum, underlining Iran's interest in enhancing trade and joint ventures with Pakistan.

Jam Kamal highlighted the recent reactivation of the Mand-Pishin Joint Border Market on July 30, calling it a major breakthrough for regional economic integration. He urged Iran to fast-track the operationalization of two more joint border markets at Chaghi-Kouhak and Gabd-Reemdan, which are seen as vital for the prosperity of bordering communities.

The Minister announced the finalization of the Pakistan-Iran Free Trade Agreement (FTA), adding that it will provide a structured framework for expanding trade. He called for the swift implementation of the barter trade mechanism, which can help address currency and payment-related constraints.

Other key areas of focus included the removal of non-tariff barriers, enhanced customs coordination, improved transport connectivity, and

Pakistan and Iran ink 12 agreements and MoUs for bilateral cooperation

Commerce Desk

in information and communications Free Trade Agreement.

technology, exchange programs for culture, art, tourism, youth, mass ISLAMABAD: The exchange ceremedia and exports, cooperation in mony was held in Islamabad on meteorology climatology and related Sunday, in the presence of Prime hazards, MoUs on maritime safety Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Irani- and firefighting, judicial assistance an President Dr Masoud Pezeshkian. in criminal matters, supplemental The agreements and MoUs MoU to an MoU in 2013 related to air included cooperation for plant services agreement, MoU on recogniprotection and plant quarantine, tion of products certification, inspecjoint use of Mirjaveh-Taftan border tion and testing, tourism cooperagate, collaboration in science, tech-tion for 2025-27 and joint ministenology and innovation, cooperation rial statement on the intent to finalize

Marking end of Pakistan's UNSC presidency, Ambassador Asim holds reception



Spokesman Report

UNITED NATIONS: Pakistan's Ambassador to the United Nations, Asim Iftikhar Ahmad hosted a largely attended reception to mark the end of Pakistan's presidency of the UN Security Council for the month of

Heads of diplomatic missions accredited to the United Nations, senior U. N. officials, prominent citizens and senior journalists attended the event held on Thursday.

Pakistan's former's UN Ambassador, Munir Akram, also attended the reception.

Ambassador Asim Iftikhar for attending the reception and for peaceful settlement of disputes.

their cooperation during Pakistan's presidency of the Council. He also thanked former Ambas-

sador Akram, a well known figure at the U. N., for his presence at the gathering.

During its presidency, besides other agenda items, Pakistan organized two signature events - an highlevel open debate on "Promoting International Peace and Security through Multilateralism and Peaceful Settlement of Disputes". At the end of the debate, the 15-member Council unanimously adopted a Pakistan-sponsored resolution calling on member-states to take measures for the effective implementhanked his counterparts and guests tation of the Council's resolutions for