The Spokesman

Barkat Rice Mills

Nawaz Sharif expresses grief over loss of lives in KP

Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz) President Mohammad Nawaz Sharif expressed his heartfelt grief and sorrow over the loss of valuable lives in rain-related incidents in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP)



Turkiye extends condolences to Pakistan over flood tragedy

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

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Review meeting

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a review meeting on Jinnah Medical Complex and Research Centre on Saturday.



Death toll from floods, cloudburst in KP crosses 300

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: The death toll in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa due to cloudbursts, landslides and flash floods has crossed 300, with many injured and several still missing.

The Buner deputy commissioner confirmed that 184 bodies have so far been recovered.

In addition, authorities have declared Buner, Bajaur, Battagram and Mansehra as disaster-hit areas.

Cloudbursts, torrential rains and flash floods wreaked havoc and caused widespread devastation in various areas of Azad Kashmir, Gilgit-Baltistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Friday.

Cloudbursts, lightning strikes, overflowing rivers, flash floods, soil erosion and road closures have paralysed life.

In a report, the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) said 307 people lost



incidents during the last 48 hours in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

According to the report, 36 people were killed and 8 injured in Shangla; 21 people were killed and 8 injured in Bajaur; 23 their lives and 23 were injured people were killed and 2 injured

in various rain and flood-related in Mansehra; 22 in Swat and 15 in Battagram.

> At least five people were killed and three were injured in Lower Dir, while one person was killed and 2 injured in Abbottabad.

The PDMA said that the victims included 279 men, 15 women and 13 children. Among the injured, 17 are men, 4 are women, and 2 are children.

The report stated that 11 houses were completely destroyed during the torrential rains, while 74 houses were damaged in various accidents, of which 63 were partially damaged. According to the PDMA, the highest number of accidents occurred in Swat. Buner. Baiaur.

Torghar, Mansehra, Shangla and

Battagram, with Bajaur and Batt-

agram being declared the most affected districts. The department has warned

that heavy rains are likely to continue till August 21. On the instructions of the

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister, emergency relief funds have been released for the affected districts.

A total of Rs500 million has been released for the relief and rehabilitation activities in the most affected districts

Buner has been allocated Rs150 million, while Bajaur, Battagram and Mansehra have each been given Rs100 million.

In addition, Rs50 million has been allocated for Swat to provide immediate relief to the affected

Continued on Page 7

PM wants Jinnah Medical Complex; a tertiary care center of int'l standards

👺 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday said that Jinnah Medical Complex would be developed as a tertiary care hospital meeting international standards.

During a review meeting on Jinnah Medical Complex and Research Center, he directed that all the measures related to should be completed within the stipulated period of time.

The meeting was presented with the concept design of the complex prepared by the Chinese company Hongkong-AOHUA.

Hongkong-AOHUA, which has over 30 years of experience in designing more than 1,000 hospitals, prepared the concept ment to the strong Pak-China cost, PM Office Media Wing to-people ties.

said in a press release.

The participants were given a detailed overview of the hospital's design.

The meeting was attended by Ministers Ahsan Iqbal, Ahad Khan Cheema, Shaza Fatima Khawaja, Minister of State for Health Mukhtar Ahmad Bharath, Prime Minister's Coordinator Musharraf Zaidi, Chairman of Pakistan Kidney and Liver Institute the construction of the complex Professor Dr. Saeed Akhtar, CEO of the Chinese company Dr. Liu Zhanpei along with the delegation and other senior officials.

The prime minister observed that a Chinese company prepared a world-class concept design for a hospital in Pakistan without any compensation which was a clear testadesign of the hospital free of friendship and growing people-

DPM Dar arrives in UK on official visit

Shaudhry Tabraiz Aurah

LONDON: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Ishaq Dar has arrived in United Kingdom on an official visit. In London, the deputy prime minister/foreign minister will hold meetings with the Deputy Prime Minister Angela Rayner, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Pakistan, Hamish Falconer, in addition to a breakfast meeting with the Commonwealth Secretary-General, Shirley Ayorkor Botchwey, Foreign Office Spokesperson, on Saturday, said in a press release.

He will also inaugurate a Punjab Land Record Authority's project, piloted at the Pakistan High Commission, London.

The initiative aims to assist



members of the diaspora in resolving land documentation issues in Pakistan remotely.

Additionally, the DPM/FM Dar will engage with British Parliamentarians, Kashmiri leaders, and representatives of the British-Pakistani community. He will also address a gathering of the British-Pakistani community.

Operation in Balochistan targets terrorists, not civilians: DG ISPR

👺 News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The aim of the anti-terrorism operation in Balochistan is not to harm innocent civilians but to target terrorists and their facilitators, Pakistan Army Spokesperson Lt-Gen Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry has said.

internship and destiny. During an programme organised by the ISPR, Lt-Gen Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry held a special session with students from Balochistan, in which a detailed discussion on Pakistan, particularly Balochistan, took place.

The DG ISPR also gave detailed answers to the questions of Balochistan students in the session.

Lt-General Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry clarified that simply vacating an area does not solve the issue, as success can only be achieved through public partici-

He appreciated the sacrifices Balochistan and stated that the only be achieved with the coopernow taking control of their region istration.



Mentioning that the foundation of the country is based on the Quran and unity, he said that while Balochistan's population consists of diverse linguistic groups, everyone shares the goal of serving the country.

The people of Balochistan have a clear understanding of the relationship between Pakistan and the province, he added.

The special session also highlighted the military's sacrifices, the services of Major Muhammad Anwar Kakar, and the ongoing operations against terrorists.

The DG ISPR emphasised that and wisdom of the people of lasting peace in Balochistan can youth, children and women are ation of the public and the admin-

PM Shehbaz Sharif to be visiting flood affected districts soon: Muqam

跨 Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan, Amir Muqam, visited flood-affected areas in Buner Saturday to assess the damage and meet with victims. The minister, who is also President of Pakistan Muslim League (N) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, was accompanied by the Commissioner of Malakand Division and other senior officials.

During his visit, Muqam directed officials to expedite relief efforts, which are being supported by the local police and district administration. He met with affected families, offering condolences and reviewing the ongoing relief activities.

Muqam stated that he was visiting on the instructions of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, who is personally overseeing the relief operation. "This is not the time for politics; the entire nation stands with victims," he said.

The minister noted that administration, Pakistan Army, and Frontier Corps (FC) are all participating in rescue operation. He highlighted extensive damage, mentioning that many villages have been completely destroyed and that prayers are being offered for those

Mugam also confirmed that medical

camps have been established in affected areas and assured victims that federal government would provide all necessary resources.

He described flooding as second major natural disaster after 2005 earthquake and said that efforts are underway to restore temporary roads

He concluded by announcing that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif would also be visiting the affected districts soon.



Firing at JUI leader Mufti Kifayatullah's house; son and daughter killed, wife injured



Bureau report

PESHAWAR: The son and daughter of Mufti Kifayatullah, the district chief of the Jamiat-ul-Ulema-e-Islam (JUI-F), were killed while Mufti Kifayatullah and his wife sustained bullet injuries in an armed attack at their house in the Batkhela area of Malakand on Saturday.

Levies sources said, adding arrest the suspect.

that the shooting was carried out by Mufti Kifayatullah's other son, who fled the scene after the incident. The bodies of the deceased

and the injured were transferred to the DHQ Hospital in Batkhela. According to hospital

sources, Mufti Kifayatullah's condition is now out of danger. Police and Levies forces

The condition of Mufti have cordoned off the area and Kifayatullah's wife is serious, launched a search operation to

CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif to launch 1st comprehensive Internship Program for 1,000 veterinary graduates

👺 Bureau Report

LAHORE: Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif highlighted,"A substantial amount of Rs 60 crore has been allocated for the veterinary internship program." She said,"Under Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif's internship program, veterinary graduates will get a monthly stipend of Rs 60,000, while Para vets/livestock assistants will get Rs 40,000 per month during internship." She added,"Veterinary graduates with a DVM degree recognised by Higher Education Commission can apply for the program in their respective districts."

people who have completed a 2-year jobs.punjab.gov.pk." She under-LAD course can also apply for the scored,"Quota for Veterinary Assis-



tive districts." She added,"Veterinary graduates and para vets can Madam Chief Minister said,"Young apply from home via link: www.

internship program in their respectants, AI-Technicians and Lab Assistants in 36 districts of Punjab has been fixed."

Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif said,"Livestock farmers will get animal treatment and consultation in future as well.

facilities at their doorsteps through Veterinary Internship Program." She added,"Aim of the Veterinary Internship Program is to promote and develop livestock in Punjab." She underscored,"Veterinary Internship Program will not only provide practical experience to youth in the field but will also provide them with a monthly stipend."

Madam Chief Minister said,"We want to take full advantage of the true potential of livestock in Punjab." She added,"Increased milk and meat production will also increase foreign exchange reserves." She vowed,"We want to make Puniab a hub for livestock and dairy development." She reiterated,"We are with livestock farmers today, and will stand by them

Protest

LAHORE: Member of Christen Community holds protest in the favor of their demands outside press club in Provincial



Artists Pay Tribute to National Heroes on Pakistan's 78th Independence Day

RAWALPINDI: Today is the day to renew our pledge. We must remember the heroic deeds of our national heroes.

The brave soldiers of our armed forces achieved a historic victory against a war imposed by India a country seven times larger — that will be remembered for all time in the battles of Haq and Bunyan al-Marsus.

These thoughts were expressed by Chief Guest Shazia Rizwan, Parliamentary Secretary for Information and Culture, Government of Punjab, at the conclusion of the Grand Musical Night organized by the Punjab Arts Council, Rawalpindi Division, on the occasion of Pakistan's 78th Independence Day celebrations.

To pay tribute to those heroes and to celebrate Independence Day with great enthusiasm, beautiful programs decorated like a bride. Today's event is



have been organized in all the major cities of Punjab. The Rawalpindi Division has been

also part of that series, where artists gave stunning performances with deep patriotic passion.

Director of Punjab Arts Council, tiful event.

Muhammad Shakoor, said that artists are ambassadors of culture who present their nation's traditions in the best possible way, and Pakistani artists are doing a remarkable job of showcasing our culture.

During the program, renowned national singer Bano Rehmat enchanted the audience with beautiful patriotic songs and melodious tunes. In addition, Arshad Khan, Rizwana Khan, Shehryar Nasir, Mahmudah Kanwal, and Miz Ishaq delivered excellent performances.

Suleman Sunny admirably fulfilled the duties of host. A large number of families attended the event, filling the auditorium to capacity. The program continued late into the night. People praised the Arts Council administration in glowing terms for organizing such a high-quality and beau-

Kashmir President Condones Losses, Calls for Timely Relief



Bureau Report

ISLAMABAD: President Azad Kashmir, Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry, has expressed profound grief over the loss of precious lives and property caused by the recent monsoon rains across the region.

He extended his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families and prayed to Allah Almighty to grant the deceased the highest place in Paradise and provide patience and strength to the survivors

President Chaudhry directed the AJK government and district administrations to intensify rescue and relief operations and ensure all possible assistance including food, medicines, tents, and other essential supplies is provided to those affected. He also emphasized the need for sustainable planning to minimize loss of life and property during natural disasters and ensure timely assistance for victims.

Opponents torture to death a young for old grudge under a plan in Toba Tek Singh

Zafr Chishti

TOBATEK SINGH: A young man was brutally tortured to death in Toba Tek Singh. According to details, Rana Hammad Zafar, son of Rana Zafar Iqbal, Senior Vice President of the International Human Rights Movement District Toba Tek Singh, was returning home from Chak No. 294 GB Toba Tek Singh last night after watering the crops. On the way, Umar, Zeeshan Sabir, Rana $Naseer\,and\,Ramzan\,stopped\,him\,on\,the\,way\,and$ brutally tortured him with sticks, axes and hospital axes, severely injuring him. He succumbed



to his injuries and died in the hospital. An FIR under sections 302 PPC and 34 PPC was registered against the accused at Rajana police station. The FIR number is 1088/25. Police arrested three Accuseds on the spot, while the fourth fled Accused the scene. Police say the fourth Accused in the murder will also be arrested soon and further investigation Accuseds

Police Pay Tribute to Martyred DSP on Death Anniversary

👺 Raza Nagvi

ATTOCK: On the special instructions of District Police Officer Attock, Sardar Moarhan Khan, a smartly turned-out police contingent presented a salute and laid a floral wreath at the grave of DSP Shaheed Shaukat Ali Shah on his death anniversary. According to details, in line with the vision of IG Punjab and under the special directions of DPO



Attock Sardar Moarhan Khan, SDPO Hazro Circle along with a contingent of police paid homage, presented a salute, laid a floral wreath, and offered fateha at the grave of DSP Shaheed Shaukat Ali Shah on his death anniversary. On this occasion, DPO Attock Sardar Moarhan Khan said that the martyrs are the real asset of the police department and Attock Police will always remember the sacrifices of its martyrs.

10th death anniversary of former Punjab Home Minister Shuja Khanzada observed

👺 Raza Nagvi

ATTOCK: The 10th death anniversary of former Punjab Home Minister Col (retd) Shuja Khanzada and other martyrs of the Shadi Khan blast were solemnly observed in his native village, Shadi Khan, on Saturday with great reverence. A prayer ceremony was held to pay glowing tributes to the martyrs for



The event was attended by a large number of local notables, representatives of security institutions, political and social figures, party workers, supporters, family members and people from all walks of life. Special prayers were offered for the martyrs, as well as for the peace, security, and prosperity of the country. Participants at the anniversary gathering said the martyrs of Shadi Khan will forever remain symbols of bravery, resilience, and sacrifice in Pakistan's struggle for peace and stability.

Addressing the participants, former provincial minister Jehangir Khanzada said Col (retd) Shuja Khanzada embraced martyrdom while fighting against terrorism and set a shining example of courage and sacrifice for the entire nation., "My father stood firm against terrorism and embraced martyrdom for the cause of Pakistan. His courage gave hope to the nation and his sacrifice will remain a beacon of strength for generations." He added, "His sacrifice strengthened the nation's resolve to eliminate terrorism, and his legacy will always be remembered," he

Multan Police: A Model for Crime Control and Safety

跨 Zain Khan Malghani

MULTAN: Under the supervision of CPO Multan Sadiq Ali Dogar, Multan Police, during the first 15 days of August, conducted operations against criminal elements to control crime, arresting 622 members of 256 gangs and recovering stolen property worth more than Rs. 165.4 million.

According to details, effective patrolling plans, snap checking, surprise blockades, and sound of CPO Multan Sadiq Ali Dogar criminals, resulting in a notice- eries, and 00 kg of bhang.

able decline in crime.

During these 15 days of August, Multan Police conducted 2,000 search operations.

In action against illegal weapons, police registered 35 cases, arrested 35 accused, and recovered 04 rifles, 03 guns, 00 revolvers, 27 pistols, 00 Kalashnikovs, and 88 rounds of ammunition.

In the crackdown on narcotics, police registered 139 cases, arrested 141 accused, and strategies under the supervision recovered more than 04 kg of ice, 12 kg of heroin, 65 kg of hashish, tightened the noose around 5,652 liquor bottles, 03 distill-

cases were registered, 26 accused arrested, and more than Rs. 273,000 in stake money recov-

During the 15 days of August, Multan Police also arrested a total of 260 proclaimed offenders, including 52 of category A and 208 of category B, while 34 court absconders were also taken into custody. Previously released habitual criminals were also arrested and legal proceedings initiated.

CPO Multan Sadiq Ali Dogar stated that special teams have been formed to eliminate crime in the city, along with an effective

police mobiles, Dolphin Force, and Muhafiz Squad has been increased. Police teams have also been made more active in areas where incidents were being reported.

He further added that police teams have been given special tasks to trace and arrest gangs involved in dacoity, robbery, theft, motorcycle theft, and other crimes. Multan Police is taking all possible and necessary measures to control crime and ensure

peace and order in the city. This performance report is certainly encouraging; however, citizens continue to complain

In gambling operations, 07 patrolling plan. The patrolling of that they are not given the full value of their stolen motorcycles. In District Multan, hundreds of motorcycles are parked at police stations and offices, which should be returned to their rightful owners.

Dr. Rayan Javed stated that his motorcycle was stolen in 2021, and FIR No. 391/21 was registered at Chehlek Police Station, yet he has not received its recovery to this day. Dr. Rayan questions: to whom are these recovered motorcycles being handed over? He appealed to the CPO to ensure that his motorcycle was recovered and returned





Namaz Timings Maghrib

EMERGENCY

Rescue (Police)	15
Bomb Disposal	15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/	
Islamabad	.1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance	1122 &
& Rescue Services	. 4451122
Motorway Police	9266044
Motorway Police927	70601-20
Wemen Bel	ico
	Rescue (Police)

Women Police Ctations

Stativiis		
Islamabad	922259	
Rawalpindi	. 9270601-20	

ENQUIRY	
i Ambulance	1
Flight Info	. 1
Cargo	97

PIA Flight Info	114
PIA Cargo	
Railway Inquiry	117
Railway Exchange	9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi	5555489
CAA	9281092
HOSPITA	۱LS

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

CDA	7221334-43
CDA	9208301-04
Met Office	9250360-6
RDA	5555864
TMA	5770886
Cantonment Board	9270151-3
Islamabad Metropol	itan
Corporation	9209224
Potohar Town	9209224
Rawal Town	5773343
60115 1 1	

COMPLAINTS

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

Lyallpur *Photographers* and Movie Makers Association celebrate Independence Day

👺 Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: Lyallpur Photographers and Movie Makers Association City Faisalabad organized ceremony to celebrate the success and triumph of the Independence Day "Battle of Truth" at Ice Cream Hall, Gol Chowk, Waris Pura. The special guests were Chairman Professional Photographers Association Registered Faisalabad Syed Tanveer Hussain Zaidi, Muhammad Ahmed. Lala Robin Daniel, Bishop Shams, Pastor Ravi, Faraz Shahzad Advocate, Rana Sajjad, Emmanuel Ghauri. The event was attended by President Shahzad Bhatti, General Secretary Rana Hira, Vice Chairman Sheikh Muhammad Nadeem, Vice President Shakeel Naik, Secretary Information Sami Mattoo, Finance Secretary Najam Bagga, Head Incharge Malik Amjad, Joint Secretary Amiad Mattoo and members. President Shahzad Bhatti has said that the cabinet and members of Lyallpur Photographers and Movie Makers Association City Faisalabad are expressing the nation's joy on the occasion of the historic victory against India and inde-

Federal Interior Minister Naqvi visits the residence of Martyred Captain **Muhammad Asif**

BAHAWALPUR: Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi visited the residence of martyred Captain Muhammad Asif in Uch Sharif, a suburb of Bahawalpur. Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi met the parents, brothers and other family members of martyred Captain Muhammad Asif and expressed his heartfelt sympathy and condolences to the bereaved family.

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi also offered Fateha for the departed soul of martyred Captain Muhammad Asif. Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi prayed for patience and fortitude for the bereaved family of martyred Captain Muhammad

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi expressed his condolences to the father of martyred Captain Asif. He also appreciated the determination and courage of the mother and brothers.

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi Muhammad Asif and saluted her courage.

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi expressed his affection for the 10-month-old son of martyred Captain Muhammad Asif, Muhammad Arsalan, and made him sit on his lap and love him. Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi also saw the medals and awards received by martyred Captain Muhammad Asif at a young age. Talking to the bereaved family, Inte-

rior Minister Mohsin Naqvi said that the courage of a courageous family like yours is the real strength of the nation. Martvr Captain Muhammad Asif is an eternal example of valor. I salute the parents of Martyr Captain Muhammad Asif. Martyr Captain Muhammad Asif lost his life while fighting bravely against the terrorists of Fitna-ul-Hindustan.

 $Despite\ being\ injured, the\ young\ man$ bravely and courageously destroyed the Indian-sponsored terrorists. We believe that martyrs always live and Captain Muhammad Asif will also always live in our hearts.

The entire nation salutes the greatness consoled the mother of martyred Captain of the families of martyrs. We stand with is our national responsibility to take care the family of Martyr Captain Muhammad of the families of martyrs.



The eternal sacrifices of the families of martyrs are unforgettable. It should be noted that Captain Muhammad Asif ists in Basima city of Balochistan.

was martyred on August 12 while fighting bravely against Indian-sponsored terror-

In capital's

ISLAMABAD: A view of the heaps of garbage outside the Fruit and Vegetables Market spreading germs and extreme smell which needs the proper management by local administration in Federal Capital.



Multan Jasmine Lions Club celebrated Independence Day with SOS Children's Village

👺 Kiran Asim

MULTAN: A Grand Ceremony was held at SOS Children's Village on August 14, Pakistan's Independence Day, organized by Multan Jasmine Lions Club. The ceremony began with the recitation of the Holy Quran and the national anthem. On this occasion, national flags, banners and badges were distributed among the children, while a cake was cut

78th anniversary. In the ceremony, the children expressed their love for the homeland by



speeches. Club President Asma reminds us of the millions of Arsalan said in her address that sacrifices that were made for Independence Day is not just a the achievement of this coun-

on the occasion of Pakistan's presenting national songs and day of celebration, but this day

try. He said that we should play a practical role for the development, prosperity and peace of our country and it is our first responsibility to instill a sense of patriotism in the young Secretary generation. Saad Ye Malik Rifat Azam, Shahnaz Zulfiqar, were also

present at the ceremony. Asma Arsalan, Saad Ye Malik Rifat Azam, Shahnaz Zulfiqar cutting a cake with children on the occasion of Pakistan's Inde-

pendence Day on August 14 at SOS Children's Village organized by Multan Jasmine Lions

28th death anniversary of the emperor of music, Ustad Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan

跨 Abdul Majid

pendence.

FAISALABAD: On the occasion of the 28th death anniversary of the emperor of music, Ustad Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan, a bouquet of flowers was presented by the Punjab Council of Arts, Faisalabad Division at the shrine of Nusrat. Assistant Director Program Asad Hayat presented a bouquet of flowers and offered Fateh Khawani on behalf of the Punjab Council of Arts, Faisalabad Division.

A large number of media, social figures and fans of Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan were present on the occasion. Fans

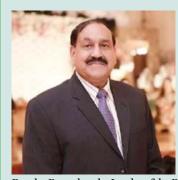


also presented recitations, naats and Sufi poems at the shrine of Nusrat.

The art of Ustad Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan was appreciated not only in Pakistan but also all over the world and was given many awards. The deceased, as the cultural ambassador of Pakistan, made his country famous all over the

He said that a song should be such that people remember it for years, which is why Ustad Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan made his songs, ghazals and qawwalis so popular among the public that people are still captivated by his singing.

Chairman PPP Bilawal Bhutto Zardari congratulated on receiving the Nishan-e-Imtiaz



MULTAN: Pakistan Peoples Party South Punjab Chief Coordinator and former MPA Abdul Qadir Shaheen has congratulated Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on receiving the "Nishan-e-Imtiaz" and while talking to his media, he said that this honor is not only a recognition of Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's brilliant leadership but also a continuation of the vision and struggle of the Pakistan

Peoples Party that the Leader of the People Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and the Shaheed Democracy Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto made for this country. He said that Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, by entering politics at a young age, fought an unparalleled struggle for the restoration of democracy, supremacy of the constitution and protection of public rights in difficult circumstances. As Foreign Minister, he fully highlighted Pakistan's position on the global stage and increased the country's prestige at every forum in the world. Abdul Qadir Shaheen said that "Nishan-e-Imtiaz" is actually the nation's recognition of Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's tireless work, democratic thinking and commitment to public service.

Secretary Agriculture Punjab Iftikhar Ali Sahoo chaired Provincial Committee Meeting

👺 Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: A provincial committee meeting regarding cotton management was held at Agriculture House, under the chairmanship of Secretary Agriculture Punjab, Iftikhar Ali Sahoo. The meeting reviewed in detail the current status of cotton and received a briefing on early picking, production, and quality of the crop.

On the occasion, Secretary Agriculture Punjab Iftikhar Ali Sahoo said that special tasks had been assigned to field formations to achieve the provincial target of 5.5 million cotton bales. He informed that 137 ginning factories are currently operational across Punjab, while field reports indicate that the cotton crop is in satisfactory condition. He directed cotton inspectors to maintain accurate records of the arrival of seed cotton and production of lint at ginning factories.

The meeting was attended by Special Secretary Agriculture Punjab Agha Nabeel Akhtar, Additional Secretary Agriculture (Planning) Aamir Shehzad King, Director General Information, Agriculture Department Punjab Naveed Asmat Kahloon, Deputy Secretary Agriculture (Planning) Kashif Bashir, Chief Executive PARB Dr. Abid Mehmood, and Agriculture Department Consultant Dr. Muhammad Anjum Ali. Director General Agriculture Extension Chaudhry Abdul Hameed along with Divisional Directors Agriculture Extension also participated via video link.

Murtaza Wahab lays foundation stone of development projects in Korangi

KARACHI: Mayor of Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab laid the foundation stone of various development projects in Korangi District

Deputy Mayor of Karachi Salman Abdullah Murad, Deputy Parliamentary Leader in City Council Dil Muhammad, members of the City Council, chairmen and vice-chairmen of various UCs, other party officials, and a large number of citizens were present on the occasion.

Addressing the inaugural ceremony, Mayor Wahab said that the construction of modern and sustainable roads for the people of Korangi will continue. In UC-35, Wards 1 and 2, the work of laying CC tough concrete blocks will be completed swiftly at an estimated cost of 237 million rupees. Under this project, 300,000 square feet of pure blocks are being laid to provide quality travel facilities to the public

He said that the installation of 5,000 running feet of curb blocks will further improve the quality of roads. RCC pipes of various sizes are being laid for drainage of rainwater, while the construction of 110 new manholes will bring significant improvement to the sewage system.

The Mayor of Karachi stated that public convenience and urban development are their top priorities. Korangi's infrastructure is being developed along modern lines, and more projects will soon be launched to provide quality facilities to the public.

"These are the same resources, but the leadership is different. That's why Karachi is changing," he said. "Today's Karachi is Bilawal Bhutto's Karachi, and the public is expressing full confidence in the Pakistan Peoples Party. We are serving without discrimination or bias. We don't care which UC belongs to whom; if there are Karachiites living there, then Bilawal Bhutto's party will certainly deliver services. We see serving the people of Korangi as an opportunity and are passionate about it." Mayor Wahab said that those who dragged the city into ethnic politics and gunny bag bodies in the past are now witnessing us deliver real work. "If our work makes someone jealous, let them be. We will work across Karachi and prove it."

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Next monsoon spell predicted across country between 17-22 **August**

akistan Meteorological Department has predicted more monsoon spells across the country during next few days, reported 24NewsHD TV Channel. According to weather pundits, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Chitral, Dir, Swat, Shangla, Mansehra, Kohistan, Abbottabad and Buner districts are

expected to face severe monsoon spell from 17 to 19 August. Likewise, Haripur, Battagram, Mardan, Swabi, Khyber, Orakzai, Kurram, Hangu, Karak, Bannu, Lakki Marwat and Waziristan may face more rains during next three days from 17 to 19

The heavy rain with strong winds is likely also expected in Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Murree, Galiyat, Attock and Chakwal from 18 to 20 August. Likewise, in the same duration, it is also expected in Jhelum, Mianwali, Khushab, Sargodha, Bhakkar and Toba Tek

The areas of Jhang, Faisalabad, Gujranwala, Hafizabad, Wazirabad, Sialkot and Narowal are also predicted for rain from 18 to 20 August. Likewise, it is predicted in Lahore, Kasur, Okara, Pakpattan, Sahiwal, Bahawalnagar, Multan, Bahawalpur, Rahim Yar Khan and DG Khan from 18 to 20 August. There is heavy rain forecast in some areas.

There is likely to be rain in different areas of Sindh from August 17 to 22. The areas include Tharparkar, Umerkot, Mirpur Khas, Badin, Sajawal, Thattha, Sanghar, Khairpur, Karachi, Dadu and Jamshoro. Likewise, it is also expected to rain in Tando Allahyar, Tando Muhammad Khan and Sukkur.

The rain with heavy winds is expected in areas of Balochistan from 17 to 21 August, including Barkhan, Musa Khel, Loralai, Sibi, Zhob, Qila Saifullah, Khuzdar, Las Bela, Awaran, Kech, Gwadar and Panigur. There is a risk of landslides in the upper Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Murree, Galiyat, Gilgit-Baltistan and Kashmir from 17 to 19 August.

Rain is causing flooding in local rivers and canals, and also a danger of urban flooding in urban areas. The locals and tourists are advised to take precautions while travelling. The PMD has alerted the relevant institutions and instructed to take timely actions.

Meanwhile National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) issued on Saturday an advisory to restrict tourism to mountainous regions following the inclement weather on the instructions of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

According to details, the NDMA spokesperson has made it clear that the restrictions would be imposed on tourism activities in the calamity-hit areas in a bid to ensure the safety of the masses.

The NDMA has directed the concerned authorities to take immediate actions to ensure restriction of the public movement in dangerous places during the monsoon spell.

Meanwhile, the NDMA said that tourism restrictions can be imposed under Section 144 if important. The NDMA has asked the masses to avoid travelling to the flood-hit people.

The NDMA has directed the law enforcement agencies (LEAs) to ensure implementation of the restrictions in tourist areas to avert any potential threat of devastation.

Electoral Imbalance in the AJK Assembly — Time to Restore Democratic Equality

Sardar Aftab Khan

n the part of the State of Jammu 89,397 voters. and Kashmir where democratic aspirations run deep, the current structure of the Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) Legislative Assembly reveals a troubling imbalance. The constituencies reserved for refugees from Jammu and Kashmir residing in Pakistan, although historically significant, now result in members of the Assembly wielding dispropor- undermines the demotionate legislative and governing power compared to those elected from AJK's resident population. This imbalance calls for urgent electoral reform.

The basic principle of democracy is simple: every vote should carry equal value and weight. But the current electoral system and constituency allocations for the AJK Assembly do not fully reflect this principle.

In the AJK Assembly, 12 seats are reserved for refugees residing in Pakistan - 6 for refugees from the Kashmir Valley living in Pakistan, and 6 for displaced persons from Jammu and those affected by the Mangla Dam project. These 12 seats represent a combined total of 405,034 registered voters. In contrast, 33 seats are allocated to 2,950,129 residents of AJK.

The numbers reveal a stark imbalance: • Each MLA from the Kashmir Valley refugee constituencies represents approx-

imately 5,044 voters. • Each MLA from the Jammu/Mangla

62,461 voters. • Each MLA from the resident AJK constituencies represents approximately

category represents approximately

This means that MLAs from the x45 Kashmir Valley refugee constituencies hold 1,672% more representational weight, and MLAs from the Jammu/ Mangla category hold 43% more weight than their AJK-resident counterparts. This is not merely about numbers – it is a fundamental flaw and structural distortion in the Assembly that seriously

cratic principle of equal representation. This imbalance risks

undermining public trust, increasing social tension, and weakening the Assembly's legitimacy. This is why the Jammu Kashmir Joint Awami Action

Committee (JKJAAC) has included in its charter of demands the complete abolition of seats reserved for refugees residing in Pakistan — a move that has brought the issue to wide public attention and prompted legislators, legal experts, political leaders, and the general public to offer their views and proposals.

To provide a dignified and workable solution through meaningful dialogue, I present the following formula.

A Fair Formula for Reforming Refugee Constituency Allocations

To restore democratic balance, a proportional representation model must be adopted. A clear and fair formula should be incorporated into the law as

J&K Refugees Seats = (Refugee Regis-

Key Steps:

1. All categories — residents and refugees — must be allocated seats based on the same criterion: number of registered

2. Seat distribution should be calculated using the Largest Remainder (Hamilton) method, a fair apportion-

ment process used internationally.

3. To protect refugee representation, guarantee a minimum of five seats until the 2026 general elections, after which the strict proportional formula should

4. The Delimitation Commission must be legally bound to publish voter statistics, seat calculations, maps, and justifications, and to allow a

30-day public objection period. The Numbers in Practice (2022 AJK Election Commission Data):

AJK Resident Voters: 2,950,129 Refugee Voters: 405,034 Total seats: 45

Under the formula, refugees would be entitled to about 5 seats proportionally, and residents about 40 seats.

Why Amend the AJK Elections Act? Amendments are needed to:

Section 2 — clarify definitions. Section 9 — link seat allocation directly to the proportion of registered

Section 16 — make it a legal duty for

tered Voters ÷ AJK Registered Voters) the Commission to apply the formula. Section 17 — insert the seat allocation

Dialogue is the Only Way Forward This is not about taking representation

away from anyone — it is about ensuring every vote counts equally. Refugee communities must be reassured their voice will remain strong; AJK residents must be confident their votes are equally valued; and policymakers must understand that this reform strengthens the Assembly's legitimacy. Let us work together to establish a

system that is fair, transparent, and equal so that the voices of voters from the mountains of Muzaffarabad and Poonch, the plains of Mirpur and Bhimber, and the Kashmiri refugee communities of Rawalpindi, Lahore, Sialkot, Karachi, and Quetta are all heard equally.

True democracy is measured not just by the right to vote, but by the weight that the vote carries. AJK must recalibrate its electoral structure to ensure fairness and legitimacy.

The time for reform is now — not only to correct a numerical imbalance, but to reinforce the democratic integrity of the Assembly.

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sional, with over 35 years of experience working with international agencies, government bodies, development organisations, and the private sector in AJK, Pakistan, the USA, and the UK. He can be reached at Aftab@kdfuk.org



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

A day to Remember Police Martyrs

n August 4, 2025, Punjab police observed Police Martyrs' Day with solemnity, reverence, and a pledge of unity. The annual commemoration, held with

bustle of society, embody not only professional commitment but also an ethical and spiritual covenant rooted in the values of faith, duty, and service.

The concept of sacrifice occupies a central place in the Islamic worldview. The Qur'an declares with eternal clarity: "O vou who believe! Seek help through patience and prayer.

Indeed, Allah is with those who are patient. And do not say of those who are slain in the path of Allah that they are dead. Rather, they are alive, but you do not perceive it." (Surah Al-Baqarah: 153–154). This verse affirms the continuity of existence for those who fall in the line of duty for a just cause. Their lives, though seemingly ended, transcend into an eternal reward, reminding believers that the path of service and sacrifice is one of the highest virtues in Islam.

The statistics alone are staggering and speak volumes about the magnitude of commitment. Over 1,650 valiant officers from the Punjab Police have embraced martyrdom in the line of duty, of which 342 belonged to the Lahore Police. Each of these numbers represents not just a uniform or a file in an archive but a human life—an individual with dreams, families, and aspirations—cut short for the sake of survivors, the ghazis, stand as living testimony to courage. Their physical wounds and lifelong scars symbolize the price of safeguarding the lives and property of the public.

several functions in a society grappling with multiple security challenges. Firstly, they reinforce institutional morale within the police, an organization often criticized for its limitations heartfelt tributes, serves as a poignant reminder but seldom recognized for its sacrifices. Public of the sacrifices made by those who laid down remembrance strengthens the morale of officers their lives for peace and security. These sacri- who continue to face threats daily, reminding fices, often unrecognized in the day-to-day them that their service is meaningful and

> respected. Secondly, it reassures families of martyrs that the social contract remains intact—that the state recognizes its obligation to honour those who have paid the ultimate price. Thirdly, it provides the wider community with a moral compass, compelling citizens to reflect on their own role in upholding law and order rather than seeing security as the sole

> responsibility of uniformed forces. The Lahore ceremony reflected these layers of meaning. Speakers paid tributes to the martyrs and reaffirmed the police's commitment to protect citizens. Families of the fallen heroes were honoured with special recognition. while state authorities vowed that the sacrifices would never be in vain. The tears of grieving mothers, mingled with pride, silently communicated a profound truth: martyrdom is not

merely a word but the pinnacle of faith. It is at

once personal and collective, individual and

national, temporal and eternal. Beyond commemoration, however, lies the pressing need to translate such days into longterm reforms. The sacrifices of police officers should not be romanticized only once a year: they must shape policies that strengthen the security apparatus, modernize policing, and collective security. Alongside them, 462 gallant ensure welfare for the families left behind. Nations cannot merely survive on symbolic gestures; they must institutionalize gratitude by investing in those who bear the brunt of security challenges. In this sense, Martyrs' Day

Analytically, such commemorations serve becomes not only a moment of remembrance but a call for accountability, pushingpolicymakers to create frameworks where the sacrifices of martyrs yield tangible improvements in governance and justice.

> For the youth, the day carries particular significance. The story of each martyr is a reminder that national survival is secured not by words but by deeds, not by rhetoric but by resilience. When a police officer lays down his life, he is not merely protecting individuals in a single incident; he is safeguarding the future of generations. The responsibility of students, teachers, workers, and traders, therefore, extends far beyond routine duties. They too must honour the martyrs by committing themselves to values of honesty, discipline, and respect for law. Peace is not the product of force alone but of collective responsibility shared by

> Words may never suffice to capture the magnitude of these sacrifices, but they remain a moral beacon for the nation. As Abdul Majeed Salik once wrote with piercing eloquence: "The death of a martyr is the life of a nation; the blood of the martyr is the zakat of the nation." These words resonate profoundly in the context of Pakistan's current challenges. Just as zakat purifies wealth, the blood of martyrs purifies the soul of a nation, reminding it that freedom, security, and peace come at a cost that must never be forgotten.

> As the day drew to a close, it left behind more than just memories—it imparted a profound message that peace is never accidental. It is cultivated, defended, and preserved through sacrifice. It is these sacrifices, silent yet eternal, that keep a nation alive, dignified, and honoured. To forget them would be to lose the very essence of nationhood. To remember them is to pledge, again and again, that the flame lit by their blood will never be extinguished.

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Punjab's Livestock sector gets a farmer-friendly makeover

M Atif Ismail

n a major push to transform the livestock sector, the Punjab government has launched several pro-farmer initiatives under the dynamic leadership of Chief Minister(CM), Maryam Nawaz Sharif. The vision focuses on empowering livestock farmers through technology, financial support, healthcare access, and timely information—ulti-

mately aiming to boost productivity and improve rural livelihoods. $According to Deputy \, Director(DD), live stock \,$ Dr. Jamshaid Akhtar, these efforts are not only revolutionary in design but also deeply rooted in the practical needs of small and medium-scale

livestock farmers across the province. One of the most impactful developments was the launch of the ADRS-Farmer mobile application. Designed as a digital companion for livestock keepers, the app provides instant access to veterinary services, disease reporting, and realtime guidance on animal health.

"It's like having a vet in your pocket,"says Dr. Jamshaid Akhtar. The app bridges the gap between rural farmers and expert advice, ensuring that even those in remote areas can receive timely help during emergencies.

This database helps in tracking disease outbreaks and supports timely interventions by veterinary teams. Besides healthcare and digital transformation, the department was also nurturing entrepreneurship.

Trainings are being conducted on value addition in dairy products, artificial insemination and animal feed production.

Women and youth are being encouraged to turn their livestock activities into profitable businesses. "It's not just about owning a few animals anymore. We're teaching people to think like

being spent on provision of over one million doses of quality semen and it would surely improve milk and meat production.

The livestock department has also strengthened collaboration with the private sector. Several pilot projects are underway to intro-

duce high-yield animal breeds, modernize dairy farming methods and ensure the availability of disease-resistant vaccines. These efforts are expected to bring long-term

sustainability to the sector.

At a time when climate change and inflation are making traditional agriculture increasingly risky, livestock farming was emerging as a dependable livelihood option.

The government's strategy was not just about providing temporary relief but creating a sustainable ecosystem for livestock development.

The past year, under the Punjab livestock vision, marks a significant shift in how the province views animal husbandry—not merely as an agricultural activity but as a vital economic sector with immense growth potential. With a mix of innovation, accessibility and farmer-centric planning, the initiatives rolled out by the livestock department are setting a new benchmark for rural development in Pakistan.

Cattle farmers Jaam Shabbir and Jalal Hussain from Jalalpur Pirwala also heaped praise and stated, "We are witnessing a livestock revolution in Punjab.

From mobile apps to goat schemes, everything vas designed with the farmer in mind.

It's a proud moment for the all cattle farmers and we're committed to taking this momentum forward."

The livestock farmer of Punjab, once dependent on outdated methods and minimal support, now has a reliable partner in the form of provincial government, they stated.

They added, the Punjab government speaks livestock entrepreneurs," emphasizes Dr. Akhtar. their language, understands their needs, and He further remarked that Rs one billion was stands by them with resources and respect.

The Spokesman 5

Spokesman Report

AUCKLAND: Prime Minister Communities Mark Mitchell; of New Zealand Christopher Luxon participated in a grand former Prime Minister Chris stanis Prime Minister Luxon contribution of the Kiwi Paki-Pakistan Independence Day Hipkins, High Commission- felicitated Pakistan on its 78th stani community towards New

Leader of the opposition and celebration held in Auckland er of Pakistan to New Zealand Independence anniversary. Zealand's development.

on Saturday, Also in attend- Faisal Aziz Ahmed and many Highlighting the long standance were Minister for Ethnic members of Parliament. ing, warm and friendly rela-Addressing the nearly 1000 tions between Pakistan and strong gathering of Kiwi Paki-

New Zealand, he lauded the

New Zealand PM attends Pakistan's Independence Day celebration

Pakistan's Independence Day celebrationNew Zealand PM attends Pakistan's Independence Day celebration

and former Prime Minister Chris Hipkins in his address also appreciated the Kiwi Pakistani community's role in contemporary Kiwi society, and the strength of Pakistan-New Zealand ties. Earlier, in the presence of New Zealand leadership, Pakistan's High Commissioner to New Zealand, Dr. Faisal Aziz mances, video screenings, and performed a symbolic flag national and patriotic songs. A mark Pakistan's Independence hoisting ceremony, and gifted

New Zealand PM attends Pakistan-made shawls to the was unveiled on the occa-Prime Minister and other dignision. Participation by the New taries. In his address Dr. Asif Zealand Prime Minister in an Khan, President of Pakistan Association of New Zealand Leader of the Opposition (PANZ), the largest Pakistani community organization in the country, enumerated key activities of the organization, and its future plans. Dr. Khan called on support from the Pakistan High the two governments to work towards a strategic partnership for the mutual benefit of both ties and numerous Auckland countries and peoples. Besides flag hoisting, the event featured
It was part of a series of high poetry recitals, cultural perfornew interactive PANZ website Day celebrations.

event marking Pakistan's Independence Day was lauded as a special gesture of goodwill for Pakistan. The event was hosted by the Pakistan Association of New Zealand (PANZ) with Commission, the New Zealand Ministry of Ethnic Communibased Pakistani businesses. profile events being held in various New Zealand cities to

Pakistan committed to further strengthen ties with Bangladesh, says Tarar

Spokesman Report

for Information and Broadcasting media cooperation. Attaullah Tarar said on Saturday that Pakistan was committed to further strengthening cooperation with Bangladesh in political, economic and

During a meeting with Bangla-

two sides discussed bilateral relations, ation, he maintained. ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister regional situation, and promotion of

> growing relations between Pakistan and Bangladesh, he said that Pakistan highly valued its relations with Bangladesh.

desh High Commissioner to Pakistan to relations with Bangladesh through

Mohammad Iqbal Hussain Khan, the high-level visits and cultural cooper-

"Cooperation in the media sector is very important to bring the people of Expressing satisfaction over the Pakistan and Bangladesh closer to each other," Attaullah Tarar said.

The minister said that collaboration in film, drama and digital media would not only bring the people of both coun-Pakistan has given a new dimension tries closer but also promote a positive narrative in the region.

Bangladesh High Commissioner Mohammad Iqbal Yunus reiterated his desire to strengthen bilateral relations and said that Pakistan and Bangladesh's historical bonds of friendship would always maintain.

In the meeting, both sides agreed to continue positive progress in Paki-

stan-Bangladesh relations. Secretary Information and Broad-



casting Ambreen Jan and Principal Information Officer Mubashir Hassan were also present during the meeting.

Alkhidmat Foundation dispatches first relief convoy to flood-hit areas

👺 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Alkhidmat Foundation Pakistan has dispatched its first major convoy of relief goods to flood-affected areas in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Azad Kashmir, and Gilgit-Baltistan. The convoy, which left today, comprises eight ambulances, three mobile health units, and five trucks carrying food items, medical aid, and shelter supplies.

consignment includes 2,000 tarpaulins, hundreds of tents, six tons of powdered milk, six tons of dry food, mosquito nets, and other essential items as the organization has ramped up emergency operations following devastating torrential rains and affected communities. flash floods.



Vice President Air Marshal (retd) Arshad Malik

Speaking at the ceremony, Dr. Rehman announced that an additional 17 trucks will depart from Chakdara to Buner by Sunday, ensuring wider coverage of aid to

Dr Rehman noted that The relief effort was Alkhidmat's volunteers are idmat Foundation President Upper Dir, Bajaur, and other

According to officials, the Dr Hafeez ur Rehman and disaster-hit areas, carrying out evacuation and rescue

> He said hundreds of stranded people, including women, children, and the elderly, have already been shifted to safer locations. Alongside emergency

rescue, the foundation is distributing cooked meals, clean drinking water, tents. formally flagged off by Alkh- actively working in Buner, and providing essential

Expressing sorrow over the heavy loss of lives and property, Dr Rehman said, "Alkhidmat will not abandon the flood-affected families in this difficult time and will extend every possible

The ceremony was also attended by Provincial Secretary General Jamaat-e-Islami North Punjab Iqbal Khan, Regional Presidents Rizwan Ahmed and Altaf Sher, District President Rawalpindi Haroon Rasheed, as well as several senior officials and volunteers.

Alkhidmat officials reiterated their appeal for public donations and support to sustain large-scale humanitarian operations as the crisis unfolds.

For further inquiries, the Foundation has designated Shoaib Hashmi, Sr. Manager of Media Relations, as the

One Flag, One Nation: Keeping Independence Day Free from Division.

Chaudhry Tabraiz Aurah

LONDON: August 14 is Pakistan's Independence Day, celebrated with passion and pride by Pakistanis all over the world. Just like in Pakistan, the Pakistani community in the UK so comes together every year setting aside political and religious affiliations to mark the occasion with unity and patriotism.

In East London, the streets of Ilford Lane echo annually with the colors of Pakistani flags, national songs, and the enthusiastic spirit of the people. Thousands of Pakistanis — and those who love Pakistan — gather here to celebrate. What makes this celebration unique is that it requires no official organizer or invitation; it is a purely people-driven event, born out of love for the homeland.

Having covered these celebrations for over a decade, I have observed how in the past some organizations set up their own stages, attempting to give the impression that people had gathered for their programs. In reality, however, the crowds turn out only for Pakistan, not for any specific group.



This year, on August 14, 2025, things unfolded a little differently. Ilford Lane, now a thriving commercial hub filled with restaurants and grocery stores competing for attention, saw a few unusual moves. One grocery store, in a bid for cheap publicity, placed a singer on its balcony and blasted loud music to draw in the crowds. Meanwhile, a political party had also announced a peaceful protest on the same day.

When Redbridge Council and the local police learned of these parallel agendas, they stepped in swiftly and imposed a ban on all sound systems along Ilford Lane. This was widely welcomed by the community, as it prevented both the protest and the commercial stunt from overshadowing the spirit of Independence Day.

The real question here is: should our Independence Day — a national celebration of unity - be turned into a point of controversy? If every business decided to run its own sound system for promotion, the chaos would ruin the entire atmosphere. Instead, the focus should be on setting aside differences uniting under the Pakistani flag, and sending a message to the world that we are one nation.

On the day, I also recorded a video, though the noise made it difficult to capture clearly. My message in that video was simple: do not divide the community for the sake of cheap fame. If anyone believes that people turn out because of their personal call, then now that August 14 has passed, let them issue a call on another day — the reality will speak for itself.

If some viewed my remarks as criticism, they should understand that this is not directed against any individual or group. It is about constructive correction. Remaining silent in the face of what is wrong is itself a mistake, and there should always be room for self-im-

A New Chapter in Friendship and Culture

👺 Ramzan Mughal

From August 2 to 7 a special cultural and media project called "Uzbekistan Through the Eyes of Pakistani Photographers" took place. It was supported by the Embassy of Uzbekistan in Islamabad and the Committee for Tourism under the Ministry of Ecology Environmental Protection and Climate Change of Uzbekistan.

Five well-known Pakistani photographers joined this journey. They were Gulraiz Ghouri Tariq Hameed Sulaimani Muhammad Azhar Hafeez Muhammad Ramzan Mughal and Muhammad Shahid Qureshi. The trip took them to four of Uzbekistan's most beautiful and historic cities. These were Tashkent, Fergana Samarkand and Bukhara. Their cameras captured much more than buildings and landscapes. They brought home the history, culture and warm spirit of the Uzbek people.

Tashkent – The Modern Gateway to Uzbekistan

Tashkent is the capital and the largest city of Uzbekistan. Tashkent is full of life. It is modern but still keeps its traditions. There are wide streets and tall buildings. There are also beautiful gardens and old Islamic monuments.

One of the most famous places is the Chorsu Bazaar. It is full of colors and smells. There are fruits, vegetables spices and handmade crafts. People from all walks of life come here to buy and sell. Photographers also visited tions mix here. The valley feels like a



holds one of the oldest Qurans in the world. Tashkent shows how Uzbekistan is proud of its past and ready for

the future. Fergana – The Valley of Craftsmanship

Fergana Valley is a rich green area surrounded by mountains. The land is fertile and the people are skilled in many crafts. Pottery silk weaving and embroidery are a big part of life here.

The team met master potters who shape clay into beautiful bowls and plates. These designs and skills have been passed down for many generations. In the markets they saw colorful fabrics and handmade items. Fergana is also a meeting place for different cultures. Uzbek Tajik and Kyrgyz tradi-

the Khast Imam Complex. This place living museum where the past is still part of everyday life. Samarkand – The Timeless Treasure

> Samarkand is one of the most famous cities of the Silk Road. It is over 2500 years old and has seen many empires rise and fall. The city is also a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

The heart of Samarkand is Registan Square. It is surrounded by three large madrasas decorated with blue tiles and beautiful patterns. Each building tells a story of art and learning. Another highlight is Shah i Zinda. It is a street of mausoleums with turquoise domes and detailed mosaic work. The Gure Amir Mausoleum is where

Amir Timur also known as Tamerlane

is buried. His empire stretched across

much of Asia. Samarkand has always

the monuments but also the people. Tea sellers, craftsmen and children playing in courtyards added life to the historic backdrop. **Bukhara** – The Living Museum Bukhara city is also part of UNES-

been a place of knowledge and creativity. The photographers captured not only

CO's heritage list. It has been a center of Islamic culture for over two thousand years. Many of its monuments are still in excellent condition.

The Ark Fortress is one of the main attractions. It was once home to the rulers of Bukhara. The Poi Kalon Complex is another masterpiece. It includes a mosque, a madrasa and a tall minaret. The minaret has stood for centuries and is a symbol of the city.

Bukhara's old city is full of narrow lanes and small courtvards. There are caravanserais where traders once stayed. Markets sell silk scarves, copper items and hand embroidered cloths called suzanis. Every street seems to tell a story from the golden days of the Silk Road.

A Bridge Between Pakistan and Uzbeki-

This photography journey was more than just a tour. It was a way to connect the cultures of Pakistan and Uzbekistan. Both countries share links that go back many centuries. The Silk Road not only brought trade but also ideas, art and learning. Islamic scholars and craftsmen from this region influenced the culture of the subcontinent.

Projects like this help bring people closer. They allow artists to tell stories



that words alone cannot. A photograph can travel by fast trains between cities can cross borders without translation. It speaks directly to the heart. **What Comes Next**

In December 2025 a large exhibition will take place in Islamabad. It will show the photographs from this journey and highlight Uzbekistan's potential as a tourist destination. After Islamabad the exhibition will be held in Lahore Karachi Multan Faisalabad and other cities in Pakistan.

A special photo album will also be printed. It will give people in Pakistan a chance to see Uzbekistan's history, culture and modern life in detail. It will be a treasure for anyone who wants to understand the country better.

More Than Just Pictures

The aim of this project is not only to show beautiful places. It is to strengthen friendship and trust between the two nations. Uzbekistan offers a mix of Eastern spirit and modern life. Visitors yet also step into streets that have not changed for hundreds of years. As tourism changes around the

world Uzbekistan is making its place. The country is open to partnerships and welcomes visitors warmly. It is preserving its heritage while building for the future.

Welcome to Uzbekistan

Uzbekistan is a country that leaves a lasting memory. Its cities are full of beauty and stories. Its people are warm and welcoming. From the modern streets of Tashkent to the artisans of Fergana from the timeless wonders of Samarkand to the living history of Bukhara every moment offers something special.

Through the eyes of Pakistani photographers this journey has shown how travel can bring people closer and create lasting bonds. Uzbekistan is ready to welcome the world.

Sunday, August 17, 2025

Bull & Bears PSX 100-Share

Index Fluctuation		
Pakistan: PSX 1	00-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close	
146,491.63	146,529.30	
Day's High	Day's Low	
147,534.41	146,269.59	
Index Value	Change	
22,246,417,957	-37.67	
Percentage	Time	
-0.03%	15 Aug, 2025 4:30 pm	
Europe: FTS	E 100 Index	
Index Value	Change	
9,138.90	-38.34	
Percentage	Time	
-0.42%	15 Aug, 4:35 pm GMT+1	
USA: Dow Jones I	ndustrial Average	
Index Value	Change	
45,030.23	+118.97	
Percentage	Time	
+0.26%	15 Aug, 12:49 pm GMT-4	

GIVIT 1	
Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Averago	
Index Value	Change
43,378.31	+729.05
Percentage	Time
+1.71%	15 Aug, 3:45 pm GMT+9

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	183	188
Bahrain Dinar	750.80	753.30
Canadian Dollar	204	209
China Yuan	39.2	39.60
Danish Krone	43.6	44
Euro	329.80	331.80
Hong Kong Dollar	35.95	36.3
Indian Rupee	3.13	3.22
Japanese Yen	1.9005	2.0005
Kuwaiti Dinar	917.15	925.15
Malaysian Ringgit	66.5	67.1
NewZealand \$	165.22	167.22
Norwegians Krone	27.32	27.62
Omani Riyal	735.35	737.85
Qatari Riyal	77.25	77.95
Saudi Riyal	75.45	75.70
Singapore Dollar	218.75	223.75
Swedish Korona	29.10	29.40
Swiss Franc	348.5	351.25
Thai Bhat	8.65	8.8
U.A.E Dirham	77.2	77.45
UK Pound Sterling	383.20	385.40
US Dollar	283.55	284.55

Weekly report on inflation

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Bureau of Statistics has released a weekly report on inflation.. According to the report, a 0.31 percent increase was recorded in the weekly inflation and the overall inflation rate reached 2.21 percent.

According to the Bureau of Statistics report, 17 items got expensive while 9 items got cheaper in a week. In the current week, tomato prices increased by 12.6 percent, chicken prices increased by 4.68 percent and egg prices increased by 2.1 percent and during this gur and daal mash prices also increased.

The report showed that the prices of onions, garlic and flour increased by 1.98, 1.6 and 1.4 percent, respectively. The prices of bananas and potatoes have decreased by 2.5 and 1.65 percent, respectively. The prices of 25 items remain the same this week, according to the report.

FPCCI for fasttrack approval of imported cotton seed

LAHORE: Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) President Atif Ikram Sheikh Saturday called for the approval system for imported cotton seed to be placed on a fast track.

He made this demand in the fourth meeting of FPCCI's Task Force on Agriculture held here at FPCCI Regional

The meeting was attended by FPCCI United Business Group (UBG) Patron-in-Chief SM Tanveer, FPCCI Vice President, Zaki Aijaz, Task Force Chairman Sham Lal Manglani, former president of Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Shehzad Ali Malik, of FPCCI Policy Advisory Board Chairman Mian Zahid Hussain, Kasur Chamber's President Kashif Khokhar as well as Ijaz Tufail, Akbar Khan, Dr Ghazanfar Ali Khan, Dr Aslam Yousaf and Zulfiqar Ali.

During the meeting, all members unanimously demanded that the approval process for imported cotton seed be expedited.

China, Pakistan step up Bio-Healthy Agriculture research collaboration

Agencies

BEIJING: A delegation led by Prof. Zhang Lixin, Chairman of the Silk Road Bio-Healthy Agriculture Industry Alliance at Northwest A&F University, reached a consensus on jointly building a joint research lab and a China-Pakistan Bio-Healthy Agriculture Science and Technology Demonstration Park during a visit to the University of Agriculture Faisalabad (UAF) and the Ayub Agricultural Research Institute (AARI).

"Our goal is to share China's advanced agricultural technologies with our Pakistani partners to address the common food security challenges and improve farmers' lives," Zhang emphasized.

Prof. Rao Zahid Abbas, Prof., Department of Parasitology, University of Agriculture, Faisalabad, noted: "We are honored to collaborate with our Chinese counterparts to establish the demonstration park and joint laboratory, which will serve as a hub for innovation and applied research. These efforts will directly contribute to Pakistan's food security and agricultural modernization."



"This initiative marks a new chapter in compared to the same period in 2024. This academic and research collaboration between the two universities, especially in the areas of sustainable agriculture and bio-health," Dr. Saddam Hussain from UAF, added.

have seen a significant surge in the first half stani farmers are now cultivating sesame, publication of technical standards for Pakiof 2025, with a 300% increase in volume reflecting growing confidence and opportunity

growth has propelled Pakistan to become the fourth-largest sesame supplier to China.

"This surge is attributed to improved market access and increased demand for Pakistani Pakistan's sesame seed exports to China agricultural products in China. More Paki-

in the sector," Prof. Zhang told China Economic Net. "Now, Pakistan aims to further strengthen its sesame trade with China by enhancing seed quality, investing in valueadded processing, and expanding its presence in the Chinese e-commerce market."

Construction of a bio-healthy sesame order-based demonstration farm is in full swing at the China-Pakistan Bio-Healthy Agriculture Overseas Technology Demonstration Park, jointly established by the two sides in Sahiwal, Punjab Prov-

This farm leverages the joint oilseed laboratory established by China and Pakistan.

Northwest A&F University has introduced high-quality Chinese sesame varieties and supporting production technologies to the local area. Through joint trials and demonstrations, the university has identified sesame varieties suitable for cultivation in Pakistan and the optimal production parameters. The university also led the stani bio-healthy sesame production.

Daily wagers

ISLAMABAD: Vendors are selling vegetables at Fruit and Vegetables Market of Sector I-11 to earn daily wages for the livelihood of his their families.



Jazz offers Free On-Net and PTCL calls in KP; Supports Flood Response as Government's 911 Helpline Goes Live

S Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Jazz, Pakistan's leading digital operator, has announced free on-net and PTCL calls for all subscribers in flood-hit areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP). The initiative aims to help affected residents stay connected with loved ones, emergency respond-

ers, and relief agencies during one of the bility. most challenging times for the province.

Heavy rains and flash floods have devastated districts including Buner, Swat, Shangla, Dir, and Chitral, damaging roads, homes, and essential infrastructure. By removing call charges, Jazz is enabling communities to focus on recovery without worrying about afforda-



"Our hearts are with everyone affected by the floods. Connectivity is a lifeline in times of crisis, and Jazz is committed to ensuring families and responders can stay connected when they need it most," said Aamir Ibrahim, CEO Jazz.

The Government of Pakistan has also launched the nationwide 911 unified

emergency helpline (PEHL), offering citizens free-ofcharge access to emergency

services across the country. Earlier this year, Jazz with the partnered National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) to launch a mobile-enabled Early Warning System (EWS). The current floods

highlight the urgency of such technology-driven preparedness measures, which, combined with emergency connectivity support, are critical to protecting lives and livelihoods.

Jazz remains committed to leveraging its nationwide infrastructure and partnerships to stand with Pakistan during natural disasters - providing both immediate relief and long-term resilience.

Ufone 4G comes to people's aid as cloudbursts, flooding wreak havoc in KP

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Ufone 4G has stepped forward to support communities affected by sudden cloudbursts and flash floods that devastated multiple cities and loved ones. towns across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP). In a tragic reminder of the growing impacts of climate change, the disaster has claimed more than 200 lives and caused widespread destruction of public and private infrastructure.

Recognizing the urgency of search and rescue operations, Ufone 4G has provided free minutes to its users in lize local resources, and communication remain in touch with their emergencies.

ufone 46

Past experiences have shown that seamless communication is the cornerstone of effective rescue and relief efforts. Ufone 4G's free call services also played a vital role during the 2022 floods, enabling rescue teams to save lives, respond to medical emergencies, and deliver food and shelter to affected communities.

As part of PTCL Group's the worst-hit districts of broader CSR program, the Bajaur, Buner, Battagram, initiative aims to enhance and Batal (Mansehra) to national resilience against help them connect with climate-induced disasters emergency services, mobi- by ensuring uninterrupted

PTA, telecom operators working to restore services in flood-hit areas

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) is closely monitoring the telecom situation in flood-affected areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and other parts of the country.

Flash floods have damaged several cellular and fixed-line sites, causing service disruptions.

PTA teams are on the ground, coordinating with federal/provincial authorities, district administrations, and telecom operators for swift restoration.

In Buner, PTA held



Minister Ameer Mugaam. Chairman PTI Gohar Khan. Commissioner Buner Kashif Qayum and senior officials of PTCL and CMOs to review recovery

PTA, together with operators, is making all-out efforts to restore communication services at the earliest, recognizing their vital role in rescue and relief operations.

itel Energy elevates Pakistan's Solar Industry with Cutting-Edge Products and State-of-the-Art Experience Center

E Commerce Desk

KARACHI: itel Energy, Pakistan's leading renewable energy innovator, continues to set new standards in quality, reliability, and customer support. At Solar Pakistan 2025, the company unveiled its latest technological advancements, including the next-generation IP66 series and a new, fullyequipped Experience Center in Karachi - a symbol of its unwavering commitment to Pakistan's energy future.

Upgraded Products for Pakistan's Challenging Environment

Building on its reputation for durability and innovation, itel Energy introduces a suite of solutions tailored to Pakistan's unique climate:

Unmatched IP66 Series - The Next Generation of Protective Power

Featuring industry-leading protection with a 6.6kW inverter, 16kWh lithium battery rated IP65, and a 5-year replacement warranty, these products are built for extreme humidity, dust, and environmental conditions.

- Water submersion resistance up to 50cm for 72 hours
- Advanced CCS technology and locally-made battery cells for superior reliability
- Built for humid, dusty, and harsh environments-perfect for Pakistan's diverse climate. Support for residential, commercial, and industrial applications with scalable solu-



and durability, these inverters and Known nationwide for efficiency low-voltage batteries come with a

3-year replacement warranty and rigorous quality checks. **Robust Commercial & Industry (C&I)**

 $30 \mathrm{kW} \& 50 \mathrm{kW}$ Inverters: Support

- more than double the PV output, capable of parallel and series connections for scalable power capacity.
- High-voltage battery systems adapt according to user needs, facilitating efficient capacity expansion and reducing inventory pressure. Optimized for shops, small facto-
- ries, schools, hospitals, and farms — these solutions deliver reliable continuous power, peak-shaving capability, and straightforward system growth to meet evolving

energy demands.

Chinese climber Guan Jing's body recovered from K2

➣ Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: A joint rescue team from Pakistan and Nepal has recovered the body of a Chinese climber who died on K2, the world's second-highest mountain, located in northern Pakistan, according to a regional government spokesperson.

Faizullah Faraq, spokesperson for the Gilgit-Baltistan government, confirmed that the body of Guan Jing was airlifted from K2's base camp by an army helicopter after mountaineers successfully brought it down from higher elevations.

Jing lost her life on Tuesday after being struck by falling rocks during her descent, just one day after reaching the summit alongside a group of climbers.

Her body was transported to a hospital



in the city of Skardu and will be sent to Islamabad following coordination with her family and Chinese authorities, Faraq

Karrar Haidri, vice president of the Pakistan Alpine Club, said the recovery took several days and involved challenging conditions. One of the rescuers was injured during the mission and had to be evacuated by helicopter.

Standing at 8,611 meters (28,251 feet), K2 is regarded as one of the most dangerous and technically demanding peaks in the world.

Jing's death follows the recent loss of German mountaineer and Olympic gold medalist Laura Dahlmeier, who died over two weeks ago while attempting another peak in the region.

"Marka e Haq Jashn e Azadi Sepaktakraw Championship,"

Karachi Club won the boys' event and MirpurKhas Club Clinch girls' Title

Sports Desk

KARACHI: Marka e Haq Jashne Azadi Sepaktakraw Championship boys' event was won by Karachi Club while the girls' event won by MirpurKhas Club. Four teams of boys and girls participated in the championship organized by Hyderabad Sepaktakraw Association at Sindh Agriculture University Tando Jam.

The chief guest of the closing ceremony, Anwar Hussain Khanzada, Director Sports, distributed trophies and certificates to the winning teams. On this occasion, Pakistan Sepaktakraw Federation Secretary General Noushad Ahmed Khan, Sindh Sepaktakraw Association Vice President Dr. Dilip Kumar, Secretary MirpurKhas Division's Akhtar Ali, Benazirabad's Aqeel Ahmed, Hyderabad Division's Secretary and Organizing Secretary Muhammad Khalid, Women's Wing Member Humaira Rajput and others were

Speaking at the closing ceremony, the chief guest Anwar Hussain Khanzada said that I am very happy that the Hyderabad Association, in collaboration with the Sindh Sepaktakraw Association, organized the Marka e Haq Jashane Azadi Sepa-

ktakraw Championship in our university. He added that we will organize events



with the Sindh Sepaktakraw Association in the future as well and our full cooperation with you will be involved in promoting Sepaktakraw. Noushad

Ahmed said that our vision is to organize as many Sepaktakraw events as possible in other cities of Sindh apart from Anwar Hussain Khanzada who assured

Finally, Dr. Dilip Kumar thanked all the guests, players, officials and especially all possible cooperation.

PMYP-Lahore Qalandars cricket trials in twin cities a resounding success

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Prime Minister's Youth Program (PMYP) talent hunt cricket trials, powered by Lahore Qalandars, concluded successfully in Islamabad and Rawalpindi, drawing thousands of passionate young cricketers from the twin cities.

The two-day trials witnessed an overwhelming response, with boys and girls turning up in large numbers to demonstrate their cricketing skills and passion for the game, said a press release.

Following extensive assessments by qualified coaches and Lahore Qalandars' dedicated staff, one team each of boys and girls was selected from both Islamabad and Rawalpindi. The initiative not only highlighted the depth of cricketing talent in the region but also reaffirmed the government's vision to empower youth through sports.

Speaking on the occasion, Lahore Qalandars CEO Atif Rana lauded the enthusiasm and commitment of Islamabad and Rawalpindi's youth, who thronged the venue in their thousands. He described the trials as "a remarkable success" and expressed his delight at the discovery of top cricketing talent from the twin cities.

Atif Rana extended his heartfelt grat-



itude to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, PMYP Chairman Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan and the Higher Education Commission (HEC) for their great support in making the nationwide trials possible. He asserted that such initiatives were instrumental in building a stronger sporting culture in Pakistan.

excitement, also shared their joy and national recognition and glory to Pakiappreciation. They thanked the Prime Minister, PMYP, and Lahore Qalandars for providing them with such a unique chapter of the PMYP-Lahore Qalandars and prestigious platform, which they described as a dream opportunity to proven that Pakistan's youth are brimexcel at the highest levels of cricket. They ming with potential, ready to make their vowed to work hard, represent Lahore mark on the global stage when provided

The Islamabad and Rawalpindi talent hunt cricket trials has once again The selected players, brimming with Qalandars with pride, and bring inter- with the right opportunities.

Nolberto Solano begins new chapter with Pakistan football as head coach



Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Football Federation (PFF) welcomed Nolberto Solano, former Peruvian international and seasoned coach, as the new Head Coach of the Pakistan Men's National Team and the U23 squad.

Solano arrived at Football House, Lahore, where he was warmly received by Acting General Secretary Muhammad Shahid Niaz Khokhar and met with PFF staff, said a press release issued on

'I'm very honored to be in Pakistan as the Head Coach of the U23s and Senior team," said Solano. "We believe in the talent of our players, and I'm here to show what we can achieve together."

Looking ahead to Pakistan's upcoming international commitments, Solano emphasized the importance of unity and discipline. "It's no easy job, but we must work hard on and off the pitch. Our immediate focus is the AFC U23 qualifiers in Cambodia. We need to be strong mentally, bring our best players, and play with purpose. It would be a great moment for the country to qualify.

Solano also extended his gratitude to the PFF president. "I want to thank Syed Mohsen Gilani for this opportunity. I'm looking forward to contributing to the growth of football in Pakistan."

PFF President Syed Mohsen Gilani shared his confidence in the new coach: "Coach Solano brings great experience and a strong vision. We believe he can help take Pakistan football forward and build a competitive team."

Acting General Secretary Muhammad Shahid Niaz Khokhar added, "This is a big step for us. With Coach Solano on board, we're committed to building a stronger football structure."

Emma overjoyed to receive Youth Excellence Award

№ Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD:: Guinness World Record holder and World Memory Champion, Emma Alam, on Friday said it was an immense honor to receive the Youth Excellence Award 2025, saying this award inspires her to continue working for the advancement of youth potential.

The Youth Excellence Award 2025 was presented to Emma Alam, in recognition of her outstanding contributions to the nation's progress and her role in elevating Pakistan's image on the global stage, said a press release.

The 2025 awards ceremony, was held here at the Jinnah Convention Centre on International Youth Day, and was graced by the Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, who personally presented awards to the winners.

"It is an immense honor to represent Pakistan and be recognized by the Prime Minister. This award inspires me to continue working for the advancement of youth potential and education in Pakistan," said Emma.

Emma Alam, a 2 x Guinness World Record holder and World Memory Champion, and her team of champions at Futuristic Learning institute have represented Pakistan in multiple international championships, securing numerous accolades in the field of cognitive skills and mental performance. Her achievements highlight Pakistan's growing capacity to compete in the global knowl-

Meanwhile Sania Alam, Founder of Futuristic Learning & Coach of Emma Alam said, "Emma's achievement reflects our mission to empower Pakistan's youth with world-class skills and position them as leaders in innovation, education, and global thought leadership."

Top End T20 series: Rogers' century powers Melbourne Stars to thrilling win

DARWIN: Thomas Rogers produced a sensational century to guide Melbourne Stars Academy to a thrilling seven-wicket victory over Hobart Hurricanes Academy in the Top End T20 Series clash at Marrara Cricket Ground No. 2 on Saturday.

Chasing a daunting 228, the Stars crossed the line on the final ball $\,$ of the innings when Liam Blackford, facing his very first delivery, struck the winning boundary after Jonathan Merlo was dismissed on the penultimate ball with scores level.

The chase was set up brilliantly by skipper Sam Harper and Rogers, who added 142 runs for the opening wicket in just 12 overs. Harper struck a 35-ball 50 before being run out at the start of the 13th over, bringing Campbell Kellaway to the crease.

Kellaway played a supporting role as Rogers went on the attack, reaching his century and dominating a 61-run stand that took the

Rogers' innings finally ended in the 18th over when Bradley Hope dismissed him for a dazzling 128 off 65 deliveries, laced with 20 fours and three sixes.

Blake Macdonald managed nine runs before falling cheaply, while Kellaway remained unbeaten on 27 from 16 balls, ensuring stability at the other end before Blackford finished the job in style. Earlier, Hobart Hurricanes Academy had posted a mammoth 227-3 after electing to bat.

ECC turns down proposal to restore subsidised gas for exporters

Continued from Page 8

The relevant authority was also directed to examine the application of lower tariff to the petitioner from the date of filing the case (ie, 2015) until the period the benefit was extended to the zero-rated/ export-oriented industries.

The court directed that the ECC should take into consideration the potential of the glass industry to increase its export share and earn maximum foreign exchange. Furthermore, the forum should examine whether it was feasible to charge any export-focused industry higher prices compared to rates

The Commerce Division stated that the FBR, vide Statutory Regulatory Order (SRO) 1125(I)/2011, had granted zero-rated sales tax status to major sectors such as textile, carpet, leather goods, sports goods and surgical instruments. In 2018. the Petroleum Division extended the concessionary RLNG tariff of Rs600 per mmBtu to exporters of the same zero-rated sectors.

Following the withdrawal of SRO 1125 through the Finance Bill 2019, an administrative gap emerged regarding the continua-

tion of reduced gas tariffs. Consequently, the Ministry of

Commerce declared the erstwhile the ruling of the Lahore High Court. zero-rated sectors as "export-oriented sectors" in December 2019. Accordingly, the tariff concession remained in place until 2023 and after that it was discontinued.

The Commerce Division argued that the concession had been offered to those sectors that had a significant share in Pakistan's total exports in 2011, whereas the glass industry's that time were negligible.

Law and Justice, the Ministry of and noted the position presented Commerce filed a Civil Petition for therein. It directed that the Ministry Leave to Appeal on June 12, 2025 of Commerce may approach the in the Supreme Court, challenging Attorney General office.

Keeping that situation in view, the Commerce Division told the ECC that the demand of Ghani Glass for tariff concession was untenable and may not be entertained. It sought the ECC's approval for the proposal.

The ECC considered the Ministry of Commerce's summary, "Implementation of Decision of the Lahore annual exports of \$15.9 million at High Court in Writ Petition No 61559 of 2019 titled Ghani Glass On the advice of the Ministry of versus Federation of Pakistan",

Death toll from floods, cloudburst in KP crosses 300

Continued from Page 1

Meanwhile, KP Information Adviser Barrister Saif has said that 11 districts of the province have been affected by cloudburst and floods, with the highest number of casualties recorded in Buner.

So far, the total number of people affected by the floods is 3,817, out of which 3567 people have been rescued

184 bodies recovered in Buner A rescue operation in Buner has so far recovered 184 bodies. The search for missing persons, which was suspended due to darkness last night, resumed in

A flood emergency has been imposed in Buner district to deal with the situation caused by the recent rains and flooding. The Gadzi and Pir Baba areas of Buner were the worst affected, with entire villages washed away.

The main market, residential areas and even the police station were submerged

People's belongings were swept away before their eyes, while hospitals were filled with bodies and the injured.

18 dead in Azad Kashmir, Gilgit Azad Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan also

suffered devastation due to cloudbursts, with 18 people confirmed dead in various accidents.

Heavy rains, landslides and flash floods continued in Azad Kashmir for the third day, with roads and bridges destroyed, cutting off road links between many areas.

Assistance

PESHAWAR: NDMA handed over relief consignment to PDMA Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for flood affected areas on Saturday.



ECC turns down proposal to restore subsidised gas for exporters

Example 2 Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The government has decided not to extend concessionary gas tariffs to the zero rated and with the Attorney General export oriented sectors, office. citing ongoing litigation and concerns over opening briefed the meeting that in the door to the further tariff reduction demands.

the Economic Coordinawas observed that concesented industries at the current the petitioner as well. stage may open the floodgates

to similar cases.

The ECC noted the position and directed the Commerce Division to pursue the case expeditiously in consultation The Ministry of Commerce

2019 Ghani Glass filed a writ petition in the Lahore In a recent meeting of High Court, praying that the concessionary gas/re-gasified tion Committee (ECC), it liquefied natural gas (RLNG) tariff, fixed at Rs600 per sionary gas tariffs had already million British thermal units been exhausted in 2023 and (mmBtu) and granted to the considering those tariffs for zero-rated/export-oriented zero-rated and export-ori- sectors, may be extended to

The Petroleum Division, Oil the Ministry of Finance and stake holders, to place the case



Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL) and the in the case until April 7. Federal Board of Revenue

and Gas Regulatory Authority, the Ministry of Commerce were not impleaded as parties

The High Court directed (FBR) were listed as respond- the Ministry of Finance, ents in the petition. However, in coordination with other

before ECC with 60 days of policy formation.

The court also asked to examine whether glass excluded from the list of export oriented sectors. Had been unfairly discriminated against and also consider granting of tariff concessions retrospectively from 2015, if iustified.

The ECC was directed to consider, within 60 days, the petitioner's request for the grant of tariff concession in respect of Sui gas/RLNG, with specific reference to discrimination by excluding glass from the export-oriented

Continued on Page 7

Aleem Khan, KP CM discuss flood damage

👺 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Communications Abdul Aleem Khan on Saturday held a telephonic conversation with Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) Ali Amin Gandapur to discuss the recent situation arising from torrential rains and floods in the Province and the extensive damage caused to roads and bridges.

Abdul Aleem expressed his deep sorrow and grief over the loss of precious lives and property in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, said a press release.

He stated that the National



being taken to alleviate the hardships of the masses.

The minister said that tunkhwa. repair and reconstruction

people of KPK. He assured required machinery and workthat immediate measures are force from NHA Punjab and Sindh Offices are also being deployed in Khyber Pakh-

is fully mobilized and all its bridges had already begun requirements of Provincial from KP. resources are available for the round the clock and wherever Government NHA would



be at its service. Moreover, Federal Minister for Commutions, NHA teams had immenications Abdul Aleem Khan was briefed by the Federal Secretary Communications, He assured the Chief currently in Gilgit-Baltistan, Highway Authority (NHA) work on damaged roads and Minister KP as per the and by the Chairman NHA

They informed him that from Balakot to Babusar Top.

diately commenced restoration work on Friday as a result of which the Mansehra-Naran-Jhal Khund Road (MNJ) had been opened for traffic while road is also clear

NDMA urges tourism curbs in hilly areas amid monsoon emergency

👺 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Amid heightened risks of landslides and flash floods during the ongoing monsoon season, the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) has issued a public advisory urging citizens to avoid travel to hilly and disaster-affected regions.

Following directives from the Prime Minister, NDMA has instructed relevant authorities to take immediate action to restrict tourism activities in vulnerable areas. Law enforcement agencies in tourist zones have been directed to ensure strict implementation of the new restrictions.

According to NDMA, public movement in high-risk areas must be curtailed during active monsoon spells to safeguard lives and support emergency response efforts. The advisory also notes that Section 144 may be enforced, if necessary, to impose tourism curbs and maintain public



vigilant, avoid non-essential travel, and stay informed through verified official channels.

Severe weather across Gilgit-Baltistan and adjoining northern regions has caused extensive disruption to

Citizens have been urged to remain transport infrastructure, prompting urgent travel advisories. The National Emergencies Operation Center (NEOC) of the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) has advised the public to avoid travel to northern areas, citing widespread lize.

The Jaglot-Skardu Road remains completely suspended, while roads at Dayan, Thali Baroq, and Kalti in Ghizer are fully blocked. Access to Gilgit, Jaglot, Guru, and Naltar has also been cut off. In addition, the Gilgit-Hunza corridor, including Gulmit and Gojal, and the Babusar

road closures, landslides, and flood

Several key routes have been

rendered impassable. The Somro

Bridge in Ghanche, the Saltoro Bridge

and the Baghicha Bridge in Skardu

have sustained significant damage and

are currently unusable.

damage.

Top route are entirely shut down. The NDMA has warned of the continued risk of flooding and landslides in Torghar, Battagram, Shangla, Lower Kohistan, Tata Pani, Gilgit, Hunza, and Swat. Tourists and travelers are strongly urged to postpone all non-essential trips and prioritize personal safety until conditions stabi-

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Russian President Putin condoles with President Zardari over flood losses in KP



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Russian President Vladimir Putin has expressed sorrow over the loss of lives caused by heavy rains and flooding in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), sending a condolence letter to President Asif Ali Zardari.

According to a statement issued on Saturday by the Presidency, President expressed solidarity with the affected Putin conveyed Russia's deep grief families.

over the human losses in the disaster-hit areas of Pakistan.

In his letter, Putin extended heartfelt condolences to the families of those who perished in the floods and offered words of sympathy and support.

The Russian leader also wished a swift recovery for the injured and

Iran offers condolences, assistance to Pakistan over deadly floods



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Iran to Pakistan Dr Reza Amiri Moghadam has expressed deep sorrow over the devastating floods in various parts of Pakistan, which have claimed more than 300 lives.

The envoy, in a message of solidarity, extended heartfelt condolences to the government and people of Pakistan, particularly to the bereaved this challenging time.

He also prayed for the swift recovery of those injured in the

"In this moment of profound grief, our thoughts and prayers are with our brothers and sisters in Pakistan," Dr Moghadam said, adding that the Islamic Republic of Iran stands fully ready to provide any assistance required to the brotherly nation in

JI offers govt full support for rehabilitation of flood victims



ISLAMABAD: Jamaat-e-Islami Emir Hafiz Naeemur Rehman telephoned Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday and expressed deep grief and shock over the loss of lives and properties in KP, Kashmir and the country's northern areas due to floods. The JI Emir, on the occasion, assured the government of his party's complete support for the rehabilitation of those affected by floods. "The Al-Khidmat Foundation will assist the government in rescue and relief operations," he said, and added,

"The JI stands with the government in this hour of grief."

Naeem urged the government to ssist the affected people irrespective of their party affiliations.

He told the premier that the JI had already started rescue and relief work in the affected areas.

Speaking on the occasion, the prime minister said that the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) had dispatched over 500 tonnes of relief goods to the flood-hit

He appreciated the JI for the assistance it was offering.