(صحيح بناری: حدیث نمبر 6435) **Barkat Rice Mills** (Pvt) Limited

The Spokesman

By-poll in Sahiwal, DG Khan: PML-N invites applications from candidates

On the instructions of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) President Nawaz Sharif, the PML-N has invited applications from candidates for the by-elections to be held in Sahiwal and DG KhanCandidates can submit their application for party tickets at Model Town Party Secretariat 180H.



Japanese police in Punjab Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz has decided to equip Punjab Police with infrared and ultrasonic technology on the

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Safar 26, Thursday, August 21, 2025



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CJCSC, Service

Chiefs, Armed

Forces solemnly

Briefing on flood damages

BUNER: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Cabinet Ministers, Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir NI(M) HJ and senior officials receiving a briefing about the damages during the recent torrential rains and floods in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and ongoing relief ac-



PM, COAS visit flood-hit Swat, Buner; assure full support to victims

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, accompanied by Chief of Army Staff Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, visited the flood-affected districts of Swat, Buner, Shangla, and Swabi on Wednesday to assess the devastation and review ongoing rescue and relief operations.

During the visit, the Prime Minister, along with federal ministers Ahsan Iqbal, Atta Tarar, Amir Muqam, Owais Leghari, and the Chairman of the National (NDMA), was given a compre-

hensive briefing on the humanitarian response efforts in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Meeting with flood victims. Prime Minister Shehbaz assured them of the federal government's and Pakistan Army's complete support during this critical time.

He lauded the tireless efforts of the armed forces and civil administration, expressing solidarity with the affected population and

pledging all possible assistance. The prime minister emphasised the urgent need to accelerate rehabilitation measures Disaster Management Authority and restore normal life in affected

sation of national resources for relief efforts while highlighting the dangers of illegal encroachments, timber mafia activities, and mining and crushing operations in rivers and streams, which he said had greatly aggravated

human and material losses. "Pakistan must act as a strong state where no one is above the law, and violators are held accountable without discrimination," the Prime Minister

remarked. During the visit, Chief of Army Staff (COAS) Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir also met with army, lost their lives in the floods.

police, and civil administration personnel engaged in rescue oper-

He praised their selfless services for flood victims and directed field formations to carry out their responsibilities with utmost dedication, leaving no stone unturned to ease the suffering of affected

He reiterated that the protection of citizens' lives and extending timely assistance remained the

top priority of the Pakistan Army. The Prime Minister, the Army Chief, ministers, and officials offered prayers for those who had

Pakistan, China, Afghanistan

commit joint efforts against

Earlier today in Islamabad, the Prime Minister chaired a review meeting on the flood situation. The meeting discussed losses caused by heavy rains and floods as well as the ongoing relief oper-

Photo: PID

During the session, the PM directed uninterrupted power supply for one week in the affected areas and ordered immediate steps to complete the process of distributing financial assistance among victims.

The PM further instructed that the number of relief trucks carrying essential items be doubled without delay.

honor martyrdom anniversary of Rashid Minhas 跨 City Desk RAWALPIND: Field Marshal Sved Asim Munir, NI (M), HJ, Chief of Army Staff; General Sahir Shamshad Mirza, NI, NI (M), Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJCSC); Admiral Naveed Ashraf, NI. NI (M), Chief of the Naval Staff; and Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu,

NI (M), HJ, Chief of the Air

Staff, together with the Armed

Forces of Pakistan, solemn-

ly honor the 54th Shahadat

anniversary of pilot officer

Rashid Minhas (Nishan-

e-Haider), whose supreme

sacrifice epitomizes the high-

est traditions of courage and

On this day in 1971, Pilot

extraordinary

Officer Rashid Minhas

resolve and selflessness,

embracing martyrdom to safe-

guard the sovereignty of Paki-

stan. His indomitable spirit,

loyalty, and patriotism remain

an enduring source of inspira-

devotion to duty.

displayed

the nation, said a news release by Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) here.

His historic act of valor, choosing sacrifice over surrender, continues to illuminate our national conscience as a timeless reminder of the price of freedom and the fortitude required to defend the motherland.

The Armed Forces of Pakistan pay glowing tribute to his everlasting legacy and reaffirm their unwavering resolve to uphold the values he so valiantly defended. Rashid Minhas's name shall forever be enshrined in the nation's history as a symbol of loyalty, tion for the Armed Forces and courage, and pride.

Chinese FM Wang arrives Islamabad



跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Li has arrives in Islamabad to co-chair the Strategic Dialogue today.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar between Pakistan and China the airport.

issued by the Foreign Office in Islamabad, on the invitation of Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, commitment to regional peace,

the Communist Party of China and Foreign Minister, Mr Wang Yi is visiting Islamabad for co-chairing the 6th Pakistan-China Foreign Ministers' Strategic Dialogue on August 21, 2025.

The visit is part of the regular high-level exchanges welcomed his counterpart at to further deepen their "All-Weather Strategic Coop-According to a statement erative Partnership", reaffirm support on the issues of respective core interests, enhance economic and trade cooperation, and reaffirm their joint member of the Politburo of development and stability.

Justice Mansoor, **Justice Munib clarify** their points of view in fresh letter

ISLAMABAD: Justice Mansoor Ali Shah and Justice Munib Akhtar of the Supreme Court of Pakiof the Judicial Commission that were made public.

said that as members of this issue. the committee they decided to form a full court on the in the minutes of the Judi-26th Amendment. They cial Commission meetings said the case was not fixed for hearing, in violation of tion of the bench had been the committee's decision. sent to the Constitutional They said they again wrote Bench and the Constitua letter on November 4 tional Committee. They when the case was not fixed said the Constitutional for hearing.

were not given the notes exist at that time.



stan on Wednesday wrote written by the chief justice a fresh letter, clarifying on their decision. They their points of view about said the chief justice read the minutes of the meetings out his note at a meeting of the Judicial Commission. They said the Judi-In their letter, Justice cial Commission was not Shah and Justice Akhtar the right forum to take up

They said it was stated that the matter of forma-Bench and the Constitu-They said that they tional Committee did not



and Afghanistan on Wednesday committed themselves to bolstering joint efforts against the menace of terrorism and deepening their collaboration in key spheres. A statement to this effect followed the Sixth Trilateral Foreign Ministers Dialogue held in Kabul between Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign

terrorism

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan, China

👺 City Desk

Minister Ishaq Dar and his Chinese and Afghan counterparts, Wang Yi and Amir Khan Muttaqi, respectively, on the topics of political, economic and security cooperation.

strengthening joint efforts against terrorism. They also reaffirmed their commitment to deepening collaboration in trade, transit, regional development, health, education, authorities to take concrete and vericulture, and combating drug trafficking, as well as extension of CPEC (China Pakistan Economic Corridor) to Afghanistan," the tion Army (BLA)/Majeed Brigade.



"The three sides committed to Foreign Office (FO) said on the meeting.

Earlier, Deputy Prime Minister/ Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar Wednesday urged the Afghan fiable measures against entities such as the Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and the Balochistan Libera-

During a bilateral meeting with Acting Foreign Minister of Afghanistan Mawlawi Amir Khan Muttaqi, on the sidelines of the 6th Trilateral Meeting of the Foreign Ministers of Pakistan, China, and Afghanistan in Kabul, the DPM/FM highlighted a recent surge in terrorist attacks inside Pakistan, perpetrated by groups operating from Afghan soil.

Pakistan extends closure of airspace for Indian airplanes

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has decided to keep its airspace closed for Indian flights for another month. Pakistan's of airspace by the Pakistani airspace closure for Indian authorities.

aircraft has been extended until September 23.

The Pakistan Airports Authority has issued a new NOTAM extending airspace closure for the Indian aircraft

Pakistan has closed its airspace for Indian aircraft since April 23. Indian airlines have lost Rs 35 billion due to the closure



Federal Minister Wattoo visited the rain-affected areas of Jagran and Dawarian

Majeed Tahir

NEELAM VALLEY: Federal Minister for Water Resources Mian Moin Wattoo, along with Senior Most Minister Col. (retd) Waqar Ahmed Noor, government ministers Mian Abdul Waheed Advocate, Chaudhry Azhar Sadiq, visited the rain-affected areas of Jagran and Dawarian and made a detailed inspection of the damage caused by the cloudburst.

The affected communication roads, bridges and other infrastructure including guest houses were inspected. On this occasion, Minister for Law Mian Abdul Waheed Advocate gave a detailed briefing about the damage caused by the cloudburst in the victims on behalf of Prime Minister

while talking to the media said that he in the affected areas of Neelum Valley.

He came to express his sympathy to the rehabilitation of the victims.



the affected areas of Nallah Jagran and Mian Shahbaz Sharif. He will reconstruct the roads and bridges and On this occasion, Federal Minister for compensate for the losses suffered by Water Resources Mian Moin Wattoo the victims. He came to inspect the affected areas on the orders of Prime was deeply saddened by the destruction Minister of Pakistan Mian Shahbaz Sharif. All resources are being used for

has started an operation to restore the affected infrastructure. A report on the losses will be presented to Prime Minister of Pakistan Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif.

He will cooperate with the Azad possible way for the rehabilitation of farabad Division also present.

The Azad Kashmir government the victims. Law Minister Mian Abdul Waheed Advocate proposed the allotment of white areas around the drains for the rehabilitation of the damaged communication roads, bridges and

Deputy Commissioner, SP, and Kashmir government in every Highways Commissioner Muzaf-

Food and Restaurant Awards

ISLAMABAD: Chief Guest, Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan presents awards to the participants of Pakistan International Food and Restaurant Awards 2025 at local hotel in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Dr Malika Rani Visited Different Universities of United Kingdom

👺 Quratul Ain Asim

MULTAN: Women University Registrar and Chairperson of the Department of Physics Dr. Malika Rani the UK. According to the spokesper-Transnational Education, which also

universities, Thal University Bhakkar and Bahria University Islamabad. This project has been done in collaboration with the British Council.

This project has been designed to returned after completing her visit to address three key challenges under which Pakistan-UK educational and son, the Registrar of Women University research cooperation is to be strength-Dr. Malika Rani visited the UK under ened. These challenges include the the Transnational Synergy Project of decreasing number of joint authorships between UK and Pakistani academics, included professors from two other limited opportunities for Pakistani



faculty to pursue PhDs internationvisited London Metropolitan Univer- visit was very successful.

sity and Queen Mary University of ally, and the urgent need to increase London and participated in strategic the participation and development of project meetings and academic conferwomen researchers. Dr. Malika Rani ences. Dr. Malika Rani said that this

Pakistan's Cotton Industry Faces Crisis as Imports Soar: Dr Jasomil

👺 Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Chairman PCGA Doctor Jasomil Said The Pakistan Cotton Ginners Association (PCGA) has Released figures on the arrival of cotton in factories, according to which 887,401 bales of cotton were received in the country's ginning factories till August 15, 2025. 1075,028 bales of cotton were received in factories till August 15, 2024.

This is a decrease of 187,627 bales of cotton in factories compared to the same period was 17.45 percent. 369,550 province, which is 23,186 bales cotton that were received in of cotton were produced from season 2025-26.

factories in the same period the cotton that arrived in facto-

The decline rate in Punjab was 5.90 percent. 517,851 bales of cotton have arrived in factorate in Sindh province was

ries till August 15, 2025. 244 ginning factories are operational in the country.

Exporters/traders have not ries in Sindh province, which purchased any bales of cotton last year. The rate of decrease is 164,441 bales less than the in the current season, while 682,292 bales of cotton that the textile sector has purchased bales of cotton have been arrived in factories in the same 86,488 bales of cotton. The received in factories in Punjab period last year. The decline Trading Corporation of Pakistan (TCP) has not purchased less than the 392,736 bales of 24.10 percent. 839,987 bales any bales of cotton in the cotton

There are 113 ginning factories operational in Punjab province and 356,896 bales of cotton have been produced. As of August 15, 2025, 7,934 bales of cotton have been received in district 12,800 bales of Multan district, 2,750 bales of cotton in Lodhran district, 62,523 bales of cotton in Khanewal district, 7,02 bales of cotton in Muzaffargarh district, 55,278 bales of cotton in Dera Ghazi Khan district, 19,423 bales of

cotton in Rajanpur district, 21,460 bales of cotton in Layyah district, 73,984 bales of cotton in Vehari district, 39,831 bales of cotton in Sahiwal district, 1,947 bales of cotton in Rahim Yar Khan district, 18,436 bales of cotton in Bahawalpur district, and 16,396 bales of cotton in Bahawalnagar district.

In Sanghar district, 390,651 bales of cotton have been received, in Mirpur Khas district 17,700 bales of cotton. in Nawabshah district 9,100 bales of cotton, in Jamshoro cotton, in Hyderabad district 51,000 bales of cotton and in Balochistan province 30,600 bales have been received in factories. There is an unsold stock of 80,913 bales of cotton and cotton wool.

Inland Revenue Welfare Association protest intensified, ultimatum to government for immediate action

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: The employees of the Inland Revenue Department of Azad Jammu and Kashmir have announced to widen the scope of their protest in favor of their legitimate demands.

After a month of continuous struggle from the platform of the Welfare Association (AJ&K) and government's broken promises, the employees have issued a schedule for a phased strike.

The strike will continue for three hours every day until August 22, while protest banners are also being displayed outside the offices. This second day of the protest continued with enthusiasm. Addressing the protesters, Central President Chaudhry Muhammad Asif said that the government's continued lack of interest, false promises and avoidance of practical steps have greatly disappointed the employees.

He said that there will be a symbolic complete strike across Azad

Kashmir on August 24 and 25. If the government does not accept the demands by September 1, 2025, there will be a complete lockdown in the offices and the government system will be paralyzed. Central Vice President Raja Imtiaz Khan, while addressing the protesting employees, said, "Now the protest will not be limited to offices only.

If the situation remains like this, we will take to the streets and fight for our rights. The government should not test the patience of the employees." Employees from all districts of Azad Kashmir participated in the protest enthusiastically and vowed not to back down until the demands are

Sardar Attique expresses deep sorrow and grief over the death of Absar Alam's mother

Bureau Report

DHIRKOT: Former Prime Minister and President All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan has expressed deep sorrow and grief over the death of the mother of Ex Chairman Pemra senior journalist and anchorperson Absar Alam. Former Prime Minister Sardar Attique has expressed his heartfelt condolences to senior journalist Absar Alam and his family and said



that we remain with the bereaved family in this hour of grief. On this occasion, the President Muslim Conference prayed for the high status of the deceased and the patience of the family.

COMSATS University Abbottabad Concludes 15-Day Soft Skills Training Program

ABBOTTABAD: COMSATS University Islamabad, Abbottabad Campus, successfully hosted the Closing Ceremony of the 15-Day Soft Skills Training Program, conducted under the HEC-DAAD Empower Future Female Afghan Leaders (EFFAL – Pakistan Track) initiative. The program was jointly sponsored by the Higher Education Commission (HEC) of Pakistan and the German Academic Exchange Service

The ceremony was graced by Mr. Jan Gerald Krausser, First Secretary and Head of Communications, Cultural Affairs and Protocol, Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany, as the Chief Guest. The Guest of Honour was Prof Dr Ghulam Muitaba Shah Vice Chancellor of Hazara University. Other distinguished dignitaries included Mr. Jahanzeb Khan, Project Director HEC; Mr. Mehboob Ali Shah, HEC; Prof. Dr. Shahid Khattak, Director COMSATS Abbottabad Campus; Prof. Dr. Irshad, Dean Faculty of Health Sciences; and Mrs. Humra Jamshed, Incharge International Office.

Addressing the gathering, Mrs. Humra Jamshed emphasised the role of the International Office in supporting international students. Dr. Malik Tahir Hayat, Training Coordinator, highlighted the program's objectives and shared details about the training modules, which included Leadership, Communication Skills, Proposal Writing, Freelancing, Digital Marketing, Office Automation, and Artificial Intelligence.

Mr. Jahanzeb Khan (HEC Project Director), Prof. Dr. Ghulam Mujtaba Shah (VC Hazara University), Mr. Jan Gerald Krausser, Prof. Dr. Shahid Khattak, Director of COMSATS Abbottabad Campus also Spock on the

"Learn and Earn Program" conducted

👺 Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: A graceful ceremony was organized in Attock by Deputy Commissioner Attock Rao Atif Raza and CEO Education Dr. Muhammad Azhar for the distribution of certificates among children who successfully completed the "Learn and Earn Program" and the IT teachers who conducted the courses. In this event, 250 students and IT teachers were awarded certificates of completion and appreciation.

The chief guest of the ceremony was Deputy Commissioner Attock Rao Atif Raza. On this occasion, Director Admin DPI Elementary Chaudhry Muhammad Ameen, Assistant Commissioner Anza Abbasi, DEO Secondary Altaf Hussain, DEO Elementary (Male) Taqi Abbas, DEO Elementary (Female) Shahwar Gul, all Deputy DEOs, principals of private schools, and eminent personalities from various walks of life

In his address, CEO Education Dr. Muhammad Azhar said: "The Learn and Earn Program is not only contributing to the educational growth of our children but also providing them with employment opportunities.

Deputy Commissioner Rao Atif Raza said: "My wish is that the students of our government schools should not lag behind in the race of progress. With this spirit, the Learn and Earn Program was launched.

CEO Education Attock Dr. Muhammad Azhar further expressed his resolve that the Learn and Earn Program will be expanded so that more and more students can benefit from it.

ANF arrest woman smuggler among 4 accused, recover drugs worth over Rs 36 million

RAWALPINDI: The Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) during six anti-drug smuggling operations in various cities have arrested four accused, including a woman smuggler, recovering 108.675 kilograms of drugs worth over Rs 36 million.

According to the ANF spokesman, $9.675\,\mathrm{kg}$ ice absorbed into clothes was recovered from a parcel being sent to New Zealand at the cargo shed of Allama Igbal International Airport, Lahore.

Similarly, 7.200 kg charas was recovered from a female passenger at the Motorway Toll Plaza, Islamabad. The accused was taken into custody. Likewise, another accused was arrested on the recovery of 6 kg charas from a vehicle on the Kohat Road, Peshawar, while two accused were nabbed when 5 kg ice was recovered from a rickshaw on Khayali Bypass,





Namaz Timings Maghrib

EMERGENCY

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Rescue (Police) 15	5
Bomb Disposal 15	5
Fire Services Rawalpindi/	
Islamabad1122 & 10	6
Emergency Ambulance 1122 8	Š
& Rescue Services 445112	2
Motorway Police926604	4
Motorway Police9270601-20	0

ENCHIDY

ENQUIRT		
Edhi Ambulance115		
PIA Flight Info114		
PIA Cargo 9280979		
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Railway Exchange 9270831-5		
WASA Rawalpindi5555489		
CAA9281092		
HOSPITALS		

CMH	5611111
MH	561116
MH	561116
Cantt Hospital	9270907-11
DHQ	5556311-4
RGH	9290301-7
Holy Family	9290322-7
PIMS	9261170-79
Polyclinic	9218300-09
Shifa International	4603666

DEPARTMENTS

CI	DA	9221334-43
CI	DA	9208301-04
М	let Office	9250360-6
R	DA	5555864
TI	MA	5770886
Ca	antonment Board	9270151-3
ls	lamabad Metropo	litan
C	orporation	9209224
Р	otohar Town	9209224
R	awal Town	5773343

COMPLAINTS

E-7, F-10 & F-11 .. G-5, G-6, G-7, G-8,9203883 G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, H-8 ..9266316 Wapda Islamabad......9217579-80 Sui Gas Complaint..... 119, 9272249

CMMaryam Nawaz pays tribute to sanitation workers

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif paid glowing tribute to sanitation workers across the province in recognition of their outstanding and swift sanitation services during Eid-ul-Azha.

As part of her commitment to recognizing their hard work, she had announced a cash rewar of Rs 10,000 for each worker in appreciation of the exceptional cleanliness arrangements maintained throughout the three days

In a first-of-its-kind celebration, grand ceremonies were held in all 123 tehsils of Punjab to honor the sanitation staff.

 $The\,events\,were\,marked$ by scenes of jubilation as workers danced and performed bhangra to the beat of drums, overwhelmed by the unprecedented recog-

Public representatives, along with commissioners, deputy commissioners, and assistant commissioners, attended the ceremonies to show solidarity and respect for the sanitation workers.

Following the Chief Minister's special instructions, sumptuous meals were served to the workers, and cakes were cut in their honour across various cities.

Mövenpick Islamabad Wins Big at the 1st Pakistan International Food & Restaurant Awards 2025

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad's premier high-rise hotel, Mövenpick Hotel Centaurus Islamabad received notable recognition at the 1st Pakistan International Food & Restaurant Awards organized by Brain Designers. The event hosted prominent chefs, hoteliers and dignitaries from both the private and public sector including Sardar Yasir Ilyas, Tourism Advisor to the Prime Minister of Pakistan and His Excellency Sardar Saleem Khan, the Governor of Punjab. Titled 'Honoring the Heroes of Hospitality', the event aimed to promote domestic food tourism and boost the industry with meaningful intersectional dialogue.

The team from Mövenpick Hotel Centaurus Islamabad received several awards, highlighting the dedication to excellence with which the hotel has operated since opening its doors in January 2025; Best Newcomer Mövenpick



Restaurant, Zen Asia, Best Outdoor Dining, Sky 24, Chef of The Year, Chef Sadaqat Sohail, Executive Sous Chef at Mövenpick, Most Innovative & International Menu, Embers and Chef humbled by this recognition. Our Frederic Boucault, Executive Chef at Mövenpick and Excellence in the finest services to valued guests Food & Beverage Management, Vineta Dastoor, Director F&B at

Sharing his thoughts on these stellar accolades, General Manager of Mövenpick Hotel Centaurus Islamabad, Nicolas Verdun remarked, "We are truly teams work tirelessly to provide ment to our unwavering commitment to excellence, inspiring us



and these awards are further testa- to work even harder and keep growing in the years to come."

Muhammad Rauf Raja shared nurture the immense talent in our

his thoughts, "These acknowlnew generation CEO of Brain Designer, edgments and awards will help Photos: Online by Sultan Bashir

Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Commerce, Rana Ihsaan Afzal Khan, meeting with the Ambassador of Azerbaijan to discuss strengthening economic and trade cooperation on Wednesday.



PPP Workers Reach Flood-Affected Areas on Party Leadership's Instructions

👺 Qayoom Sarohi

HYDERABAD:Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Ladies Wing Hyderabad leader, Ishrat Hasan, has expressed sorrow and deep concern over the loss of lives and the flood situation caused by heavy rains in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Gilgit-Baltistan, and Azad Kashmir.

In her statement, Ishrat Hasan said that, under the special directives of PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and President Asif Ali Zardari, the entire party is actively engaged. On the instructions of the party leadership, workers and leaders are fully participating in relief aid. The PPP leadership and sands of families in flood-afefforts in the affected areas to workers stand with the victims fected areas have been severely the future.



provide immediate assistance in this difficult time. In times

She further stated that inces and regions should rise Chairman Bilawal Bhutto and above politics and help each President Asif Ali Zardari have other. given clear directions that no

of natural disasters, all prov-

PPP Ladies Wing leader family should be left without
Ishrat Hasan said that thou-

impacted, with damage to homes and roads, and victims are in urgent need of immediate relief. Along with federal and provincial governments, welfare organizations should also step forward to assist the public, ensuring the provision of food, medicines, clean water,

She added that the Sindh government stands with its brothers and sisters in this difficult time and will provide all possible support. Due to climate change, Pakistan is repeatedly facing natural disasters, which makes it necessary for all federating units to work together and devise a joint strategy to protect the lives and property of the people in

Mandatory Data Protection Measures for Organizations Handling Personal Identifiable Information (PII)

E City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The National Cyber and public trust. Emergency Response Team (National CERT) of Pakistan has issued a cybersecurity advisory to all individuals, public and private organizations handling Personally Identifiable Information (PII) of Pakistani citizens. The advisory mandates immediate and strategic data protection actions in response to an alarming rise in data breaches, identity theft, and privacy violations across key sectors. This advisory applies to all entities that collect, store, process, or transmit Personally Identifiable Information (PII) of Pakistani citizens, regardless of the nature, size, or infrastructure, including on-premises, cloud, and hybrid environments. The National Cyber Security Policy

tion as a matter of national security

The advisory highlights growing threats posed by weak internal controls, outdated systems, unencrypted data flows, installation of malicious apps, and poor cyber hygiene, all of which make organizations vulnerable to financial fraud, operational disruption, reputational damage, and potential regulatory action under laws such as PECA

Breaches involving CNIC numbers, health records, or financial information not only erode public trust but also increase risks of exploitation by both criminal and hostile entities.

Organizations are urged to take immediate and structured action

tivity, applying strict access controls, encrypting PII in storage and transit, and ensuring that all software and systems are kept up to date.

Organizations should also adopt a secure development lifecycle, retain PII only as required by law, implement clear breach response protocols, and audit third-party vendors handling personal data. Over the long term, entities are expected to align with regulatory standards, adopt zero-trust principles, ensure disaster recovery readiness, and build a security-aware workforce through regular training and testing.

The National CERT also urges individuals to safeguard their personal data. Citizens are advised to only share CNICs and personal documents when absolutely neces-

2021 recognizes citizen data protec- including classifying data by sensi- sary and to clearly label any copies provided (e.g., "For SIM registration only"). Strong, unique passwords and multi-factor authentication should be enabled on all critical accounts.

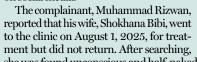
People should be cautious about oversharing personal details online or with unverified service providers, and should avoid downloading malicious applications from unofficial sources that may leak sensitive data.

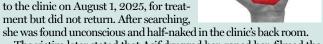
The National CERT emphasizes that proactive data protection is not just a compliance requirement but a strategic necessity. It calls on both organizations and individuals to act decisively to secure personal data, preserve national digital infrastructure, and restore confidence in Pakistan's cyber ecosystem. For the detailed advisory and recommended action plan

Negligence Exposed, Quack Doctor Commits Heinous Crime — Police Act Swiftly

跨 Zain Khan Malghani

MULTAN: In Multan's Alpa area, a shocking crime surfaced when an unlicensed practitioner, Asif, allegedly injected a woman with drugs, sexually assaulted her, and recorded the incident before sharing it on social media.





The victim later stated that Asif drugged her, raped her, filmed the assault, and stole her jewelry and Rs. 22,000 in cash. When DSP Sadar Circle Elim Din was asked in this context, he stated

that the police had received the application today, upon which, on the complainant's request, an FIR was immediately registered and legal proceedings were initiated.

Police registered FIR No. 1529/25 under Sections 376 and 292 PPC and launched raids for Asif's arrest.

Locals blamed the Multan administration and health department for failing to curb quackery in the area, though they appreciated the swift police response. Residents demanded a strict crackdown on fake doctors and healers to protect women's safety and the medical profes-

Crackdown against electricity thieves continues

Zafar Chishti

TOBATEK SINGH: According to details, SDO WAPDA City Kamalia Faisal Naseer talking to the media said that continuous actions are being taken against elec-

He further said that our teams are working in the field on a daily basis and actions are being taken against the electricity thieves after identifying them and

along with FIRs, heavy fines are also being imposed against electricity thieves. Faisal Naseer said that despite our repeated messages to Through social

media and Cable, these people do not stop stealing electricity. Therefore, we have been taking action against those who are found involved in stealing electricity. Electricity theft is very big crime that is unforgivable. In the End, he said that our actions will continue if electricity theft

Spotify Introduces Seamless Transitions and Custom Mixes for Premium Users in Pakistan



跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Adding another unique feature to enhance streaming experiences, Spotify announced the beta launch of a new set of creative controls that lets Premium users customize transitions between songs

and shape how their playlists flow from track to track. The experience brings intuitive, DJ-style tools, like tempo-aware transitions, volume and EQ curves, and effect controls, directly into Spotify's playlist interface for the first time, enabling fans to craft personalized, shareable mixes with just a few taps.

With this feature, music lovers can open any playlist, tap "Mix" on the toolbar, and choose instant "Auto" blending or dive into customization to fine-tune how each track connects to the next. Users can select transition presets such as "Fade" or "Rise," see beats-per-minute (BPM) and key information to help sequence songs smoothly, and use waveform and beat data to pick the most natural handoff points between tracks.

Once saved, a mixed playlist can be played, shared, or even co-edited with friends who are also on Premium; mixing can be toggled on or off

Thursday, August 21, 2025

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Floods Devastate Rural Pakistan

he rain that does not fall gently pounds Khyber Pakhtunkhwa again. It erodes the past, devastates the present, and threatens the future. Rivers swell, torrents surge, roads vanish, houses crumble. Lives are lost, not only the men, women, and children we mourn openly, but also the animals: goats, sheep, buffaloes, cows; companions, food, dowries, and bank accounts on four legs. In their drowning, a second kind of life disappears: livelihoods, savings, sustenance, the marrow of rural survival.

In 2022, over a million animals perished. Their deaths are not mere numbers in an agriculture report; they are futures collapsing. When over 700,000 animals were lost in Balochistan alone, it was not just carcasses in the mud. It was milk gone from a child's cup, a daughter's dowry reduced to nothing, entire communities sinking along with their herds.

The story repeats each year: the flood line cuts vertically across Pakistan, from Khyber to Sindh, Punjab to Balochistan. Torrents surge, breaches form, rivers carry water from the mountains to the Arabian Sea. Every province along this belt is livestock-rich. Hill torrents overflow, encroachments choke rivers, climate change makes the skies heavier, yet preparedness remains fragmentary. We call it a "natural disaster." but most of it is man-made: poor planning, blocked drainage, encroachments. Climate change only amplifies the cycle.

This year's monsoon is milder than 2022, but the risks remain. The 2023 Sutlej floods showed how cumulative outflows from Indian dams can suddenly inundate Punjab. The 2024 season brought medium floods across the Indus and Kabul rivers. Local torrents in Balochistan, downpours in Sindh, urban flash floods in Rawalpindi, all reveal one truth: floods are not just swollen rivers, but a complex disaster development nexus where poor land use, weak governance, and climate risks collide.

And livestock? Always an afterthought. Yet it contributes 60% of agricultural GDP. Without it, provincial economies wobble, SMEs stall, women lose market footholds, and children go without protein. Grazing lands, stored feed, fodder, and scarce veterinary services vanish under the water. What survives is often the weakest stock, yet families cling to them. I have seen a woman coax a single cup of milk from a famished buffalo to feed her child. That is resilience, but it is also

Solutions exist. The EU, UN, and other partners have demonstrated how index-based livestock insurance, mobile eterinary units, and emergency fodder banks can protect ru ral households. Herds can be moved ahead of floods. Fodder banks can be stocked. Recovery loans can reach families. Banks, insurers, and SMEs must be part of the plan. Women-led rural enterprises, who depend on these animals, cannot

The thunder is back over Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The rain will fall where it always falls. We cannot dam the sky, but we can choose whether to drown again, or to stand ready, with our people, our animals, and our livelihoods protected.

'A Minor Apocalypse Unfolds: Pakistan's Flood Crisis and Our Collective Negligence'

Dr. Muhammad Tayyab Khan Singhanvi

But when it collides with human negligence, failed planning, ecological disruption, and the incompetence of state institutions, it turns into a calamity that devours thousands of lives. Today, the northern and mountainous regions of Pakistan Buner, Shangla, Bajaur, Swat, Gilgit-Baltistan, Azad Kashmir, and Mansehra stand on the brink of what can connecting roads shut, only be called a minor apocalypse. Torrential rains, devastating floods, and deadly landslides are painting a tragic chapter in human history. Water pours from the skies, the earth caves in, rivers rage, mountains crumble, villages vanish and all we do is count: corpses, losses, promises, and

The recent torrential rains in Gilgit not only altered the course of the Hunza River but unleashed a wave of destruction across the entire Baltistan Division, one that will haunt memories for years. Naltar, once a paradise for tourists, now resembles a mournful image of washed-away roads, powerless homes, and stranded families. A major portion of the Naltar Expressway has been swept away. Three powerhouses have ceased operations, and electricity supply has been completely severed. In Skardu, the Sadpara powerhouse has stopped functioning, cutting off electricity altogether. Tourists, local residents, and

rescue personnel all stand helpless. A new and more intense spell of monsoon rains has begun. Cities across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Peshawar, Mardan. Swabi, Abbottabad are experiencing flooding, landslides, and destruction. A cloudburst in Swabi triggered havoc: 25 people were swept away in floodwaters, ozens of homes destroyed, many trapped under rubble, 35 injured, and over 40 still on rooftops. The operation to retrieve mobile communication systems are

In Peshawar, Swat, and Mingora, heavy rainfall persists, causing streams and rivers to overflow and enter homes. The Karakoram Highway is blocked. Roads in Karak have washed away; communication and power systems lie in shambles. In Galiyat, landslides occurred in several locations. A pickup truck in Havelian

was swept away. With rescue teams face severe challenges. Fifty children and several women have been rescued from the floods.

Swat alone, 400 houses and 124 schools have been affected. According to the National Disaster

Management Authority (NDMA), as of now, 660 deaths have been confirmed due to this monsoon season: 392 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 164 in Punjab, 29 in Sindh, 20 in Balochistan, 32 in Gilgit-Baltistan, 15 in Azad Kashmir, and 8 in Islamabad.

In Swabi's remote and mountainous Gandaf region, villages like Dalori Bala and Sarkoi Payan witnessed cloudbursts and lightning strikes. Torrential downpours caused dozens of houses to collapse. Twenty-five people, including women, children, and the elderly, were confirmed dead, and dozens were injured. In Dalori Bala, 20 lives were lost, and in Sarkoi Payan, two women and their children perished. Colonel Sher Khan Kalay, a young man named Talha drowned in the floodwaters. Landslides at Bada village trapped several vehicles, and in Kola Gar, roofs collapsed, burying livestock. The causeway connecting Marghuz and Zaida was swept away. Entire families are now homeless. missing. Some people remain stranded Crops have been destroyed. Power and

villages to assist in evacuation. Rescue delayed operations. Heavy rainfall has flooded homes and shops in Swabi, Zaida, Marghuz, Tindoki, Anbar, Chota Lahore, and beyond. Low-lying areas have submerged. In Mingora, streams

have overflowed, and in Haripur, water torrents blocked the Karakoram Highway and shut down Silk Route traffic on both

This is not merely a natural calamity, it is a consequence of our collective negligence. In 2022, nationwide floods affected 33 million

people and caused billions in damages. But what followed? Was any comprehensive national policy devised? Were NDMA and the Provincial Disaster Management Authorities (PDMAs) equipped with modern resources, manpower, and autonomy? Were environmental assessments conducted in high-risk areas? Were early warning systems modernized? The answer is silence. A deafening silence that echoes through valleys where the past buries the future.

Climate scientists have warned for years: Pakistan is among the nations most vulnerable to climate change. Sharp temperature rises, disrupted monsoon patterns, rapidly melting glaciers, and increasingly intense rainfall were all glaring signs that demanded urgent action. But our development plans, political rhetoric, and budget priorities were directed elsewhere. And now, we stand at the edge of a disaster where mere words of sympathy are no longer enough we need action.

Cloudbursts have been forecasted

ain is a divine blessing. bodies and rescue the injured continues. down. Army helicopters reached the in Punjab's Mianwali, Chakwal, Talagang, and Attock districts. The collision teams and local volunteers retrieved the of eastern and western air currents is dead and injured, but the harsh terrain expected to intensify this monsoon spell. Urban flooding and cloudbursts may soon engulf major cities. Are we prepared? Are our hospitals, shelters, drainage systems, food supply chains, and communication infrastructures equipped to withstand this intensity? The answer remains a resounding no.

In the face of this crisis, temporary relief is important but far from sufficient. The state must immediately formulate a comprehensive national strategy for environmental protection, water conservation, and disaster preparedness. This must include improved water reservoirs, modern drainage systems, relocation of vulnerable populations, and trained local emergency volunteers. Additionally, NDMA and PDMA must be given full autonomy and resources. Provincial governments and district administrations need both authority and funding. Public awareness campaigns are vital.

What is happening right now in the affected regions is no movie scene or myth, it is real. A brutal reality that buries hundreds of families alive each day. A scene no camera can fully capture. Cries drowned by the roar of rain. Silent sighs buried beneath river waves. And the haunting question buried with each corpse: "Had we been prepared, could this life have been

If we still fail to act, this minor apocalvose will escalate into a major one in the coming years. And then, history will remember us not just as victims of natural disasters but as culprits of our own down-

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Deteriorating Weather Balance and Damages in Pakistan and the Region

n recent decades, the intensity of weather worldwide has increased to alarming are lost each year, and the limited medical facilities damages reaches billions of dollars annually, an unbearable burden for developing economies. worldwide has increased to alarming levels. Among the most destructive phenomena are cloudbursts and sudden flash floods. These events are no longer unusual or isolated accidents; according to scientists and climatologists, they are the result of rapid global climate change and, particularly, landslides, burying villages and blocking the the accelerated deforestation in mountainous Karakoram Highway, Pakistan's vital trade route regions. Pakistan, India, and other countries

in the region are now the most affected by this ecological imbalance.

A cloudburst refers to an extremely heavy rainfall that occurs suddenly over a small area in a short period of time. This usually happens in mountainous regions when warm. moist air masses collide with cooler winds, forcing clouds to

release water all at once. In the past, cloudbursts were a natural phenomenon, but in recent years their frequency and intensity have increased alarmingly. A warming atmosphere holds more moisture, which raises the likelihood of these violent downpours.

Ahsan Ansari

The most severe human, financial, and infrastructural losses are concentrated in northern Pakistan. In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK), cloudbursts and flash floods often sweep away entire villages. Districts like Chitral and Dir have repeatedly seen homes, schools, and hospitals destroyed. Roads and bridges are often washed away, isolating communities for weeks. Hundreds of families are displaced every

monsoon season, and many lives are lost. In Gilgit-Baltistan (GB), melting glaciers combined with cloudbursts have repeatedly triggered destructive floods and landslides. Valleys such as Ghizer, Hunza, and Skardu have suffered severe damage, with infrastructure, centuries-old cultural

make survival even more challenging.

The Kohistan region has also been severely affected. Narrow valleys, steep slopes, and poor connectivity make the area particularly vulnerable. Cloudbursts have caused massive with China. The human toll has been heavy, with families washed away and prop-

> erties permanently destroyed. Similarly, Buner, Chitral, and Swat have faced unprecedented devastation, where flash floods have completely destroyed most homes, connecting bridges, and roads. Entire communities were cut off as rivers overflowed and mountain streams turned into torrents. In these

districts alone, over 400 precious lives were lost, and thousands were injured or went missing. The destruction of infrastructure left survivors homeless and vulnerable, while the collapse of bridges and roads delayed rescue operations. The scale of devastation in Buner, Chitral, and Swat underscores how climate change and deforestation have weakened human settlements.

The destruction caused by cloudbursts and torrential rains is not limited to natural landscapes; human infrastructure has been equally affected. Roads, highways, and bridges are washed away, isolating entire districts. Hydropower projects, crucial for Pakistan's electricity supply, often collapse under the force of floods. Agriculture, which depends on balanced rainfall, suffers badly, with farmers losing entire crops overnight. Tourism, a major source of income for mountainous areas, is also severely affected. Every year, reports emerge of tourists trapped or killed in flash floods. The financial cost of these

While local deforestation and poor land management have worsened the crisis, the root cause lies in global climate change. Industrial nations, through excessive carbon emissions, have fueled global warming, yet vulnerable countries like Pakistan and India bear the heaviest consequences. This imbalance is one of the most painful aspects of climate injustice. International cooperation is now more important than ever. Developed nations must provide financial and technological support to help South Asia withstand environmental disasters.

Globally, reducing greenhouse gas emissions is essential to slow warming. Locally, Pakistan and India must protect their forests, implement large-scale afforestation projects, and enforce strict laws against illegal logging. Advanced early warning systems for cloudbursts and flash floods are crucial to save lives. Development planning must also be sustainable, ensuring that roads, settlements, and dams are constructed with ecological sensitivity in mind.

The increasing frequency of cloudbursts, floods, and extreme weather in Pakistan, India, and the broader region is a stark warning that the planet is changing rapidly. Forests are disappearing, weather has become unpredictable, and human infrastructure is collapsing under nature's fury. Without urgent action, both human and economic losses will grow, threatening livelihoods, economies, and ecosystems. South Asia stands at a critical crossroads: it can either continue down the path of environmental neglect or choose resilience by protecting forests, reducing emissions, and preparing communities for a climate-affected future. The choices made today will determine the survival and stability of the region tomorrow.

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Abai Kunanbayev and Allama Iqbal: Building Cultural Bridges Through Literature

Asif Khurshid

of events across the country. In Astana, the celebrations include exhibitions, musical performances, poetry readings, in their ability to speak to the heart as well as the open-air concerts, and interactive lectures,

along with special programs for children and online poetry recitations under the hashtag #АбайдыОқыЖалықпа. Тhe day began with a flower-laying ceremony at Abai's monument, featured cultural highlights like the Dombyra Party on Nurly Zhol Boulevard, and concluded with the grand "Abai's World" concert, honoring his lasting

influence on Kazakhstan's culture and identity. Abai Qunanbayev is celebrated as one of the greatest figures in Kazakh history. He was not only a poet, but also a philosopher, educator, and reformer who laid the foundation for modern Kazakh literature. Born in the vast steppes of Kazakhstan, Abai grew up in a time when his people were facing social, cultural, and political challenges. His life's work was dedicated to awakening his nation's spirit, guiding them towards education, moral integrity, and a balanced embrace of both tradition and modernity.

Both warned against blind imitation and encouraged their people to think critically and act with purpose.

There is still little work on translating Abai's literature into Urdu and other Pakistani languages, and more needs to be done to connect the people of Pakistan and Kazakhstan. In recent years, some of his works have been translated into thinkers never fade, they continue to guide and Pashto, Punjabi, Sindhi, and Balochi, giving Paki-

azakhstan is celebrating the 180th stani readers a chance to learn about his ideas. birth anniversary of its great These translations have also helped build cultural poet, philosopher, and educator and diplomatic ties between the two countries. Abai Kunanbayev with a variety For both nations, literature is not just art but a way to inspire change and bring people closer.

The parallel between Abai and Igbal also lies mind. Abai's poetry is simple yet profound, often

using the imagery of nature and everyday life to explain moral truths. Iqbal, too, could combine lyrical beauty with deep philosophy, urging his readers to rise like the eagle (shaheen) above fear and mediocrity. Both poets sought to make their people aware of their own dignity and potential.

Abai's words, like Iqbal's, remind us that literature is not only for personal enjoyment but can be a source of national renewal. By reading and sharing their works, we keep alive the values that can guide societies towards justice, harmony, and progress. The cultural exchange between Kazakhstan and Pakistan, strengthened by translations of Abai's poetry and philosophical writings, is a testament to how ideas can bring nations closer together.

More than a century after his passing, Abai's message is still fresh and relevant. His vision for an educated, ethical, and united society speaks directly to the challenges and hopes of Pakistan today. When read alongside the verses of Allama Iqbal, his poetry becomes part of a larger conversation about how nations can rise through wisdom, compassion, and the courage to change. This shared vision, carried across time and geography, shows that the voices of true poets and inspire, lighting the path toward a better future.

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King Salman Humanitarian Aid Center Sends Relief Goods to Pakistan's Flood Victims

KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA مركز الملك سلمان للإغاثة والأعمال الإنسانية



Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Center of Saudi Arabia has dispatched a big convoy carrying relief goods for flood affected people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

A ceremony in this connection was held in Islamabad today (Wednesday), which was attended by Minister for Inter Provincial Coordination Rana Sanaullah, Ambassador of Saudi Arabia to Pakistan Nawaf Bin Said Al-Maliki, Director King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Center Abdullah Al-Bagami, representatives of National

Disaster Management Authority and other concerned authorities.

The relief goods included ten thousand Shelter Kits, and ten thousand Food Packages. The Shelter Kits contain Solar Panels with LED lights, blankets, plastic mats, kitchen sets, water coolers and soaps. The Food Packages included wheat flour, sugar, cooking oil, pulses and other edibles. The relief goods were handed over the National Disaster Management

Speaking on the occasion, Minister for Inter Provincial Coordination Rana flood-affected population and assured Sanaullah thanked the Saudi govern- them of all possible assistance. The

KING SALMAN HUMANITARIAN AID & RELIEF CENTRE

ment for helping Pakistan during testing times. He said the gesture of giving relief goods by King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Center for the flood victims is a testament of exemplary friendship between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia. In his remarks, Ambassador Nawaf Bin Said Al Maliki expressed deep sorrow on behalf of the Saudi government over the loss of life and property due to floods in Khyber

Pakhtunkhwa. He reaffirmed solidarity with the sending of relief goods to flood affected areas reflects the continued commitment of Saudi Arabia through King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Center to extend humanitarian assistance to Pakistan. Over the years, King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Center launched numerous projects across Pakistan in food security, health, education, and disaster response. This initiative will further deepening

the bonds of friendship and brotherhood between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia.

Photos: Online by Sultan Bashir





ISSI Hosts Public Address by ECO Secretary General Asad Majeed Khan

👺 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Centre for Strategic Perspectives (CSP) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) hosted a Public Address on "ECO, Regionalism and the New Geopolitical Dynamics." The event brought together a wide range of participants including academics, think-tank experts, and practitioners. Ambassador Dr. Asad Majeed Khan, Secretary General of the **Economic Cooperation Organization** (ECO), was the Guest Speaker.

In his welcome remarks, Director General ISSI Ambassador Sohail Mahmood noted that the current global environment was marked by turbulence and transformation in which majorpower competition was accentuating however, was not as challenged, except regional cooperation then there could



and globalisation and multilateralism for in regions like South Asia. If ECO be a good demonstration effort for the were under severe stress. Regionalism, could provide a successful model of South Asian region.

Ambassador Sohail Mahmood

as Secretary General Asad Majeed had just returned from the 17th ECO Summit in Khankendi, Azerbaijan (3–4 July 2025). He highlighted the symbolism of Karabakh — a region once defined by conflict — hosting a summit of transformation and hope. At the gathering, ECO members pledged to expand trade, enhance transport and digital corridors, deepen energy cooperation, and build climate resilience. While intra-regional trade rose to USD 96.5 billion in 2022 from USD 76 billion in 2021, it still accounts for only 9.1% of the region's total trade—signaling untapped opportunities.

In his wide-ranging Public Address, Ambassador Asad M. Khan shared a comprehensive overview of ECO evolution and its institutional development. He also reflected on Pakistan's enduring role as a founding member of

in 1964—Asia's first regional development organization—to its expansion in 1985 with the inclusion of Central Asian states, Azerbaijan, and Afghanistan. He highlighted ECO's natural basis for cooperation through shared cultural, religious, and economic ties and noted that its comprehensive institutional framework. Trade, he stressed, is central to ECO's relevance, and efforts are underway to address challenges related to the ECO Trade Agreement (ECOTA) and the Visa Scheme. Disparities in infrastructure, historic trade patterns, and geopolitical tensions exacerbated further challenges, but the Organization is working

actively address them. Ambassador Asad Majeed Khan warned that climate change is an existential threat, with floods, droughts, and water stress undermining devel-

noted the timeliness of the ISSI event ECO, tracing its origins from the RCD opment across ECO states, calling for greater cooperation in renewable energy, adaptation, and water management. Yet, he acknowledged progress in energy connectivity projects and tourism promotion, while underscoring the need for deeper private sector engagement beyond government-led efforts.

Ambassador Inam-ul-Haq, Former Foreign Minister of Pakistan, highlighted ECO's continued potential as a vehicle for regional integration, noting that its strength lies in fostering multilateral economic and developmental cooperation among member states.

Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman ISSI, concluded discussion with a vote of thanks, commending the valuable contributions of the speakers and participants, and presented the Institute's memento to the Guest Speaker.

Turkish CG Cemal Sangu Bids Farewell with Heartfelt Visit to Aaghosh old home

Spokesman Report

KARACHI: The Consul General of Türkiye in Karachi, H. E. Cemal Sangu, carried out at Aaghosh. paid an emotional farewell visit in heavily rainy weather to Aaghosh Old Age Home, reaffirming his deep connection with the shelter that has become a beacon of hope for destitute eldertime during his tenure that he spent time with the senior mothers and sisters at

On this occasion, H. E. Cemal Sangu Toukar, a distinguished scholar of Urdu Language and Literature from Istanbul University, currently serving in Pakistan.

firsthand the humanitarian work being

Speaking to the residents, the Consul General expressed his admiration and

"It is truly a matter of great happiness, privilege, and heartfelt delight for me ly women. The visit marked the third to be here once again at Aaghosh Old Age Home, in the company of my senior mothers and sisters. Without visiting them, I always feel that my journey remains incomplete. This place, and was accompanied by Professor Khalil the people here, are connected deeply to my heart, and this bond will remain

with me throughout my life." He emphasized the importance of

Prof. Toukar had especially wished to supporting old age homes and uplifting whose commitment over two decades join the Consul General to witness elderly citizens, describing them as "the treasures of our societies." Recalling his experiences, he noted that visiting Aaghosh always made him feel "as though I am at home," praising the love, respect, and warmth he consistently received. In a touching exchange, one of the mothers asked him why he was leaving Pakistan. The Consul General replied with sincerity: "I truly love Pakistan and its people, but there is always an end to happy days." Her heartfelt response — "We really liked your visit" left him visibly moved.

During the visit, he also acknowledged the tireless efforts of Ms. Shagufta Saba, President of Aaghosh Home Trust,

has provided shelter, care, and dignity to countless abandoned and shelterless women. He lauded her compassion and leadership, calling her work "a model of service to humanity."

Ms. Shagufta Saba also shared her vision for the future of Aaghosh, expressing her desire to establish a specialized orphanage for physically and mentally challenged children, as well as infants abandoned due to social exploitation and harassment. "Our dream is to expand this mission of care, so no vulnerable soul is left without support," she said.

The farewell visit, filled with emotional exchanges and words of gratitude, underscored the special bond H.



E. Cemal Sangu has developed with Aaghosh during his tenure in Karachi. His closing message to the mothers and sisters was simple yet profound:

"Thank you for your love. Your warmth and prayers will remain among my most cherished memories of Paki-

Through this heartfelt visit, the Turkish Consul General not only reaffirmed his enduring bond with Aaghosh Home but also highlighted the broader cultural and diplomatic ties between Türkiye and Pakistan, grounded in the shared values of compassion, respect, and service to humanity.

Indonesian climbers conquer Trango Towers in Skardu to mark 80th independence day

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Trango Tower Red and White Expedition Team (EMPTT) 2025 made history by becoming the first Asian team to reach the summit of the Nameless Tower (6,251 m above sea level). They achieved this by conquering the most difficult route, Eternal Flame, within the Trango Towers complex in Pakistan.

The announcement was made bv Mr. Rahmat Hindiarta, MC/ Head of Information, Social, and Cultural Affairs, Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia during a press conference at the Indonesian Embassy on Tuesday, where he highlighted that the achievement symbolizes people-to-people connectivity between Pakistan and Indonesia. "Conquering the Towers symbolizes the strong bilateral relationship."

He highlighted the potential for mutual exchange in adventure sports, noting that Indonesia excels in sport climbing while Pakistan offers world-class mountaineering experiences.



pointed out that Pakistan is the largest recipient of Indonesian educational scholarships, and in 2023, over 14,261 Pakistani tourists were granted visas to Indo-

The Indonesian team is the first from Asia to summit the 6,251foot vertical rock complex.

The Indonesian climbers, led by mountaineer Faredin Simbareng, faced severe challenges during their expedition, with some members sustaining injuries but continuing with determination.

They expressed their intent to Rahmat Hendar Yarta also return to Pakistan next year for

another mountaineering mission. The successful ascent of the 6,251-metre Trango Towers is being celebrated as a milestone in strengthening cultural and peopleto-people relations between the two nations

The expedition team spent a total of 28 days, from July 18 to August 15, 2025. To reach the cliff with a 1,100-meter vertical wall, the climbers required extremely high technical skills while carrying all necessary supplies, including water, food, and climbing equip-

They underwent additional



acclimatization and rearranged their climbing strategies as some team members experienced severe headaches due to the reduced oxygen levels.

The IBEX Chair, Freden Sembiring, described this acclimatization moment as one of the most impressive moments because it took more than just three days. "It involved moving logistics of about 300 kg, shifted by six people from the main base camp to the climbing base camp, with an elevation movement from 4200 masl to 5200 masl, over rocky and very steep terrain," he said, as quoted

from a statement shared with the media on Sunday, August 17, 2025. Furthermore, heavy rain

occurred on several days, posing a major obstacle to the ascent. They had to halt the climb several times to wait for better weather conditions.

As the climbing duration extended, the remaining three climbers, Freden Sembiring, Ikbal K Fasya, and Deden Wahyudin, had to conserve their diminishing supplies to reach the summit of

Nameless, Trango Tower. **Athlete Team:** Freden Sembiring (IBEX technical climbing athlete who has





Chairman & EMPTT 2025

Chairman) Deden Wahyudin (Professional rock climber and guide at Carstenz)

Nazib Fadlulah (Sports science athlete with big wall expedition expert and rock climbing engineer) Ikbal K. Fasya (Highly skilled

successfully reached the summit of El Capitan, Yosemite)

Asep Tatang (Athlete specialized in ice climbing) Iqbal Ramadhan (Climbing

experience in almost all provinces

of Indonesia) Photos by A Sheikh

Economy/Commerce

Thursday, August 21, 2025



ilidex Fluctuation			
Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index			
Current	Prev. Close		
150,591.00	149,770.74		
Day's High	Day's Low		
151,261.67	149,931.67		
Index Value	Change		
28,377,678,246	+820.26		
Percentage	Time		
+0.55%	20 Aug, 2025 4:30 pm		
Europe: FTS	E 100 Index		
Index Value	Change		
9,288.14	+98.92		
Percentage	Time		
+1 08%	20 Aug, 4:35 pm		

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average				
Index Value	Change			
44,885.66	-36.61			
Percentage	Time			
-0.081%	20 Aug, 12:53 pm GMT-4			

GMT+1

+1.08%

Asia Pacific: Nikk	ei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change	
42,888.55	-657.74	
Percentage	Time	
-1.51%	20 Aug, 3:45 pm GMT+9	

Open Market Forex Rates

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	183	188
Bahrain Dinar	751.25	753.75
Canadian Dollar	204.1	209.1
China Yuan	39.13	39.53
Danish Krone	43.86	44.26
Euro	330.25	331.70
Hong Kong Dollar	35.87	36.22
Indian Rupee	3.14	3.23
Japanese Yen	1.8975	1.9975
Kuwaiti Dinar	917.25	925.25
Malaysian Ringgit	66.74	67.34
NewZealand \$	165.83	167.83
Norwegians Krone	27.13	27.43
Omani Riyal	735.80	738.30
Qatari Riyal	77.35	78.05
Saudi Riyal	75.55	75.70
Singapore Dollar	219.1	224.1
Swedish Korona	29.26	29.56
Swiss Franc	348.47	351.22
Thai Bhat	8.58	8.73
U.A.E Dirham	77.35	77.5
UK Pound Sterling	382.55	384.15
US Dollar	284	284.5

CCP Approves HA Fibres Merger with Husnain Textile Mills



Example 2 Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) has approved the merger of HA Fibres (Private) Limited (HAFL) with and into Husnain Textile Mills (Private) Limited

The transaction involves the amalgamation of HAFL with and into HTML, with both undertakings being private limited companies incorporated in Pakistan.

Husnain Textile Mills, incorporated in 2004, is engaged in the manufacturing and sale of yarn. Similarly, HAFL, incorporated in 2006, operates in the same line of business. Both entities are active in the textile sector, specifically within the yarn production segment.

The Commission, in its review of the proposed transaction, identified the relevant market as "Yarn – Cotton Polyester" within Pakistan. Upon evaluation, the Commission concluded that the transaction does not result in a substantial lessening of competition. The parties' combined market share remains limited, and the merger neither creates nor strengthens a dominant position in the relevant market. Moreover, the transaction does not give rise to any significant entry barriers.

Accordingly, the CCP has authorized the proposed merger under Section 31 of the Competition Act, 2010.

Mobilink Bank modernizes to latest cloud native Temenos Core Banking with Systems Limited

Example 2 Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's leading digital microfinance bank, Mobilink Bank, has successfully upgraded its core banking system by transitioning from Temenos' R17 to the R23 release of Temenos' cloud-native core banking platform. The upgrade reflects Mobilink Bank's ongoing commitment to technological innovation, operational excellence, and customer-centric digital transformation. The successful transition was made possible through strategic partnerships with Temenos, a global leader in banking technology, and Systems Limited, a pioneer in digital transformation services.

"This is a paradigm shift," said Haaris Mahmood Chaudhary, President & CEO, Mobilink Bank. "By adopting the latest cloud-native core banking technology from Temenos, we are laying the foundation for next-generation digital banking in Pakistan. Our customers can now enjoy faster, safer, and more seamless services, while we strengthen our position as a frontrunner in financial inclu-



sion and digital innovation."

Ammara Masood, GM Global Industries, Banking & Financial Services, Systems Limited explained, "We are proud to have led Mobilink Bank's core modernization program, upgrading to the latest Temenos Transact on OCI using PCA-OKE. This new digital core unifies banking capabilities, cloud, data, AI, and security, enabling agility and continuous reinvention for the Bank.

Aamir Ibrahim, CEO, Jazz highlighted, "Mobilink Bank's R23 transformation is a powerful example of how we are building the next generation of digital infrastructure in Pakistan. By combining world-class technology with our deep commitment to financial inclusion, we are creating faster, safer, and more accessible services for millions.

Santhosh Rao, Managing Director, Middle East & Africa, Temenos, commented, "We're thrilled to see Mobilink Bank take this bold step forward. Upgrading to our latest cloud-native core banking platform is more than a tech refresh. It's a strategic move toward truly modern banking.

SECP operationalizes Capital Market

Development Fund

Press Conference

LAHORE: President Pakistan Kisan Ittehad Council Khalid Mahmood Khokhar addressing press



Commerce Desk

KARACHI: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has approved the operationalization of the Capital Market Development Fund (CMDF) along with its Central development needs of the (PMEX) will contribute international best practices.

of the CMDF is to enhance financial literacy and public awareness, equipping retail investors with knowledge of capital market opportunities. This is expected to boost financial inclusion funding channel to meet the credit needs of the economy. Secondary objectives include capacity building of market participants and expanding tion for all CMDF activities.

outreach to untapped demographic and geographic segments.

As part of the initiative, the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX), National Clearing Company of Pakistan Limited (NCCPL), Depository Terms of Reference (TORs) Company (CDC), and Pakito address the immediate stan Mercantile Exchange capital market in line with PKR 30 million as seed capital, in addition to 1% The primary objective of their annual revenue to support market develop-

ment activities The Fund will be managed by the Institute of Financial Markets of Pakistan (IFMP) under the supervision of a Steering Committee (SC) and provide an alternative with representation from IFMP, PSX, NCCPL, CDC, and PMEX. The SC will provide governance, oversight, and strategic direc-

Infinix stands with the flood victims

Example 2 Commerce Desk

LAHORE: Infinix has stepped forward with a timely initiative to stand beside those devastated by the recent floods. Rooted deeply in its ideology of Asli Wala Bhai—the belief that true brotherhood shines in times of adversity-Infinix is not only extending its hand of support but also empowering its consumers to be the asli wala bhai and help their brothers in need. With every purchase of the HOT 60 Series, Infinix will contribute PKR 1,000 towards flood relief and recovery

The devastating floods have displaced families, damaged homes, and disrupted lives across the province. Infinix's initiative is designed to not only provide immediate relief but also to help communities rebuild with dignity and resilience.

"Natural calamities are unpredictable and often leave communities facing unimaginable challenges," said Simon



sibility to stand with our brothers and in easing their struggle and enabling Feng, CEO at Infinix Pakistan. "In such sisters. Through the HOT 60 Series them to move forward with strength moments, we believe it is our respon- initiative, we hope to play a small part and resilience."

PSO shows resilience in a challenging market

Example 2 Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Pakistan State Oil (PSO), the nation's trusted energy partner, successfully navigated complex market dynamics to achieve steady financial results, showcasing its strategic agility and adaptability. The Board of Management convened on August 19, 2025 in Karachi to review the group's performance for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025.

Despite navigating policy uncertainty, trade tensions, and financial market volatility, the company delivered robust financial results, reporting a notable profit after tax of PKR 20.9 billion. The Board of Management announced a dividend of PKR 10 per share, representing a payout ratio of 22.5% for the financial year 2024-25.

On a consolidated basis, including Pakistan Refinery Limited (PRL), the group achieved a profit after tax of PKR 16.4 billion, yielding an Earnings Per Share (EPS) of PKR 35.03.

PSO continued to lead the market,



market in FY25. The company continued its dominance across key petroleum segments, capturing a 45.7% share in the white oil segment and solidifying its position in a highly competitive landscape.

PSO with a 40.8% market share, sold 3.2 million metric tons in the motor gasosecuring a 44% share of the liquid fuel line segment. The company also sustained ience.

its leadership in diesel with a 46% market share and sales of 3.1 million metric tons. Even in the black oil segment, where demand declined due to the country's shift towards alternative energy sources, PSO supplied 131,000 metric tons, demonstrating its adaptability and market resil-

Farooq Chaudhry, Receives Award for Outstanding **Performance**



Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: A grand ceremony for the Pakistan International Food & Restaurants Awards 2025 was held in Islamabad, with Governor of Punjab, Sardar Saleem Haider, attending as the chief guest. The event saw participation from President of the Rawalpindi Restaurants, Caterers, Sweets & Bakers Association, Muhammad Farooq Chaudhry, Patronin-Chief Muhammad Naeem Chaudhry, and representatives from renowned food chains including Savour Foods, Cheezious, Monal,

and others. During the ceremony, the Governor of Punjab presented awards to President Muhammad Farooq Chaudhry, Patron-in-Chief Muhammad Naeem Chaudhry, and other food chain representatives in recognition of their efforts in promoting cultural cuisine, providing high-quality food, and fostering public harmony. On this occasion, the Governor emphasized that traditional and quality food is a hallmark of our culture and expressed hope that these traditions would continue to be upheld in the future.

Maaz Sadaqat's Century Helps Pakistan Shaheens Cricket Team Secure Third Win in

Top End T-20 Cricket Series



nament.

Left-handed batter Maaz was then joined by Abdul Samad

T20 Series at the DXC Arena in and Yasir Khan provided a solid and the pair added 32 runs for the second wicket. 20-year-old Maaz went on to register his maiden century of the tournament, striking 11 fours and two sixes in his 59-ball knock of 104.

boosted by a quick-fire 25 off 18 balls from Abdul Samad, which included a four and a six as they scored 202 for six in 20 overs.

For Strikers, Harry Manenti claimed three wickets for 31 runs in three overs.

In reply, Strikers lost wickets at regular intervals and were reduced to 49 for five in the eighth over. Opening batter Mackenzie Harvey top-scored with a 17-ball

For Shaheens, left-arm spin- Adelaide Strikers by 107 ners Faisal Akram and Mehran runs Mumtaz bagged two wickets Pakistan Shaheens 202-6, apiece, while right-arm off-spinner 20 overs (Maaz Sadaqat 104,

Mubasir Khan was the most Yasir Khan 51, Abdul Samad successful bowler, taking three 25; Harry Manenti 3-31) wickets for 19 runs in three overs. Adelaide Strikers 95 all out, Pakistan Shaheens will face 16.1 overs (Mackenzie Harvey Nepal on Friday, 22 August, at 27; Mubasir Khan 3-19, Faisal

Akram 2-19, Mehran Mumtaz Player of the match - Maaz

Pakistan Shaheens beat Sadaqat (Pakistan Shaheens)

DARWIN: Maaz Sadaqat's century powered Pakistan Shaheens to an emphatic 107-run win over Adelaide Strikers in the 23rd fixture of the Top End opening pair of Maaz Sadaqat six. This was his second half-cen-

Asim Tanveer

Darwin on Wednesday evening. This was Shaheens' third victory in the event, taking their tally to six points from five matches.

ICC Code of Conduct

foundation with a 149-run partnership for the first wicket. Yasir was the first to return back to the pavilion after scoring 51 off After electing to bat first, the 35 balls, hitting five fours and a

Zampa reprimanded for breaching

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD:: Australia player Adam Zampa has been reprimanded for breaching Level 1 of the ICC Code of Conduct during the first ODI against South Africa in Cairns on Tuesday.

Zampa was found to have breached Article 2.3 of the ICC Code of Conduct for Players and Player Support Personnel, which relates to 'use of an audible obscenity during an International Match'.

In addition to this, one demerit point has been added to Zampa's disciplinary record, for whom it was the first offence in a 24-month period, said a press release

The incident occurred in the 37th



over of South Africa's innings, when Zampa used inappropriate language after a misfield and overthrow off his bowling, which was picked up on the stump microphone and broadcast.

Zampa admitted the offence and accepted the sanction proposed by Andy Pycroft of the Emirates ICC Elite Panel of Match Referees, so there was no need for a formal hearing.

On-field umpires Chris Gaffaney and Sam Nogajski, third umpire Richard Illingworth and fourth umpire Donovan Koch levelled the charge.

Level 1 breaches carry a minimum penalty of an official reprimand, a maximum penalty of 50 per cent of a player's match fee, and one or two demerit points.

Pakistan's Haroon General selected for UCI race in Europe

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Cycling Federation (PCF) has announced that Muhammad Haroon General, a UCI-certified Road Elite National Commissaire, has been officially selected by the Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI) to serve as a Commissaire at the Tour de l'Avenir, one of Europe's most prestigious international cycling races, to be held in France from August 23 to 29.

This landmark selection makes General the first-ever Pakistani commis-



saire to officiate at a UCI-sanctioned race in Europe, a significant step forward in Pakistan's participation in international

cycling governance, said a press release. His selection follows a highly competitive process in which only six commissaires, three male and as many female, were chosen from across Asia, Africa, 2010, has presided over all major Road South, and Central America.

General expressed heartfelt gratitude to Dubai Islamic Bank for their generous support in making his participation possible, and acknowledged the Syed Azhar Ali Shah President Pakistan Cycling Federation for their trust and consistent encouragement. "The unwavering support from PCF and the spon-represents a historic breakthrough, sorship from Dubai Islamic Bank laid the foundation for this milestone," he said.

Muhammad Haroon General, while serving as a cycling commissaire since and Track National Championships in

He has been officiated at events in Uzbekistan and the Tour of Iran-Azerbaijan 2025—both marking the first-ever international assignments for a Pakistani commissaire.

His selection for the Tour de l'Avenir showcasing Pakistan's growing presence in global cycling administration.

Second Edition of the Tareen Cricket League got Off to a Great Start: Asim Nisar Bajwa

the same venue. The first ball of

the match will be bowled at 7pm.

Scores in Brief:



MULTAN: The second edition of the Tareen Cricket League got off to a great start. The league trophy was unveiled in a grand manner at the opening ceremony.

Four teams are participating in the Tareen Cricket League this time, including Tareen Titans, Tareen Tornadoes, Tareen Sultans and Tareen Lions. In the opening match of the league, Tareen Titans batted first and set a target of 131 runs for the opposing team Tareen Tornadoes. However, Tareen Tornadoes played brilliantly and achieved this target in the 18th over and won the match. The special guest at the opening ceremony was General Manager Ali reen Farm Asim Nisar Bajwa. In addition, Overseas Pakistani Muhammad Masood, Tareen Cricket Academy Coach Shahid Butt, Academy In-charge Sohail Shahzad and Shiraz Bukhari were also present.

National players gearing up for AFC U23 Asian Cup 2026 qualifiers

₿ Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: The national U23 team's training camp is underway here at the Jinnah Sports Complex, where Head Coach Nolberto Solano has joined the squad. Earlier, due to potential weather disruptions in Abbottabad, the Pakistan Football Federation (PFF)

decided to relocate the national team's training camp to Islamabad. Initially, 50 players selected through national tryouts are participating in the camp, with the final 23-man squad to be announced later, said a press release.

Pakistani talent Adeel Afzal carries hockey dreams to Germany

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: From the narrow lanes of Bhagiyana Kallan near Kasur to the grand arenas of Germany, 17-year-old Adeel Afzal has scripted a story of grit and glory.

Once a boy battling daily hardships, he now stands as Pakistan's youngest player in the Bundesliga

Hockey League in Germany. Pakistani talent Adeel Afzal carries hockey dreams to Germany

Adeel's journey is not just about hockey; it is a story of resilience, dedication and faith in opportunities that once seemed impossible. When the Prime Minister's Youth Program (PMYP)announced a national hockey talent hunt in 2023, few in Bhagiyana Kallan realized it would alter a young boy's destiny. Encouraged by his coach Shafqat, a retired army man, Adeel traveled 60 kilometers to Lahore with nothing more than determination in his heart. His raw pace and natural flair stunned selectors Khawaja Junaid and Ajmal Khan Lodhi, who saw in him not just another player but a rare talent hidden in the dust. That moment marked the beginning of a journey that would soon carry him across borders.

Behind this breakthrough stood



and Chaudhry Pervaiz Sandhella, a Netherlands-based Pakistani, whose tireless efforts helped revive international hockey in Pakistan after a gap of 21 years. Their work brought foreign teams back to the country, giving an entire generation of players, deprived of global exposure for decades, a chance visionaries like Rana Mashhood to showcase their talent. Adeel

stars of this revival. His rise also reflects the vision

of Prime Minister Mian Shahbaz Sharif to promote talented youth and empower underprivileged

Adeel's path was never easy. Selected for the PMYP Hockey League, he shone brightly and helped his team lift the title.

This victory earned him a place at the Khawaja Junaid Hockey Academy in Lahore, supported by the Akhuwat Foundation. Yet the struggle continued. Each day

than exhaustion, he would sleep

at the Data Darbar shrine, saving

he traveled from Kasur to Lahore for training, often returning home to an empty kitchen. On nights when hunger weighed heavier

His coach only discovered this secret when he spotted him at the shrine during morning prayers. These quiet sacrifices, hidden even from his family, became the fuel for his relentless pursuit of success.

Adeel's turning point came a German hockey club is a dream it is a reminder that Pakistan's when the Pakistan Hockey Federation Development Squad played against visiting German clubs. His

travel money just to afford food. dazzling performance caught the eye of coaches from the Wiesbadener Tennis- und Hockey Club (WTHC), who offered him a place in their league team. club's jersey is nothing short of For Adeel, the opportunity was beyond imagination. "Playing for come true. I feel immense pride

to showcase our talent abroad," he told APP on phone, reflecting on his new chapter in Europe.

From there, his rise became unstoppable. He represented Pakistan's U21 side against Germany and in July 2025, captained the U18 team at the Asia Cup in China. Pakistan won silver, and Adeel was declared the tournament's emerging olayer.

Speaking about his future, his voice carries the same mix of humility and determination that has brought him this far. "The opportunity to play in Germany fills me with gratitude. It's an honour to represent my country and inspire the next generation of Pakistani hockey players," he added, highlighting his excitement about joining WTHC, a renowned club known for its competitive teams and vouth development programme.

Adeel stands as the youngest-ever Pakistani to play in Germany's Bundesliga Hockey League. For a boy who once slept hungry on the cold floor of a shrine, wearing a German extraordinary. His journey is more than a personal triumph; youth hold extraordinary potenrepresenting Pakistan on this tial, waiting only to be discovglobal stage, and I'm honoured ered.

The Spokesman

Meeting

KABUL: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar held a bilateral meeting with the Acting Foreign Minister of Afghanistan, Mawlawi Amir Khan Muttaqi, on the sidelines of the 6th Trilateral Meeting of the Foreign Ministers of Pakistan, China, and Afghanistan on Wednesday.



PAF launches flood relief operation in Gilgit-Baltistan

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Air operation in Gilgit-Balti-Force has launched a largescale flood relief operation in Gilgit-Baltistan. Demonstrating unwavering resolve amidst difficult weather conditions and rugged mountainous terrain, PAF C-130 aircraft airlifted 7 tons of dry rations, off due to damaged commudaily use eatables and life-sav- nication lines. In a simulta-

Nur Khan to Gilgit.

PAF launches flood relief stanThe consignment will be distributed in remote flood-affected valleys in coordination with National Disaster Management Authority, ensuring that essential supplies reach distressed families cut ing medicines from PAF Base neous humanitarian effort,



75 stranded individuals were relief operations, delivering also evacuated by PAF relief food, medicines, shelter and team from the disaster-hit areas. This swift and coordinated action forms part of the nationwide emergency relief campaign, underscoring Pakistan Armed Forces' continued commitment to safeguarding Gilgit-Baltistan, reaffirming lives during natural calamities. Over the coming days, PAF aircraft and ground teams will

medical aid to vulnerable communities.

The timely and determined response by Pakistan Air Force has brought renewed hope to flood-hit families in the unflinching resolve of Pakistan Armed Forces to stand shoulder to shoulder with the remain engaged in sustained nation in every hour of trial.

Heavy rain, strong winds lash Karachi for second day

Bureau Report

After Tuesday's torrential and devastating thun derstorms, Karachi has once again been shrouded in dark clouds and strong winds today.

According to reports, many areas of the city, including Saddar, Tower, Old City Area, and I. I. Chundrigar Road received heavy rain.

Moderate showers were also reported in Soldier Bazaar, Guru Mandir, Lasbela, Shahra-e-Faisal, Malir, Shah Faisal Colony, and Model Colony.

Meanwhile, Gulshan-e-Igbal, Gulistan-e-Jauhar, and University Road recorded heavy rain, where the downpour also significantly reduced visibility.

Residents of Nagan Chowrangi, Federal B. Area, Gulberg, witnessed heavy rain on Wednesday evening, while the DHA and PECHS also received showers.

Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah had declared rains.



a public holiday in Karachi Tuesday's unprecedented

Mayor Karachi Murtaza for Wednesday because of Wahab warned that the city was expected to receive heavy

zens to stay safe and avoid road travel.

"If it starts to rain, please

He also requested the citi- stay put where you are, whether it is your office or residence," the mayor said in a post on social media.

PTI nominates Achakzai, Swati as leaders of Opposition in NA, Senate

👺 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder and former prime minister Imran Khan has nominated opposition alliance chief Mahmood Khan Achakzai and Azam Khan Swati as leaders of the opposition in the National Assembly and the Senate respectively, reported 24NewsHDTV channel.

PTI Secretary-General Barrister Salman Akram Raja told newsmen in Islamabad on Wednesday that Imran Khan has directed the party to hold in-depth consultations regarding taking a decision about by-elections. Raja said a meeting of the PTI Political Committee

will soon be summoned in this regard.

Raja said the party founder has nominated seasons politician Mahmood Achakzai as Leader of the Opposition in the lower house of the parliament while Azam Swat was named as Leader of the Opposition in the upper house.

Earlier, PTI's Omar Ayub lost his position as Leader of the Opposition in the National Assembly following his conviction in the May 9 cases by an anti-terrorism court. He was also removed from the Public Accounts Committee and all other standing committees.

Subsequently, the Election Commission had issued disqualification notifications for Omar Ayub and



Leader of the Opposition in Senate Shibli Faraz, a notification, noting that the concerned members had decision both leaders have challenged in the Peshawar High Court.

The disqualification was executed under Article 63(1)(h) of the Constitution, which bars individuals from Parliament if convicted of an offence involving

moral turpitude. The ECP cited the ATC Faisalabad's verdict in its

been convicted in connection with the May 9 violence cases. The court had sentenced each of them to prison terms of up to 10 years.

The ruling came just days after the ATC announced its decision in three separate cases related to the May 9 incidents, which involved protests and violence

following the arrest of Imran Khan.

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King Charles III voice deep sympathy with Pakistan over monsoon flooding



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: His Majesty King to these families and stood in soli-Charles III of the United Kingdom has issued a heartfelt message, during this extremely difficult time.

expressing sorrow over the recent devastating monsoon flooding in

In a message, the King and his wife conveyed their profound sadness at the tragic loss of life and widespread destruction caused by the floods, as well as the horrific helicopter crash during rescue operations. Describing the scale of suffering as deeply heartrending, His Majesty extended his deepest sympathies to all those affected who have lost loved ones, homes, and livelihoods.

Emphasizing the strong and enduring bonds between the United Kingdom and Pakistan, the King acknowledged the many families in the UK who share close ties with Pakistan.

He sent his heartfelt condolences darity with the people of Pakistan

Major-Gen Umar Fareed appointed as additional defence secretary

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The federal government on Wednesday appointed Major-General Umar Fareed as Additional Secretary Defence (I) Division with immediate effect. According to Fareed will relieve Major-General Aamir Ashfaq Kiyani.

Saira Imdad Ali a BS-20 officer who was performing her responsibilities in the commerce division, will assume Member (Strategic Transformation) at

Public Policy Lahore.

Earlier on Tuesday federal government appointed Dr Hamid Ateeq Sarwar as member of the Strategic Transformation Unit at the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) on a one-year contract and directed a notification issued by the Establish- National Commission for Women ment Division, Major-General Umar Chief Mohammad Ismail Iqbal to report to the establishment division.

Dr Hamid Atiq Sarwar is a retired BS-22 officer of the Inland Revenue Service, has assumed charge as new charge in National School of the FBR Headquarters in Islamabad.

KP cabinet assures all out support for flood victims

👺 Bureau Desk

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ali Amin Gandapur chaired 37th meeting of the provincial cabinet on Wednesday to get detailed briefing on the damages caused by the floods, relief and rehabilitation activities.

During the meeting, special prayers was arranged for the flood victims. ON the occasion, CM Gandapur lauded local administration and rescue teams for their excellent rescue efforts

The Chief Minister said all other relevant departments and institutions responded promptly and effectively, adding that all institutions and departments deserve praise for this excellent performance.

Gandapur said rescue operation in the first phase has been completed, however, the search for the missing persons continued.

payments to families of martyrs and areas.

injured will continue. Gandapur assured that all flood victims will get compensation, no one will be left deprived.

The Chief Minister said health centers in affected areas should be made functional immediately.

Gandapur said availability of essential medicines should be ensured in these health centers besides availability of mobile hospitals in these areas. He said precautionary measures should be taken in view of the possible threat of epidemics spreading in the affected

The CM said steps should also be taken to provide fodder for livestock in these areas and protect them from diseases. He said a special campaign should be launched for complete cleanliness in the affected areas.

The Chief Minister said drinking water, tube wells, etc. should be He said the compensation restored soon in the flood-affected

At UN, Pakistan debunks India's allegations of HR abuses as 'fallacious'

UNITED NATIONS: A Pakistani representative, Eldos Mathew diplomat Tuesday hit back at India Punnoose, who alleged that a series Security Council debate on conflict-related sexual violence, of carrying out human rights abuses, calling New Delhi's charges "fallacious.

"These falsehoods are nothing more than an attempt to deflect attention from India's well-documented record of grave violations of international law and international humanitarian law, particularly in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, as well as its systemic persecution, discrimination, and violence against minorities and India," Sarfraz Gohar, first secretary at the Pakistan Mission, told the 15-member Council.

The Pakistani delegate was exercising his right of reply to the Indian actions now seeks to malign others."

for accusing Pakistan, during a UN of rights abuses was taking place in Pakistan with "impunity."

The Indian representative was reacting to a sharp statement made earlier in day by Pakistan's UN Ambassador Asim Iftikhar Ahmad, who highlighted the suffering and abuses of the Kashmiri women and girls at the hands of Indian military in occupied Kashmir.

In his remarks, Gohar, the Pakistani delegate, rejected his Indian counterpart's accusations as "entirely baseless and politically motivated". The reference to 1971, he said, was marginalized communities within a "distortion of history", adding, "India's own military intervention in East Pakistan was a blatant violation of the UN Charter, and it is ironic that a country responsible for such