Barkat Rice Mills

Field Marshal Asim Munir could be Trump's new 'strategic partner' in South Asia

e Chief of Army Staff (COAS) Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir could emerge as President Donald Trump's new strategic partner in South Asia. In an article, the Washington Times cribed Field Marshal Munir as a man with "nerves of steel" and the ability to take tough cisions, noting that he is regarded as the most influential figure for South Asian security.

CM Murad Ali Shah apologises to people of Karachi over urban flooding

In a rare gesture, Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah on

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

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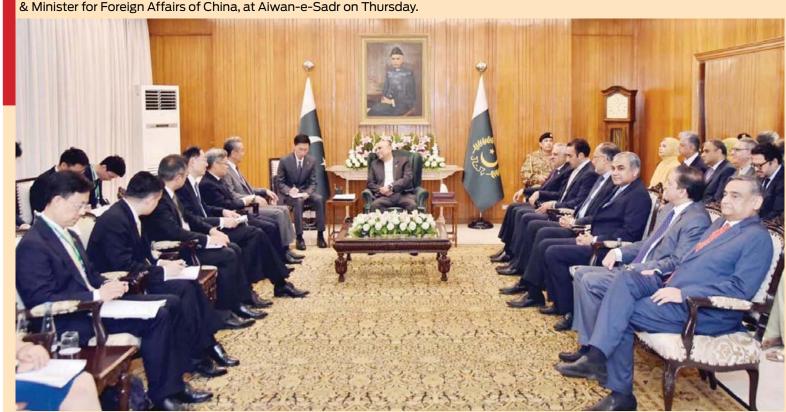
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Meeting

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari in a meeting with Mr. Wang Yi, Member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee



Prime Minister of Pakistan meets Foreign Minister of China

B Naveed Ahmad Khan

Pakistan, called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif at the Prime Minister House, earlier this evening. The Prime Minister was assisted by Deputy Prime Minister & Foreign Minister. Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, Chief of the Army Staff Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir and senior members of the Cabinet.

While welcoming the Foreign Minister, the Prime Minister expressed deep appreciation for the leadership, government and in safeguarding its sovereignty,

development. Reaffirming Pakistan's unwavering support for ISLAMABAD: Minister for China on its core issues, he reit-Foreign Affairs of the People's erated Pakistan's commitment to Republic of China, Mr. Wang further deepen its All-Weather Yi, who is on an official visit to Strategic Cooperative Partnership with China, as envisioned by the leadership and aspired by the peoples of the two countries.

The Prime Minister lauded President Xi Jinping's visionary leadership and his role in strengthening the ironclad friendship between Pakistan and China. While recalling his most cordial and productive meeting with President Xi during his visit to Beijing last year, the Prime Minister stated that he was greatly looking forward to his upcoming the people of China, for their visit to Tianjin and Beijing, where steadfast support to Pakistan he would participate in the SCO CHS meeting, as well as the 80th



Chinese People's War of Resistance and the World Anti-Fascist War. He looked forward to his meeting with President Xi Jinping, Premier Li Qiang, as well as other senior Chinese leaders, territorial integrity, and national anniversary of the victory in the during the forthcoming visit.

The Prime Minister reiterated Pakistan's desire to deepen bilateral cooperation with China in trade, investment, ICT, agriindustrialization, mines and minerals and other key sectors. He also under-

scored the importance of CPEC for Pakistan's socio-economic development and its vital role in enhancing regional connectivity, while expressing satisfaction at the steady progress of CPEC Phase-II.

Thanking the Prime Minister for his remarks, Foreign Minister Wang Yi emphasized that China regarded Pakistan as an ironclad friend and all-weather strategic partner. He expressed China's desire to elevate bilateral relations with Pakistan to new heights of cooperation and collaboration. Commending Pakistan's resolute commitment to safeguarding its sovereignty and territorial integrity, he affirmed that China would continue working jointly with Pakistan, to promote regional peace, development, and stability.

Civil judge Ramzan **Dhadi's** resignation

Civil Judge, Lahore Muhaminformed that Dhadi worked

In this connection, the LHC has sent letters to the law ministry and concerned departments, chief secretary Punjab, accountant general Pakistan Revenue, DG district judiciary, Punjab Judicial Academy, Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), the provincial election commissioner and district and sessions judges, intimating them about the resignation.

There are different opinions in the legal fraternity about his resignation. Some lawyers hold the view that Dhadi would also prove to be a good lawyer.

👺 Bureau Report

accepted

LAHORE: Lahore High Court (LHC) Chief Justice Aalia Neelum and members of the administrative committee on Thursday accepted the resignation of mad Ramzan Dhadi, who had given a resignation due to personal reasons. They as a civil judge for 11 years, four months and seven days.

President Zardari discusses bilateral cooperation with Chinese FM Wang Yi

跨 Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari says China Pakistan Economic Corridor is an important component to realize joint vision of both countries, enhanced regional connectivity, economic integration, and a peaceful neighborhood.

He was talking to Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, who called on him in Islamabad today. Asif Ali Zardari said CPEC is part of Chinese President Xi Jinping's flagship Belt and Road Initiative, having immense strategic significance for both Pakistan and China.

He said Pakistan and China are iron brothers, time tested friends and all-weather strategic partners. He further China and Pakistan has lasted said friendship with China is for generations and is based a cornerstone of Pakistan's foreign policy, which enjoys strong all-weather strategic unanimous public, political, partnership.

and institutional support in the country. He thanked China for its consistent support for Pakistan's sovereignty, territorial integrity, national development, and its principled and just stance on the Jammu and Kashmir dispute.

He also conveyed his condolences on the loss of precious lives in the recent floods in Beijing and Gansu province of China.

He said that 2026 marks the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and China and Pakistan is planning to celebrate this important milestone in a befitting manner.

In his remarks, Wang Yi said friendship between on good faith, credibility and

Blast at firecracker godown injures 34 ın Karachı



👺 Bureau Report

KARACHI: As many as 34 people were injured in a powerful explosion at a firecrackers godown located on MA Jinnah Road in Karachi on Thursday. According to rescue officials, earlier fire broke out in firecrackers warehouse and later a blast rocked Jinnah Hospitals.

the godown.

Over a dozen fire brigade vehicles were called in to extinguished the fire.

Rescue teams and heavy police contingent have reached the spot and started operation to rescued the workers.

The injured persons have been shifted to Civil and

Fire breaks out due to gas leakage in Lahore restaurant



👺 Bureau Report

out in a restaurant located in

Liberty Market Gulberg area

of Lahore. According to rescue

officials, the fire broke out in

Capri Restaurant due to gas

The restaurant was evacu-

ated as soon as the fire broke ISLAMABAD: A fire broke Rescue fire tenders brought

the fire under control and rescue

personnel also rescued a person trapped on the upper floor. The restaurant suffered

minor damage due to the fire. Four fire tenders participated in the rescue operation.

Field Marshal gave no interview to any journalist: DG ISPR

B Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Director General Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) has made it clear that no interview regarding granting any pardon to Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leaders was given by the Chief of Army Staff, Field Marshal Asim Munir, during his visit to

General Ahmed Sharif has strongly denied claims that the Chief of Army Staff, Field Marshal Asim Munir, gave an interview to senior journalist Sohail Warraich during interview was granted by the Army



Speaking to the media persons in Islamabad on Thursday, DG ISPR Director General Lt ISPR said that Sohail Warraich's move was "inappropriate" and that anyone committing an unlawful act must face the law.

General Sharif clarified that no

Chief to any journalist.

Referring to the column in question, DG ISPR explained that it was related to a public event in that even a senior journalist had Brussels where hundreds of people took photographs with the Army Chief, and the journalist in question also posed for one.

He stressed that during the event, there was no mention of PTI or any pardon, calling it a "personal attempt by a journalist to seek publicity and self-interest".

When asked if legal action Jang media groups, General Sharif region, which is why it continues responded that institutions must to face repeated attacks.

act with wisdom, and the media should realise that such conduct is inappropriate. He expressed regret displayed such irresponsibility.

Reiterating the army's stance,

the DG ISPR said, "The Pakistan Army is a responsible institution. This was an inappropriate act by Sohail Warraich, and whoever commits an unlawful act will have to face justice." Answering another query, General Ahmed Sharif said that Pakistan is capable of would be initiated against Geo and changing the destiny of the entire

Mohsin Naqvi praises US President Trump's efforts for world peace

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Syed Mohsin Nagyi on Thursday said that the US President Donald Trump, by brokering four ceasefires, including in the war between India and Pakistan, had served humanity.

Speaking to Deputy Chief of Mission (DCM) at the U. S. Embassy Natalie A. Baker, who called on him in Islamabad, the minister expressed optimism that the efforts being made adding, "Pakistan welcomed each and every great importance to its ties with the former.



and Hamas would also bear fruit. "Pak-US ties

blossomed under President Trump," he said,

Natalie, on the occasion, congratulated Naqvi on receiving Nishan-i-Imtiaz.

She offered her condolences over the loss of lives and properties due to floods in KP and elsewhere in the country. "Our sympathies and prayers are with the families who lost their near and dear ones to floods," she added.

Natalie further said that Pakistan was a close friend of the US, and that the latter attached

PM chairs meeting to assess damages caused by heavy rains in Azad Kashmir

👺 Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: A high-level meeting was held here today to review the losses caused by heavy rains during the ongoing monsoon across Azad Kashmir. The meeting was chaired by the Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir, Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq, along with the Federal Minister for Water Resources, Mian Moin Wattoo. The Secretary, State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA), briefed the participants about relief and rehabilitation activities being carried out in the affected areas. He also highlighted the material losses caused by heavy rains across different districts of Azad Kashmir. The Secretary, Highways Department, and the Secretary, PDO, also shared updates on damages to roads, bridges, powerhouses, and other critical infrastructure. Addressing the meeting, Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq said that the monsoon rains had wreaked havoc in Azad Kashmir, Prime Minister of Pakistan, Mian which he said was unprecedented in the region's history.



emphasized that federal support was essential to restore already constructed projects. Speaking on the occasion, Federal Minister for Water Resources Mian Moin Wattoo conveyed that the Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif, was personally monitoring the situation He reaffirmed the government's and had directed him to assess damages commitment to rebuild damaged infra- on the ground. The damages included

structure through its own ADP but roads, bridges, water supply schemes, school buildings, irrigation channels, health centers, and other vital facilities. The meeting was attended by Senior Minister Col. (R) Waqar Ahmed Noor, Ministers Faisal Mumtaz Rathore, Mian Abdul Waheed Advocate, Abdul Majid Khan, Chaudhry Azhar Sadiq, Diwan Ali Khan Chughtai, Nisar Ansar Abdali, Sardar Javed Ayub, Raja Muhammad Siddique, Ms. and other senior officials.

Taqdees Gilani, Chief Secretary Azad Kashmir Khushal Khan, IGP Rana Abdul Jabbar, Secretary Finance Islam Zeb, Secretary Highways and Public Works Zafar Mahmood Khan, Secretary SDMA Chaudhry Muhammad Farid, Secretary PDO Irshad Qureshi. Commissioner Muzaffarabad Division Chaudhry Guftar Hussain, DIG Muzaffarabad Region Yasin Qureshi,

Protest

LAHORE: Government Employees hold protest in the favor of their demands outside Civil Secretariat in Provincial Capital.



Sardar Attique Visits Martyrs' Graves to Renew Pledge for Freedom

👺 Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD/DHIRKOT: The preparations for Nila Butt Day are in the final stages and the formal celebrations will begin today. After the Zuhr prayers, a poetry gathering will be organized at the Baradari of Nila Butt under the auspices of the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Culture Academy, in which poets from all over Azad Kashmir and Pakistan will participate. President Muslim Conference

and former Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan, in continuation of Nila Butt Day, visited the graves and shrines of the great martyrs and Mujahideen of the Kashmir Freedom Movement yesterday, offered Fateha and offered prayers. A this region was liberated.



large number of Muslim Conference leaders and workers were present on this occasion.

August 23 will be celebrated as Nila Bhat Day as a renewal of the pledge. The sacrifices made by the martyrs and ghazis of August 23, 1974 will not be forgotten in any way. Thanks to whom

According to the details, Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan visited the shrines of Mujahid e Awwal Sardar Muhammad Abdul Qayyum Khan, Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan, Raja Latif Shaheed, Mujahid Raja Aziz, Raja Muhammad Khan Shaheed, Saiyin Ali Bahadur Khan and Saiyin Sohbat Ali Khan.

He said that these great person-

alities are the pillars of the Kashmir freedom movement, who have created an immortal chapter in history by sacrificing their lives. Addressing the workers at the shrine of Raja Latif Shaheed, the President of the Muslim Conference said that thanks to the sacrifices of the martyrs, the Kashmiri people are still able to highlight the struggle for freedom before the world.

On this occasion, a large number of workers of the Muslim Conference including Major (R) Nasrullah Khan, Sardar Irfan Abbasi, Raja Munir Khan, Raja Tabarak Ali Khan, Raja Asif Sayyad, Raja Babar Moazzam, Malik Aman, Sardar Shaukat Afzal, Raja Khurshid Khan were present. The Muslim Conference is the heir of history and movement.



Supreme Court raised the flag of truth by approving the Bail of former PM

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: The Fake Narrative of May 9 is Now Over. The Supreme Court Raised the Flag of Truth by Approving the Bail of Former Prime Minister Imran Khan.

This decision is a ray of hope against oppression and injustice. Expressing pleasant. these views, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf leader Barrister Malik Muhammad Usman Dogar while talking to the media in Multan said that the organized and coordinated campaign against the party after May 9 has been shattered by today's court decision.

Hundreds of party members are still attached to the hope of justice for those unjustly bound. Today's decision is also a metaphor for light for these workers.

The time has come that political oppression should end and the political atmosphere in the country should be made

Multan. Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf leader Barrister Malik Muhammad Usman Dogar is expressing his views in a statement regarding the bail granted by the court in the May 9 cases of PTI founder Imran

President Tehreek-e-Insaf AJK reached Birmingham

BIRMINGHAM UK: President Tehreek-e-Insaf Azad Kashmir has reached Birmingham on a visit to the UK, where party workers enthusiastically welcomed former Prime Minister Sardar Abdul Qayyum Khan Niazi.

In honor of President Tehreek-e-Insaf Azad Jammu and Kashmir and former Prime Minister Sardar Abdul Qayyum Niazi, a detailed visit was made to the Mayor's Office and Birmingham Council at the invitation of Mayor of Birmingham Zafar Iqbal.



President Tehreek-e-Insaf Azad Jammu and Kashmir and former Prime Minister Sardar Abdul Qayyum Niazi informed about the ongoing human rights violations in Pakistan.government in occupied Kashmir were discussed.

President Tehreek-e-Insaf Azad Jammu and Kashmir and former Prime Minister Sardar Abdul Qayyum Niazi were also presented with a shield by the Mayor of Birmingham.

A dinner was also hosted by Mayor of Birmingham Zafar Iqbal in honor of President Tehreek-e-Insaf Azad Kashmir and former Prime Minister Sardar Abdul Qayyum Niazi.

On this occasion, Chief Organizer Tehreek-e-Azad Jammu and Kashmir Chaudhry Hameed Pothi, Overseas PTI leaders Aamir Arshad, Sain Zulfiqar, Sardar Imad Zaeem, Babar Awan, Chaudhry Zahoor Sarwar, Malik Zafar Iqbal and others were also present.

Seven butchers arrested, selling at high prices mutton and beef meat

👺 Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: The new rates of mutton and beaf meat were fixed by the Chairman Price Control Committee/Additional Commissioner Muzaffarabad, but despite this, butchers are still violating them, on



which Magistrate Hammad Bashir, along with the Police Jalalabad and the personnel of the police station, arrested seven butchers for selling at high prices and shops were sealed from two miles away the city police station. There are strict instructions from the administration that new rates have been fixed, which will not be violated under any circumstances and such actions against culprits will continue, he warned.

Community Leader Warns of Forceful Sit-in if Demands Not Met: "We Will Not Be Silenced"

Example 2 Correspondent

BANNU: Tribal leader of the Tori Mir Ali community, Malik Waliullah, while speaking to the media, expressed strong resentment and issued a clear warning that if the legitimate rights and demands of the Tori Mir Ali people are not immediately accepted, they will soon be compelled to stage a peaceful but forceful sit-in at Peshawar Press Club, Islamabad Press Club, international media offices, and ultimately in front of the Parliament House for an indefinite period.

Malik Waliullah said that for the last 18 months, the people of Tori Mir Ali have knocked on the doors of every relevant institution and repeatedly raised their grievances, but neither were their legitimate emands heard, nor was justice served. This injustice and explo tion have exhausted the patience of the community, and they can no

He further said that Mari Petroleum Company and SNGPL Limited, in collusion with a few individuals, have openly violated the national rights of the Tori Mir Ali people. From just two contracts, a total of 105.6 million rupees was allocated in the name of the tribe, but a handful of influential individuals usurped it. The details of the remaining contracts are also being deliberately hidden, which is a grave injustice to the community.

We Have to Make it Quaide-Azam's Pakistan: Samina Khan Kayani

Sometime Correspondent

MULTAN: ICMA Deputy Director Samina Khan Kayani has said that today Pakistan is developing rapidly and our highly educated male and female students have a great role in the construction and development of Pakistan. Today, thousands of our students are increasing its popularity by taking PhD, MPhil and higher degrees from Pakistan and abroad. Today, we are proud of Pakistan and the respect for the green passport is increasing. We have to make it Quaid-e-Azam's Pakistan. She expressed these views while addressing the closing ceremony of the seven-day Independence Day celebrations at the Institute of Cost Management and Accounts (ICMA) yesterday. ICMA Multan Branch Council Secretary Muhammad Rafique and senior teachers Kashif Mukhtiar, Yasin Jamal, Mirza Nadeem Baig, Mrs. Amra, and Mushtaq Nadeem addressed the ceremony and said that today we should pay tribute to the martyrs who sacrificed their lives for the independence of Pakistan. We have to pay tribute to those who are breathing in a free country today.

Chief Secretary reviews flood relief & rehabilitation efforts

PESHAWAR: A high-level meeting was convened under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Shahab Ali Shah, to assess the ongoing relief and rehabilitation activities in the districts affected by recent floods.

The meeting focused on coordinating efforts and addressing the immediate needs of the affected communities.

The Chief Secretary directed all deputy commissioners to submit comprehensive reports from their respective districts which should include detailed accounts of relief measures, damage assessments, and plans for rehabilitation.

The Deputy Commissioners provided briefings on current initiatives and future strategies, with particular emphasis on the rapid evaluation $\,$ of losses incurred due to the floods.

The Chief Secretary stressed the importance of providing maximum relief to the affected populations and instructed that the registration process for government financial aid packages be expedited.

He highlighted that the provincial cabinet has already approved a food stamp package worth Rs. 15,000 per family, which must be distributed in a transparent and timely manner. To facilitate this, he emphasized the need for priority completion of the verification process in coordination with NADRA.

Addressing the urgent need for reconstruction, the Chief Secretary directed that assessments of damaged houses be completed swiftly to ensure that housing packages approved by the provincial government are delivered without delay.





Namaz Timings
Fajr4:05 am
Zohr12:12 pm
Asr4:53 pm
Maghrib6:47 pm
Isha8:16 pm

EMEDGENCY

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

Women Police **Stations**

ISI		922259
Ra	walpindi	9270601-2
Fd	ENQU hi Ambulance	

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

DEDARTMENTS

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

COMPLAINTS

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

Anum Zehra appointed as a Focal Person of Print & *Electronic Media*



Quratul Ain Asim

MULTAN: Women's University Multan Deputy Director and Public Relations Officer Anum Zehra has been given new responsibilities. According to the details, the Vice Chancellor of Women University Multan, Prof. Dr. Kulsoom Paracha, using her special powers, has appointed Deputy Director Public Relations Officer Anum Zehra Qureshi as Focal Person Print and Electronic Media and has directed her to take charge and work immediately. Anum Zehra has been performing her duties as a spokesperson at Women University since 2015. She has been given this responsibility for her excellent performance in the image building, newsletter and publishing of the university. She has reiterated that steps will be taken in accordance with the university law to address the problems faced by the media in the image building, reputation of the university and coverage of events.

Commodore Sohail Ahmad Azmie takes over as Commander Central Punjab (COMCEP)

Spokesman Report

LAHORE: Commodore Sohail Ahmad Azmie assumed command as Commander Central Punjab (COMCEP). The Change of Command ceremony was held at Naval Complex Walton, Lahore, where Rear Admiral Jawad Ahmed handed over command to the newly appointed Commander.

Commodore Sohail Ahmad Azmie was commissioned in Operations Branch of Pakistan Navy in 1996. He has a distinguished career, holding a wide range of command and staff appointments. His key appointments include Directing Staff at PN War College, Commanding Officer of PNS NASR, Commander AUXMIN-9 Squadron, Commandant Pakistan Naval Academy, Assistant Chief of Naval Staff (Operational Plans), Commander Combined Task Force 151 at HQ Combined Maritime Forces (CMF) Bahrain and Deputy Commandant & Chief Instructor at Pakistan Navy War College.

The Commodore is an alumnus of and introduced to the Staff Officers of civilian personnel.



National Defence University Islamabad. In recognition of his meritorious services, he has been awarded the Sitarae-Imtiaz (Military).

During the Change of Command ceremony, Commodore Sohail Ahmad Azmie

Pakistan Navy War College Lahore and Headquarters COMCEP and Pakistan Navy War College. Commander Central Punjab exercises authority over all Pakistan Navy units from Bahawalpur to Wazirabad and is also the Commandant of Pakistan Navy War College, Lahore.

The ceremony was attended by Pakiwas presented with a Guard of Honour stan Navy officers, CPOs, sailors, and



Anti Encroachment campaign

ISLAMABAD: Workers of local administration are busy in demolishing the houses during announced Anti-Encroachments Operation at Saidpur Village in Federal Capital.



CTO Multan Engages Social Media Live Session, Public Criticism Mounts

跨 Zain Khan Malghani

MULTAN: Newly posted Chief Traffic Officer (CTO) Multan, Muhammad Kashif Aslam, directly engaged with citizens during a Facebook Live session, answering their questions and listening to their concerns. The initiative marks the launch of a new digital public forum, where the CTO, alongside his traffic officers and office staff, will connect with the public every Thursday from 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM via Facebook and YouTube.

The first session was held today, drawing active participation from citizens through mobile calls, WhatsApp, and the Facebook comment section. Citizens' complaints and suggestions were promptly forwarded to the relevant officers with immediate

During the session, one citizen shared that he could not pay the renewal fee for his expired driving license, resulting in a fine. In response, CTO Kashif Aslam invited him to his office and offered to



personally pay the penalty from his own

In another instance, a caller highlighted that most traffic accidents occur after sunset, and traffic violations also increase during that time. Addressing the concern, the CTO announced a three-day special crackdown campaign to be carried out after Maghrib, targeting violations such as driving without headlights or indicators, as well as unsafe "phatta" rickshaws.

public reaction has surfaced questioning patrol the roads

the appointment of Multan's newly posted CTO, who, they point out, lacks traffic engineering experience. Citizens stress that the government should ensure that only officers with expertise in traffic engineering are appointed as CTOs in major cities. The CTO must step out of his office and assess traffic problems on the ground road issues cannot be solved through social media campaigns. Problems like wrong-side driving and illegal roadside Alongside the official press release, parking demand that officers and wardens

IRC and SALU partner to Advance Social Research under CSO-Academia

Example 2 Correspondent

KHAIRPU: The International Rescue Committee (IRC), under the European Union Pakistan funded "Strengthening Local Civil Society and Community-Based Organizations and their Capacity in the Nutrition Sector in Sindh," project has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Shah Abdul Latif University (SALU), Khairpur, to conduct joint social research aimed at strengthening civil society organizations (CSOs) and supporting evidence-based Social and Behavior Change Communication (SBCC) interventions. The SIGN program is being implemented jointly by the International Rescue Committee (IRC), Medical Emergency Resilience Foundation (MERF) and the Strengthening Participatory Organization (SPO).

Speaking on this occasion, Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Yousuf Khushk noted, "This partnership enables students and faculty to engage in applied research on adolescent and maternal nutrition. By working with CSOs, we can build capacity, strengthen academic and practitioner linkages, and generate evidence that informs policy and community-level solutions in Sindh."

In his remarks, Dr. Ranomal Lohano (Project Coordinator IRC) emphasized the importance of bridging academia and civil society "Collaboration between universities and CSOs is essential to address malnutrition.

Dr. Ali Raza Lashari, Principal Investigator of this initiative, shared salient features of this collaboration, highlighting that SALU', in collaboration with partner Civil Society Organizations BSWA (Khairpur) and HAWA (Ghotki), will actively lead field research.

The ceremony was attended by distinguished officials, including Pro-Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Wahid Bux Jatoi, Mr. Zaheer Ahmed (BCC Specialist, IRC), Dr. Zulfiqar Shaikh (Registrar, SALU), Mr. Najam Din Soho (Director Finance), Mr. Nazeer Ahmed Mangnijo (Director Colleges), Dr. Sahib Oad, Mr. Imran Somroo, and Mr. Waseem.

Hina Afridi and Ali Ammar to Lead Haseeb Hassan's Upcoming Project

跨 City Desk

KARACHI: Acclaimed Haseeb director Hassan, known for his masterful storytelling and cinematic vision, is set to make a powerful return with his next highly anticipated project. Written by Abid Hassan Abassi



and produced by Har Pal Geo in collaboration with 7th Sky Entertainment, the project promises to deliver a compelling narrative that blends artistry with raw emotion.

The upcoming production will star Hina Afridi and Ali Ammar in pivotal roles, marking an exciting new on-screen pairing that has already generated early buzz within the industry. Joining them will be a stellar ensemble cast, including seasoned actors Nayyar Ijaz, Tauseeq Haider, Hina Bayat, Noman Masood, Salma Hasan, and Hasan Niazi, further adding depth and strength to the project.

Offering a glimpse into what audiences can expect, director Haseeb Hassan shared on Instagram: "Coming back soon with a story of bravery, passion and powerful emotion."

NUML holds 25th Convocation, celebrates Silver Jubilee of **Excellence** in Education

👺 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The National University of Modern ments. Languages (NUML) successfully concluded its 25th Convocation, a two-day event that also of commitment to education,

including international students HI (M), Director General from Afghanistan, Egypt were NUML, Brigadier Shahzad awarded degrees. Among them, Munir, faculty members, every sphere of life.

94 students were conferred Gold Medals in recognition of their outstanding academic achieve-

The convocation was graced by the Federal Minister for Education and Professional marked the University's Silver Training, Khalid Maqbool Jubilee, celebrating 25 years Siddiqui, as Chief Guest. The ceremony was also attended by research, culture, and excellence. Rector NUML, Major General A total of 1,271 graduates, (R) Shahid Mahmood Kayani,

parents, and a large number of distinguished guests.

In his inaugural address, Rector NUML Maj Gen (R) Shahid Mahmood Kayani commended the faculty and administration for their unwavering commitment to academic excellence, student mentorship, and institutional growth. He urged the graduating students to serve as ambassadors of ethical leadership and uphold justice, truth, and human dignity in

Addressing the gathering, Federal Minister Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui congratulated the graduates and highlighted the transformative power of education. He said, "Education is your greatest asset. It is now your turn to uplift the nation with your dedication and hard

DG NUML Brig Shahzad Munir also extended his felicitations to the graduates, expressing hope that with perseverance and by following the



vision of the nation's forefathers, perous Pakistan. The event caps, and emotional moments as the young generation would play concluded with group photo-students dedicated their awards a vital role in building a pros- graphs, the traditional tossing of to their parents.

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Vice Chairman:

Editor:

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Beggary turning into a growing nuisance

midst repeated action against beggars by Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) administration, the city continues to witness a rise in beggars' number at its streets, markets and traffic intersections.

In most areas of the main city and housing societies in the suburbs, they are seen in abundance with scores among them are permanent and professional, seeming like to be part of a nexus operating in the city.

Some residents have pointed out that many of these permanent beggars are travelled to designated places daily in the morning and picked up in the evening by their masters after day long begging in these areas.

Particularly busy areas like F-6, F-7, F-10 Markaz, capital's main traffic signals and housing societies along Islamabad Expressway including PWD, Police Foundation and Pakistan Town commercial areas have witnessed a surge in beggars including women and children, soliciting money from commuters and

Expressing concerns on the prevailing situation, the residents have demanded strict enforcement of anti-begging laws, arguing that unchecked begging not only tarnishes Islamabad's reputation but also results in petty crimes.

They are also perturbed on re-emergence of beggars groups after a couple of days of action by ICT administration who occasionally launch operations against these beggars, nab them and put them behind the bars.

But, this practice could not prove to be a permanent solution to this menace as there are also reports that many rag pickers conduct recce in different areas during the day that leads to theft and robbery after sunset.

Citizens in many localities have expressed frustration over frequent encounters with organized groups of beggars as well as the crimes like snatching or plundering valuables and breaking into houses, also threatening human lives.

"Once regarded as one of the most orderly and serene cities in South Asia, Islamabad is now grappling with a persistent and increasingly visible challenge of beggary," remarked a businessman, Saleem Khan.

"From traffic signals to bustling markets, the city's thoroughfares are teeming with individuals with many of them seeming like part of organized groups or an unseen nexus operating in the city," Saleem Khan said. "Some of them aggressively seek alms and when refused either they abuse you or scratch your vehicles and run away.'

Since they are professionally engaged in this notorious practice for years, they have numerous techniques to lure people.

"Their techniques range from sympathetic women holding infants, children selling flowers, some knocking windows of your car and some elderly begging for medical treatment or marriage of their daughters," said Aiman Baig, a working woman. "Some among them are too sticky and arrogant and also pass derogatory remarks when refused alms." She said, whether it is at the intersection at Aabpara, traffic-laden Jinnah Avenue or other areas in the city, you can find them everywhere.

Field Marshal: A Beacon of Hope and Trust for the Business Community

Abdul Basit Alvi

have proven particularly impactful in sectors traditionally fraught with significant uncertainty, such as complex mineral extraction, vital energy infrastructure, foundational agriculture, and dynamic information technology. In these areas, investors had previously been consistently deterred by lingering security concerns, pervasive regulatory ambiguity, and frustrating policy inconsistency. His decisive leadership has directly contributed to securing strategic mineral-rich zones in Balochistan and Gilgit-Baltistan by meticulously ensuring the safety of mining operations through robust military protection and actively encouraging international partnerships with reputable foreign firms, thereby opening highly lucrative avenues for both investment and industrial expansion. This clear and deliberate alignment of robust security objectives with crucial economic goals has significantly reduced perceived risks and meticulously crafted an environment where businesses now feel genuinely assured that their valuable assets and vital operations are comprehensively safeguarded.

They view these profound reforms as absolutely vital to significantly reducing rampant corruption, expediting sluggish processes, and cultivating a truly predictable environment for enterprise. His firm insistence on merit-based appointments, rigorous performance evaluations, and streamlined regulatory frameworks has tangibly translated into discernible improvements in the delivery of essential services such as licensing, tax administration, customs clearance, and efficient dispute resolution. This transformative shift in governance has markedly reduced uncertainty and significantly improved the ease with which businesses can operate,

perous future.

Perhaps one of the most profound and significant aspects of Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir's transformative relationship with the business community is the palpable restoration of hope and burgeoning optimism in a context where economic narratives had long been overwhelmingly dominated by

relentless crisis, debilitating instability, and ceaseless political wrangling. His consistent, supportive messaging for private enterprise, synergistically coupled with visible, decisive actions against malpractices and an unwavering commitment to national

economic priorities, has profoundly reinvigorated entrepreneurship and investor sentiment across the board. By strategically bridging long-standing gaps between military authority and civilian economic actors, he has meticulously forged a new, essential social contract grounded in profound mutual trust, shared overarching objectives, and a collective commitment to national progress.

In a recent, pivotal meeting with a delegation of leading businessmen at the General Headquarters (GHQ), Field Marshal Asim Munir unequivocally pledged his full and unwavering support to the business community in its tireless efforts to comprehensively revive and substantially strengthen Pakistan's economy. The distinguished delegation, led by Gohar Ijaz and including Atif Ikram Sheikh, the esteemed President of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI), alongside influential representatives from

ield Marshal Munir's efforts invest, and meticulously plan for a proste the All Pakistan Textile Mills Associa-commendable efforts to secure more tion (APTMA), presented a detailed and insightful overview of the pressing chal-Their focus particularly highlighted the expanded powers of the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) and controversial provisions under Sections 37A and 37B of the Sales Tax Act 1990, which critically allow for the arrest and detention of promi-

nent business figures. The FPCCI president expressed profound gratitude to the army chief for his decisive directive to put the enforcement of these contentious provisions on hold and earnestly emphasized the crucial need for a constructive and

collaborative dialogue between the FBR and the broader business community to swiftly resolve ongoing disputes. The delegation also extended commendation for the government's and the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) diligent efforts in successfully stabilizing the economy. Additionally, the FPCCI chief passionately called for interest rates to be judiciously reduced in alignment with prevailing inflation to robustly support business growth and for the prompt notification of vital amendments to the Export Facilitation Scheme (EFS), especially concerning the judicious exclusion of cotton, yarn, and greige fabric from the scheme, as well as the fair imposition of an 18% sales tax on their crucial imports. The delegation further raised legitimate concerns about the persistently high electo significantly burden manufacturers itly acknowledged Field Marshal Munir's unequivocal benefit of all Pakistanis.

competitive electricity tariffs specifically for the industrial and export sectors. APTMA, lenges confronting the industrial sector. in an official statement, profusely lauded the Field Marshal's exemplary commitment to deeply engaging with the business community and industry, demonstrably showcasing both profound patience and genuine concern for the economic issues being squarely faced by businesses and the people of Pakistan. The pivotal meeting. which impressively spanned almost four hours, was expertly managed and facilitated by the esteemed Interior Minister. The delegation collectively expressed unwavering confidence that under the visionary leadership of Field Marshal Asim Munir, Pakistan would decisively unlock its immense economic potential. comprehensively restore investor confidence, and ultimately achieve sustainable and inclusive economic growth. The business community, in an unprecedented show of unity, unequivocally expressed its full and absolute confidence in Field Marshal Munir.

Ultimately, Field Marshal Asim Munir stands not merely as a distinguished military leader but as an astute economic statesman who possesses an intrinsic understanding that the enduring prosperity of Pakistan is inextricably and profoundly linked to the unwavering confidence, robust capability, and inherent creativity of its vibrant business community. His remarkable contributions as a luminous beacon of hope and an unwavering pillar of trust have fundamentally reshaped the nation's business landscape by meticulously creating an environment where commerce can truly thrive, tricity prices, which regrettably continue investments can vigorously grow, and the economy can steadfastly achieve sustainand exporters alike. The FPCCI explicable and inclusive development for the



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

'Wrapped in Lights, Buried in Darkness: Balochistan's peculiar Independence'

Abdul Waheed Khan

appy Independence Day, my dear country fellows especially the people of Balochistan. When it comes to celebrating Azadi, the Government of Balochistan always goes the extra mile to make this day unforgettable. And this year, it has once again proven its unmatched love for its peculiar ways of celebrations. To help us truly understand the value of freedom, they shut down the internet for the entire province. Yes, no internet at all. and this is too for almost a complete month. For nothing says "independence" quite like complete digital isolation. It may have cost millions to mobile network users, but it is a small loss in the face of such great initiatives, and we should not hesitate to contribute to this great cause.

Some people complain about the ban. "Why only us?" they say. "Why not shut the internet for the rich too?" But that's a silly objection. Everyone knows that the rich are patriots. They go to Azadi concerts, wave flags, take selfies with the national monument in the background, and post heartfelt captions about freedom on social media. It's the poor who need these "lessons" about Azadi, and the government knows exactly how to teach them.

The government was so eager to give us this gift that it shut down the internet before even to freedom, where rules, borders, and even issuing an official notification. The announcement came two or three days later, just to keep

be the sweet taste of independence." Truly a masterstroke in nation-building.

in green and white fairy lights, all carefully wrapped around poles whose streetlights have been dead for years. The irony was so beautiful that it could almost make you cry dark streets lit up not by functional lighting, but by decorative sparkle. The roads beneath remained broken, dusty, and forgotten, yet the fairy lights shone bravely, distracting passersby from reality for a brief, flickering moment. Traffic lights stayed dead too maybe on purpose, because nothing says "freedom" like guessing when it's your turn to drive. After all, Azadi is about taking risk, and testing the lightningfast reflexes of drivers — the kind you need to dodge the oncoming cars and potholes you can't even see.

Even the police embrace the spirit of Azadi, setting up "nakas" (checkpoints) with a dedication that could put any flag-hoisting ceremony to shame. These stops are more than just security measures — they're moments of heartfelt exchange, where citizens contribute small tokens of appreciation for year-round service. Our government fully upholds Azadi in its appointments too. Some police officers, including SHOs and Investigating Officers, are imported all the way from Sindh, holding "Balochistan domiciles" even though they aren't really from here — a true testament common sense can take a day off.

Let's not forget to appreciate the effithe element of surprise alive. Imagine waking ciency of our beloved construction departup one morning, unable to send a WhatsApp ment, whose strategic brilliance has kept

message, and realizing: "Ah yes, this must half-built roads pending for years. Take the Western Bypass, for instance — a masterpiece of urban planning. By leaving it perpet-Millions were spent decorating Quetta ually incomplete, they've ensured that kidney stones are naturally dislodged during travel, saving citizens from costly medical procedures. The swirling dust? That's not pollution — it's a resilience booster for our lungs, a free respiratory workout courtesy of the state. Every bump, every crater is a silent tribute to the long-term vision of our infrastructure

And when it comes to healthcare, BMC and Civil Hospital stand tall - not for their facilities, but for their ability to test human patience. With queues longer than the Constitution and equipment older than the independence itself, these institutions offer a truly immersive experience in endurance. People from other provinces don't come here for treatment — they come to witness the miracle of survival.

So this Independence Day, let's contribute to the government's noble mission of nationbuilding. Honk your horns with pride, skid your bikes like true patriots, unleash snow sprays in traffic jams, throw water on unsuspecting pedestrians, shake family cars with maximum enthusiasm, and blast your bajas till the street dogs join in chorus. After all, Azadi isn't just a word — it's a feeling. A loud, chaotic, dust-covered, pothole-ridden feeling. Happy Independence Day.

The writer is an aspiring lawyer, rooted in Islamabad yet carrying the voice of Balochistan. He is nurtured at Bahria University, and he bridges law, society, and people's struggles.

From Access to Opportunity: The Role of Libraries in Literacy

Sheikh M. Arshad

stan is discussed, the focus

and economic backgrounds, libraries can serve as powerful equalizers. They offer spaces where learning is not limited by class, disability, or geography, but is open to all.

An inclusive education system ensures that every child regardless of ability, gender, or background has the same chance to learn and

grow. Libraries, if strengthened and used equally at home. This requires trained librareffectively, can help realize this vision. In ians who can support diverse users, inclumany developed countries, public and school libraries are equipped with resources for children with special needs, such as audiobooks, Braille materials, and assistive technologies. Pakistan has only a few such examples, but they prove what is possible. Some libraries in Pakistan have set up a section for visually impaired readers with digital resources and screen readers. It is a promising step, though much more needs to be done.

Libraries can also help bridge the gap between urban and rural education. While many village schools lack proper facilities, a community library can become a shared resource center. The Room to Read program in South Asia has shown how small rural libraries can support literacy, especially among girls who often lack access to books at home. If replicated on a larger scale in Pakistan, such models could

hen education in Paki- bring meaningful change.

Technology has created new opportunities usually falls on schools, as well. Digital libraries and online resources teachers, and curriculum. allow students in remote areas to access the Yet one institution that same material as those in major cities. The rarely receives the attention it deserves is the Higher Education Commission's (HEC) Digital library. In a country as diverse as ours, where Library is a good example, giving university students come from different social, cultural, students access to international journals and

e-books. Expanding such initiatives to the school level could make learning far more inclu-

Still, access alone is not enough. Libraries must also feel welcoming to all. A child with a disability, a girl from a conservative family, or a student from a low-income household should each feel

sive design in library spaces, and policies that actively encourage participation from evervone.

If Pakistan is serious about inclusive education, libraries cannot remain on the sidelines. Every school should have a functional library, every district should invest in community libraries, and every library should adapt to

the needs of its users. Libraries are not just buildings filled with books. They are gateways to opportunity, especially for those left behind by the traditional system. By reimagining and strengthening them, Pakistan can take a major step toward building an education system that leaves no

child behind. The writer is Director General, Department of

Libraries, Islamabad

Pakistan, China vow to enhance high-quality CPEC cooperation

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and China reaffirmed their unwavering commitment to the high-quality development of the upgraded China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) during the 6th Strategic Dialogue held in Islamabad between Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi.

During the meeting on Thursday, the two sides reviewed the entire gamut of Pakistan-China relations and discussed important regional and global issues. They also exchanged in-depth views on multiple facets of bilateral cooperation, including CPEC 2.0, trade and economic relations, multilateral cooperation, and people-to-people ties.

Addressing the joint press stakeout alongside Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, Ishaq Dar emphasized that the two countries enjoy complete unanimity and consensus on all major bilateral, regional, and global matters. "We are heartened by Wang Yi's vision for advancing our bilateral cooperation, especially upgrading CPEC to its next phase," Dar noted.

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi described CPEC as the cornerstone of Pakistan-China strategic partnership, stating that the current priority is to advance high-quality development of livelihood-enhancing corridor, green

He said that during the 6th stra-



corridor, and open corridor".

upgrade CPEC into "a growth corridor, cooperation to improve the Pakistani that China also supports development participation in the ML-1 (Main Line

people's welfare and accelerate the and operation of the Gwadar port and Pakistan capability for self-sustained "We will work hard to deepen our development and increase Pakistan's tegic dialogues, the two sides agreed to industrial, agriculture and mining economic resilience," he said adding minister also welcomed the third-party

promote the KKH realignment project. Furthermore, the Chinese foreign

Railway) project.

Ishaq Dar said during the dialogues, the two sides held the strategic dialogues on the heels of Pakistan-China-Afghanistan Foreign Ministers' trilateral meeting in Kabul. "These mechanisms signify our joint resolve to promote regional peace, stability and prosperity and to share the dividends of Pakistan-China friendship with other counties in region and beyond.

He also expressed gratitude to the Chinese foreign minister for China's firm support to Pakistan for safeguarding its sovereignty, territorial integrity and national dignity.

The deputy PM said the two sides also agreed to continue close cooperation at the multilateral for a particularly at the United Nation Security Council (UNSC) where Pakistan is currently serving its two years-term as a non-permanent member.

"We also discussed preparation for PM Shehbaz's forthcoming visit o China to attend the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Council of Heads of State Summit. Further he said next year Pakistan and China would celebrate 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations. "We agreed that the two countries will

organize a series of event in this regard." Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said China warmly welcomes PM Shehbaz to China for the SCO summit. The two sides will jointly prepare and ensure the success of the series of activities for the 75th anniversary of was utilized for the solarization of the China-Pakistan diplomatic relations

next vear."

He also expressed sympathies with Pakistan in the wake of the heavy rains, assuring that China will immediately provide emergency humanitarian assistance.

As regards terrorism in the country, Wang Yi said China highly commences Pakistan's tireless efforts in combating terrorism as it firmly believes that Pakistan's counter-terrorism operation will secure victory. He said Islamabad is effectively protecting Chinese personnel and institutions in Pakistan.

Replying to a question, Ishaq Dar said Pakistan's foreign policy will not change which is to establish friendly ties with all countries in the world based on shared values, mutual respect and equality and for global peace and stability. "China is mainstay and cornerstone of Pakistan's foreign policy and we are committed to further strengthen bilateral relations," he emphasized.

Wang Yi, responding to a question said that China's partnership with India is not targeted at any third party and that no other country will affect from these relations.

Later, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi presented a framed picture to DPM/FM Ishaq Dar marking the completion of solarization of the Pakistan Foreign Office project. Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs presented a gift of 2 million RMB to Pakistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs which

Saudi Relief Aid During Pakistan's Floods: A Living Example of Brotherhood

Muhammad Aziz Ur Rehman brother in the Muslim world.

When devastating floods recently struck Pakistan, leaving villages submerged, families displaced, and infrastructure destroyed, the nation looked to its allies Muslim countries. His leaderfor support. Among the first to respond was the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia under the leadership of Crown Prince Mohammed humanitarian responsibility. By bin Salman, whose swift relief assistance reaffirmed that the moment of crisis, the Kingdom Pakistan-Saudi bond is one of showed that its ties with Pakienduring friendship and broth- stan are grounded in faith and

The Saudi aid—consisting of macy. ood, medical kits, tents, and timely but lifesaving. For families it symbolized care, compassion,

This gesture reflected the vision of Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, who has consistently advocated for unity and cooperation among ship has extended Saudi Arabia's role beyond economic reforms and modernization to global prioritizing Pakistan during its compassion, not merely diplo-

other essentials—was not only long history of Saudi support stan's natural disaster. for Pakistan. From providing stranded in submerged villages, financial aid and oil on deferred this assistance provided a ray of payments to supporting Pakistan hope in the darkest of times. It on international forums, Riyadh carried more than material value; has always stood with Islamabad. In return, Pakistan has been a and solidarity from a nation that steadfast ally, backing Saudi Pakistanis consider their closest Arabia's security and sovereignty.



For the common people, the Saudi aid carried an emotional marked with Saudi symbols were not forgotten. Such humanitarian gestures strengthen people-to-people bonds, making can transform this moment of of Pakistanis as powerful symbols unshakable ties of faith, history,

This history of mutual trust has the friendship more resilient and been further reinforced by the deeply rooted in public senti-

urgent need for greater cooperweight. Relief consignments and climate resilience. As Pakistan rebuilds, Saudi Arabia's reassured flood victims that they participation in reconstruction projects—whether in housing, agriculture, or infrastructure—



nership can evolve into one that true friends reveal themselves ation in disaster management not only responds to crises but through action, not rhetoric. tion will be remembered as more also prepares for future chal- Saudi Arabia's timely assistance than humanitarian aid. It will

The images of Saudi aircraft and trucks delivering aid will remain etched in the memories

Millennials Achieve Record-Breaking Success in Cambridge Examinations 2025

As Pakistan continues to rebuild, the Saudi relief operaunder Crown Prince Mohammed be seen as a shining example of bin Salman's leadership has genuine friendship and a reaffirproven once again that Pakistan mation of the brotherhood that and the Kingdom are bound by continues to define Pakistan-

B City Desk

legacy of academic distinction, The 1,700+ A*s and As in A Levels, this Millennium Education Group and milestone stands as a testament to Future World Schools & Colleges have achieved historic success in the 40-year journey of excellence, innova-Cambridge Assessment Internation- tion, and holistic development says a

al Education (CAIE) May-June 2025 Examinations. With an unprecedent-ISLAMABAD: Continuing a proud ed 8,121+ A*s and As in IGCSEs and The Millennium Education Group's

This resounding achievement not only elevates The Millennium Education Group's standing as one of Pakistan's leading private education systems but also reflects the exceptional talent and perseverance of its learners, the unwavering trust of parents, and the dedication of its teaching faculty. It is a celebration of academic brilliance and a reflection of the institution's commitment to nurturing globally competitive, future-ready leaders.

Dr. Faisal Mushtaq, TI, Chairman & CEO of The Millennium Education Group, extended his heartfelt congrat-

lies. He remarked: "These extraordinary $\;\;$ Examinations are steppingstones, not results are a celebration of our learners' resilience, talent, and commitment to excellence. At The Millennium Education, we nurture not just academic brilliance but also character, creativity, and confidence – qualities that prepare our youth to lead Pakistan and beyond. This achievement reaffirms our stance as one of the nation's most future-ready institutions, dedicated to cultivating leaders who thrive globally.

Ms. Erum Atif, Director Teaching & Learning at The Millennium Education Group, also lauded the learners, saying: "School is not just a place to earn grades; it is a journey of discovery and growth.

destinations, guiding learners towards greater responsibilities and opportunities. These outstanding results reflect the hard work of our learners, their aspirations for excellence, and their readiness to shape a brighter tomorrow."

The CAIE IGCSE and A Level results 2025 reaffirm the strength, rigor, and global relevance of The Millennium Education's academic programmes. With a strong focus on critical thinking, real-world application, innovation, and 21st century skills, learners are equipped with both the mindset and the skillset required to excel in higher education

With 9,821+ A*s and As combined, this achievement is more than just numbers - it is a collective triumph, celebrating the brilliance of learners, the devotion of educators, and the support of families who form the backbone of

The Millennium Education community. As these high achievers step into the next chapter of their academic journeys, The Millennium Education Group proudly dedicates this success to the pursuit of knowledge, the power of perseverance, and the promise of a brighter future - confident that its learners will continue to make meaningful contributions nationally and

From a Drawing Room to city-wide Policy Reform

👺 Adil Rahoo

n a city like Karachi where nearly 80% of drivers do not have a legal license to drive, a civic-tech project known as 'Raastah' has the state institutional failure through their licensing outreach programme, without relying on government funding

Adil Rahoo, the founder of the NGO SFR Foundation and Raastah is a 29-vear-old who returned to Pakistan after leading the 20,000 students of Glasgow Caledonian University in Scotland as the first international Student nudges, reminder calls, and personal-President. He's the grandson of the late ised guidance to help them upgrade their Shaheed Fazil Rahoo, one of Sindh's most prominent political martyrs for his

struggle for Pakistan's democracy. Adil built the entire system of Raastah equipped with a laptop, inverter, battery,

tions officer. Each vehicle targets dense localities where the licensing service has been traditionally inaccessible to the locals, such as Pakistan Chowk, Railway Colony, Lyari, Delhi Colony, Orangi, been revolutionary in bridging and Saddar. By connecting directly to the Sindh Police's DLS system, Raastah in many cases surpasses the daily volume of the Sindh Police's mobile licensing fleet n Karachi.

While the mobile units focus on issuing official learner driving licenses, the project does not stop there. Each applicant is supported through a structured follow-up system, which includes SMS learner licenses into full driving licenses through their local licensing centre.

'Raastah is more than just about issuing a learning license to drive on the from scratch. Each Raastah vehicle is road for a year, Adil Rahoo explained. 'It is about building a bridge to legiti-

camera, internet and a trained opera- macy, and formalising the vast majority of individuals in the country's legal system, often for the very first time, and then supporting them at each stage of the process'. The post-licensing support process is coordinated through Raastah's cloud-based system, which generates contact tracking used by phone operators to follow up.

The initiative started from a free licensing facility near KPT Bridge, a drive Adil powered from his home. We didn't charge a rupee at first. We just wanted to see if people would show up, he recalled. 'Hundreds showed up, and we soon found ourselves to be severely under capacity'.

Through trial and error, it evolved into a structured operation within several weeks. Currently, three vehicle units operate across Karachi, issuing over 1,350 licenses each month. With preparations for growing to five units in August, the project has already helped

for gig and transport workers, particularly rickshaw and motorcycle drivers. Each license issued represents not just a document, but a full livelihood made legal, often for those previously shut out of the system due to bribery.

Raastah is financially self-sustaining. With each unit generating over PKR 70,000 in monthly net profit and over PKR 200,000 in gross revenue, all proceeds are reinvested back into expansion, technological development, continuous quality improvement and opera-

Raastah operates in regular and close coordination with Sindh Police and other local authorities. The Cantonment Board Clifton (CBC), including its Vice-Chair, Mr Najeeb Wali, supports enabling access to local councillors and community leaders in regions such as Punjab Colony, Gizri, P&T Colony, embedding the vehicle units directly in communi-

legalise over 27 million PKR in income ties needing the service the most. Similarly, the management of Raastah regularly liaises with Sindh Police to resolve real-time IT, technical, and system issues

during field activities. Adil Rahoo said While I had to build the entire Raastah system and structure from the ground up, I was fortunate enough to have a few people who believed in the vision for Raastah. Individuals like SFR Foundation's Executive Committee Member, Tariq Baloch, who provided unwavering moral support and took charge of our social media, marketing, and branding voluntarily during our early struggling days.'

Starting from Adil's drawing room, the project now has an entire managerial team that functions from Raastah's very own office. Adil prepares to leave for the University of Oxford in September to pursue a Master of Public Policy, where he will join a global cohort of policy innovators. He said that he will continue

leading and growing the project. I will be governing the project remotely as the Chair of the board of SFR Foundation throughout my time at Oxford. We've proven this works, now it's all about nationwide scale?

We are also planning to explore working with the Mayor of Karachi, Mr Murtaza Wahab, to launch Raastah's very own driving institute within the jurisdiction of the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation. The goal is to collaborate closely with Sindh Police as an official partner and provide affordable driving test clearance certifications, further addressing the state capacity and transparency gap in Karachi's formal driving sector.'

Pakistan, Raastah represents what citizen-driven governance can look like in Pakistan: transparent, practical, corruption-free, and powered by technology.

With plans to expand to other cities in

The writer is founder of 'Raastah', a project of his NGO, SFR Foundation.

Bull & Bears PSX 100-Share **Index Fluctuation**

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index		
Current	Prev. Close	
149,235.26	150,591.00	
Day's High	Day's Low	
151,249.62	148,272.57	
Index Value	Change	
39,175,652,800	-1355.74	
Percentage	Time	
-0.9%	21 Aug, 2025 4:30 pm	
Europe: FTSE 100 Index		
·		

Europe: FTSE 100 Index		
Index Value	Change	
9,309.20	+21.06	
Percentage	Time	
+0.23%	21 Aug, 4:35 pm GMT+1	

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Averag		
Index Value	Change	
44,748.49	-189.82	
Percentage	Time	
-0.42%	21 Aug, 12:23 pn GMT-4	

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average		
Index Value	Change	
42,610.17	-278.38	
Percentage	Time	
-0.65%	21 Aug, 3:45 pm GMT+9	

Open Market Forex Rates

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	183.1	188.1
Bahrain Dinar	751.25	753.75
Canadian Dollar	204.2	209.2
China Yuan	39.13	39.53
Danish Krone	43.91	44.31
Euro	330.35	331.8
Hong Kong Dollar	35.92	36.27
Indian Rupee	3.14	3.23
Japanese Yen	1.8975	1.9975
Kuwaiti Dinar	917.35	925.35
Malaysian Ringgit	66.84	67.44
NewZealand \$	165.83	167.83
Norwegians Krone	27.13	27.43
Omani Riyal	735.80	738.30
Qatari Riyal	77.45	78.15
Saudi Riyal	75.65	75.80
Singapore Dollar	219.2	224.2
Swedish Korona	29.36	29.66
Swiss Franc	348.57	351.32
Thai Bhat	8.6	8.75
U.A.E Dirham	77.4	77.55
UK Pound Sterling	382.55	384.15
US Dollar	284.1	284.6

SECP Publishes *Insurance* Industry Statistics 2024



ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has released the Insurance Industry Statistics for the year 2024, the fourth volume of this annual series containing comprehensive data as of December 31, 2024. The report provides a comprehensive picture of the insurance sector's performance and serves as a key reference for policymakers, regulators, and industry stakeholders.

During the year, the industry's total assets expanded significantly, rising from Rs. 2,900 billion in 2023 to Rs. 3,554 billion in 2024. Gross premiums grew by 7% year-on-year, reaching Rs. 677 billion compared to Rs. 631 billion in the preceding year. The takaful sector continued its robust expansion, with family takaful contributions increasing by 37% and general takaful by 24%, bringing the combined premium volume close to Rs. 100 billion.

Addressing members of the media at the launch of the report, Commissioner Insurance, Mr. Mujtaba Ahmad Lodhi, emphasized the growing role of insurance in Pakistan's economic development and financial stability. He noted that insurance acts as a vital pillar of the financial system by providing risk protection, mobilizing long-term funds, and supporting the deepening of capital markets. Highlighting recent sectoral trends, the Commissioner pointed to the encouraging signs of economic recovery, a 25% increase in private sector life premiums, a threefold rise in premiums through digital channels, and the rapid growth of the takaful sector.

CCP hosts awareness session on Competition Law for CA & **ACCA Students**



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) organized an awareness session on Competition Law for CA and ACCA students of Mannabi Business School.

The session aimed to equip future finance professionals with knowledge of the legal framework that ensures fair competition in markets.

Understanding Competition Law helps business and accounting students identify and avoid practices prohibited under the law, thereby fostering integrity and compliance in their future careers.

CCP officials—Mr. Ahmed Qadir, Director General; Mr. Salman Zafar, Senior Director; and Mr. Noman Ahmed, Assistant Director-delivered presentations on key areas of Competition the students, who actively engaged in discusstudents and promoting awareness of Compe Law. These included abuse of dominant posi-

tion, cartelization, deceptive marketing practure the CCP's enforcement mechanisms. These tices, and mergers & acquisitions. They also queries were comprehensively addressed by explained the history and importance of competition law in promoting fair and transparent market practices, protecting consumer welfare, ment and Mannabi Industry Linkages &

and supporting sustainable economic growth. sions and posed thoughtful questions regarding tition Law.

the Commission's representatives. Mr. Anas Khan, Head of the ACCA Depart-Employability, along with faculty members, The session generated strong interest among thanked the CCP team for engaging with

Souvenir

RAWALPINDI: Muhammad Raza Hayat Harraj, Federal Minister for Defence Production is presenting a souvenir to H.E Mr. Khazar Farhadov, Ambassador of Azerbaijan on Thursday.



Cheezious Wins Pakistan's **Most Favorite** Pizza Award

Commerce Desk

Cheezi-ISLAMABAD: ous, Pakistan's leading food brand, has been honored with the prestigious title of "Pakistan's Most Favorite Pizza" at the 1st Pakistan Interna- a proud Pakistani brand," said working teams, and the entire brate this achievement, we Awards 2025. The award was presented by Governor Punjab, Sardar Saleem we dedicate this milestone

on behalf of Cheezious by Director Operations, Qadir Khan, and Director Market-

ing, Viquas Jaleel. "This award is more than just a recognition—it is a celebration of our journey as Director Operations. "With 48 restaurants nationwide, Haider Khan, and received to our customers, our hard-



tional Food & Restaurant the Qadir Khan Cheezious Cheezious family whose love and trust continue to inspire

Director Marketing, Viquas Jaleel stated that, "As we cele-

remain committed to our mission of spreading 'Cheezy Khushiyan'—bringing people together through great taste and memorable experiences."

Zong and Energy & Automation Partner to Launch Smart Energy Management Solutions

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Zong, Pakistan's leading technology innovation company, has entered a strategic partnership with Energy & Automation Pvt. Ltd. (ENA) to launch an advanced suite of IoT-powered Smart Energy Management Solutions, marking a significant step in Zong's evolution beyond traditional telecom services toward a broader role as a technology-driven service provider. The initiative directly supports Pakistan's Digital transformation while advancing Zong's sustainability pillar of Green & Low together Zong's advanced IoT Carbon Operations.

Speaking at the

said: "Through this strategic partnership, we're delivering next-generation Smart Energy Management Solutions that combine Zong's IoT leadership with intelligent automation to transform how businesses optimize energy consumption.

These solutions are enablers for Pakistan's digital economy; providing enterprises with real-time operational intelligence to drive efficiency, reduce costs, and build sustainable infrastructure aligned with both national climate goals and global ESG standards."

This collaboration brings connectivity and ENA's expertise in automation to deliver mony, Farooq Raza, Head practical, scalable energy of Business Solutions, Zong, solutions across Pakistan.

Payoneer and Stripe Partner to Deliver **Enhanced Online Checkout Experience**

S Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Payoneer (NASDAQ: PAYO), the global financial technology company powering business growth across borders, announced a strategic partnership with programmable financial services company Stripe. The collaboration marks an expansion of Payoneer's Online Checkout offering for cross-border merchants looking to sell direct-to-consumer.

"We are committed to simplifying cross-border online trade for SMBs across Asia Pacific and beyond," said Nagesh Devata, Senior Vice President, APAC at Payoneer. "This partner- eCommerce webstores.

ship with Stripe is a strategic step in our journey to expand our Checkout offering and deliver a best-in-class user experience at scale. By combining Payoneer's local market expertise and distribution with Stripe's exceptional checkout technology, we're bringing the strengths of both companies together to deliver unmatched value to our customers."

Through this partnership, Payoneer and Stripe are enabling enhanced customer conversion rates, improving acceptance rates, helping to reduce fraud, and expanding payment acceptance options for SMBs selling direct-toconsumer via their own

FDA's DG directs 100pc Recovery of Outstanding Dues

跨 Zafar Chishti

FAISALABAD: Faisalabad Development Authority (FDA) Director has issued strict directives to ensure of the law. He issued these instruc-Management Junaid Hassan Manj

tors Finance Humaira Ashraf and Faisal Tariq Butt, Deputy Director Town Planning Raheel Zafar, Depu-General Muhammad Asif Chaudhry ty Director Katchi Abadies Afzal Ansari and other officials from varithe 100% recovery of all outstanding ous sections. Reviewing the recovdues from private housing schemes. ery targets, the Director Gener-He stressed that there should be all expressed deep concern over the no obstruction in the enforcement non-recovery of fines and conversion fees imposed on private housprogress of recovering outstanding He emphasized that indiscriminate dues from defaulters. The meeting action must be taken against defaultwas attended by Director Town Plan- ers. He instructed officials to directning Asma Mohsin, Directors Estate ly contact those with outstanding payments and issue them notices to and Sohail Maqsood Panu, Director settle their dues. Asif Chaudhery also Inspection Asim Mahmood, Director reviewed the details of government targets.

IT Yasir Ijaz Chatha, Deputy Direc-receivables, including commercialization fees, and directed staff to be more active in the recovery campaign. He warned that departmental action should be taken against those found

responsible for poor performance. Furthermore, he ordered the launch of a special campaign to recover development charges and other outstanding dues from allottees of FDA City, stating that departtions during a meeting to review the ing schemes for illegal development. mental proceedings should be initiated to cancel the plots of defaulters. The DG FDA instructed officials from different departments to daily review their staff's performance in the recovery campaign and adopt an effective strategy to meet the set



All arrangements completed for organizing Azadi Family Fun Race: DG Sports Punjab



Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: Director General Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Khizar Afzaal Chaudhry while presiding over an important review meeting said that all the arrangements have been completed for organizing Azadi Family Fun Race in a befitting manner in Nishtar Park Sports Complex (NPSC) on August 23, 2025 (Saturday).

Anjum, Director Admin Abid Shaukat, Deputy Director Chand Perveen, Divisional Sports Officer Lahore Tanveer Abbas, Chief Sports Consultant Hafeez Bhatti and all administrators of Nishtar Park Sports Complex attended the

Addressing the meeting, Director General Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Khizar Afzaal Chaudhry said

women have so far been registered for awarded a cash prize of Rs 20,000 each. 1.3 km Azadi Family Fun Race and the registration process for the race is still

Director General Sports and Youth from Hali Chowk to Punjab Stadium. Affairs Punjab Khizar Afzaal Chaudhry said that the first prize of the Azadi Family Fun Race is Rs 50,000, the second prize is Rs 30,000 while the ments have been taken on board".

Director Sports Rana Nadeem that as many as 3200 girls, boys and third and fourth position holders will be

Director General Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Khizar Afzaal Chaudhry further said that there will be sepa-Sharing more details of the race, rate races for girls, boys and women "The Azadi Family Fun Race is a mega program of Independence Day celebrations in which all the relevant depart-

Pakistan MMA Federation to host 'Battle for Truth - Pakistan Combat Night' in Lahore

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Mixed Martial Arts Federation (PAKMMAF) has announced the launch of a landmark event titled "Battle for Truth - Pakistan Combat Night", to celebrate Pakistan's sporting victories and express solidarity with the Pakistan Armed Forces.

Scheduled for August 24 at DHA Stadium, Phase 6, Lahore, the event will feature two major competitions: the Paki $stan\,Open\,MMA\,Championship\,and\,Road$ to BRAVE 100. This high-impact showcase further cements MMA's rise as the future of sports in Pakistan, and is being held with the support of the Punjab government.

In the Pakistan Open MMA Championship, amateur fighters, including both men women, from four regional teams will compete across various weight categories. The winners will earn a spot to represent Pakistan at the IMMAF World Champi-

onships in Georgia later this year. The Road to BRAVE 100 fight card will feature five of Pakistan's top fighters squaring off against elite international opponents from Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan,



Iran, Egypt, and Morocco. Victors will qualify for BRAVE CF 100, the global flagship event of BRAVE Combat Federation, held in Bahrain under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Khalid bin Hamad

Al Khalifa.

PAKMMAF President Omar Ahmed thanked Punjab Chief Minister Maryam her all-out support, the MMA is now the

sport of choice for Pakistani youth, who can relate more to Khabib than Babar Azam. We are proud to see it emerge as the future of sports with some champions as global

Highlighting the sport's momentum, Omar Ahmed recalled that Pakistani MMA athletes faced Indian fighters ten times last year across events in Dubai, Lahore, and Bahrain, winning all ten bouts. "This clean sweep was a proud moment for the country and coincided with major victories by our Armed Forces, reflecting unity and national strength on

This year's edition will feature standout female athletes Bano Butt and Iman Khan, both gold medalists, continuing MMA's powerful role in advancing women's nnowerment through sport

Punjab Sports Minister Faisal Khokhar added: "We aim to make Punjab the sports capital of Pakistan, and MMA is central to that vision." Pakistan Combat Night is not just a tournament, it's a national statement, showcasing talent, unity, and the coun-Nawaz for her leadership, saying, "With try's ambition to dominate global combat

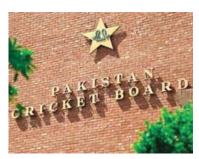
Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has Awarded Central Contracts to 30 Men Cricketers

Asim Tanveer

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has awarded central contracts to 30 male cricketers for the upcoming 2025-26 international season. The contracts, effective from July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026, reflect the Board's continued commitment to recognising and supporting national talent.

This year's roster sees 10 players each placed in Categories B, C, and D. Notably, no player has been selected for Category A in this cycle.

Compared to last year's list of 27 contracted players, the PCB has expanded the pool to 30, including 12 fresh additions, highlighting the emergence of promising new talent and the Board's strategic focus on squad depth and future development.



The new Entrants are:

Ahmed Daniyal, Faheem Ashraf, Hasan Ali, Hasan Nawaz, Hussain Talat, Khushdil Shah, Mohammad Abbas, Mohammad Haris, Mohammad Nawaz, Sahibzada Farhan, Salman Mirza and Sufyan Moqim.

Five players have been promoted owing to their last year's performances. They are: (D).

Abrar Ahmed, Haris Rauf, Saim Ayub, List of this year's centrally contacted Salman Ali Agha and Shadab Khan – all promoted from C to B category.

Additionally, nine players have retained their positions in the same categories. They

Abdullah Shafique (Category C), Khurram Shahzad, Mohammad Abbas Afridi, Mohammad Wasim Jnr – all in Category D, Noman Ali, Sajid Khan, Saud and Shaheen Shah Afridi - both in Cate-

Eight players have missed out on contracts this year. They are:

Aamir Jamal, Haseebullah, Kamran Ghulam, Mir Hamza, Mohammad Ali, Mohammad Huraira, Muhammad Irfan Khan and Usman Khan – all in Category

players:

Category B (10 players):

Abrar Ahmed, Babar Azam, Fakhar Zaman, Haris Rauf, Hasan Ali, Mohammad Rizwan, Saim Ayub, Salman Ali Agha, Shadab Khan and Shaheen Shah

Category C (10 players):

Abdullah Shafique, Faheem Ashraf, Shakeel-all in Category C, Fakhar Zaman Hasan Nawaz, Mohammad Haris, Mohammad Nawaz, Naseem Shah, Noman Ali, Sahibzada Farhan, Sajid Khan

and Saud Shakeel Category D (10 players):

Ahmed Daniyal, Hussain Talat, Khurram Shahzad, Khushdil Shah, Mohammad Abbas, Mohammad Abbas Afridi, Mohammad Wasim Jnr. Salman Mirza, Shan Masood and Sufyan Moqim

Pakistan secured historic double hosting rights for weightlifting championships



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has secured the hosting rights for both the World Masters and Asian Masters weightlifting championships, making a significant milestone in its athletic history. According to the Asian Masters Weightlifting Association, Pakistan will host both men's and women's events, displaying its growing prominence in the international weight lifting community. The world Masters $\,$ championship will staged under the prestigious banner of "Grand Prix", making it a global spectacle set to take place in Islamabad February 2026.

The twin mega events are expected to attract over 500 weightlifters from all seven continents. According to Experts, this international gathering not only enhances Pakistan's profile as a sporting destination but also demonstrates the country's ability to host events of global stature,

Speaking on this major achievement, Arshad Khan, President of the Pakistan Masters Weightlifting Association, expressed immense pride "Hosting both the World and Asian Masters Championships is a great honor for Pakistan. It is the result of our consistent success

Arshad Khan said that we are attributing this international Masters weightlifting event to the bravery and valor with which the Pakistani armed forces achieved a brilliant victory in the recent Indo-Pak war and to the Battle of Haq and Operation Banyan Al-Marsoos.

Arshad Khan further said that a five-member delegation from the International Weightlifting Body is coming to Islamabad from September 9 to 12 to review the venues and other arrangements.

Pakistan Football Federation weighs to hunt talent from clubs, academies



Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Football Federation (PFF) president, Syed Mohsin Gillani has pledged to take all out efforts for the promotion and betterment of football in the country. Addressing a press conference with head coach Nolberto Solano, Pakistan Football Federation president said that he took charge of the post after the election two months back.

He said PFF first of all selected the best coach for Pakistan senior team and U-23 football team.

Mohsin Gillani claimed that Nolberto Solano was considered

as one of the best football coaches in the world. He said FIFA and AFC are doing a lot of sports in technical development. An MoU will be signed soon to work with Azerbaijan to promote football.

Mohsin Gillani said PFF was taking every possible step to improve technical development of the team.

He said PFF has formed a futsal team for the first time. A meeting of the PFF Executive Committee has been called for tomorrow. The president said that the new talent will be hunted from the clubs and academies and these responsibilities have been given to the technical department.

On the occasion, PFF head coach Nolberto Solano said that he like challenges and coaching Pakistan will be a challenge.

Liverpool suffer major blow as key player ruled out with injury

Liverpool defender Jeremie Frimpong faces several weeks out of action with a hamstring injury, Reds manager Arne Slot said Thursday. Jeremie Frimpong suffered the setback during the Premier League champions' 4-2 opening win over Bournemouth at Anfield last Friday.

The former Bayer Leverkusen full-back, a reported £29.5 million (\$39.6 million) replacement for Trent Alexander-Arnold, went off after an hour of his home league debut for Liverpool.

The medical team were completely right about Jeremie to tell me to take him off because he is out until the end of the international break (September 10), and that happened during the game," Slot told a pre-match press conference ahead of Liverpool's game against Newcastle on Monday

9-year old rising star Adayan Gul wins U-11 Sonu Junior Squash title

Sports Desk

PESHAWAR: Rising star nineyear-old squash prodigy Adayan Gul, originally from New York, has made headlines after capturing the Under-11 Sonu Junior Squash Tournament title in Connecticut, securing a major milestone in his young career.

Adayan displayed remarkable skill and determination throughout the competition.

In the quarterfinals, he overcame Connecticut's Methoo V with scores of 11-8, 11-1, 12-10, advancing confidently to the next

He then powered through the semifinals, defeating New Jersey's Kian Cowl 11-7, 11-3, 11-2 to earn opment and sports science.

his place in the championship

The final proved to be a thriller. as Adayan faced Belgium's Sebastien Verpoorten. In a nailbiting five-game contest, Gul triumphed 11-7, 8-11, 11-6, 3-11, 11-7, clinching the trophy and cementing his reputation as one of squash's brightest young

Adayan's success is deeply tied to the guidance of his father and coach, Adnan Gul, a Level 3 certified international squash coach with nearly two decades of experience. Adnan has coached players in both Malaysia and the United States and is widely recognized for his expertise in squash devel-

with the same dedication, he has the potential to become one of the best international players," said Adnan, proud of his son's rapid rise in the sport. "I also played squash in Peshawar and want my son to be like squash legends Jehangir Khan, Jansher Khan, Qamar Zaman," he added.

Adayan only began competing in squash tournaments in November 2024, yet he has already shown tremendous progress.

He is currently ranked 4th in New York State for U-11 and holds the 39th position nation-

His journey began with the U-9 Pyramid Tournament on

"If Adayan continues working October 6, 2024, where he defeated Illinois' Elias Zohan in straight sets (11-5, 11-2, 11-6) and went on to win the event after beating New York's Anil Lewis in the semifinal and top-seeded opponents in the final.

Later that year, he continued his winning streak at the Lifetime Westchester Tournament on December 29, 2024. After dominant early-round performances, Adayan stunned top seed George Bellis in a dramatic final comeback (7-11, 1-11, 11-9, 11-9, 11-5), proving his resilience under pressure.

With his latest victory in Connecticut, Adayan Gul has firmly established himself as a



His dream, he says, is clear: to one in the international circuit and Talking to APP, Adnan Gul,

day become a World Champion. performing well. He said he is coaching squash for over 19 years. said that he is coaching Malaysian name to watch in junior squash. and American players currently Certified Coaching Course in the a great international player.

States, and Level One courses in Sports Science in Malaysia," father of Adyan Gul said. About his son, he said, he

United States, Level Two courses

in Malaysia and the United

techniques are very good but he needs hard work as for squash one should be believe in hard working, dedication and commit-

Adyan started playing squash competitions from November last year and has performed well.

He is ranked fourth in the New York State rankings in B. U. L. and 39th in the national rankings. His father Adnan Gul says that if Adyan Gul continues to "I have completed the Level Three play hard like this, he can become

CJCSC General Sahir

president, top security

meets Uzbekistan

chief: ISPR



PM inaugurates facilitation center as one-stop solution to investors, entrepreneurs

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday inaugurated the first-ever **Business Facilitation Center** (BFC) here with a vision to and attract investment in Pakistan by providing a one-stop solution to investors and entre-

Established by the Board of

regulatory requirements and facilitating business registration, licensing, and permits.

It will serve as a one-stop service, reducing hurdles and the desired objectives. promote ease of doing business facilitating efficient interaction between businesses and government entities.

functioning, including the tation center and particularly Investment, the BFC will facil- investors' guidance, appli- for recruiting a highly talented Sheikh called the establish-

services, including guidance on procedures with drastically reduced timelines, also unveiled the plaque of the project, vowing to replicate it across the country if it fulfills

He thanked the Minister for Board of Investment Qiaser Ahmed Sheikh, Secretary BOI, The prime minister, who and their team for establishing was briefed on the center's the country's first-ever facili-

with customers as the prime minister spoke to the gath-

The prime minister urged all the relevant departments to efficiently run the center to make it a success by facilitating and guiding the investors or people from other sectors, just like other countries.

In his remarks, BOI Minister Qaiser Ahmed

by providing a wide range of zones, licensing and payments who were engaged in dealing through in investment facil-

He said that earlier, the investors had to visit various departments to accomplish the required procedures for setting up their businesses; however. the BFC will reduce this hassle, besides remarkably reducing the timelines.

Federal Ministers Attaullah Tarar, Shaza Fatima Khawaja, Ahad Cheema and Dr Musadik Malik, and senior government itate the business community cation for special economic and competent workforce ment of the center a break-officers also attended the event.

Spokesman Report TASHKENT: General Sahir Shamshad Mirza, Chairman Joint Chiefs of

Staff Committee (CJCSC), while on an official visit to Uzbekistan, called on Shavkat Mirziyoyev, President of

the Republic of Uzbekistan, Major General Shukhrat Kholmukhamedov, Minister of Defence, and Lieutenant General Victor Makhmudov, Secretary National Security Council. The discussions covered evolving

international and regional geo-po-

interest. Both sides expressed optimism to expand cooperation to further strengthen bilateral relations in defence and security domains. road and rail connectivity and other aspects of cooperation.

Chairman JCSC highlighted Pakistan's deep-rooted and brotherly ties with Uzbekistan, underscoring shared commitment for further collaborations to promote regional peace, stability, and prosperity. The leadership of Uzbekistan lauded the professionalism of Pakistan Armed litical and security environment, Forces and appreciated their sacriwith emphasis on matters of mutual fices in the fight against terrorism.

PTI welcomes SC's verdict; terms it moral, legal victory for Imran Khan

跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) on Thursday welcomed the acceptance of bail petitions, filed by the former prime minister and PTI founder Imran Khan in eight May 9 cases, by the Supreme Court

The party, in its declaration, said that the SC's decision was proof of the fact that the government failed to justify the arrest of Imran in the May 9 cases. "The apex court's judgment is a big legal and moral victory for Imran and his party because it proves that all cases filed against him are bogus and are part read the declaration, adding,



were filed against the former last two years; away from the declaration said, who would

however, it was a bitter reality prime minister and he had sight of his nation. of a political witch-hunt," that over 200 bogus cases been kept in a prison for the

The question now was, the

compensate for the injustice done to Imran. "Who will be held accountable for imprisoning him without any justification and for using state machinery against him. Those responsible for this must be taken to task."

The PTI termed today's decision the victory of law and justice and said it was optimistic that Imran would be granted bail in other cases as well and soon he would be amongst his people.

The time was near when the former prime minister, along with his nation, would lead the country to progress and prosperity in light of the vision of Father of the Nation Quad-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, the declaration

PM Shehbaz receives solidarity letter from UK PM amid monsoon devastation

跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: British Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer on Thursday expressed deep condolences and solidarity with Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and the people of Pakistan following the recent monsoon rains and ensuing floods that have caused significant loss of life and property across the country.

In his letter addressed to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, the British Prime Minister conveyed his sorrow over the human and financial losses, stating: "I extend my heartfelt condolences to you and the people of Pakistan on the tragic loss of lives caused by the recent monsoon-related disas-

Sir Keir Starmer underscored that both the British government and its people are deeply saddened by the widespread devastation brought by the extreme weather events.

"My thoughts are with all those cult conditions," the letter read.



affected by this tragedy," he wrote noting that the disaster is particularly distressing for many British families with ties to Pakistan.

within the UK, he added: "The entire British public stands in solidarity with the people of Pakistan during this difficult time."

Highlighting the shared concern

He also paid tribute to emergency responders and volunteers in Pakistan who, despite severe challenges, continue to assist affected communities.

"I commend the emergency response teams and volunteers who are helping people under such diffi-

Memon lauds Sindh govt, Karachi mayor's performance during rains

👺 Bureau Report

KARACHI: Sindh Senior Provincial Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon said there was heavy rain in Karachi on 19th August and all government machinery was on roads to drain water. Addressing a press conference in Karachi, Sharjeel Memon said this time water was drained within two days. In past, the rain water remained on roads even after

He criticized MQM Pakistan Farooq Sattar's statement by saying that some people politicize natural disasters.

Memon said that due to rains there are 447 deaths in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and 165 in Punjab and in Sindh there



are only 40 deaths but still the media left all the places and launch the campaign against PPP led government.

The senior provincial minister said Pakistan was facing different challenges due to climate change.

After heavy rains in Karachi, the Chief Minister Sindh, Mayor Karachi, Provincial Ministers and entire administration was on roads. The water can not be drained as long as it is raining. The city's drains were occupied and water channels were blocked.

To a question about more provinces in Sindh, Memon 27th Amendment was still a proposal and there will be no

province within Sindh. Published by: Almass Ayoub Sabir from Zero Point Printers Rawalpindi

Met office issues heavy rain alert across Pakistan till August 29



跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) on Thursday issued a weather alert warning of heavy rains with thunderstorms in the central and upper regions of the country from August 23 to 29. According to the PMD, heavy rains are expected in most areas of Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan from August 23 to 27, while Sindh and eastern Balochistan may experience rain till August 29. In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, heavy rainfall is predicted from August 23 to 26, while Islamabad and various parts of Punjab are also likely to receive showers during the same period.

The department has advised citizens to remain cautious, warning that heavy downpours could affect low-lying areas and disrupt daily activities in major cities. The Meteorological Department has forecast widespread rain, wind, and thundershowers with scattered heavy to very heavy falls in central and lower Sindh as well as southern Balochistan today. According to the advisory, torrential rains may trigger urban flooding in low-lying areas.