



# Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول  
آپ ﷺ نے فرمایا کہ میری اور لوگوں کی مثال ایک ایسے شخص کی ہے جس نے آگ جالی جب اس کے چاروں طرف دھواں ہو تو پورا دھواں اس کے کپڑے کوڑھنے جو آگ پر گرے ہیں اس میں گرے گئے اور آگ جلانے والا نہیں اس میں سے نکالنے لگا لیکن وہ اس کے قابو میں نہیں آئے اور آگ میں گر کر رہے اس کی طرح میں گمراہی کر کو پڑ کر آگ سے نہیں نکلتا ہوں اور تم ہو کہ اسی میں گرے جاؤ۔  
(بخاری: حدیث نمبر 6483)  
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## PM Shehbaz may meet President Trump next month

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif will visit the United States of America (USA) in September and will attend the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) session in New York. Deputy Prime Minister (DPM) and Foreign Minister (FM) Ishaq Dar will accompany the Prime Minister.



## Ishaq Dar to visit Saudi Arabia next week

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Ishaq Dar will visit Saudi Arabia next week. According to diplomatic sources, Ishaq Dar will attend the OIC Foreign Ministers' Council meeting in Saudi Arabia. The meeting is being held in the context of the current situation in Palestine and genocide. The OIC Foreign Ministers' Council meeting will be held in Jeddah on August 25. The Deputy PM will hold meetings with participating leaders on the sidelines of the OIC Foreign Ministers' Council meeting.

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## Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif Chairs Federal Cabinet Meeting in Islamabad on August 22, 2025.



Photo: PID

# Prime Minister calls for immediate relief and rehabilitation measures in flood-hit areas

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday directed immediate and coordinated relief and recovery operations and long-term preventive strategies amid launch of national anti-encroachment drive around waterways.

The prime minister chaired a high-level review meeting today to assess the damage caused by recent monsoon rains and floods across Pakistan, a Prime Minister's Office news release said.

Calling the assistance to flood

victims a "national duty," the prime minister instructed the Ministry of Water Resources to fully support the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government in restoring water supply systems in affected areas.

"Relief and rescue come first but the process of rehabilitation must begin without delay," the PM emphasized.

He announced the launch of a nationwide campaign to prevent construction along rivers, streams, and natural water-courses, highlighting the urgent need to protect these channels to

avert future disasters.

PM Shehbaz Sharif also directed that federal ministers and secretaries be immediately deployed to flood-affected areas where relief efforts are underway, to ensure effective oversight and coordination.

Expressing concern over two upcoming expected weather spells, the Prime Minister ordered early warnings to be issued to at-risk populations and called for strict monitoring of all vulnerable zones.

Focusing on Gilgit-Baltistan, where a glacier outburst

last night caused debris to form a lake, the Prime Minister directed the NDMA Chairman to monitor the lake closely and ensure pre-emptive evacuation of potentially affected communities.

He instructed the use of engineering resources from the Pakistan Army and FCNA to facilitate the safe drainage of the lake without causing damage.

The meeting was briefed on the river situation, glacial risks, and upcoming weather patterns in the northern and southern regions of the country.

The Federal Minister for Information also updated the forum on the establishment of a Central Coordination Committee to streamline ongoing rescue and relief operations.

The meeting was attended by federal ministers Ahsan Iqbal, Dr. Musadik Malik, Engineer Amir Muqam, Abdul Aleem Khan, Sardar Awaiz Leghari, Attaullah Tarar, Mian Moin Wattoo, Advisor Rana Sanaullah, SAPM Mubarak Zeb, and NDMA Chairman Lt. Gen. Inam Haider Malik, along with senior officials.

## Govt determined to tackle malnutrition: Ahsan Iqbal

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning Development and Special Initiative Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Friday said that the government was determined to address the challenges of malnutrition, especially stunting, which were not just health issues but a matter of national emergency and national security.

Addressing an event organized by Scaling Up Nutrition Civil Society Alliance (SUNCSA) Pakistan, a coalition of over 170 civil society organizations across the country, the minister stressed the immediate implementation of actionable



recommendations, along with decentralized governance and coordinated efforts between government, civil society and the

private sector to ensure sustainable solutions for the country's future.

"SUNCSA Pakistan is the

most active network of the SUN Movement Pakistan which has been instrumental in shaping the country's nutrition landscape," said Dr Nazeer Ahmed, Chief Nutrition, SUN Focal Point Ministry of Planning and Development & Member SUN Global ExCOM.

He added that the government remains committed to working closely with civil society, development partners, and the private sector to accelerate progress on our national and global targets.

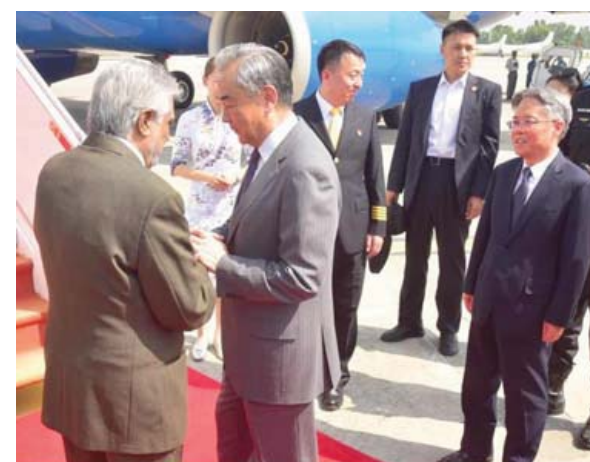
Mubarak Ali Sarwar, Chairperson of SUNCSA Pakistan, CEO AGAHE said, "Our efforts are about turning policy into

action, shaping national nutrition priorities through evidence-based advocacy and collaboration."

He further added that by uniting civil society and strengthening collaboration, SUNCSA Pakistan is committed to strengthening nutrition governance and ensuring lasting outcomes.

"Civil society plays a vital role in bringing communities' voices into national conversations on nutrition and ensuring that solutions truly respond to people's needs," said Dr Shabina Raza, Convener SUNCSA Pakistan, Country Director, Nutrition International & Member SUN Global ExCOM.

## Chinese FM Wang Yi winds up three-day Islamabad visit



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Member of the Politburo of the Communist Party of China and Foreign Minister Wang Yi departed here on Friday after completing his three-day official visit to Pakistan. Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Ishaq Dar saw off Foreign Minister Wang Yi, with Pakistan's Ambassador to Beijing and his Chinese counterpart also present, as well as senior government officials.

A group of children lined the red carpet, waving the flags of Pakistan and China to bid farewell to the guest, who had arrived on Wednesday.

During the three-day visit, Foreign Minister Wang Yi and DPM Dar co-chaired the 6th Pakistan-China Foreign Minis-

ters' Strategic Dialogue held here on Thursday wherein two sides agreed that the friendship between Pakistan and China was significant for maintaining regional peace and stability, and also indispensable for the progress and prosperity of the two countries.

Foreign Minister Wang Yi called on President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, who expressed deep appreciation for China's steadfast support in safeguarding Pakistan's sovereignty, territorial integrity, and national development. Before his departure, Foreign Minister Wang Yi also met the Chief of Army Staff, Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir and the discussions focused on regional security, counter-terrorism, and matters of mutual interest.

## DPM highlights Govt's commitment to ensuring price stability



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister (DPM/FM), Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Friday underlined the government's commitment to ensuring price stability, maintaining adequate supplies of essential goods, and protecting the interests of consumers across the country.

The DPM/FM chaired a meeting to review the availability and prices of essential commodities in the country,

where the committee reviewed the current market availability, assessed stock positions, and examined recent trends in commodity prices, a DPM's Office news release said.

The meeting was attended by the Minister for National Food Security & Research (MNFSR), SAPM Tariq Bajwa, Secretaries of MNFSR, Commerce, Industries & Production, Chairman FBR, along with senior officials from relevant federal and provincial departments.

## Five new members appointed in Ministry of Commerce on 3-year contract

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: With the approval of the Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, 5 new members were appointed in the Ministry of Commerce and in this regard the Establishment Division has issued an official notification of the appointment.

According to a notification, all five members have been appointed on contract for 3 years in MPI scale. Umar Dad Afridi, Javed Iqbal Khan, Hamood-ur-Rauf, M Rauf Kghhan and Riffat Inam



Butt have been appointed as members from the public sector.

The appointments have been made under the MP Scales Policy 2020 and all members will hold office for a period of 3 years from the date of their joining.

## Tarar says PM satisfied with flood relief efforts

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar said on Friday that Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif has expressed satisfaction with the relief and rehabilitation operations underway in flood-affected areas, being carried out by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) in coordination with provincial governments and other stakeholders.

Talking to the media after a high-level review meeting, he said the Prime Minister was updated on the overall flood situation and the measures taken to support affected communities.

"The meeting was attended by federal ministers, secretaries, the NDMA chairman, and chief secretaries from all provinces, including Azad Jammu and Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan," he noted.

Flanked by NDMA Chairman Lieutenant General Inam

Haider Malik, Tarar highlighted that connectivity in flood-hit areas has largely been restored.

"All link roads have been fully restored, while work on provincial road networks is still in progress," he said.

He further informed that power supply had significantly improved, with stability in the electricity system being ensured for flood-affected regions.

"These efforts have helped ease the difficulties faced by residents and are aimed at speeding



up the return to normal life," he added.



# Nila Butt Day Celebrated with Emphasis on Kashmir’s Freedom Movement

Abdul Majeed Tahir

President of All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference and former Prime Minister Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan has said that Nila Butt Day has historical importance. As a result of the movement launched from Nila Butt on August 23, 1947, this region became independent and today we are breathing in free air thanks to the sacrifices of our ancestors. The leadership of the Muslim Conference determined the destination of the state by giving the slogan of Kashmir becoming Pakistan.

This day is our historical day and is of great importance in the context of the Kashmir freedom movement. In his message Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan said that on the occasion of Nila Butt Day, He said that the movement started by the Mujahid e Awwal Sardar Muhammad Abdul Qayyum Khan from Nila Butt is still going on today.

All political parties should gather at Nila Butt to pay tribute to him in this movement. Not only the Muslim



Conference but also the leaders and workers of all political parties should gather at Nila Butt.

He said that it is the duty of every conscious Kashmiri to take the movement launched by Mujahid I to its logical conclusion. As the most literate party in the state, the Muslim Conference has the responsibility to enlighten the new generation with the glorious history, struggle and sacrifices of its ancestors.

Sardar Atiq Ahmed Khan said that the state of Jammu and Kashmir is

a disputed territory according to the resolutions of the United Nations, the future of which is yet to be decided. The Kashmiri people have been struggling for their fundamental right to self-determination for the past 78 years and have created immortal stories of sacrifices.

During this struggle spanning seven decades, millions of Kashmiris have sacrificed their lives, millions have endured the hardships of imprisonment and detention, thousands of chaste women, children and the elderly have faced difficulties for this movement, but this freedom movement has become stronger and more intense instead of weakening.

He said that the Muslim Conference has neither made any compromise on the identity, recognition and unity of the Kashmiri people before nor will it do so now.

The Kashmiri people have decided to accede to Pakistan themselves, but for accession, the state will first have to unite. The emotional bond of the



state with Pakistan will not be allowed to weaken under any circumstances, Muslim Conference President Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan further said that only the strength of the Muslim Conference can guarantee the movement for the completion of Pakistan and the independence movement.

On August 23, the pledge will be renewed once again from the place of Nila Butt that every child of the state will not hesitate to offer their blood for the Kashmir freedom movement and the completion of Pakistan, and this freedom movement will continue until the entire Kashmir is liberated and it is annexed to Pakistan.

## Neela Butt Day: A Milestone of Kashmir’s Struggle for Independence

Abdul Majeed tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: Muslim Conference Secretary General and former Deputy Speaker Ms. Mehran-un-Nisa has said that separating Neela Butt from the Kashmir Freedom Movement would be a grave betrayal of the movement. Neela Butt Day is a milestone of the Kashmir freedom movement and a reflection of the struggle of our ancestors. As a result of the movement launched by the eminent leaders of the Muslim Conference on August 23, 1947, 33,000 square miles of the state of Jammu and Kashmir were freed from the oppression and tyranny of the Maharaja and Indian slavery. Ms. Mehran-un-Nisa said that the Kashmir Freedom Movement is part of the manifesto of the Muslim Conference. No compromise can be made on the identity and independence of the state. She said that the Azad Kashmir government is declaring August 24 as a national day and is organizing state-wide celebrations. Ms. Mehran-un-Nisa directed Muslim Conference workers, officials and local government representatives to ensure their participation in the main event to be held today and renew their loyalty to the freedom movement and the Muslim Conference.



## Attock Police Operations Against Drug Dealers

Raza naqvi

ATTOCK: Attock Police Operations Against Drug Dealers: 5 Arrested, 5,500 Grams of Hashish and 1,100 Grams of Heroin Recovered – Cases Registered. “Drug trafficking is a curse. Strict action against those involved in this heinous trade will continue,” – DPO Attock Sardar Moharan Khan.

According to details, on the instructions of District Police Officer Attock, Sardar Moharan Khan, operations against anti-social elements are underway. In this regard” Assistant Sub-Inspector Muhammad Faizan of Police Post Ghourghushti, during patrolling and checking, stopped a suspicious person identified as Asif son of Muhammad Yaqoob, resident of Jalalia Hazro, a notorious drug dealer. Upon search, 1,200 grams of hashish was recovered, and he was immediately arrested”.

In another operation, ASI Muhammad Waseem of Police Post Hattian recovered 1,300 grams of hashish from Waseem Akhtar son of Miskeen Elahi, resident of Jatial Hazro, who was arrested on the spot.

Similarly, SI Rizwan Afzal of Police Station Rango recovered 1,500 grams of hashish from Jabar Khan son of Sanobar Khan, resident of Formerly Hazro, who was also apprehended.

ASI Iftikhar Ahmed of Police Station Saddar Hasan Abdal arrested Waheed Akhtar son of Muhammad Jahangir, resident of Pindi Mehri Hasan Abdal, currently living in Bhoi Garh Hasan Abdal, a notorious drug dealer, after recovering 1,100 grams of Ice (heroin) from his possession.

Meanwhile, Police Station City Hasan Abdal arrested Tahir Khan son of Yar Muhammad Khan, resident of Burhan, after recovering 1,500 grams of hashish from him. Separate cases have been registered against all the accused.

On this occasion, DPO Attock Sardar Moharan Khan said: “Drug trafficking has destroyed countless families. It is an evil that ruins entire households. Action against those involved in this vile trade will continue with full force.”

## BBSUL and COMSATS University Islamabad sign historic MoU

City Desk

KARACHI: Benazir Bhutto Shaheed University Lyari (BBSUL) successfully hosted a prestigious ceremony today to mark the signing of a historic Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with COMSATS University Islamabad (CUI). This is the first-ever MoU of its kind between CUI and a university in Sindh, opening new avenues of collaboration in the fields of faculty and staff training, workshops, conferences, research, and student exchange programs.

The ceremony commenced with Tilawat and was followed by opening remarks from Prof. Dr. Hussain Mehdi, Vice Chancellor of BBSUL, who welcomed the distinguished guests and highlighted the importance of academic partnerships in strengthening higher education and research culture. A comprehensive presentation on the vision, progress, and achievements of BBSUL was delivered by Dr. Mazhar Ali Dootio, Chairman of the Department of Computer Science and Information Technology, showcased the university’s commitment to innovation, academic excellence, and community engagement. Prof. Dr. Sajid Qamar, the Rector of COMSATS University Islamabad, Spokesman to the Chief Minister Sindh, Mr. Nadar Gabol also spoke on the occasion

# Nila Butt Day... A Milestone in the Kashmir Freedom Struggle



The partition of the subcontinent was not just a division of pieces of land, but it was the result of the victory of an ideology and a long struggle of a nation. Muslims demanded a separate homeland on the basis of the two-nation theory and after countless sacrifices, Pakistan was established. It was the first state in the world that came into existence solely on the basis of faith and ideology. After the establishment of Pakistan, 368 princely states in the subcontinent were given the option to join Pakistan or India according to their cultural, geographical and religious affiliation. In the state of Jammu and Kashmir, 80 percent of the population was Muslim. Naturally, this state should have joined Pakistan. But unfortunately, the ruler here was a Hindu Maharaja Hari Singh, whose heart strings were connected with India. He apparently kept pretending to make Kashmir an independent and sovereign state, but in reality, his policy was to waste time and delay.

On July 19, 1947, the All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference held a historic meeting in Srinagar. In this meeting, Kashmiri Muslims clearly decided to join Pakistan. This

resolution was a manifestation of the collective aspirations of the Muslims of Kashmir. But the rulers and British officers sitting in Delhi had already made plans to occupy Kashmir. The Muslim-majority tehsil of Gurdaspur was handed over to India to provide a land route to Kashmir in order to support the Maharaja. Public unrest against the Maharaja’s laziness and the conspiracies of India was growing. A magnificent expression of this unrest came in the form of a grand rally on August 23, 1947 at Nila Butt in Bagh district. The rally was presided over by Shamsad Ali Shah, while its spirit was a young and courageous leader, Sardar Muhammad Abdul Qayyum Khan, who was later remembered as “Mujahid-e-Awwal”. Thousands of people participated in the rally. The speakers made passionate speeches, exposed the maharaja’s deceit and made it clear that the Kashmiri people would not accept accession to India under any circumstances. The meeting gradually took the form of a procession. The participants of the procession raised slogans in favor of Pakistan. When the Dogra army tried to stop them, a clash occurred and shots were fired. Thus, for the first time, the freedom movement began in the land of Nila Butt.

This event was not just a meeting or a clash, but a renewal of a pledge. On that day, the young Sardar Abdul Qayyum Khan made thousands of people place their hands on the Holy Quran and take a pledge that if the maharaja did not accede to Pakistan, jihad would be waged. He became a metaphor for determination and courage. This is why history remembers him with the title of “Mujahid e Awwal”. His determination

lit the candle of struggle that spread throughout Jammu and Kashmir.

The Nila Butt movement gradually took the form of a rebellion. The brave people of Poonch took up arms. This freedom movement reached the mountains and hills of the valley within days. The result was that within a few months, about five thousand square miles of the present Azad Jammu and Kashmir were liberated from the clutches of the Dogra rulers. In November 1947, the people of Gilgit-Baltistan also started the struggle and liberated another 27 thousand square miles of the area from the occupation of India. Thus, the journey that began with the first bullet of Nila Butt turned into a vast geographical reality.

It would not be out of place to say that Nila Butt’s movement has the same status as the Minar-e-Pakistan of Lahore in the Pakistan Movement. Just as the Lahore Resolution of 1940 had determined the destination, similarly the Nila Butt meeting of 23 August 1947 gave direction to the Kashmir freedom movement. Therefore, Nila Butt is called the milestone of the freedom movement.

The All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference has always kept its ideological basis alive. This party not only became the representative voice of Kashmiri Muslims in 1947 but also celebrates Nila Butt Day with full devotion and dignity. Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan, the political successor of Mujahid e Awwal, is continuing the same tradition. He also encourages the workers and reminds them of the sacrifices of the martyrs.

Every year on August 23, a central

ceremony is held in Nila Butt in which convoys from all the districts of Azad Kashmir participate. The meeting place is decorated with national flags and welcome banners. Large pina flexes of Mujahid I and other leaders are displayed. Along with the leaders of the Muslim Conference, leaders of other political parties and Hurriyat Conference also participate in the ceremony and tributes are paid to the martyrs of Kashmir.

Of course, this day reminds us of those martyrs and ghazis who lit the lamps of freedom with their blood. Sardar Gul Ahmed Khan Shaheed, Sardar Arif Khan Neela Butt, SP Sardar Razzaq, Raja Latif Shaheed and countless other names are those who sacrificed their lives and ignited the movement. Their sacrifices are that bright chapter in history that future generations will continue to be proud of.

Today, when we celebrate Neela Butt Day, it is not just a historical event but also a renewal of the covenant. Even today, Kashmir is bleeding. The atrocities of the Indian army continue in the occupied valley, thousands of youth are martyred and thousands are in prison. In this backdrop, Neela Butt Day teaches us the lesson that we have to continue our struggle, keep the tradition of our sacrifices alive and take the freedom movement to its logical conclusion.

Due to the flood situation in the country this year, the leadership of the Muslim Conference has decided that Neela Butt Day should be celebrated with utmost simplicity so that solidarity can be expressed with the flood victims. This decision has proven that the Muslim Conference is only.

# Historical Status of Nila Butt

Located at an altitude of 7,000 feet, 8 kilometers from Dhirkot, southeast of the Jhelum River, the peak of Nila Butt holds a prominent and prominent place in the Kashmir freedom movement. This is the place from where a handful of Mujahideen declared rebellion against Maharaja Hari Singh on August 23, 1947. Before shedding light on the defensive, geographical and political importance and status of Nila Butt, it is important to know the background of the Kashmiri freedom movement. The Muslim Conference celebrates “Nila Bhatt Day” in a grand manner every year on 23 August.

As a result of the struggle and sacrifices of the people of India, when the British started to withdraw, an agreement was reached between the Congress, the Muslim League and the Viceroy, which is called the Plan of 3 June 1947. In the light of the two-nation theory, it was decided that the Muslim majority areas would be included in Pakistan and the Hindu majority areas in India. At that time, there were 565 small and large states in India, which were spread over a quarter of the total area of India. These states were outside the administrative structure of British India. The Raj, Maharaja and Nawab were the rulers of these states who had accepted the British Crown as the supreme authority. Under a clause of the Indian Independence Act, upon the end of British rule, these states were given the right to join either India or Pakistan according to the will of their people.

These states also included the state of Jammu and Kashmir, which was 77% Muslim. Geographical location, tourist attractions, natural resources, wealth and Due to its climate, the state of Jammu and Kashmir had a special status and importance which the British were not ready to give up, nor were the Congress leaders ready to give up. The state of Jammu and Kashmir was adjacent to West Pakistan in its border, due to which the Muslims of the state of Jammu and Kashmir and West Pakistan also had common religious, cultural, geographical and economic interests, due to which the mutual relations were so deep that practically they appeared to be a single unit.

The people of the state of Jammu and Kashmir were against the plan of partition of India and the two They wanted to join Pakistan on the basis of national ideology. At that time, the All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference had 19 out of 21 seats in the state assembly, due to which it was recognized as the sole representative party of the state of Jammu and Kashmir.

To fulfill this desire, even before the formation of Pakistan, on July 19, 1947, the All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference, the sole representative party of the state Muslims, unanimously passed the resolution of accession to Pakistan in its historic meeting in Srinagar and announced its fate with Pakistan.

On August 14, 1947, when the Islamic Republic of Pakistan was formed, there was no place for the joy of the state Muslims. Independence was celebrated throughout the state. People hoisted the Pakistani flag on private buildings, offered prayers of thanks, and held weddings.

After the formation of Pakistan on 14 August 1947, the Maharaja of Jammu and Kashmir, Hari Singh, not only refused to accept the resolution of accession to Pakistan passed by the Muslim Conference, the representative party of the state’s Muslims, but also started efforts to join the state with India by joining hands with the British and Congress

leaders. In such circumstances, the patience of the state’s Muslims began to run out and the Muslim Conference leaders started preparations for armed struggle against the Maharaja through extensive contacts.

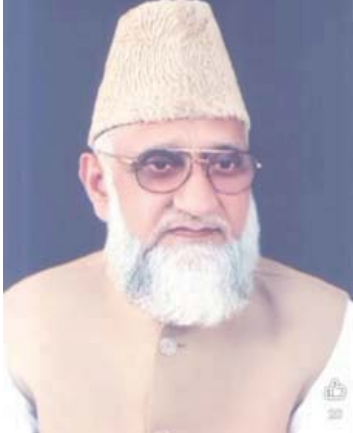
At that time, Poonch held a prominent position in the state of Jammu and Kashmir. The majority of the people here were fighters and most of them had returned after joining the British army during the Second World War. They were also trained and full of the spirit of jihad.

Among these people of Poonch was Sardar Muhammad Abdul Qayyum Khan, a bright and brilliant man from a family with moderate religious and military tendencies from Ghaziabad, a village near Dhirkot, who was only

23 years old at that time.

Sardar Muhammad Abdul Qayyum Khan was fighting against the atrocities of the Dogras from the very beginning. He used to get angry after hearing about the atrocities happening in the surrounding areas and would stand up to help the oppressed. He was aware of the intentions of the Dogra rulers and knew that they were not going to believe the ghosts of the devils. Therefore, even before the establishment of Pakistan, he had decided that if the Maharaja did not sign the proposal for the accession of Pakistan, then an armed struggle would be launched against it.

On 14 August 1947, a meeting was held at the house of Sardar Gul Ahmed Khan in the village of Khul, a suburb of Dhirkot, to celebrate the establishment of Pakistan and to discuss the future of the state. Sardar Muhammad Abdul Qayyum Khan, Police Inspector Sardar Abdul Razzaq Khan, Ghazi Muhammad Ismail and Sardar Muhammad Arif were also present. On this occasion, it was decided that on 23 August 1947 A public meeting was to be held at Nila Butt on 14 August 1947 to discuss strategies for getting rid of the Maharaja. Invitations were also issued to the leading people of the area for the proposed meeting on 14 August 1947. According to the program, on 23 August, Sardar Muhammad Abdul Qayyum Khan, along with some influential scholars, sheikhs and dignitaries of the area, reached the high peak of Nila Butt, 5 km from Dhirkot on the east side of the Jhelum River, where thousands of people had already gathered. At



that time, this place of Nila Butt was considered an important peak from a political and defensive point of view. Apart from Sardar Muhammad Abdul Qayyum Khan, the other people who addressed the gathering included Syed Sadiq Hussain Shah Adil, Pir Syed Muzaffar Hussain Shah Nadvi, Sardar Muhammad Abdul Ghaffar Khan, Ghazi Ismail Khan, Colonel Rajba Muhammad Siddique, Ghazi Maulvi Muhammad Bakhsh, Raja Aziz Khan, Raja Ali Mard Khan, MA Aziz Mukhialvi, Raja Latif Shaheed and Sardar Muhammad Naziz Khan. According to Syed Bashir Hussain Jaffri, an eyewitness and authoritative witness of this gathering, the gathering was presided over by Syed Muzaffar Hussain Nadvi.

Addressing the gathering, Sardar Muhammad Abdul Qayyum Khan warned Maharaja Hari Singh to either convert to Islam and establish the supremacy of Islam in the state

of Jammu and Kashmir or leave this Muslim-majority land immediately. He took the Holy Quran in his hand and took the following oath from the audience:

From today, a Jihad is declared against the Dogra Samran. Now, instead of the law of the Dogra government, the law of the Holy Quran will be adopted here. If the Maharaja becomes Muslim and annexes Kashmir to Pakistan, then the Jihad against him will be abandoned.

On the basis of this declaration, Sardar Muhammad Abdul Qayyum Khan received the title of Mujahid e Awwal. On August 23, 1947, after taking the oath on Jihad for freedom, the Mujahideen made Pir Syed Shamsad Hussain Shah the Ameer of Jihad and Sardar Muhammad Abdul Qayyum Khan the Ameer of Caravan and instead of going towards their homes, they started moving towards the garden. This historic declaration of Mujahid I revealed the waves that were churning in his chest, which enjoyed crashing against the rocks. This announcement also shook the halls of Dogra power.

On 23 August 1947, when the news of the Jihad that had started at Nila Butt reached the Maharaja, he sent a fresh unit of army from Poonch city to Rawalakot Bagh via Rawalakot Bagh to crush the rebellion. On the way, the people of Khai Gula Mardu Than came to know that the Maharaja’s phone was ringing for help from his army in Tehsil Bagh. So, on 29 August, they attacked the army convoy at Do Thanh, as a result of which eighty-one (81) Mujahideen were martyred here.





Islamabad

30° – 38° Clear

## SERVICES

## Namaz Timings

Fajr ..... 4:06 am  
Zohr ..... 12:12 pm  
Asr ..... 4:53 pm  
Maghrib ..... 6:46 pm  
Isha ..... 8:15 pm

## EMERGENCY

Rescue (Police) ..... 15  
Bomb Disposal ..... 15  
Fire Services Rawalpindi/  
Islamabad ..... 1122 & 16  
Emergency Ambulance ..... 1122 &  
& Rescue Services ..... 4451122  
Motorway Police ..... 9266044  
Motorway Police ..... 9270601-20  
Edhi Ambulance ..... 115  
PIA Flight Info ..... 114  
PIA Cargo ..... 9280979  
Railway Inquiry ..... 117  
Railway Exchange ..... 9270831-5  
WASA Rawalpindi ..... 5555489  
CAA ..... 9281092

## HOSPITALS

CMH ..... 561111  
MH ..... 561116  
MH ..... 561116  
Cantt Hospital ..... 9270907-11  
DHQ ..... 5556311-4  
RGH ..... 9290301-7  
Holy Family ..... 9290322-7  
PIMS ..... 9261170-79  
Polyclinic ..... 9218300-09  
Shifa International ..... 4603666

## DEPARTMENTS

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

*Yasir Sultan clinches bronze in Asian Throwing Championships in South Korea*



## Bureau Report

LAHORE: Pakistan's rising javelin thrower Yasir Sultan has brought pride to the nation by clinching a bronze medal at the Asian Throwing Championships held in Mokpo, South Korea. The tournament featured some of the continent's finest throwers, making Yasir's achievement a significant milestone for Pakistan athletics.

Chairman South Asian Athletics Federation (SAAF) and Vice President of Asian Athletics Association, Maj Gen (R) Muhammad Akram Sahi, termed Yasir's performance as "a historic moment" for the country, saying, "Pakistan now proudly boasts two javelin throwers making their mark on the international stage."

The athletics fraternity across Pakistan has warmly welcomed Yasir Sultan's success, considering it not just a medal, but also a sign of hope and inspiration for the next generation of track and field athletes. Yasir's bronze medal comes at a time when javelin throw has already captured the nation's imagination through the exploits of Pakistan's "Olympic" champion Arshad Nadeem, making this victory a significant boost to Pakistan's growing presence in the field.

# CM Maryam Directs to Depute Rescue Teams to Deal with Threat of Flood in Low-Lying Areas

## Bureau Report

LAHORE: Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif has directed to depute rescue teams in the affected areas immediately to cope up with the flood situation. She has directed the administration and other relevant departments to carry out advance arrangements in the districts of Lahore, Rawalpindi, Multan, Bahawalpur, Dera Ghazi Khan, Sargodha, Gujrat and Gujranwala in view of possible heavy rains. She has directed the commissioners and deputy commissioners to remain alert to deal with any untoward situation.

Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif asserted that implementation of the advance alerts, SOPs and instructions to be given by PDMA should be ensured under any circumstance. She directed announcements in the mosques by loud-speakers for timely evacuation of the flood affected population. She further directed to set up Clinics on Wheels and Field Hospitals for the provision of timely medical treatment and care

to the flood victims.

Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif directed to provide vaccination and medical treatment facilities for livestock in the flood affected areas and further directed to give prior information to the residents of the affected areas by sending SMS messages. She directed PDMA, administration and other relevant departments to make special arrangements in the affected areas adjacent to the rivers of Jhelum, Chenab, Ravi and Sutlej.

Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif directed the rescue teams, administration, police and other relevant departments to take necessary measures in the areas adjacent to the Sutlej River. She directed to ensure immediate evacuation of the population dwelling adjacent to the river. She further directed to undertake preemptive measures for the timely relocation of livestock from the flood affected areas. On the direction of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, agriculture, irrigation, health, forests, livestock, local government and



transport departments have been put on high alert to deal with any emergency situation.

## Called on

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of UAE, Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Salem Al-Zaabi, called on the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Friday.



Photo: PID

## Wedding of Pir Muhammad Shah becomes political and business gathering

## City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The wedding of Pir Muhammad Shah, brother of renowned Pakistan expat businessman Numan Shah and nephew of political activist and business leader of Islamabad Asif Shah, turned into a grand political and business gathering as leading figures from politics and the corporate sector attended the Walima.

The ceremony was graced by prominent leaders including Ex-MNA and Divisional President PML-N Gujranwala Abid Raza, sitting MNAs Anjum Aqeel Khan and Malik Ibrar, Vice President PML-N District Gujranwala Ajwad Butt, as well as known businessmen Ch. Zahid Rafiq and Sardar Tahir Mehmood. Also present were Zafar Bakhtawari Secretary General United Business Group (FPCCI, UBG), Brig. Bakhtiar who is heading Pakistan Askari, Dr. Saeed Ilahi, former Parliamen-



tary Secretary Punjab and ex-Chairman Pakistan Red Crescent, and Malik Rizwan Sohail, along with many other distinguished members of the political and business community.

The high-profile attendance made the occasion a significant social and polit-

ical event, reflecting the wide respect and strong connections of the Shah family. Guests extended their best wishes and prayers for the newlyweds while the gathering provided a platform for interaction between influential figures from across the country.

## Greening Pakistan: A National Duty for a Lush Future

## Arshad Raza Zaidi



MULTAN: Tree Plantation Campaign is the Guarantee of Lush Green Pakistan's and Safe Future

To save Pakistan from environmental Pollution Habibullah Principal Skans School of Accountancy Multan Said we have to plant as many trees as possible.

Planting trees is the national duty of every citizen because trees are a symbol of life for the environment and the strongest shield against climate change, and students have to actively participate in the tree plantation campaign. Every individual must plant at least one tree. Only then can we make Pakistan green and lush, said Habibullah, Principal of Schools of Accountancy, while addressing the inauguration of the tree plantation campaign. On this occasion, senior teachers of accounts Kashif Adeel, Arsalan Arif, Professor Dr. Qaiser Maqbool, Junaid Qureshi, Mrs. Faryal said that we should run a tree plantation campaign all year round and plant trees and also protect and take care of them. Such a law should be made in Pakistan that trees should not be cut while building any housing colony or roads, and it should be strictly implemented. Only then can we save Pakistan from pollution. The principal and teachers and I also planted saplings.

## IIUI Marks 78th National Day with Seminar on Youth's Role in Emerging Pakistan



## City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The International Islamic University Islamabad (IIUI) observed the 78th Independence Day with a flag hoisting ceremony and a national seminar on "Role of Youth in Emerging Pakistan as a Global Leader" held at Faisal Masjid Campus on Friday.

The event was jointly organized by the Islamic Research Institute (IRI), Paigham-e-Pakistan Centre for Peace, Reconciliation and Reconstruction Studies, Paigham-e-Pakistan initiative, and the Directorate of Student Affairs (Male & Female).

The program commenced with flag hoisting and national anthem at the Faisal Masjid Campus lawn. Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Prof. Ahsan Iqbal, attended as chief guest, while Minister of State for Federal Education and Professional Training, Ms. Wajihah Qamar, graced the event and also inaugurated a book exhibition at the IRI library on Pakistan's ideology, history, and culture. The ceremony was also attended by Prof. Abdul Raheman, Vice President (A&F), IIUI, alongside a large number of students, faculty members, and dignitaries.

On the occasion, school children from IIUI Schools and students of the university added to the patriotic spirit by presenting national songs and taranas, which were warmly received by the audience. Their heartfelt performances created an atmosphere of unity and pride, showcasing the enthusiasm of the younger generation towards the country's independence.

Meanwhile, the IIUI security contingent presented a formal salute to the national flag, adding a ceremonial touch of discipline and dignity to the event, as the fluttering flag at the Faisal Masjid Campus symbolized the sacrifices, aspirations, and resilience of the Pakistani nation.

## Experts warn of deadly consequences of unrefined edible oil

## Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Multan Nutrition International organized an awareness session in collaboration with the Health Department, Kot Addu, which was chaired by District Health Officer Dr. Haider Ali Tipu. The session was attended by lady health workers and supervisors. In the session, experts shed light on nutritional deficiencies in Pakistan, especially vitamin A and D deficiency, and the harms of open and unrefined edible oil. Nutrition International's Zonal Manager Amjad Ali said that more than half of the country's women and children are suffering from nutritional deficiencies,



while millions of people suffer from bone density. He said that open and unrefined oil not only increases

malnutrition but also causes various deadly diseases. He stressed that food fortification is a cost-effective and

effective solution through which nutritional deficiencies can be addressed. Zonal Manager Ijaz Sheikh said that Nutrition International is working with the industry for fortification of flour, ghee and salt and there is a need for the public to demand fortified products. District Health Officer Dr. Haider Ali Tipu and MS of Tehsil Headquarters Hospital Dr. Kamran Akbar said that maximum awareness should be provided to the public so that they use fortified oil and ghee available in the market instead of open oil. Dr. Haider Ali Tipu appreciated the efforts of Nutrition International and assured full cooperation from the health department.



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## Social media: The challenge of diminishing morality

“Every era on earth would be worse than the previous era and the best era is in which I am living” were the golden words of our holy Prophet Hazrat Mohammad (Peace Be Upon Him). So, thereon, races after races and generations after generations, we are seeing ethical deterioration, moral turpitude and sectarian squalor.

This deterioration was gradual for ages since the social media onslaught that validated another saying of the Holy Prophet; “A time will come when your sins committed in solitude would ruin your good deeds on the Day of Judgment.”

These assertions can be seen validly applying in the present era as unprecedented use of social media, if though transforming the global communication scenario through unparalleled connectivity and information sharing, was also rapidly deteriorating our moral values.

Immoral videos, obnoxious stuff and fake news posted on social media had started causing negative effects on the social fabric in countries like ours. Most of the time the people, especially political followers and the youth are seen busy in abusing, mud-slinging and character assassination of rivals on social media platforms like Facebook, Twitter now X, Instagram and TikTok.

“Morality refers to principles that govern human behavior in terms of right and wrong and ethical theories emphasize duty-based morality. But, both of these are challenged by social media onslaught,” said Dr Jamil Khan, a professor at Peshawar University.

How these platforms work is really thought provoking. If anybody is seeing any religious post, listening to a sermon or recitation, he also finds some semi-nude pictures of white models or celebrities. This is very lethal for nurturing minds of youth who can be swayed by any such post or video easily and parents and the saner segment of every society are extremely worried.

The experts believe that promoting digital ethics, strict laws and regulations and fostering responsible online behaviors, can reduce risks of moral turpitude and create a more ethical digital environment to create a tolerant, responsible and prosperous society.

Another dangerous tendency emerging rapidly is that our youth have started keeping aloof families, away from playgrounds and syllabus books meaning that we are going to have an unhealthy and slack generation – a bulge challenging our integrity and cohesion.

Therefore, the government and companies running social media platforms and parents and civil society must collectively evolve a strategy to counter this onslaught and filter content that encourages negativity and ruins our moral values.

## Is The Alaska Summit Being The Symbolic Victory For Putin?

Arooba Abbassi

Since Moscow launched its “special military operation” in Ukraine, Western nations have completely ended all means of interactions with Putin and his political subordinates. Therefore, the recent Alaska summit between Donald Trump and V. Putin was a watershed moment for Russia since Trump welcomed Putin with such grandeur and dedication. This was Putin’s first visit to the United States in years, and the Russian president emphasized that bilateral relations between US and Russia are at a “difficult period.” Alaska, formerly Russian territory, served as the venue for the gathering. Interestingly, in the entire meeting there was no discussion of the war in Ukraine or the potential ceasefire between Russia and Ukraine. In fact, Trump has backed down from plans to impose new sanctions on Russia along with those broadening secondary restrictions on the countries that buy Russian oil and thereby fund its war. Therefore, the western media reported this meeting as a decisive victory for Putin and an outright setback for Trump. Ukraine and European leaders, despite being the strongest allies of the U. S. A, were entirely excluded from the summit and given a brief discussion afterwards, which was also based on disappointed realities. All things considered, Moscow believes Putin obtained all he desired while giving Trump nothing.

Ukraine’s intrinsic weakness is that it completely relies on Western countries for economic aid and military support, as well as for fulfilling its needs for armaments. On the other side, Russia manufactures the majority of its own weapons or purchases drones from Iran and ammunition from North Korea. Russia also has a personnel advantage, which was strengthened by another big conscription campaign last month.

Since Putin’s goal is to create a larger army than America’s, with 1.5 million active duty members. One of the main reasons Russia is on the winning side is because the primary reason for the attack is not Russia, but rather the Western allies and Ukraine.

Donald Trump mentioned the “land swaps” terminology as a requirement for peace just days before he met with V. Putin in Alaska. Although Luhansk is already completely under Russian control, Ukraine is said to have managed to hold onto roughly 30% of Donetsk, including numerous important cities and fortifications, at the expense of tens of thousands of Ukrainian casualties. This was a challenging altered phrase for Ukrainians. Both regions, known collectively as Donbas, are rich in resources and industry. It would be a “tragedy” to return them over to Russia at this time, according to Ukrainian historian Yaroslav Hrytsak. Russian strikes on Ukraine have more than doubled since Donald Trump took office, according to a BBC report. Additional statistics from the Ukrainian military shows that Russia has expanded its manufacture of ballistic missiles by 66% in the last year, and its barrages have steadily increased in size throughout the summer.

Along with that one of the main reasons Russia is on the winning side is because the primary reason for the attack is not Russia, but rather the Western powers and Ukraine. Russia named its strikes in Ukraine as a “special military operation” because it had just retaliated to “denazify” and “demilitarize” the country. Another argument is that Ukraine is not blameless in this situation, based on the analysis of the 2008 Georgian war and the 2014 Crimea war; we can conclude that NATO expansion always represents a fundamental “existential threat” to Russia. This is why President V. Putin has requested security guarantees from NATO countries. There are three fundamental demands of the Kremlin including; halt

to an NATO expansion, stop applying Monroe doctrine in Eurasian Continent and seeing US-Russia bilateral relations in separation to the Ukraine War. In the Alaska Summit, the main agenda of the Putin administration was to make Americans realize that they should see the bilateral relations between Russia and US in separation from the Ukrainian conflict. Russia cannot bear NATO’s expansion into its own territory exactly like in the cold war era, the world had seen that the USA cannot tolerate anyone in its neighborhood, and allegedly when the Soviet tried to get in, major events like the 1962 Cuban missile crisis happened. Therefore, the Russian leadership is in major demand of Security guarantees from NATO.

Another major weakness of Ukraine, in my humble opinion, is that it lacks a legitimate administration with which to communicate diplomatically. This is Russia’s most significant victory since the Zelensky government has already lost credibility and legitimacy after its administration lost its constitutionality. The war in Ukraine may be a European security concern for western leaders rather than solely a Ukrainian security issue, but Russia sees it entirely as an outcome of NATO’s invasion and hence retaliates violently against NATO. Another most significant victory for the Russian president is that Russia is no longer liable for penalties even if it rejected Trump’s requests for a ceasefire as stated in the Alaska Summit.

Can we consider the summit a “symbolic victory” for Russia then?

Since NATO violated Russia’s sovereignty and launched its assault, it appears that Russia has been on the winning side from day one, because no independent state on its continent or neighboring region tolerates any foreign force, as demonstrated by historical analysis previously mentioned, why did the U. S. and European powers believe that Russia would be an exception in this?

Rain is a mercy of nature. Yet, when it collides with human negligence, failures in planning, the destruction of ecological balance, and the incompetence of state institutions, it transforms into a calamity that devours thousands of lives. Today, Pakistan’s northern and mountainous regions Buner, Shangla, Bajaur, Swat, Gilgit-Baltistan, Azad Kashmir, and Mansehra stand at the brink of what can only be described as a minor doomsday. Torrential rains, catastrophic floods, and devastating landslides are scripting a harrowing chapter in human history. Water pours from the sky, the earth convulses, rivers have become monstrous, mountains are crumbling, villages are vanishing and all we do is count: the dead, the damage, the promises, and the excuses.

In Gilgit, recent torrential rains have not only altered the course of the Hunza River but wreaked widespread devastation across the entire Baltistan Division, damage so profound that its scars will linger for generations. Naltar, once a paradise for tourists, now stands as a grim portrait of ruin, where roads have been washed away, homes lie powerless, and families remain trapped. A significant section of the Naltar Expressway has collapsed. Three powerhouses are inoperative, and electricity supply is entirely cut off. In Skardu, the Sadpara powerhouse has also shut down. Tourists, local residents, and rescue workers alike are stranded and helpless.

Yet other development plans, political rhetoric, and budget priorities veered elsewhere. And now, we stand on the edge of a disaster where sympathy is insufficient, and only decisive action can avert further tragedy.

Forecasts now warn of cloudbursts in Punjab’s

districts Mianwali, Chakwal, Talagang, and Attock. The collision of eastern and western air systems is expected to further intensify the monsoon spell. Urban flooding and sudden cloudbursts may engulf cityscapes. But are we prepared? Are our hospitals, shelters, drainage systems, food supplies, and communication networks equipped to withstand this onslaught?

The answer, once again, is no.

In the current crisis, emergency aid is vital but far from enough. The state must formulate an integrated national policy on environmental protection, water management, and disaster preparedness on a war footing. This includes improving water reservoirs, upgrading drainage infrastructure, relocating populations from high-risk zones, and deploying trained local volunteers. Additionally, NDMA and PDMA must be transformed into autonomous institutions with authority, funding, and accountability. Provincial governments and district administrations need resources and operational freedom. Public awareness campaigns must be launched at scale.

What is unfolding in the affected regions is not a cinematic scene or a historical tragedy, it is an undeniable reality. A reality burying hundreds of families alive each day. A scene that no lens can fully capture. Cries drowned out by the roar of rain. Silent sighs swallowed by the torrents. And unanswered questions entombed with every body: “Had we been prepared, could this life have been saved?”

If we still refuse to learn, then the minor doomsday we are witnessing today may well grow into a major one tomorrow. And when history writes this chapter, we will not be remembered merely as victims of natural calamities but as culprits of our own undoing.

# Trump’s Gaza Blueprint Unfolds - I

In early 2025, President Donald Trump unveiled one of the most controversial and shocking proposals in modern Middle Eastern history: a plan to forcibly relocate nearly two million Palestinians from Gaza and the West Bank to neighboring Arab countries and turn Gaza into what he called the “Riviera of the Middle East.” Standing alongside Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Trump described this plan as an “opportunity” for Palestinians to live elsewhere while Israel would retain full control of Gaza, the West Bank, and Jerusalem. Netanyahu strongly endorsed the vision, calling it “free choice” for Palestinians, but global human rights organizations and numerous governments immediately recognized it for what it truly was—a blueprint for mass displacement and the erasure of Palestinian identity. Arab nations, including Jordan and Egypt, rejected the plan outright, calling it “unrealistic, immoral, and illegal,” while international observers compared it to historical examples of ethnic cleansing and warned that implementing such a policy would constitute a grave violation of international law.

In an even bolder move, Canberra canceled the visa of far-right Israeli lawmaker Simcha Rothman, citing inflammatory remarks, which triggered retaliatory action from Israel, including revoking the residency visas of Australian diplomats assigned to the Palestinian Authority. Despite Netanyahu’s personal attacks labeling Albanese “weak” and accusing him of “betraying Israel,” the Australian government stood firm, underscoring its commitment to humanitarian principles over political expediency.

Equally significant has been the role of European countries, many of which have quietly broken away from Washington’s long-standing alignment with Israeli policy. The joint condemnation of settlement expansion, combined with growing calls for an arms embargo, represents a notable shift

in Western diplomacy. These nations have prioritized international law and human rights over geopolitical convenience, risking trade disruptions, diplomatic backlash, and influence from powerful pro-Israel lobbies. Their recognition of Palestinian statehood and coordination of humanitarian aid pipelines mark a decisive moment in global politics: a willingness to prioritize justice over fear.

However, what remains most heart-breaking is the near-total silence from many Muslim-majority countries. While Jordan and Egypt firmly rejected Trump’s relocation plan and proposed alternative reconstruction frameworks, the broader Muslim world has offered little beyond statements of sympathy. Despite representing nearly two billion people and controlling immense financial, political, and energy resources, these governments have largely avoided taking tangible steps such as imposing economic sanctions, severing trade, withdrawing ambassadors, or leveraging international forums to isolate Israel diplomatically. For Palestinians under siege, this silence has become a source of profound disillusionment. They have watched as Christian-majority nations like Australia, Ireland, Spain, and Norway have risked their alliances and economic interests to condemn Israel’s actions, while many Muslim capitals have remained passive spectators to the destruction of Gaza.

The hypocrisy deepens when viewed against the backdrop of global public opinion. Massive protests have erupted across Europe, North America, and Latin America, with millions marching to demand an end to Israeli attacks and calling for justice for Palestinians. Social media movements amplifying calls for boycott, divestment, and sanctions have gained unprecedented traction, putting

increasing pressure on Western governments. Yet, Muslim leaders—despite being historically viewed as guardians of Palestinian rights—have avoided leveraging their collective influence on the global stage, citing domestic instability, economic vulnerability, or geopolitical alliances. This silence has left Palestinians feeling politically abandoned, not only by their adversaries but by their own supposed allies.

The figures paint an undeniable picture. Over two million people in Gaza remain trapped in what experts describe as the world’s largest open-air prison. More than 60,000 are dead, hundreds of thousands wounded, and over 80% of Gaza’s population displaced. Entire families have been wiped out. The Israeli E1 settlement plan threatens to divide the West Bank permanently, effectively eliminating the possibility of a contiguous Palestinian state. The combined impact of military aggression, illegal land annexations, forced displacement proposals, and blockade-induced starvation amounts to what international rights groups describe as collective punishment on an unprecedented scale.

And yet, amidst this tragedy, glimmers of hope remain. Australia’s bold defiance and the growing list of nations recognizing Palestine represent cracks in the seemingly unshakable wall of impunity Israel has enjoyed for decades. The collective action of 21 countries in challenging illegal settlements shows that alliances are shifting, even if slowly. These countries have demonstrated that moral courage can coexist with diplomacy and that choosing humanity over expediency carries weight on the international stage.

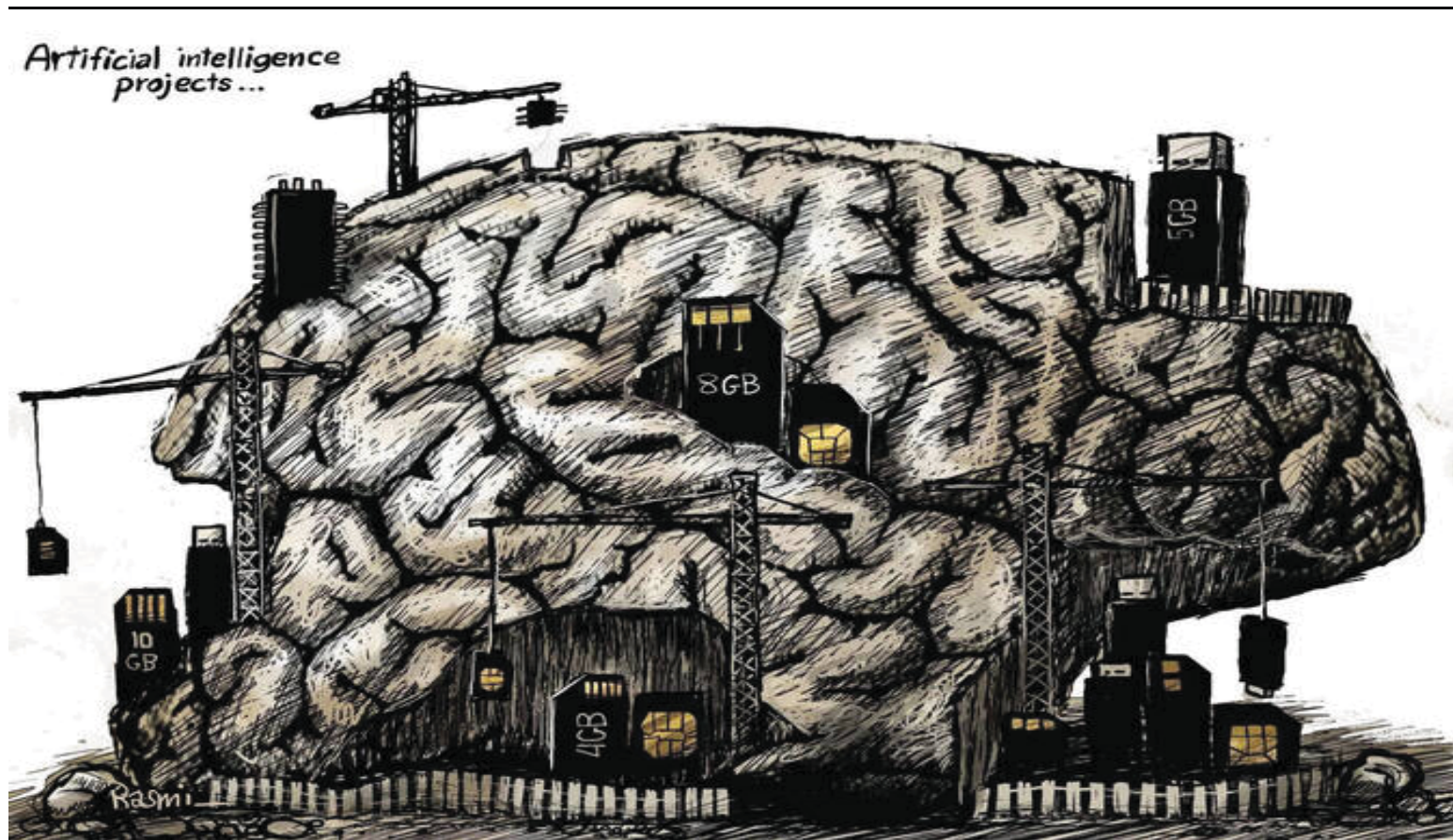
Still, history will not only remember the oppressors and the victims but also those who stood silent when their voices were most needed. While Netanyahu pursues his

vision of territorial expansion and Trump celebrates the partial implementation of his relocation plan, the burden of conscience now rests on the global community. The lesson is painfully simple: neutrality in the face of oppression always favors the oppressor. The failure of powerful Muslim states to mobilize meaningful resistance has left an indelible scar on the collective identity of the Muslim world and a haunting question for generations to come: when Gaza cried for help, why was the silence louder than the bombs?

The Gaza crisis has transcended borders, religions, and political ideologies. It is no longer about negotiations between two adversaries; it is about humanity’s willingness to defend the right to exist, the right to dignity, and the right to justice. Every government, every institution, and every individual faces a choice between complicity and courage. History will record the nations that risked alliances, economic interests, and political capital to uphold international law, and it will equally remember those that turned away. As images of starving children, destroyed neighborhoods, and grieving families continue to emerge, the call to conscience grows louder.

The time to act is now. The responsibility does not rest solely on the shoulders of Palestinians or their immediate neighbors—it belongs to the entire world. The struggle in Gaza is not a local issue; it is a global moral reckoning. A future built on dispossession and death cannot bring security or peace to anyone, not Israelis, not Palestinians, not the wider world. Justice must rise above power, and humanity must triumph over indifference, or else the Gaza tragedy will be remembered not only for its suffering but for the silence that allowed it to happen.

*The writer is Press Secretary to the President (Rtd), Former Press Minister, Embassy of Pakistan to France, Former Press Attache to Malaysia and Former MD, SRBC. He is living in Macomb,*



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

## “The Minor Doomsday: A Chronicle of Pain and Neglect”

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# Envoys of five countries present credentials to President Zardari

Spokesman Report

President Asif Zardari has emphasized the need to further strengthen bilateral cooperation with Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, Austria, and Germany in diverse fields, particularly trade, economy, and culture.

The President expressed these views while talking to the High Commissioner-designate of Sri Lanka and the Ambassadors-designate of Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, Austria, and Germany to Pakistan, who called on him and presented their diplomatic credentials during a ceremony held at Aiwan-e-Sadr today.

The High Commissioner-designate of Sri Lanka, H. E. Rear-Admiral H. L.A. Don Fred Senevirante, the Ambassador-designate of Indonesia / Chairman of ASEAN Countries, H. E. Mr. Chandra Warse-nanto, the Ambassador-designate of Kyrgyzstan, H. E. Mr. Kylychbek Sultan, the Ambassador-designate of Austria, H. E. Mr. Wolfgang Oliver Kutschera, and the Ambassador-des-



ignate of Germany, H. E. Mrs. Ina Ruth Luise Lepel, presented their diplomatic credentials to President

Asif Ali Zardari.

On their arrival, the envoys were presented with the guard of honour

by a smartly turned-out contingent of the Armed Forces.

The President congratulated the

High Commissioner and Ambassadors on their new assignments and expressed the hope that their tenure

in Pakistan would help further deepen bilateral ties and broaden cooperation in mutually beneficial areas.

## ISSI hosts Seminar on “SCO’s ‘China Year 2025’: Upholding the ‘Shanghai Spirit’”

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The China-Pakistan Study Centre (CPSC) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) hosted a seminar on August 22, 2025, titled “SCO’s ‘China Year 2025’: Upholding the ‘Shanghai Spirit’.” Ambassador Farhat Ayesha, Pakistan’s National Coordinator for SCO, delivered the keynote address, while Ambassador Khalil Hashmi, Pakistan’s Ambassador to China, was the Guest of Honor. Other speakers included Ambassador Babar Amin, Pakistan’s former National Coordinator for SCO, Dr. MA Bin from Fudan University China, Dr. Ma Zheng from Sun Yat-sen University China, and Dr. Hassan Daud Butt from Bahria University.

In his welcome remarks, Amba-

sador Sohail Mahmood, Director General ISSI, underscored the SCO’s remarkable evolution into one of the world’s most comprehensive and dynamic multilateral platforms, calling it a compelling example of multilateralism in action. He emphasized that in an era of intensifying geopolitical tensions, the ‘Shanghai Spirit’ offers an alternative vision of cooperation — dialogue rather than dominance, consensus rather than confrontation, and collective prosperity rather than unilateral gains. He noted that with nearly half the world’s population and a quarter of global GDP, the SCO’s global salience is firmly established.

In her keynote address, Ambassador Farhat Ayesha noted that SCO’s “China Year 2025” marked a defining moment in the organization’s trajectory. She praised China’s far-sighted approach

and active role in constructive engagement, dialogue, and cooperation within the SCO framework. She stressed that China’s leadership has strengthened the SCO’s standing as a vital multilateral platform and expanded its scope towards new areas such as poverty reduction, climate resilience, digital economy, and connectivity.

Ambassador Babar Amin highlighted China’s instrumental role in facilitating Pakistan’s integration into the SCO and noted the upcoming Tianjin Summit as the largest-ever gathering of SCO members. He appreciated China’s efforts in advancing cooperation aligned with President Xi Jinping’s Global Development Initiative, covering poverty alleviation, food security, health, climate change, industrialization, digital economy, and connectivity.



Dr. MA Bin underlined that the SCO was entering a new era amidst heightened geopolitical competition, stressing the importance of strengthening security, economic cooperation, and people-to-people bonds, especially youth engagement. Dr. Ma Zheng emphasized the four pillars of SCO’s development — security, mutual development, neighborly relations, and fairness in international affairs — and lauded China’s central role in

shaping the organization’s trajectory. Dr. Hassan Daud Butt noted the SCO’s resilience in a fragmenting global order and welcomed the Azerbaijan-Armenia peace pact as a step toward enhancing regional connectivity.

Guest of Honor, Ambassador Khalil Hashmi highlighted the SCO’s growing significance as a leading regional organization built on the values of mutual trust, equality, dialogue, and shared development embodied in the

‘Shanghai Spirit’. He noted that under President Xi Jinping’s leadership, the SCO had gained fresh momentum with an enhanced focus on cooperation, connectivity, digital transformation, and green development.

Earlier, in his introductory remarks, Dr. Talat Shabbir, Director CPSC, underscored the SCO’s enduring relevance in ensuring regional stability, fostering economic cooperation, and strengthening cultural linkages.

## Experts call for policy action, skills training to eliminate begging in Multan

Zain Khan Malghani

MULTAN: The Department of Sociology, Bahauddin Zakariya University, organized a seminar on the eradication of begging.

Professor Dr. Kamran Ashfaq presented his research, highlighting government initiatives against begging and suggesting policy measures to curb the problem. Shahid Mahmood Ansari, President of Shaoor Development Organization, cited family disputes, social disorder, and competition among beggars as major causes. He stressed that people should distinguish between the truly needy and professional beggars, and urged the government to establish skill development programs and rehabilitation centers in line with Islamic teachings.

Prof. Azam, President of Crescent Line Club, said community pressure and social behavior fuel begging. He emphasized proper use of zakat and charity, calling on the government to ensure dignified employment for beggars.



Columnist Ms. Pirzada termed able-bodied beggars a form of “social deception” and pointed out that begging damages urban aesthetics, making education and vocational training vital for eradication.

Divisional Director of Social Welfare and Bait-ul-Maal, Ms. Um Farwa Hamdani, stressed the need for rehabilitation centers, citing the 1958 Anti-Beggary Ordinance. She highlighted child begging as the most alarming issue and urged district-level centers to provide education and skills for a respectable livelihood.

Prof. Dr. Abdul Qudoos,

Director of the Islamic Research Centre, said begging is a curse across South Asia. Referring to Islamic principles, he emphasized that Islam discourages beggary and promotes education, skills, and entrepreneurship. He called on citizens to train beggars instead of giving handouts.

Concluding the seminar, Dr. Imtiaz Ahmed Warraich, Chairman of the Sociology Department, revealed that 4,000–5,000 beggars are active in Multan, spoiling the city’s image. He urged citizens to adopt at least one or two beggars, guiding them toward

education and skills, thereby contributing to eradicating this social evil.

The seminar was attended by faculty, students, and notable participants including Dr. Saima Afzal, Dr. Sabzah Noor, Syed Ahmed Gilani, Asifa Ashraf, Khalid Iqbal, Muhammad Ajmal Khan, Muhammad Zain Kazmi, Muhammad Abbas, Shazia Hayat, Abdul Aziz Khan, Prof. Amjad Ramay, Amir Nawaz Malik, and Muhammad Iqbal Baloch. Students also displayed posters and joined a walk to raise awareness against begging.

## Renowned Educationist Mumtaz Ali Khowaja Passes Away

Kamran Khamiso Khowaja

SUJAWAL: Renowned educationist, administrator, and activist Mumtaz Ali Khowaja passed away after a prolonged illness at a private hospital in Karachi on Thursday morning. According to family sources, he was hospitalized a week ago after his health deteriorated. The 87-year-old educationist had been battling multiple health complications for the past two decades and breathed his last on Thursday morning, close relatives revealed.

He was ranked as one of the notable educationists of Sujawal and Thatta districts, playing a vital role in creating mass awareness about the importance of quality education in remote areas. His cousin, former labor unionist and columnist Ghulam Mustafa Hashmani, revealed that the late Mumtaz Ali was among the few educated figures in Jati Taluka, Thatta district, who understood the importance of quality education.

After completing his graduation from the University of Sindh Jamshoro, he joined Aga Khan School Tarr Khowaja as



an honorary teacher, educating hundreds of students. In 1976, he was appointed as a high school teacher at Government High School Sujawal, where he held key positions. Later, he collaborated with local villagers and, through his efforts, the historic Government Middle School Tarr Khowaja was upgraded to a high school, and in 1985, he became the headmaster of that school.

Later, he was transferred to Government High School Jati and then Sujawal as a head-

master, where he made tireless efforts for educational development and improving the literacy ratio in far-flung areas. One of his students and Taluka Education Officer, Imdad Hussain Acharani, paying tribute to him, said that Late Mumtaz Ali was a role model for many teachers and administrators, adding that he was also a progressive leader of the local Ismaili community, where he served in trusted positions.

Given his remarkable track record as a headmaster and tutor, he was promoted to the rank of Sub Divisional Education Officer in Thatta district and later appointed as Education Development Officer in the Literacy Wing of District Thatta and Sujawal. A large number of his students have been serving in key positions across the province, said Ghulam Mustafa Hashmani.

The late educationist is survived by a son and a widow; however, one of his sons passed away during his lifetime. According to family sources, he will be laid to rest in his ancestral graveyard in Tarr Khowaja village of Sujawal district.

## Alibaba.com Honors Pakistan’s Top Exporters



Commerce Desk

LAHORE: Alibaba.com, a leading global business-to-business (B2B) e-commerce platform, today celebrated the nation’s top e-commerce businesses at the KELA Awards 2025 ceremony while launching its enhanced Trade Assurance 2.0 service in Pakistan. The event brought together key industry leaders, including Omer Khalid, Vice President of SCCI and Sayeed Ahmad Masud, Project Director of the National Incubation Center Islamabad, to honor local exporters who have leveraged Alibaba.com to transform their operations and expand their businesses globally.

This year’s top honors of Alibaba.com Pakistan Key E-commerce

Leader were awarded to Mr. Muhammad Usman Humayun from Gray Rocks Enterprise, Mr. Haider Ali from IMPEX Pakistan, and Mr. Muhammad Azam Rahmat from Mangoes Fashion. Additionally, the event featured a People’s Choice Award for 2025, which was presented to Mr. Muhammad Wasim from Blue Hands International based on audience voting. The finalists were evaluated by a distinguished judging panel with the challenging mission of selecting the winners including, Omer Khalid (Vice President of SCCI), Sayeed Ahmad Masud (Project Director of National Incubation Center Islamabad), Usman Chughtai (Key E-commerce Influencer), Berry Ma (Head of Pakistan Business, Alibaba.com), Summer Gao (Head of Global Supply Chain, Alibaba.com)

Berry Ma, Head of Pakistan Business at Alibaba.com, emphasized the significance of the awards, stating, “The Pakistan KELA Awards are more than just a competition. They’re a powerful celebration of the ingenuity and resilience of Pakistan SMEs. We’re honored to provide a platform that enables exporters to not only succeed but also inspire. These finalists prove that with the right tools, Pakistani businesses can push the boundaries of global trade and seize opportunities in the global marketplace.”

One of the six finalists, Muhammad Azam Rehmat, from Mangoes Fashion shared

a compelling story that underscores the transformative power of ambition and innovation in e-commerce. As a farmer’s son, began his two-person garments company, Mangoes Fashion, in 2020. Despite having local manufacturing expertise, breaking into the competitive global market felt nearly impossible without a trusted channel to connect with international buyers. The solution came in 2021 when the company joined Alibaba.com. By leveraging the platform’s ecosystem and securing a Verified tag, Mangoes Fashion gained the credibility and visibility needed to transform its small-scale operation into a global venture, providing a direct channel to buyers worldwide.



Bull & Bears

PSX 100-Share Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
149,493.05	149,235.26
Day's High	Day's Low
150,465.17	149,448.93
Index Value	Change
28,926,083,834	+ 257.79
Percentage	Time
-0.17%	22 Aug, 2025 4:30 pm
Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
9,321.40	+ 12.20
Percentage	Time
+ 0.13%	22 Aug, 4:35 pm GMT + 1
USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
45,704.41	+ 918.91
Percentage	Time
+ 2.05%	22 Aug, 12:46 pm GMT-4
Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
42,633.29	+ 23.12
Percentage	Time
+ 0.054%	22 Aug, 3:45 pm GMT+9
Open Market Forex Rates	

# Multi-billion rupee scandal rocks SECP

SECP chairman approved unlawful salary hikes

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP), the country's top corporate regulator, is at the centre of a multi-billion-rupee scandal that has rattled the financial sector.

The Auditor General of Pakistan's report for the Audit Year 2024-25 reveals that the salaries and benefits of SECP's top officials and staff were unlawfully increased by more than Rs 640 million without approval from the federal government.

The findings point to clear violations of rules and regulations as well as open defiance of the government's austerity directives, raising grave questions about accountability within an institution mandated to enforce transparency and discipline in the corporate sector.

According to the audit report, the SECP Chairman received additional payments of Rs43.6 million, while each Commissioner received Rs35.8 million in extra payments. Overall, the Commissioners illegally received Rs156 million. SECP staff also benefited from an additional Rs377.2 million in salary increases. Commissioners and staff were further granted Rs110 million in additional recreational allowances.



Under the law, SECP must obtain approval from the Ministry of Finance for any salary increase, a requirement that was ignored, underscoring the Chairman's influence. The violation is particularly serious given the Prime Minister's

directives for all government institutions to reduce expenditures in light of the country's strained economic conditions.

The audit report further reveals that SECP withheld Rs14 billion of surplus profit from being

deposited into the Federal Consolidated Fund. This constitutes a serious breach of financial discipline and resulted in heavy losses to the national exchequer.

The report also questions the role of the Ministry of Finance, which failed to address these irregular increases and did not provide satisfactory responses to audit objections. Audit officials have recommended that the Ministry immediately withdraw the increases or grant formal approval. They further stressed the need for an effective monitoring system to prevent such incidents in the future.

All these audit objections will soon come under consideration in the National Assembly's Public Accounts Committee meeting, where detailed answers will be sought from relevant officials. Experts say the matter reflects a growing trend of irresponsibility and corruption in regulatory institutions. If swift and effective action is not taken, they warn, corruption will spread further across government entities.

The audit findings are likely to intensify calls for a detailed probe, with demands that those responsible face criminal liability. The audit report has yet to be formally contested by the SECP. When contacted, the commission's media office declined to comment.

## Donations

ISLAMABAD: Children are donating grocery and different others things at the Aid collection camp for the affected of Buner flood, in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

## CCP Approves Acquisition of Merit Packaging Assets by Kompass Pakistan

Commerce Desk



ISLAMABAD: The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) has approved the acquisition of certain assets of Merit Packaging Limited by Kompass Pakistan (Private) Limited.

The transaction entails the transfer of a business segment of Merit Packaging Limited, a listed company engaged in packaging and printing services, to Kompass Pakistan, a private limited company primarily engaged in the manufacture of flexible packaging materials for the Fast-Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG) sector. Following the completion of the transaction, all assets and liabilities pertaining to the transferred business segment will

be assumed by Kompass Pakistan.

In its review, the CCP identified the relevant market as "Flexible Packaging" within Pakistan. The Commission determined that the transaction results in only a marginal increase in market share for the acquirer and does not substantially lessen competition. The merger neither creates nor strengthens a dominant position in the relevant market, nor does it pose significant entry barriers.

Accordingly, the CCP has approved the transaction under Section 31(1)(d)(i) of the Competition Act, 2010.

## SECP introduces Dedicated Framework for Infrastructure Mutual Funds



Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has introduced a new category of mutual funds titled "Infrastructure Schemes" under the framework of open-end collective investment schemes. This initiative represents a significant step towards strengthening the role of capital markets in channelling long-term savings into infrastructure development.

The proposal for creating a distinct category was initially presented at the Mutual Fund Focus Group Session 2025, where it was identified as a key milestone under the Fund Management Department's Roadmap 2025-26. Extensive consultations were subsequently held with the Mutual Funds Association of Pakistan (MUFAP) and other stakeholders to refine the framework. The final structure reflects both industry feedback and SECP's commitment to ensuring regulatory clarity, investor protection, and alignment with national development priorities.

Pakistan faces an urgent requirement to expand and modernize its infrastructure, with financing needs estimated at nearly USD 15 billion annually. Current infrastructure spending remains significantly below international benchmarks, amounting to just 2.1 percent of GDP compared to the global standard of 8-10 percent. By introducing a dedicated regulatory category, the Commission seeks to provide stronger visibility to infrastructure-focused mutual funds, while offering investors a transparent and well-structured avenue for participation in projects of national significance.

## Soneri Bank & MG Introduces Industry's Lowest Auto Financing Rate with Instant Processing

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Soneribank has announced a special collaboration with MG Motors Pakistan, offering customers the most competitive auto financing package in the industry under the conventional and Islamic financing facility.

With an unprecedented financing rate starting from a rate of 1 Year KIBOR + 2%, Soneri Bank and MG financing offer sets a new benchmark in affordability and convenience for auto consumers.

Speaking about the collaboration, Syed Asif Ahmed, General Manager, Marketing Division, MG Motors Pakistan, said:

"This partnership with Soneri Bank further strengthens our vision of making premium mobility accessible for more people in Pakistan. Customers now have the opportunity to enjoy MG's cutting-edge technology and eco-friendly vehicles, while benefiting from the industry's



lowest financing rates in a fully Shari'ah-compliant manner. It's a win-win for

innovation, affordability, and customer convenience."

## Crackdown on Illegal Petrol Agencies, LPG Outlets and Sale of Substandard Milk

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: On the directives of Deputy Commissioner Rao Atif Raza, the district administration launched a crackdown against illegal petrol agencies, unauthorized LPG outlets, and vendors involved in selling substandard milk.

Assistant Commissioner Attock, Anza Abbasi, led the operation with her team.

A petrol agency in Brotha Colony, run by Abdul Rahim, and an LPG shop in Gariyal Town, operated by Shehbaz, were sealed. Meanwhile, an

LPG shop in Mohallah Tariqabad, owned by Khurram Shah, was fined Rs5,000. Additionally, a milk seller in Mohallah Noor, identified as Usama, was fined Rs2,000 for selling substandard milk.

The district administration reaffirmed its commitment to safeguarding public health and safety, warning that such operations will continue until full compliance with the law is ensured.



## inDrive Announces Aurora Tech Awards 2026 for Pakistani Women Startup Founders

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: inDrive has opened applications for the Aurora Tech Award 2026, a flagship initiative by the organization to honor women tech founders from around the world — including Pakistan — who are creating meaningful social impact through innovation.

On this occasion, Owais Saeed, Country Head of inDrive Pakistan, stated "Pakistani women entrepreneurs have immense potential, but they often face challenges in accessing funding, visibility, and strategic

support. Through the Aurora Tech Awards, inDrive is working to break down these barriers and provide women with the opportunity to bring their ideas to life on a global platform."

The announcement of the Top 100 women founders (Quarter-Finalists) will take place on December 8, 2025. This will be followed by the announcement of Semi-Finalists (Top 30) and Finalists in early 2026. Finalists will participate in a special mentorship program between February and March 2026, after which the Aurora Tech Awards ceremony will be held between March and April 2026.





# AJK SC Chief Justice announces new dates for Golden Jubilee Celebrations

**Bureau Report**

MUZAFFARABAD: An important meeting was held under the chairmanship of Chief Justice Azad Jammu and Kashmir Justice Raja Saeed Akram Khan regarding the Golden Jubilee celebrations of the Supreme Court of Azad Jammu and Kashmir. Justice Raza Ali Khan, Judge Supreme Court, was also present in the meeting along with the Chief Justice of Azad Jammu and Kashmir. In the meeting, new dates were announced for the Golden Jubilee celebrations of the Supreme Court of Azad Jammu and Kashmir and the holding of the Judicial Conference. Golden Jubilee celebrations will be held from September 11 to September 13, 2025, and a judicial conference will also be held on this occasion in which Chief Justice of Pakistan Justice Yahya Afridi will be the chief guest, while the esteemed judges of the Supreme Court of Pakistan, the esteemed Chief Justice and judges of the Provincial High Courts, the Islamabad High Court and the Supreme Appellate Court of Gilgit-Baltistan and the Chief Court, the esteemed Chief Justice and judges of the Azad Jammu and Kashmir High Court, the Advocate General, Vice Chairman and members of the Bar Council,



the President and office bearers of the Supreme Court Bar, High Court Bar, District Bar Presidents, senior lawyers, the Federal Law Minister, the Attorney General of Pakistan, the Provincial Advocate General, the Vice Chairman of the Bar Council of Pakistan, the Presidents of the Supreme Court Bar of Pakistan

and the Provincial High Court Bars, and important figures associated with the legal profession will participate in the Golden Jubilee celebrations. The meeting was attended by Registrar Supreme Court Mazhar Iqbal, Additional Registrar Malik Ehtesham, Additional Registrar Research Zahoor Iqbal, Secretary

to Chief Justice Khawaja Muhammad Shaukat, Senior Accounts Officer Syed Sakhawat Hussain, Assistant Registrar Nisar Shaheen, Senior Protocol Officer Khawaja Ijaz Ahmed, Staff Officer Taimur Mumtaz, Director IT Safwan Hashmi, Protocol Officer Taimur Durraani and other concerned officers.

# Karachi rains expose governance failures, says PTI Sindh President

**Abdul Ghafoor Sarohi**

KARACHI: Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) Sindh President Haleem Adil Sheikh on Friday said that just a few hours of rainfall had laid bare the inefficiency and negligence of provincial and local body governments, leaving Karachi submerged like "Venice instead of Paris."

Speaking at a press conference at Insaf House Karachi, flanked by PTI Karachi President Raja Azhar, General Secretary Arsalan Khalid, PTI Sindh spokesperson Muhammad Ali Baloch and other leaders, Haleem Adil Sheikh said that the rain was neither a cloud-burst nor a flood, yet it completely paralysed the city.

He revealed that at least 19 people lost their lives and over 100 others sustained injuries during the rainfall, most of them due to electrocution. Hundreds of vehicles broke down, several localities remained inundated for days, and roads suffered immediate damage.

Calling for urgent relief, Haleem Adil Sheikh demanded compensation of Rs2 million for each deceased, Rs500,000 for the injured, Rs100,000 for car



owners whose vehicles were damaged, and Rs10,000 for affected motorcyclists. He further urged that an emergency survey be conducted of damaged homes and properties, and that the federal and provincial governments announce a special Rs200 billion package for Kara-

chi's infrastructure rehabilitation. Daily-wage earners, he said, should receive Rs20,000 emergency assistance, while electricity and gas bills of affected families should be waived.

The PTI Sindh president lashed out at K-Electric, noting that over 950 feeders

tripped during the downpour, leaving large parts of Karachi without power for days. "The city was abandoned, the government machinery was invisible, and citizens were left helpless," he remarked.

Accusing the Sindh government of systematic negligence, Mr Sheikh pointed out that in the last 17 years, Sindh had received Rs30,789 billion in budgetary allocations, with 97 per cent contributed by Karachi. Of this, Rs1,853 billion went to municipal institutions, yet over Rs10,950 billion worth of irregularities were recorded. "Despite massive budgets, Karachi remains deprived of basic facilities. Ninety per cent of its water has been declared toxic, 76 per cent of the population lacks access to clean drinking water, and the city now ranks among the dirtiest globally," he said.

General Secretary Arsalan Khalid added that areas like New Karachi, Surjani, Mehmoodabad, Liaquatabad and others remained waterlogged days after the rain, while local officials were nowhere to be seen. "It was Imran Khan's government that initiated proper drain cleaning through the FWO with

# GCWUF Leads the Way to First-Ever Inter-University Fashion Show Celebrates Pakistani Culture

**Abdul Majid**

FAISALABAD: Government College Women University Faisalabad (GCWUF) made history by organizing the city's first-ever Inter-University Fashion Show, featuring the final-year thesis projects of emerging designers from leading institutions.

The landmark event brought together creative talent from GCWUF, NTU, GCUF, and Superior University, setting new standards for innovation and cultural expression in Pakistan's fashion academia.

Young designers showcased bold and diverse themes including Palestine, Kashmir, revival of local art, geometric layers, tradition and innovation, human relationships, clad objects, and Pakistani bridal heritage, reflecting the richness and versatility of Pakistani culture.



To ensure impartiality, the jury included Chief Judge and special guest Ms. Poli

Cannabis, Lady Universe 2021, along with fashion experts from non-participating universities.

Following intense competition, GCWUF secured the first position, NTU claimed second, while GCUF and Superior University shared third place.

Applauding the participants, Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Kanwal Ameen (T. I.) remarked:

"This pioneering fashion show reflects not only the talent of our young designers but also the intellectual and cultural vibrancy of Pakistan. By blending tradition with innovation, these students are setting new benchmarks for the country's creative industry. I am proud that GCWUF has led this initiative to empower emerging talent and highlight the city of Faisalabad's role as a hub of fashion design excellence."

## Bureaucracy and Magistracy Must Prioritize Public Interest: Chief Secretary



**Bureau Report**

MUZAFFARABAD: Chief Secretary Azad Jammu and Kashmir Khushal Khan said that our magistrates are actually the real "supermen" of the society, who perform every responsibility with a sense of duty without any hesitation. The combination of bureaucracy and magistracy requires that we remember our responsibilities along with power and always put the public interest first. These views were expressed by Chief Secretary Azad Jammu and Kashmir Khushal Khan while addressing the graduation ceremony of the 11th "Domain Specific Training Program" to enhance the capacity of magistrates under the auspices of Kashmir Institute of Management.

He said that magistrates have legal and administrative powers but their real purpose should be public service and solution of public problems. On this occasion, Director General Kashmir Institute of Management Dr. Muqem-ul-Islam said that it is an honor for us that the Chief Secretary Azad Kashmir will participate in this event. Appreciating his services, President of Pakistan Asif Ali Zardari awarded him the Sitara-e-Imtiaz. He expressed special gratitude to the Chief Secretary (Chairman Board of Governors) for always patronizing the institution and providing full support at every stage. On this occasion, Secretary Higher Education Chaudhry Muhammad Tayyab, Commissioner Poonch Division Masood Ur Rehman, Additional Secretary Services Basharat Nabi, Director Kashmir Institute of Management Tariq Mahmood Butt, Nazim Public Relations Muhammad Bashir Mirza, Chief Instructor Kashmir Institute of Management Abrar Ahmed, faculty members, trainers and course participants were present.

## Cantonment Board Peshawar's Anti-Encroachment Operation Continues for the Third Consecutive Day



**Correspondent**

PESHAWAR: On the directions of the Director General Military Lands & Cantonments (DG ML&C), and under the supervision of Station Commander & President Cantonment Board Brigadier Umar Saeed and Chief Executive Officer Cantonment Board Peshawar, Chaudhry Babar Hussain, the anti-encroachment operation continued vigorously for the third consecutive day. The operation was led by Enforcement Officer Raja Yasir Janjua.

During the operation, illegal encroachments established on footpaths and roads in various areas of Peshawar Saddar—including Gora Bazaar, Chowk Fawara, Liaquat Bazaar, Saddar Road, Mall Road, Bara Road, and adjoining locations—were removed. Dozens of illegal pushcarts and goods were confiscated, clearing pathways for pedestrians to ensure smooth public movement.

Shopkeepers and traders were also served with a final warning that if they attempted to place pushcarts or set up any form of illegal encroachments outside their shops, strict legal action would be taken against them.

Speaking on the occasion, Enforcement Officer Raja Yasir Janjua stated that the anti-encroachment drive would continue on a daily basis for the convenience of the public and to maintain the cleanliness of the city. He further pointed out that some traders, on one hand, support such encroachments and earn thousands of rupees daily from them, but when the administration clears the areas, the same traders resort to resistance against enforcement staff.

In conclusion, he appealed to the citizens to extend their cooperation with the administration so that the commercial and residential areas of Peshawar Saddar remain clean, orderly, and accessible for all.

# Asian Development Bank Unveils \$3 Million Low-Carbon Agriculture Project in Pakistan

**Abdul Majid**

FAISALABAD: The Asian Development Bank is developing a \$3 million project in Pakistan based on low-carbon agriculture systems to help ensure better agriculture and overcome environmental problems.

This was revealed by Noriko Sato, Senior Natural Resources Specialist of the Asian Development Bank, during a meeting with Punjab Higher Education Commission Chairperson Prof. Dr. Iqbal Ahmed Khan, Vice

Chancellor of the University of Agriculture Faisalabad Prof. Dr. Zulfiqar Ali and agricultural experts in the Syndicate Room.

Noriko Sato said that this project is being developed in collaboration with the University of Agriculture Faisalabad. Various projects were discussed in the meeting and tribute was paid to Noriko Sato's unparalleled services in the agricultural sector of Pakistan.

Noriko Sato said that this project will include seed breeding, greenhouse gas emission systems

and high-tech. He said that the Asian Development Bank is committed to Pakistan's inclusive, sustainable and climate-resilient development and is working to develop economic governance, energy, food security, private and other sectors in Pakistan.

Professor Dr. Iqbal Ahmed Khan said that Noriko Sato has played a significant role in the development of Pakistan's agriculture sector. He said that environmental pollution has become a serious threat that requires collective efforts to address. He

said that the Asian Development Bank has completed several projects based on climate change mitigation with the University of Agriculture Faisalabad, which have yielded tangible results. He added that Pakistan is facing various agricultural and food security challenges such as climate change, water scarcity, low productivity, etc., for which it is imperative to find science-based solutions. Professor Dr. Zulfiqar Ali said that the University of Agriculture is committed to agricultural development



by expanding global linkages and engaging in partnerships with technology, research and

industry. He said that the Agricultural University has completed about 20 technical assistance and

five research and development projects with the Asian Development Bank.



Called on

RAWALPINDI: Lieutenant General Md Faizur Rahman, QuarterMaster General, Bangladesh Army called on General Sahir Shamshad Mirza, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJCSC) at Joint Staff Headquarters, Rawalpindi.



Photo: ISPR

President Zardari

constitutes 11th National Finance Commission

 Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: A notification from the Finance Division said the president constituted the commission with the following composition: Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb as the chairman, the four provincial finance ministers, former bureaucrat Nasir Mahmood Khosa as a member representing the Punjab government, economist and researcher Asad Sayeed as a member representing the Sindh government, former bureau-

crat Dr Musharraf Rasool Cyan as a member representing the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government and Farmanullah as a member representing the Balochistan government. The commission will make recommendations to the president on the distribution between the federation and the provinces of the net proceeds of the taxes mentioned in clause (3) of Article 160 of the Constitution, it read.

It will also recommend the president regarding the grants-in-aid by the federal govern-

ment to the provincial governments and the exercise, by the federal government and the provincial governments, of the borrowing powers conferred by the Constitution.

The body will further make recommendations to the president on issues relating to the sharing of financial expense incurred or to be incurred by the federation in respect of subjects and matters falling within the domain of the provinces; issues relating to the sharing of financial expense incurred or to be incurred by

the federation or the provinces or both in respect of trans-provincial matters; issues relating to financial expense for national projects to be shared by the federation and the provinces; and any other matter relating to finance referred to the commission by the president.

For several years, policy-makers associated with the finance ministry, as well as political actors across different parties at the centre, have spoken about revising revenue transfers to the provinces to improve the federal govern-

ment's financial position.

The 10th NFC expired on July 21. The 7th NFC Award has now been in effect for nearly 15 years — far beyond its five-year tenure. The president has extended the award every year due to a disagreement between the provinces and the Centre over the new formula. The 18th Amendment provided constitutional protection to the share of the federating units, stipulating that a sub-federation's share in any future award must not be less than its share in the previous award.

Mohsin Naqvi reviews progress on reforms for upgrading FIA

 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior and Narcotics Control Mohsin Naqvi has chaired a high-level meeting at the headquarters of Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) in Islamabad and reviewed progress on reforms aimed at upgrading the Agency. According to a post uploaded by the interior minister on his X platform handle on Friday, the meeting reviewed in detail progress on reforms including launch of AI-based app to ease immigration and curb human

trafficking.

In order to modernize the FIA, Mohsin Naqvi directed IT upgrades, HQ upgradation, FIA Academy land transfer and urgent recruitment to fill the vacant post in the Agency.

Mohsin Naqvi announced the launch of an Artificial Intelligence (AI)-based application developed by the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) to simplify immigration processes and combat human trafficking. The pilot project will be initiated at Islamabad International Airport under the Minister's directives.



During his visit to the FIA Headquarters in Islamabad, Naqvi chaired a high-level meeting attended by FIA

Additional Director Generals, Directors, and Zonal Directors who joined online. The session reviewed progress on earlier

decisions aimed at modernizing the agency's operations.

FIA Director General Raja Riffat Mukhtar briefed the Interior Minister on organizational reforms, informing him that amendments to the FIA Act had been completed, while the digitization process was progressing on a priority basis. He noted that the agency had successfully transitioned to an e-office system within a short period. Additionally, all FIA notices will now be issued with QR codes to ensure transparency and efficiency.

Aleema Khan's second son Shershah arrested after Shahrez's detention

 Bureau Report

Law enforcement agencies have arrested Shershah Khan, the second son of Aleema Khanum, sister of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan. According to the family sources, Shershah was taken into custody near his residence in Lahore on Friday. Witnesses said men in plain clothes who were accompanied by police personnel carried out the arrest.

The development came just a day after Aleema Khan's elder son, Shahrez Khan, was detained in connection with the May 9 Jinnah House attack case.

Earlier today, a Lahore Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) approved an eight-day physical remand of Shahrez Khan. DSP Asif Javed presented case records before ATC Judge Manzar Ali Gul.

Defending Shahrez, senior PTI lawyers Salman Akram Raja and Malik Asif Ahmad Naswana, President of the Lahore High Court Bar Association, argued that their client had no connection with PTI's political matters.

They maintained that Shahrez Khan was targeted solely because he is the nephew of former premier Imran Khan.

Pakistan, China reaffirm 'All-Weather Strategic Partnership' during 6th Strategic Dialogue: FO Spox

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Office (FO) Spokesperson, Ambassador Shafqat Ali Khan, on Friday, said Pakistan and China have reaffirmed their commitment to further deepening their "All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership" through enhanced bilateral, regional, and multilateral cooperation.

Addressing the weekly press briefing, Foreign Office Spokesperson Ambassador Shafqat Ali Khan stated that Chinese Foreign Minister and Member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China, Wang Yi, visited Islamabad on August 21, 2025, on the invitation of Pakistan's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, to co-chair the 6th Pakistan-China Foreign Ministers' Strategic Dialogue.

"Both sides comprehensively reviewed the entire spectrum of bilateral relations, including CPEC Phase-II, trade and economic ties, multilateral cooperation, people-to-people exchanges, and important

regional and global issues," Ambassador Khan said. He added that the two ministers agreed to maintain close coordination and communication at bilateral and multilateral forums.

During his visit, Foreign Minister Wang Yi also called on President Asif Ali Zardari, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, and Chief of Army Staff Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir.

In his meeting with the President, Asif Ali Zardari expressed gratitude for China's "consistent support for Pakistan's sovereignty, territorial integrity, and national development," and appreciated Beijing's principled stance on the Jammu and Kashmir dispute, he added. He also highlighted the strategic significance of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) as part of President Xi Jinping's Belt and Road Initiative.

During the Chinese Foreign Minister's interaction with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, both leaders reaffirmed mutual support on core national interests. The Prime Minister

reiterated Pakistan's resolve to expand cooperation with China in trade, ICT, agriculture, industrialization, mines and minerals, and other sectors under CPEC Phase-II, he added.

Ambassador Khan added that during the Chinese Foreign Minister's meeting with the Chief of Army Staff, discussions focused on regional security, counterterrorism, and defense cooperation. Both sides underscored their resolve to strengthen coordination at regional and international platforms.

The FO spokesperson said the visit was part of regular high-level exchanges aimed at consolidating the Pakistan-China partnership.

Ambassador Khan also informed that the 6th Trilateral Meeting of the Foreign Ministers of Pakistan, China, and Afghanistan was held on August 20, 2025, in Kabul. Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, Foreign Minister Wang Yi, and Afghanistan's Acting Foreign Minister Mawlawi Amir Khan Muttaqi participated.

Bangladesh Army's Quarter Master General calls on CJCSC General Sahir Shamshad

 City Desk

RAWALPINDI: Lieutenant General Md Faizur Rahman, Quarter Master General, Bangladesh Army called on General Sahir Shamshad Mirza, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJCSC) at Joint Staff Headquarters, Rawalpindi.

During the meeting, both sides discussed the prevailing security environment in the region and

laid emphasis on shared resolve for enhancing existing cooperation in defence and security domain. Chairman JCSC highlighted the rising trajectory of bilateral relations between both the countries and identified new avenues of defence cooperation.

The visiting dignitary lauded the professionalism of Pakistan Armed Forces and acknowledged their sacrifices in fight against terrorism.

Utility Stores Corporation: PM directs protection of employees' rights



 Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Friday directed the quarters concerned that the dissolution process of the Utility Stores Corporation should be carried out transparently while ensuring full protection of employees' rights as the Cabinet unanimously approved the dissolution of the Utility Stores Corporation, following the suspension of its operations nationwide on July 31.

The Prime Minister emphasized that reducing farmers' production costs was vital to improving agricultural output and announced the formation of a high-level committee

comprising Minister for Climate Change Dr. Musadik Malik, Minister for Petroleum Ali Pervaz Malik, Minister for National Food Security Rana Tanveer Hussain, Adviser Muhammad Ali, and Special Assistant on Industry Haroon Akhtar to work on fertilizer pricing and related issues.

The meeting also approved the presentation of the Annual Report of the National Economic Council for fiscal year 2023-24 before Parliament, and endorsed decisions taken by the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) on August 19 and the Cabinet Committee on Legislative Cases (CCLC) on August 18.

CTD arrests another BLA facilitator in Quetta

 Bureau Report

QUETTA: The Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) have arrested another member of banned Balochistan Liberation Army from Quetta who was abetting terrorists in various anti-state activities. The accused Mir Khan Lehri, who had obtained law degree from International Islamic University Islamabad, was performing his duties as prosecutor under Balochistan Government.

During preliminary investigations, Mir Khan Lehri admitted his involvement in more than a dozen terror incidents in Balochistan. He is friend of Dr Usman Qazi, another BLA terrorist who was arrested few



days back.

Mir Khan Lehri was getting salaries from the state and continued his activities against the state. CTD have started further investigations.

Fire breaks out in Islamabad commercial plaza



 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: A fire broke out in a commercial plaza located in Chak Shahzad in Islamabad on Friday. According to rescue sources, the fire broke out in New Mahal Plaza due to a short-circuit. A thick plume of smoke could be seen from a distance

Rescue sources said there were garbage containers in the plaza in which the fire started which later raised the alarm.

Rescue teams were present at the spot and the fire was brought under control.

However, there was no loss of life due to the fire.