(صحيح بنار): حديث نبر 6511). **Barkat Rice Mills** (Pvt) Limited

Punjab govt decides to build six Aqua business hubs

Aqua business hubs will comprise modern fish hatcheries, feed chains, processing units and cold storages. The modern business centers will be established in Lahore, Rawalpindi, Sargodha, Wazirabad, Sheikhupura and Khanewal.



Constitutional petition lands in SHC seeking removal of Sindh governor

A constitutional petition has been filed in Sindh High Court (SHC

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Safar 29, Sunday, August 24, 2025



www.dailyspokesman.net



(a) @daily spokesman



Daily Spokesman Vol: 19, Issue: 129 Price Rs. 25.00 Pages 8

Field Marshal visited Turbat

TURBAT: Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, NI(M), HJ, Chief of Army Staff, visited Turbat, Balochistan. The visit aimed to review the prevailing security situation, assess development initiatives, and reinforce coordination between military and civil institutions for the stability and prosperity of Balochistan. Chief Minister and Chief Secretary Balochistan along with other officials were also present at the occasion.



Field Marshal stresses need for civil-military harmony, good governance

ISLAMABAD: Chief of the Army Staff Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir has emphasized the need for civil-military harmony, good governance, infrastructure building and development based on public participation.

Balochistan's Turbat city where he, Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz people of Balochistan in their Bugti and other officers were given a detailed briefing on the security situation, successful operations against the Fitna COAS visited Turbat to review

statement issued by the ISPR on

the unwavering support of the Pakistan Army for the socio-economic uplift of Balochistan.

Asim Munir reiterated the This he said during his visit to Pakistan Army's resolve to stand shoulder to shoulder with the pursuit of peace, prosperity, and sustainable development.

According to the ISPR, the

Naveed Ahmad Khan al-Hindustan and the ongoing the prevailing security situa- projects, and efforts to enhance unwavering support for all initidevelopment projects, said a tion, assess development initiatives, and reinforce coordination between military and civil insti-The Field Marshal reiterated tutions for the stability and pros-

> perity of Balochistan. Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Bugti and chief secretary along with other officials were also

present during the briefing. The Field Marshal was given a comprehensive briefing on the security dynamics including threat perspective and successful operations against Fitna al-Hin-

dustan, ongoing development

southern Balochistan.

During interaction with CM Balochistan and representatives of the civil administration, Asim Munir highlighted the need for good governance, infrastructure development, and the importance of inclusive, people-cen-

tric progress. The Army Chief emphasized the significance of joint civil-military efforts in addressing the challenges faced by the people of Balochistan and reaffirmed

socio-economic conditions in atives aimed at improving the southern Balochistan's socio-economic development.

During his interaction with troops, the COAS appreciated their high morale, operational readiness, and unflinching commitment to safeguarding national sovereignty. He commended their role in ensuring peace and stability in the region under challenging circumstances.

Upon his arrival, Field Marshal Asim Munir was received by Corps Commander Balochistan.

PM issues orders regarding flood



跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif Saturday issued special orders regarding flood situation in Ghizer area of Gilgit Baltistan due to Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF).

He appreciated the rescue teams and local volunteers for early evacuation of all residents of the area to safe places in view of the flood situation.

He instructed National Disaster Management continue rescue operations in the flood in advance.

the affected areas of Ghizer. He ordered to intensify relief

activities in the affected areas in view of the upcoming two spells, so that the affectees can be taken to safe places. The Prime Minister

directed the NDMA to maintain contact with all provincial disaster management authorities in view of the flood situation in Guddu, Sukkur, G. S Wala and other places at the Indus and Sutlej rivers.

He paid tribute to Wasiat Khan, a resident of Ghizer Authority (NDMA) and area of Gilgit Baltistan, for district administration to informing the government of

Dar says Pakistan wants a cooperative, forward-looking relationship with Bangladesh



跨 Spokesman Report

DHAKA: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar has expressed Pakistan's strong desire to forge a cooperative and forward-looking relationship with Bangladesh.

Addressing a dinner reception, hosted in his honour by the High Commissioner for Pakistan to Bangladesh, Imran Haider, in Dhaka today, Ishaq Dar underscored that the people of Pakistan have fraternal sentiments towards the people of Bangladesh.

He said the relations between the two countries are anchored in centu-

ries-old shared traditions, Islamic heritage, social norms and literary expressions. He wished the people of Bangladesh a harmonious and prosperous future.

At the reception, the Deputy Prime Minister interacted with a number of personalities from different walks of life including Advisers of the Bangladeshi government, bureaucrats, leadership of political parties, vice chancellors, members of intelligentsia and think tanks, sportsmen, artists, journalists, retired generals and others.

Pakistan's Minister for Commerce, Jam Kamal Khan, also attended the reception.

Majority power feeders now functional in flood affected areas: Tarar

E City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar said on Saturday that national highways in flood affected areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Gilgit-Baltistan had been fully restored whereas out of 60 affected feeders, 52 were now fully functioning now.

In a media talk over flood the directives of Prime Minister

Shehbaz Sharif, the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) was working to overcome the crisis in calamity-hit

He said that the NDMA was in contact with provincial governments and provincial disaster management authorities and district management.

Tarar said that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif visited Buner along with Field Marshal Asim situation, he said that under Munir where a briefing was given



He said that Minister for Power Sardar Awais Leghari was

in the KP and supervising power

restoration process

He said out of 60 feeders affected in Swat, Shangla, Buner and Swabi, 52 have been restored and work on restoration of remaining 8 is continued. He said that Swat-I division has been fully restored, Pir Baba and Malikpur 90 per cent restored.

He said that in Punjab at Ganda Singhwala on river Satluj, the PDMA was active to control flood situation after the NDMA had given early warning.

PTI Govt fails to provide relief to KP flood victims: Engr Amir Muqam

👺 Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: Federal Minister for States and Frontier Regions, Gilgit-Baltistan and Kashmir Affairs, Engr Amir Mugam said here Saturday that Pakistan Tahrik e Insaf Govt has completely failed to provide relief to flood victims of Khyber Pakthunkhwa.

Addressing a youth seminar here, Engr Amir Muqam said that PTI was outed to power for three consecutive terms in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa but it completely failed to provide relief and assistance to thousands of flood victims who were direly looking for KP Govt's



Engr Amir Muqam said that flash floods and torrential rains made hovac to lives and properties of people in northern Khyber Pakthunkhwa especially in Malakand division where over 400 people died and thousands displaced.

Besides damages to business and trade activities, he said that floods have also destroyed precious agriculture, fruits orchards, houses and livestock in Malakand division while PTI Govt has paid only a lip service to problems of food victims. He said it would have been better if PTI leadership visited and stayed in flood hit areas for supervision of rescue and relief operations.

PPP, PML-N decide to contest by-elections jointly

跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) and Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) - have decided to jointly contest the upcoming by-elections nationwide. Addressing a press conference in Islamabad, Federal Railways Minister Hanif Abbasi and PPP leader Pervaiz Ashraf confirmed that Both PPP and PML-N have agreed to contest the by-elections together.

PPP leader Pervaiz Ashraf said that PML-N will support PPP candidates where PPP tick holders were runner up during the general elections and likewise PPP will support PML-N candidates on the constituencies where

PML-N candidates were runner up. Several constituencies are up for grabs as the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) recently disqualified several lawmakers belonging to the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) following their convictions in cases related to the May

As per the ECP schedule, the by-elections will be staged in the NA-66 Wazirabad, NA-129 Lahore-XIII, and PP-87 Mianwali-III constituencies on September 18, while in NA-143 Sahiwal-lll, NA-185, DG Khan-ll, PP-203 Sahiwal-Vl, NA-96 Faisalabad-II, NA-104 Faisalabad-X, and PP-98 Faisalabad-l, the polling will take place on October 5.

Sunday, August 24, 2025

Those spreading ideological chaos have no sympathy for Pakistan and the state of Kashmir: Sardar Attique

👺 Bureau Report

NEELA BUTT/DHIRKOT: Speaking at the 78th Neela Butt Day ceremony, former Prime Minister and President All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan said that the refugees are an ideological and legal part of the state of Jammu and Kashmir.

Those who spread ideological chaos have no sympathy for Pakistan and the state of Kashmir. If you want to make a demand, then demand that the problems of the refugees be solved. Do not rub salt in their wounds by demanding the abolition of the seats of the refugees. Since the issue of the refugees started, the Muslim Conference has been the first to raise its refugees who have migrated are understandable. Despite many difficulties, the refugees have never turned away from

the refugees from their jobs in any way. Conference that hoisted the Pakistani



of Zia-ul-Haq, the Muslim Conference

talked about visas for Kashmiris to travel

across the border, which we opposed,

saying that it does not accept the visa

The gathering of thousands of people

of the state stand with the ideology of

policy in the state.

The refugees are part of every forum flag in Kohala. Even during the reign from construction and development to the independence movement. Whenvoice on this issue. The problems of the ever there was ideological chaos against Pakistan, we held the flag of Pakistan and continued the mission given by our

When everyone shifted to Islamabad They do not support the dismissal of and other places, it was the Muslim due to floods in Pakistan and a simple program was organized. In the end, he thanked all the departments, participants and the administration who played a role in making Nila Butt Day a success. Chairman of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference and chief guest of the Nila Butt Day ceremony, Ghulam Muhammad Safi, while addressing the Nila Butt Day ceremony, said that millions of lives have been sacrificed for the freedom movement.

Pakistan's accession. Fireworks, Qawwali and Mushaira gatherings were canceled

Addressing the 78th ceremony of Nila Butt Day, former Prime Minister Sardar Tanveer Ilyas said that freedom was gained by bathing every inch of the state in blood. Our ancestors had started the movement by making Srinagar their destination. We will continue the mission of our ancestors. The importance of the historical place of Nila Butt is unmatched at their own expense in Nila Butt is a by anyone. It was pledged here that if we testament to the fact that the people want to breathe in free air, we will have to wage jihad.

Cutting the trees

ISLAMABAD: Laborers are busy in cutting pollen trees from the whole Shakarparian area to eradicate Pollen allergy from the whole City as the act of welfare by the Government of Pakistan in late 60s, become harmful for the 30% people, who suffers from pollen allergy every year, in Federal Capital.



Meeting of Pakistan Peoples Party AJK Parliamentary Party held

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The meeting of the Pakistan Peoples Party Azad Jammu Faisal Mumtaz Rathore, government and Kashmir Parliamentary Party was held at Zardari House, Islamabad. The Ali Naqvi, Sardar Javed Ayub, Javed meeting was chaired by the party's parliamentary leader in the Legislative Assembly, former President and Ahmed Saghir, Chaudhry Ali Shan, Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir, Sardar Muhammad Yaqoob Khan.

leader of the PPP and advisor to PPP Azad Kashmir in-charge Ms. Faryal Acting Prime Minister Chaudhry Talpur, Chaudhry Muhammad Riaz, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly Chaudhry Latif Akbar, Peoples Party tion. Ms. Nabila Ayub, Aamir Yasin also paid tribute to Chairman PPP

Muhammad Yasin, General Secretary PPP Azad Kashmir Minister Raja ministers Mian Waheed, Syed Bazil Iqbal Badhanvi, Javed Butt, Sardar Zia Al-Qamar, Advisor to the Government Chaudhry Rafique Nayyar, Aamir Ghaffar Lone via video link, former The meeting was attended by senior Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan and former Pervez Ashraf.

They attended on special invita-

Azad Kashmir President Chaudhry and Chaudhry Qasim Majeed could Bilawal Bhutto's national services and not attend the meeting due to being abroad. In the meeting of the parliamentary party, President Asif Ali Zardari paid tribute to him for his wise leadership.

Chairman PPP and former Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari was congratulated on receiving the Nishane-Imtiaz and the diplomatic delegation led by him paid tribute to the diplomatic delegation that visited different countries and highlighted Pakistan's position and defeated India on the diplomatic front.

In the meeting, all the members

his courageous stand in the context of the Pakistan-India war and appreciated his services in highlighting the Kashmir issue. The meeting strongly condemned the atrocities committed by India on the unarmed Kashmiris in occupied Kashmir and said that India tried to increase pressure on Pakistan through Operation Sindoor, but our armed forces, demonstrating their professional capabilities, India was defeated through the medium of airstrikes and during this time, the national media also presented Pakistan's position at the international level in a lively manner.

Meteorological Department, forecasts heavy rains in AFK

MUZAFFARABAD: The Meteorological Department has forecast heavy rains with strong winds and thunderstorms in Azad Kashmir from 23rd to 27th August 2025. Due to which there is a risk of flooding and flash building/land slipping in rivers and canals. Tourists/travellers are advised to avoid unnecessary travel. Especially do not travel at night.

2. People living near rivers/canals are advised to move to a safe place in case of heavy rains. Government buildings (schools) have been evacuated for any emergency situation. Where the expected affected families will be shifted.

3. If network or service facilities are not available in any area, the nearest police station or check post should be informed immediately so that necessary measures can be taken.

4. People living near rivers are advised not to go near rivers/canals. Section 144-ZF has been implemented for going near rivers and streams. 5. Citizens should contact the following numbers in case of any emer-

SDM Control Room 05822-921643

District Control Room 05822-920055

Raja Zia Farooq DDMA Incharge Muzaffarabad 0345-4037783 0300-1037783 (WhatsApp)

Jahangir Khan Tareen Announced 50 Million Rupees Aid For Flood-Affected



MULTAN: Relief Operation Launched by Lodhran Pilot Project on Jahangir Khan Tareen's Instructions for Flood Victims in Khyber Pakh-

A relief operation has been initiated by the Lodhran Pilot Project under the instructions of Jahangir Khan Tareen to support the recovery of communities affected by recent floods in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Jahangir Khan Tareen has announced PKR 50 million in aid for the flood-af-

The Lodhran Pilot Project is actively distributing essential supplies, including rations, medicines, food, blankets, bedding, and kitchen sets $\,$ to affected families in Buner, Bajaur, Swabi and Swat. Relief operation by LPP will provide relief goods to over 5000 families.

In his statement, Jahangir Khan Tareen said, "No effort will be spared in assisting our flood-affected brothers and sisters. In this time of hardship, I stand with them fully. Supporting flood-affected Pakistanis requires a joint national effort, and everyone must play their part in aiding recovery."

This initiative reflects a strong commitment to immediate relief and long-term rehabilitation for communities devastated by natural disasters.

Professional Photographers Association Faisalabad celebrated World Photography Day



Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: World Photography Day is being celebrated all over the world today. World Photography Day.com has announced to celebrate Photography Week from August 19 to 26 this year. This was said by Muhammad Ahmed, President of Professional Photographers Association Faisalabad, while talking to the media after the cake cutting ceremony. General Secretary Qasoor Munir Sheikh, while providing more information, said that the French government had purchased the patent of Daguerreotype in 1839. The French government did not copyright the patent and presented it to the world as a gift, due to which commercial photography started. Later, in 1839, Henry Fox made this photography stage even easier. In 2010, August 19 was designated as World Photography Day. To celebrate this World Photography Day, Chairman Syed Tanveer Hussain Zaidi, President Muhammad Ahmed, Senior Vice President Muhammad Asif, General Secretary Sheikh Qasoor Munir, Vice President Muhammad Ramzan, Vice President Saeed Ahmed, Information Secretary Abdul Majid, Senior Photographer Muhammad Khalid, Muhammad Nadeem Goga, Muhammad Waseem, Mirza Adil, Shabab Ali, Muhammad Hussain, Muhammad Athar, Moazzam Yaqub, Muhammad Haroon, Munawar Hussain, Manan and others participated.

Empowering Women, Supporting Employees, Ensuring Growth

GCWUF Holds 21st Syndicate Meeting

👺 Abdul Majid

cate Meeting of Government ture development. College Women University Faiser Education.

ments in academics, research, FAISALABAD: The 21st Syndi- community outreach, and infrastruc-On the financial front, the Syndi-

alabad (GCWUF) was held under cate unanimously approved a surplus the chairmanship of Prof. Dr. Iqrar budget of Rs. 2.286 billion for FY Ahmad, Chairman PHEC, nominee 2025–26, along with a 10% Ad-hoc of the Provincial Minister for High- Relief Allowance for employees. Other major approvals included The House appreciated the adoption of the PhD Study Leave progress report presented by Vice Policy, HEC guidelines for Professor Chancellor Prof. Dr. Kanwal Ameen of Practice, and the GCWUF Regu-

(T. I.), showcasing GCWUF's achievelarization Service Statutes-2023. The House also validated the recruitments of 357 employees made under due codal formalities, ensuring transparency, job security, and institutional stability.

In a significant move for women's empowerment, the Syndicate approved reduced fees for MS/MPhil and PhD programs, scale-wise Day Care charges, and Day Care access for postgraduate students.

These landmark decisions rein-



financial sustainability, employee reforms, underscoring its commit-responsibility.

force GCWUF's vision of excellence, welfare, and women-centered ment to inclusive growth and social



Namaz Timings ..4:52 pm Maghrib .. 6:45 pm ... 8:13 pm

EMEDGENCY

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

Women Police Stations

2 14 112112		
Islamabad 922259		
Rawalpindi 9270601-2		
FNALUDY		

ENQUI	RY
dhi Ambulance	
PIA Flight Info	114
PIA Cargo	9280979
Railway Inquiry	117
Dailway Eychango	0270831-

HOCDITALC

WASA Rawalpindi

позен	ALS
CMH	5611111
MH	561116
MH	561116
Cantt Hospital	9270907-11
DHQ	5556311-4
RGH	9290301-7
Holy Family	9290322-7
PIMS	9261170-79
Polyclinic	9218300-09
Chifa 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		
Rawal Town	5773343	

COMPLAINTS

Water Tanker Service G-5, G-6, G-7, G-8, G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, H-8 ..9266316 Wapda Islamabad......9217579-80 Sui Gas Complaint..... 119, 9272249 ...0331-5022125

ANF recovers 12 kg of drugs worth Rs 1.2 million



E City Desk

RAWALPINDI: The Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF), conducting 3 operations across the country. recovered as many as 12 kilograms of drugs worth more than Rs 1.2 million and arrested 3 suspects. said an ANF Headquarters spokesman on Friday.

He informed that 10 kg of hashish was recovered from 2 accused near Sohrab Goth Bus Terminal Karachi.

In another operation, 2 kg of ice was recovered from the possession of an accused near the Kot Abdul Malik Motorway Interchange.

Cases have been registered against the arrested suspects under the Narcotics Control Act, and further investigations are underway.

Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider addressed to Public gather

ATTOCK: Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan has said that in order to provide medical facilities to the people of the area, a blood bank and a free dialysis center are being established, which will be completed in the near future. He expressed these views while addressing a public gathering in village Sadaqal of Tehsil Fateh Jang, organized by the President of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Tehsil Fateh Jang, Sardar Zaheer Khan. On this occasion, PPP local leaders including Malik Amanat Rawal, Malik Riyasat Sadriyal, Sardar Ahsan Ali Khan, Sardar Muhammad Ali Khan and others were also present.

While addressing, Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan said that due to the absence of a blood bank from Rawalpindi to Jand, many precious lives are lost in case of accidents and emer-

Keeping this in view, a blood bank is being set up. Along with it, the Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Free Kidney Center will also be established, for which funds will be provided personally by President Asif Ali Zardari. He added that with the cooperation of friends, both public welfare projects will be constructed, providing free treatment to every indi-

Later, the Governor Punjab visited various areas of Fateh Jang and offered prayers for the deceased. During his visit to Tehsil Fateh Jang, he also held an open court at the PPP Tehsil Secretariat, where he listened to public grievances. On this occasion, PPP District President Attock Sardar Asher Hayat Khan and other leaders, including Sardar Zulfigar Hayat Khan, Malik Riyasat Sadriyal, Malik Amanat Khan Rawal, Sardar Zaheer Afzal Khan, Sardar Ahsan Ali Khan, Sardar Muhammad Ali Khan and others were also present.



Wood works

ISLAMABAD: A shopkeeper is arranging wooden clock at his shop to attract customers at Lok Ver-



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

FEIP organized a reception in honor of Prof. Ahsan Iqbal Chaudhry

跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Federation of Engineering Institutions of Pakistan (FEIP) organized a reception of gratitude in honor of Engr. Prof. Ahsan Iqbal Chaudhry, Federal Minister for Planning and Development, to celebrate the conferment of the country's highest civil award, Nishan-i-Imtiaz, in recognition of his remarkable contributions to the nation.

The award highlights his outstanding role on the civil front, particularly for the success of Marka-e-Haq.

On this occasion, Mr. Kashif Bashir, Senior Manager Training and Executive Lahore Section, personally met and congratulated Engr.



his tireless efforts for the establishment of cutting-edge tech-Prof. Ahsan Iqbal Chaudhry nological centers in Pakistan, that Prof. Ahsan Iqbal is a true

Committee Member of IEEE honor. He also commended gence Center and the Quantum Computing Center.

Mr. Kashif Bashir remarked on achieving this prestigious including the Artificial Intelli- representative of the engi-

neers, scientists, and education community of Pakistan, and that his vision continues to inspire future generations of

Media urged to amplify family planning breakthroughs

B Rafiullah Mandokhel

QUETTA: In collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), The Population Council, convened the Meeting of the Media Coalition on Population under the theme "Seizing the Moment - New Developments in the SRH Landscape in Pakistan: The Catalyst Role of Media."

The meeting brought together leading journalists, religious scholars, and medical experts to discuss how the media can accelerate progress on family planning and reproductive

In his opening remarks, Ikram ul Ahad, Deputy Manager Communication, Population Council, highlighted some of the major developments in recent months in taking forward the



Declaration affirming the permissibility of birth spacing in Islam related to mother and child health outcomes,

Speaking from a religious perspective, Allama Tahmeed Jaan Al-Azhari, population management, including Executive Director of the International

(IRCRA), described the recent Council of Islamic Ideology (CII) ruling as a turning point.

Drawing on Islamic principles of Meezan (balance), he added, "Islam not only permits but encourages deliberate intervals between pregnancies to

safeguard women's health and family well-being. This ruling is a powerful tool to dispel misconceptions and elevate informed religious discourse."

Offering clinical and public health evidence, Dr. Saima Zubair, FRCOG, Information Secretary of the Society of Obstetricians & Gynecologists of Pakistan (SoGP) and Senior Vice President of the Pakistan Academy of Family Physicians (PAFP), highlighted the urgency of action and the media's role.

Dr. Zubair added that spacing births by at least 24 months can reduce

neonatal mortality by up to 50%. In his concluding remarks, Dr. Ghulam Farid Khan, Programme Analyst M&E (SRH), UNFPA, said, Meeting the unmet need for family planning is key to reducing unintended pregnancies and unsafe abortions while upholding the dignity and health of women and families.

Pakistan hosts World CIO Summit and Awards 2025

Example 2 City Desk

KARACHI: Pakistan hosted the World CIO Summit Awards 2025 - Pakistan Edition to recognize the services of the country's



ing CIOs and cybersecurity professionals at a local hotel here on Saturday. Speaking as a keynote speaker, former State Minister and Chairman Board of Investment Azfar Ahsan said that Pakistan's positive image is emerging across the world but it has a lot of untapped potential when it comes to human talent and the natural resources of the fifth-largest population of the world.

All stakeholders should set up a comprehensive strategy and shared vision for the country and execute it on a sustainable basis for socio-economic development and the prosperity of the nation.

In his online address, President CISO Global Forum Dr. Erdal Ozkava mentioned that Pakistan has made tremendous growth and success in the IT ecosystem, with exports continuing to mark new records with each passing year.

cybersecurity experts are growing in Pakistan and serving different sectors in a commendable way, which needs to be recognized at national and Muhammad Umair Nizam, Senior Vice Chairman PASHA and Vice

Executive Director A. F. Ferguson Syed Abdul Qadir said CIOs and

President Ecommerce Gateway Pvt. Limited, said that Pakistan's digital leaders are creating a difference not only in Pakistan but across the world with their talent and innovation.

The services of 50 CIOs and cybersecurity of different sectors have been recognized with awards.

Taunsa: Residents of Basti Sokar Stage Strong Protest Against SDO and XEN



👺 🛮 Zain Khan Malghani

TAUNSA: The residents of Basti Sokar staged a strong protest against the Sub-Divisional Officer (SDO) and the Executive Engineer (XEN), alleging that their electricity supply was unjustly disconnected and the

transformer removed, despite their regular payment of electricity bills. The residents declared that if power is not restored immediately, they will stop paying their bills and shift their protest to the heart of Taunsa city. The locality, which lies administratively distant from both Taunsa and Dera Ghazi Khan, has been deprived of electricity for the past two days. No political leader has taken notice of the crisis, and due to the absence of electricity, people are now deprived of even a single drop of water.

The demonstrators further stated that leveling false allegations of electricity theft against them is a blatant injustice and a clear misuse of authority. During the protest, local notables displayed their paid electricity bills and demanded that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz take immediate notice and order

Residents emphasized that if any individual is guilty of electricity theft, action should be taken against that person specifically, but punishing the entire community is unacceptable. They demanded the immediate suspension of the current SDO and XEN.

Strict crackdown launched against underage drivers in Murree

RAWALPINDI, AUG 23 (APP): Murree Traffic Police have launched a strict crackdown on underage and unlicensed drivers Saturday, following the directives of DIG Traffic Muhammad Waqas Nazir. The campaign aims to ensure safe travel for the public across Punjab.

In a statement, Chief Traffic Officer (CTO) Murree Waseem Akhtar said underage and unlicensed drivers not only endanger their own lives but also pose a serious risk to others on the road. He stressed that no underage or unlicensed individual would be allowed to drive cars or motorcycles under any circumstances.

Special squads have been deployed across Murree district to take swift and strict action against violators of traffic rules. Challan tickets, heavy fines, and other legal measures are being enforced as part of the operation.

The CTO added that ensuring safe travel and protecting the lives and property of citizens remains the top priority of traffic police. He appealed to parents to prevent their underage children from driving and urged individuals above 18 to obtain valid driving licences without delay.

Traffic Police Murree also issued a public message: "Follow traffic rules, stay safe, and keep others safe too."

Sunday, August 24, 2025

Group Chairman/Chief Editor: Almass Ayoub Sabir Vice Chairman:

Asim Nazir Ahmad Naveed Ahmad Khan Editor: Head Editorial Advisory Board: Amjad Mehmood

Bureau Chief Karachi: Khurram Jaffrani

Bureau Chief Lahore:

(jaffrani@adpluse.pk Syed Afraz Ali Nazish (afrazalishah@gmail.com)

AIMS Building, Street No. 4, H-8/1, Islamabad. Head Office: spokesmanislamabad@gmail.com

Phone: +92 51 2227123, WhatsApp +92 346 5008408

Karachi office: A111, Block C, Gulsha-e-Jamal, PRECHS,

Karachi Phone:021-33399390 Email: spokesmankarachi@gmail.com

Lahore Office: 7-E, Samanberg, Johar Town. spokesmanlahore@gmail.com

Daily The Spokesman available only on annual subscription

Merit-Based Appointments in Education

ducation is the foundation on which nations rise, societies evolve, and economies grow. The strength of a country lies not only in its natural resources or infrastructure but in the competence of its educational leadership. History and contemporary realities both confirm that when education systems are weakened, nations inevitably decline. As the saying goes, "If you want to destroy any nation without war, make the education system of that nation poor. If a nation fails to provide a good education, it is

Merit-based appointments are of critical importance in education, as the sector forms the backbone of human de-

In a country like Pakistan, where 64% of the population is below the age of 30, our single biggest resource for development is the youth.

It is therefore essential for the younger generation to embrace and promote a culture of merit, as this will ensure fairness, opportunity, hope in the system, and sustainable national progress.

Unfortunately, in many countries, including Pakistan, questions have been raised for not following merit in certain appointments. While specific criteria exist for selecting Vice Chancellors, faculty members, and other staff, one glaring weakness persists: the formation and functioning of search committees. These committees play a decisive role in appointing leaders such as Chairpersons of Higher Education Commissions (HECs) and Vice Chancellors. Yet, in many instances, no clear criteria or accountability standards are applied in selecting the members of these committees themselves. As a result, decisions taken by such bodies often lack transparency, objectivity, and, ultimately, credibility.

Search committees act as gatekeepers for the future of higher education. Their recommendations determine who will lead universities and commissions that shape the academic destiny of thousands of students. When these committees are constituted without clear standards of competence, integrity, and neutrality, the risk of favouritism and politicization increases. The irony is evident: while aspiring candidates for key academic positions must meet specific eligibility benchmarks, those judging them often face no such requirements. This imbalance undermines the entire appointment process.

The future of any nation lies in the hands of its educators and educational leaders. If we entrust this responsibility to competent and visionary individuals, education becomes a tool for national development. If not, it becomes a weapon of destruction. The writer is an analyst with more than 25 years of association with higher education & development sectors.

European Leaders React to Trump's Security Commitment

Muhammad Asif

brought transatlantic relations, NATO dynamics, and European security priorities into sharp focus. Recent statements by U. S. President Donald Trump, where he ruled out the deployment of American ground troops to Ukraine but signaled openness to providing air support and security guarantees, have triggered wideranging reactions across Europe. European leaders, already navigating a complex balance between solidarity with Ukraine and managing their own domestic pressures, now find themselves reassessing the contours of Western unity. Trump's remarks mark a pivotal moment in the debate over how much responsibility Europe should shoulder in the continent's defense and what role the United States should continue to play.

President Trump's announcement clarified two essential points: first, that the U. S. would not send ground forces into Ukraine, and second, that Washington is considering a framework of security guarantees for Kyiv, akin to—but distinct from—NATO membership. Air support, intelligence sharing, and logistical backing remain on the table, which underscores Washington's commitment to deterring further Russian advances while limiting American boots on the ground.

France's reaction is shaped not only by geopolitical concerns but also by its identity as a nuclear power and permanent member of the UN Security Council. Paris sees in Trump's statement a chance to push for stronger EU-led defense initiatives, including joint military projects and enhanced European rapid reaction forces.

he ongoing conflict in However, Macron also remains pragmatic, Ukraine has once again recognizing that U.S. airpower and intelligence capabilities are still critical in the near term. For Paris, the goal is not to detach from the U.S. but to build a more balanced partnership.

In Eastern Europe, particularly Poland and the Baltic states, Trump's comments

have sparked mixed feelings. These countries remain acutely aware of their vulnerability to Russian aggression and have traditionally sought maximum American military presence on their soil. For Warsaw, Trump's decision not to commit ground troops to

Ukraine raises concerns about the credibility of U.S. deterrence. Yet, the promise of air support and security guarantees offers some reassurance.

Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk remarked that "words must be followed by concrete actions," emphasizing that Poland would continue to lobby for permanent American military installations. Similarly, Baltic leaders stressed the urgency of credible commitments, warning that half-measures could embolden Moscow. For these nations, Trump's statements reinforce the necessity of European defense cooperation but also highlight their continued reliance on U.S. security guarantees.

The United Kingdom, though no longer an EU member, remains a central player in Europe's security architecture. London has positioned itself as a bridge between Washington and continental Europe. Prime Minister Keir Starmer welcomed

engagement while cautioning that Europe must be ready to step up its contributions.

The UK's significant military aid to Ukraine, combined with its NATO commitments, positions it as a credible voice in transatlantic discussions. British policymakers see Trump's remarks as an

opportunity to reinforce NATO's cohesion while nudging European allies toward greater defense spending. London's message is one of reassurance to both sides: the U.S. is not withdrawing from Europe, but Europe must become a more equal partner.

Unsurprisingly, Moscow rejected Trump's security guarantees as provocative and destabilizing. The Kremlin argued that any NATO-like arrangement for Ukraine crosses Russia's red lines. Russian officials warned that such commitments would escalate tensions rather than resolve them. From Moscow's perspective, even limited U.S. air support represents an unacceptable intrusion into its perceived sphere of influence.

This reaction underscores the central dilemma: how to provide Ukraine with credible long-term security while avoiding escalation with Russia. Trump's strategy of air support without ground troops aims to strike this balance, but European leaders know the risk of miscalculation remains

The reactions across Europe highlight an underlying truth: NATO remains indispensable, but its future is being redefined. Trump's insistence that allies bear

Trump's stance as a sign of continued U.S. more responsibility is not new—it echoes decades of U.S. frustration over burdensharing. However, his framing of security guarantees short of NATO membership creates new possibilities. It allows for flexible arrangements that reassure Ukraine without formally expanding NATO.

European leaders are now faced with critical questions. Should they double down on NATO as the central security provider, or should they invest more in EU defense structures? How can they maintain unity across diverse national interests while responding to an increasingly aggressive Russia? Trump's announcement has not resolved these questions but has brought them to the forefront.

President Trump's refusal to send ground troops but openness to providing security guarantees has triggered a spectrum of reactions across Europe from relief and gratitude to anxiety and renewed calls for autonomy. For Germany and France, it is an invitation to strengthen Europe's capacity for independent action. For Eastern Europe, it is both a reassurance and a source of unease. For the UK, it is a chance to mediate transatlantic relations.

Ultimately, Trump's remarks may prove to be a turning point in Europe's long debate about defense responsibility. While the United States remains committed to European security, the clear message is that Europe must do more for itself. Whether European leaders can transform this moment of uncertainty into a catalyst for deeper integration and stronger security frameworks will shape the continent's geopolitical future for years to come.

The writer is senior analyst and he can be reached at sirasif786@gmail.com



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

Critical Minerals: The Way Forward

and militancy in Pakhtunkhwa is getting more space as the state authorities, political parties and the general populace holds conflicting views on almost all the outstanding issues. Whether it is the allocation of financial resources, the construction of new dams. security initiatives, financial reforms or the exploration of critical minerals, all the stakeholders of the state including the institu- political dissents. The policies motivated by tions, political parties, intellectuals and the general masses hardly come to terms with

tion of new canals on the Indus, the newly emerging priorities characterized by domestic, regional and geostrategic considerations created a fresh layer of resistance throughout the peripheries. The new strategic move of the government to exploit the critical minerals in Pakhtunkhwa, Baluchistan and GB followed by the military operation in Bajaur and the

subsequent resistance of the masses reveals the present state of uncertainty and confusion in the state. While the narratives of both the conflicting sides are more logical and clear headed in direction, the rigidity and aggressiveness in their approaches complicates the issue thereby avoids the possibility of any meaningful rapprochement. Meanwhile the growing political polarization and the deepening culture of trust deficit, the declining position of the PTI government in KP, the rift between ANP and PTM and the subsequent resurgence of right wing politics under state patronage accompanied by the ambiguous approaches of the opposition parties towards outstanding issues further contribute s to the calls for an enlightened and inclusive political tunkhwa and Baluchistan is of great signif-

he fresh layers of extremism approach that can avoid the possible repericance, their empty minded and ambiguous cussions of the changing horizon.

While upholding the old political order of status quo, the political culture of Pakistan is prone to frequent political crisis and dissents as the dominant circles pay no heads to the demands of the wider population in the country. Most of the times personal considerations followed by regional and global geostrategic priorities overlook the layers of internal such considerations when implemented at home, generates a new cycle of resistance the government. After failing to convince followed by the aggressiveness of the state the masses protesting against the construc- authorities. One such move can be clearly seen in the passage of the Mines and Minerals act and the subsequent opposi-

tion of the masses from all over the country. The second striking crit-

icism regarding minerals exploration deals with the proper management and utilization of the money generated through foreign investment. It is generally believed that the financial gains of the

project is most likely to be processed through the platform of the Special Investment Facilitation council which is regarded by many politicians and intellectuals as unconstitutional and Irrelevant to be interested with this task. They believe that this body facilitates the monopoly of the few and that whatever the country gets from foreign investment will go to the banks of the dominant families instead of being used for the welfare of the common people. The demand of the Awami National Party led All parties conference to abolish this forum is testament to this narrative.

Adil Husain

Political matters are resolved through proper strategies and practical priorities. While the criticism of the opposition fragile political atmosphere. This bitter reality parties and ethnic movements in Pakh-

approach towards the exploration of resources and modernization of economy creates an alarming situation. This scarcity of great minds and the absence of well-equipped politicians and statecrafts could potentially downgrade the already perverted bond of democracy in Pakistan.

Building trustful relationship through political consensus among all the stakeholders is the best way forward. In doing so both the sides have to adopt a more flexible, people oriented and peace and prosperity focused approach. This will help in the better materialization of the ongoing development in terms of foreign investment for better and stable future. The federal government has to convince the provinces that their resources would be justly used for the uplift of human development, infrastructure and social welfare. If the deadlock over the issue of SIFC persists, the platforms of the council of common interests, National Economic Council and National Finance Commission along with other valid bodies established under the constitution of 1973 and strengthened by 18th amendment are the best options to be followed. Politicians and intellectuals must have to come up with alternative strategies for better bargain. Natural resources are the true blessings but leaving these in dormancy or exploiting them for the sake of few families is not a wise strategy at all. This is the time to revisit priorities, mobilize resources and develop national Capacity by integrating smaller provinces in the national economic and industrial complexes so that Pakistan can stand firm in facing the emerging trends in the geostrategic competition and play a more pivotal role in domestic and global political dynamics.

The writer is M. Phil. Scholar at the National Institute of Pakistan Studies (NIPS) QAU, Islamabad. He can be reached at Adilkhanonline899@gmail.com

Nowhere to Hide: The Unrelenting Humanitarian Nightmare in Palestine

the world's conscience, is not suffering from acute malnutrition. merely continuing; it is intensias a protracted political conflict has cascaded Gaza Strip uninhabitable, creating the world's into a profound humanitarian catastrophe, largest population of displaced people. Crowded

safety, food, water, and medicine are being systematically eroded The suffering is not a static condition but an escalating crisis, deepening with each passing day.

The most visible dimension of this intensification is the horrific human cost. Airstrikes of unprecedented scale have turned vibrant urban centres

staggering, with a devastatingly high number ever. The expansion of settlements in the of women and children among the dead and trauma is imprinted deeply, a psychological wound that will outlast any ceasefire. Families are obliterated in an instant, generations lost, and the collective grief of a people becomes a crushing weight.

Beyond the immediate violence, a silent emergency is accelerating: the collapse of infrastructure and the looming threat of famine. food, clean water, fuel, and electricity. Hospitals, once sanctuaries of healing, have become scenes of desperation, operating without power, anaespain relief, a stark symbol of a system pushed beyond its breaking point. The World Food Programme's warnings of imminent famine human tragedy.

he plight of the Palestinian are no longer projections but present-day realpeople, a long-standing scar on ities for hundreds of thousands, with children

This intensification is also geographical. fying. What was once described The conflict has rendered almost the entire where the very basics of human existence into ever-shrinking "humanitarian zones"

> without sanitation, people are exposed to disease and relentless insecurity. The promise of safe passage proves illusory, as bombs fall even in designated areas, leaving civilians with nowhere to run and nowhere to hide.

Politically, the suffering intensifies as diplomatic avenues seem to falter, and

into landscapes of rubble. The casualties are a just resolution appears more distant than West Bank continues unabated, further fraginjured. For those who survive the bombs, the menting a future Palestinian state and fueling daily violence and dispossession. The sense of hopelessness and abandonment among Palestinians is palpable, a feeling that the international community watches but fails to act with the urgency the catastrophe demands.

The intensifying suffering in Palestine is a multi-layered crisis, physical, psychological, and existential. It is a man-made disaster unfolding Deliberate sieges have cut off populations from in real time, demanding more than just words of concern. It calls for an immediate ceasefire. the unhindered flow of humanitarian aid, and a renewed, genuine commitment to a politthetics, or basic supplies. Doctors are forced ical solution that guarantees peace, iustice, to perform amputations on children without and dignity for both Palestinians and Israelis. To stand by as the suffering deepens is not neutrality; it is complicity in an unimaginable

Bangladesh removes visa requirement for Pakistani officials

Spokesman Report

BANGLADESH: For the first time since 1971, Bangladesh has lifted the visa requirement for Pakistani officials for a period of five years.

According to foreign media, individuals holding diplomatic and official passports from both Bangladesh and Pakistan will no longer require a visa to travel between the two countries.

Bangladesh's interim government, led by Nobel Laureate Muhammad Yunus, has approved this mutual visa exemption agreement.

His press secretary, Shafique Islam, announced at a news conference in Dhaka that similar agreements already exist between Bangladesh and 31 other countries.



Shafique Islam stated that under Bangladesh. this agreement, Pakistani officials will also be granted visa-free entry into month's meeting in Dhaka between

South Asian nations was suspended after the 1971 war. Ties between Dhaka and Islam-

passport holders.

abad have improved in recent months. Pakistan's Commerce Minister Jam Kamal Khan arrived in Dhaka late Wednesday for a four-day official visit from August 21 to 24.

Bangladeshi Home Adviser Jahangir Alam Chowdhury and Pakistan's Inte-

rior Minister Mohsin Naqvi, during

which the two sides said they were

finalising a memorandum of under-

standing for visa-on-arrival for official

Visa-free entry between the two

The visit aims to strengthen bilateral trade ties and boost economic The development follows last cooperation, according to an official

UN Women Pakistan and Federal Judicial Academy Advance Gender-Response Training in Islamabad

Asim Tanveer

ISLAMABAD: Through funds provided by the European Union, UN Women Pakistan in partnership with the Federal Judicial Academy, successfully concluded a three-day Training of Trainers (ToT) on Gender-Responsive Policing. The initiative was made possible through the EU-financed Deliver Justice Project.

The training empowered 27 police instructors 9 men and 18 women from Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and NACTA to integrate gender-responsive practices, standardize genderbased violence (GBV) training, and promote survivor-centered approaches. It also positioned the Federal Judicial Academy as a national coordination

hub for gender-responsive policing.

gender-responsive policing is not a training as well as service delivery to standalone effort, said Ms. Jacqui Ketunuti Deputy Country Representative, UN Women Pakistan. It is part of a systemic shift where police, prosecutors, judiciary, and social services must work in unison to build survivor trust and ensure justice. With the EU's strategic support, we are not only training individuals but also shaping institutional cultures and strengthening accountability across Pakistan's justice

Mr. Jeroen Willems, Head of Cooperation at the European Union Delegation to Pakistan, reaffirmed: "As the European Union, we are proud to partner with Pakistan on strengthening its rule of law institutions. Following this EU financed training, I look forward to seeing how these trainers This initiative makes clear that use their new skills to strengthen police

further enable an accessible, inclusive, and gender-responsiveness service to all citizens in Pakistan.

"This initiative has strengthened the foundation for a unified training culture across provinces," noted Mr. Hayat Ali Shah, Director General, Federal Judicial Academy. "By equipping police instructors with survivor-centered approaches, we are moving closer to an accessible, gender-responsive justice system."

In his closing remarks, Hon'ble Justice Mian Gul Hassan Aurangzeb emphasized: "A justice system can only be credible when it protects the most vulnerable. This Training of Trainers reflects our joint responsibility to equip law enforcement with the knowledge and tools to respond effectively to gender-based violence and uphold

pro-women laws."

The training featured specialized sessions on the National Framework for Gender-Responsive Policing, pro-women legislation, curriculum development, and inter-academy learning. It also included a high-level dialogue with Justice Farah Jamshed (Peshawar High Court), MNA Huma Akhter Chughtai, Syeda Tanzeela Sabahat (Secretary LJCP), Umer Riaz (Former DG PVE, NACTA), and senior police leadership, who highlighted pathways for embedding gender-responsive practices into mainstream policing and justice delivery.

This training is part of the EU-financed 19 million euro Deliver Justice Project, which works to strengthen the rule of law, expand access to justice, and protect women and marginalized groups in Pakistan.

IRS and Institute of China and Contemporary Asia, Moscow Sign Landmark MoU

👺 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Institute of Regional Studies (IRS), Islamabad, and the Institute of China and Contemporary Asia (ICCA) of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) today in a significant step toward enhancing academic and strategic collaboration between Pakistan and Russia.

The ceremony was held at Jinnah Hall, Institute of Regional Studies, Islamabad, at 2:30 PM PST (10:30 AM Moscow Time). The event was graced by senior officials, diplomats, and scholars from both institutions, and mutual understanding in an era highlighting the growing importance of rapid geopolitical transformation," of academic diplomacy in fostering

In his opening remarks, Ambassador Jauhar Saleem, President of the Institute of Regional Studies, welcomed the distinguished guests and emphasized the strategic and forward-looking Initiative (BRI), the Shanghai Coopnature of the partnership. He noted that the MoU is more than a formal agreement—it is a gateway to greater



tions and countries.

"This collaboration represents a shared vision for peace, education, Ambassador Saleem stated. "Together, we aim to enhance global and regional insights through joint research, seminars, and scholarly exchanges. Our work will focus on areas of mutual interest such as the Belt and Road eration Organization (SCO), and other regional development frameworks."

He also expressed optimism about

organizing joint cultural and scholarly events. "Let this MoU stand as a symbol of educational progress, economic collaboration, and enduring friendship between Pakistan and Russia," he concluded

Dr. Kirill Babaev, Director of the Institute of China and Contemporary Asia of the Russian Academy of Sciences, expressed his gratitude for the warm welcome and reiterated the importance of academic cooperation between the two institutions.

"We are honored to be part of this promising initiative. This MoU marks joint publications, and dialogue on key engagement between the two institu- co-publishing academic research and a new chapter in our growing relation-

ship with Pakistan-one rooted in mutual respect and shared challenges," Dr. Babaev said. "Our two countries face common regional issues such as geopolitical complexities, infrastructure development, and education reform. This partnership will enable Moscow and Islamabad to build a trustworthy and productive collabo-

He also underlined Pakistan's important role in fostering regional peace and expressed hope that Pakistan's experience and position can contribute to building stability in Afghanistan—an objective both Russia and Pakistan

"This is an exciting and timely cooperation. I see a strong spirit of partnership and look forward to further visits, dialogues, and collaborative research that will bring our people and institutions closer," Dr. Babaev added.

The MoU is a testament to the growing strategic, academic, and cultural linkages between Pakistan and Russia. It aims to facilitate collaborative research, scholarly exchanges, regional and international issues.

New lake formed by mudslide in Gilgit-Baltistan sparks fears of 'catastrophic' floods

ISLAMABAD: A seven-kilometre (4-mile) lake in northern Pakistan, created by a mountain mudslide, is threatening to burst and unleash potentially "catastrophic" floods downstream, officials warned on Satur-

The mud flow descended into the main Ghizer River channel and blocked it completely on Friday, creating the lake in Gilgit-Baltistan province, the National Disaster Management Authority said.

The blockage created a "dam-like structure" that poses a significant threat of bursting, it said in a situation report by its provincial office.

The new lake "can cause a catastrophic flood", said Zakir Hussain, director general of the Provincial Disaster Management Authority.

Four downstream districts — Ghizer, Gilgit, Astore and Diamer face a serious threat, he told Reuters. Ghizer is north of the mountain districts in northwest Pakistan, where

floods triggered by the worst of this year's monsoon rains and cloudbursts have killed nearly 400 people since August 15. A video shared by the national authority on a WhatsApp group where

it issues statements shows black mud sliding down the mountain before landing in the river. Reuters could not independently verify the video, which an official at the authority said was shot by residents.

Similar mud flows landed in the river from different mountainsides, said provincial government spokesperson Faizullah Faraq.

A shepherd on higher ground, the first to spot the mud flow crashing down, alerted villagers and local authorities, he said.

As a result of the warning, he said, nearly 200 people in dozens of scattered houses tucked in the mountainsides and the river's surround-

The lake has started discharging water, meaning the threat of a burst is receding, but flash floods in downstream districts cannot be ruled out until the lake is completely cleared, Faraq said.

The communities downstream have been directed to stay on high alert and vacate areas along the river, he said.

Floods across Pakistan have killed 785 people since the monsoon started in late June, the national authority said, warning of two more rain spells by September 10.

GB govt to build houses for flood victims in collaboration with federal govt: Spokesmperson

№ Nes Desk

ISLAMABAD: Gilgit-Baltistan government has announced that government will build new houses for affected families in collaboration with the $federal\ government.\ Faizullah\ Faraq, spokesperson\ of\ GB\ government$ said that the instructions have been given to further accelerate the rehabilitation of the victims and their first priority is to restore clean water, electricity, roads and communications in all affected areas. During visits to flood hit areas, GB Govt spokesperson met with the victim families and ordered speedy restoration work.

According to Faizullah Faraq, in Ghizer there was slowdown in restoration work and the negligence in disaster management was also seen, they need to be proactive. He said during yesterday flood around 100 houses were affected, from which 55 are completely destroyed. Moreover, 13 houses and a mosque are at serious risk of washing away, the people from 13 houses have been displaced already. The department of construction and communications also needs to do a lot. Due to the creation of an artificial lake thousands of people cannot travel from the surrounding areas, people are facing serious difficulties.

Provincial government spokesperson Faizullah Faraq also met shepherds who saved many people lives in the village. Faizullah said that he reached the shepherds after walking for many hours and these shepherds saved the lives of 300 people by reporting the incident. The three shepherds includes Wasiyat Khan, Ansar and Muhammad Khan, who told the villagers from the top of mountain.

Faizullah conveyed the message of CM Gilgit-Baltistan to shepherds d praised their intelligence courage and sincerity and also said that they will soon be invited by the Chief Minister's Secretariat and will be honored.

Islamabad trails to remain closed on august 24 due to heavy rainfall forecast



ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad administration has announced the closure of multiple hiking trails in the Margalla Hills for August 24, citing safety concerns amid a forecast of very heavy rainfall over the

According to Notification No. 1(20)-HC(G)/2025 issued by the Additional District Magistrate on Saturday, Trail 2, Trail 3, Trail 4, Trail 5 and the trail behind Saidpur Village will remain closed for hikers and visitors.

Authorities have urged the public to comply with the advisory and avoid visiting the hills during this period for their safety.

IBA Karachi's Center for Excellence in Journalism Marks a Decade of Excellence in Evolving the Media Landscape of Pakistan

KARACHI: Center for Excellence in in Pakistan. He hoped this milestone Journalism (CEJ) at IBA celebrated its 10-year journey of shaping the future of Journalism in Pakistan with a grand event titled, "A Decade of Excellence" held at the JS Auditorium, City Campus. The event brought together distinguished journalists, media professionals, academics, diplomats, and students to commemorate IBA-CEJ's contributions in strengthening ethical, innovative, and impactful journalism in Pakistan.

he noted the rise of Artificial Intellibetween nations.

gence and emphasized the need to would encourage meaningful dialogue between jamhoorivat (democracy) and sahafat (journalism), for the greater good of the public and the country.

Mr. Scott Urbom, U. S. Consul General in Karachi, acknowledged the Center's long-standing partnership with the U.S. government in promoting press freedom and empowering journalists, praising CEJ as a leader in advancing professional journalism, nurturing the next generation Speaking on the occasion, Dr. S of dedicated and courageous Pakistani Akbar Zaidi, Executive Director, journalists, and fostering transpar-IBA Karachi, emphasized IBA-CEJ's ency, skills development, and citizen importance in academia and media empowerment. He reaffirmed the U.S. practice. He appreciated the continued commitment to supporting institutions support of the U. S. Consulate in like IBA-CEJ that uphold freedom of Karachi. Reflecting on the past decade, expression and help build stronger ties

re-examine the state of journalism Mir, reflected on the challenges faced by Pakistani media and the way forward. He emphasized that Journalism in Pakistan has become increasingly challenging in recent times, with both overt and subtle forms of censorship restricting open dialogue. In some cases, interviews and programs are unable to air due to various pressures and threats. Such constraints not only limit press freedom but also raise concerns about the broader implications for democratic values and govern-

During the session, renowned journalist, Mr. Azhar Abbas, shared his views, stating that journalists are being harassed and silenced. Reflecting on the current newsroom environment, he said newsrooms are under pressure to toe the line, and in some cases, the very right to ask ques-

Renowned journalist, Mr. Hamid tions is under threat. Mr. Shahzaib Jillani, Director IBA-CEJ, thanked the guests, journalists, and partners for celebrating 10 successful years of the Center. He reflected on how journalists and reporters have benefited from IBA-CEJ's trainings and workshops and acknowledged all those who played a role in shaping IBA-CEJ into a leading center for Journalism.

The event also featured engaging sessions, including a thought-provoking discussion on artificial intelligence in journalism by young innovators, and a fact-checking presentation on countering disinformation led by iVerify. Notable figures such as Dr. Ishrat Husain, Former Dean & Director, IBA Karachi, and Dean, Murrow College of Communication, Washington State University, a Renowned Journalist, Academic messages. Since its inception in 2015, checking initiatives in Pakistan.



Expert, also shared their reflections

Dr. Lawrence Pintak, Founding Leader, and Media Development IBA-CEJ has trained thousands of journalists, collaborated with internaon IBA-CEJ's journey through video tional partners, and pioneered fact-



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 Averago			

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 F	lates
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	180.50	185.50
Bahrain Dinar	751.25	753.75
Canadian Dollar	202.50	207.50
China Yuan	39.01	39.41
Danish Krone	43.6	44
Euro	327.75	329.20
Hong Kong Dollar	35.88	36.23
Indian Rupee	3.15	3.24
Japanese Yen	1.8950	1.9950
Kuwaiti Dinar	917.75	925.75
Malaysian Ringgit	66.4	67.00
NewZealand \$	162.53	164.53
Norwegians Krone	27.47	27.77
Omani Riyal	735.80	738.30
Qatari Riyal	77.05	77.75
Saudi Riyal	75.50	75.65
Singapore Dollar	217	224
Swedish Korona	29.08	29.38
Swiss Franc	347.32	350.07
Thai Bhat	8.58	8.73
U.A.E Dirham	77.2	77.35
UK Pound Sterling	379.20	380.70
US Dollar	283.6	284.1

NA committee on Economic Affairs Division meets

ISLAMABAD: The National Assembly Standing Committee on Economic Affairs Division met under the chairmanship of Sher Ali Arbab and discussed different matters relating to economic growth and progress in the country.

The committee showed its displeasure on the absence of power sector representatives and senior officials from Ministry of Planning Islamabad to brief the committee on their relevant agenda items, said a press release.

The committee unanimously recommended that the Lyari Elevated Freight Corridor (LEFC) be added in the Public Sector Development Program projects. The committee was informed that a comprehensive plan being undertaken by the Ministry of Communications and the National Highway Authority (NHA) to optimize freight movement and enhance

logistical efficiency in the Karachi region. Among the alternatives is the potential development of the Karachi Northern Bypass (KNB). The options under consideration involves a significant upgrade of the existing at-grade, 2-lane KNB highway to a modern, high-capacity 4 to 6 lane

motorway standard. The committee discussed the matter concerning the award of a significant infrastructure contract, valued at approximately Rs172 billion, to M/S Ningxia Communications Construction Company. In light of the concerns raised and to ensure absolute transparency and accountability, the Prime Minister has been urged to intervene in the matter for

immediate inquiry. The committee has further recommended that all work associated with the aforementioned construction firm on this project should be suspended until the inquiry is conclusively completed with all facts and figures comes in front.

Regarding the briefing on NGO's policy, the Ministry representatives said that the initial draft regarding NGO's policy has been forwarded for consideration to the federal cabinet. Upon its approval by the cabinet, the finalized policy will be presented to the Parliament as a legislative proposal to undergo the requisite constitu-

tional process and be enacted into law. The meeting was also attended by officials of Ministry of Economic Affairs and other officers concerned.

SECP defies Auditor General, setting risky precedent

Regulator challenges constitutional audit framework; Market watchdog cites immunity, raising transparency fears

№ Tarig Khattak

ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan has triggered institutional alarm by issuing an extraordinary public rebuttal against Auditor General of Pakistan (AGP) findings, marking the first time a central regulatory body has openly challenged constitutional audit authority through a press release rather than established parliamentary channels.

SECP's August 23 statement represents a calculated departure from institutional norms, directly confronting AGP observations about unlawful pay revisions and revenue deposit failures. The timing itself signals crisis management rather than routine clarification, with the regulator choosing public confrontation over estab-(DAC) procedures.

The commission's defense strategy reveals troubling institutional thinking. By invoking the SECP Act 1997 as a shield against federal oversight, the regulator essentially claims



statutory immunity from standard government accountability mechanisms. SECP wrongly believes its own rules can override the Auditor General's constitutional

Most concerning is SECP's attempt to lished Departmental Accounts Committee reframe accountability structures. The press release emphasizes Policy Board oversight comprising federal secretaries and private sector experts, suggesting this internal mechanism suffices for public accountability. This The reference to July 2025 PAC decisions authority while demonstrating the very logic dangerously undermines the principle favoring SECP raises questions about why communication failures it publicly criticizes.

constitutional audit authority regardless of their governance structures.

The regulator's complaint about "imbalinstitutional failure. SECP admits providing responses to journalists that weren't published, indicating inadequate media relations. Rather than addressing substantive audit concerns, the commission chose to blame media coverage patterns.

Business community leaders expressed publicly dismiss AGP findings based on statutory interpretation, every autonomous body will follow suit, warned an insurance veteran. oversight. This could systematically weaken This erodes the entire federal accountability framework, he added.

The procedural contradictions in SECP's denying receipt of DAC invitations, the commission simultaneously acknowledges

that all public institutions remain subject to similar issues resurface if previously settled conclusively.

SECP's market-driven justification for compensation packages reflects private sector anced media reporting" exposes another thinking inappropriately applied to public institutions. The emphasis on "exceptional expertise" and "market competitiveness" suggests the regulator views itself as exempt from federal pay scale discipline, creating potential conflicts with broader government compensation policies.

The constitutional implications extend alarm at the precedent. If the SECP can beyond SECP. By challenging AGP authority so directly, the market watchdog risks encouraging other statutory bodies to resist audit the constitutional audit framework designed to ensure public sector accountability.

SECP's unprecedented rebuttal ultistatement compound concerns. While mately undermines both its own institutional standing and Pakistan's broader accountability architecture, setting a dangerous precthat the matter will proceed to DAC review. edent that threatens constitutional audit

Dangerous

ISLAMABAD: A view of the electric box with no precautions and safety measure at I-8 Markaz, which may proves harm to the Citizens especially during rainy season in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

2nd International Solar Power Conclave & Solar Excellence Awards 2025 scheduled for Aug 28 in Lahore

Example 2 Commerce Desk

LAHORE: The city of Lahore is set to host one of the country's most significant renewable energy gatherings, the 2nd International Solar Power Conclave & Solar Excellence Awards 2025, taking place on 28th August 2025 at the Nishat Hotel. The event is being organised by Energy Update in association with the Private Power & Infrastructure Board (PPIB), the Pakistan Solar Association (PSA), the Pakistan Alternative Energy Association (PAEA), and the Renewable Energy Association of Paki-

The keynote address will be delivered by Mr Shah Jehan Mirza, Managing Director of PPIB. He will be joined by Mr Faizan Ali Shah, member of the Prime Minister's Solarization Committee, and Mr Waqas Moosa, Chairman of the Pakistan Solar Association, who will discuss the government's solarisation agenda and the importance of private sector partnership in advancing renewable energy initiatives.

The programme will also feature insights from leading international and domestic industry figures, including Mr Ali Zain Malhi, Channel Manager Nationwide Huawei Digital Power Pakistan, Faraz Solar, Mr Hamza Sajid from Solis Inverters, Industry.



Muhammad Khan, Sales Strategy & Devel- Engineer Mian Fahad, Country Director opment Manager, Jinko Solar Co., Ltd. and Mr Dany Song, Director of the Product Centre at Risen Energy, alongside prom-Waqas Khaleeq, Chief Executive of Smart

of Growatt New Energy, Mr Zakir Ali, Chief Executive of Inverex Solar Energy, Mr Faaz Diwan, Director of Diwan Interinent national representatives such as Mr national, and Mr AbuZar Shad, President of the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and

Delegation of Faisalabad Chambers led by President **Rehan Naseem** Bharara left for Japan

跨 Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: 12-member trade delegation led by Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry President Rehan Naseem Bharara has left for Japan on a ten-day visit. In addition to meetings with industrial and business figures in Japan, the delegation will also visit the offices of Japan External Trade Organization and Japan Textile Importers Association, in which discussions will be held to enhance bilateral trade relations. The members of the delegation will also review the launch Bharara has left for Japan of joint projects in Pakistan on a visit. In his absence, with Japanese technologies. Senior Vice President Qaiser President Rehan Naseem Bharara said in his brief the duties of the acting presmessage before departure ident.



that he will make every effort to make the visit fruitful.

Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry President Rehan Naseem Shams Gacha will perform

Business-friendly reforms imperative to attract foreign direct investment: ICCI **President**

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The leadership of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) has stressed the urgent need for comprehensive reforms to improve the ease of doing business in Pakistan, terming it vital for attracting investment, boosting economic activity, and creating employment opportunities. They said that despite efforts in recent years, businesses continue to face challenges in regulatory compliance, taxation, energy availability, and infrastructure which hinder competi-

President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Nasir Mansoor Qureshi, said that the business community is ready to to lag behind.

play its role in strengthening the economy, but requires a more business-friendly environment to thrive. He emphasized that reducing red tape, ensuring policy consistency, and providing one-window facilitation for investors are key steps that the government must take on priority. He added that special focus should be given to SMEs, which form the backbone of Pakistan's economy, by simplifying licensing procedures, expanding access to finance, and offering digital solutions for regulatory processes.

Abdul Rehman Siddiqui highlighted that regional competitors have made significant progress by adopting business-friendly reforms, and Pakistan cannot afford

Senior Vice President

SECP Rebuts Observations in AGP Report

Example 2 Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) strongly refutes the observations contained in the Consolidated Audit Report 2024-25 of the Auditor General of Pakistan, by the imbalanced reporting and it will be taken up at which allege that revisions in of the matter in the media, pay and allowances of SECP employees were made unlawfully and without due process. The report also mentions that SECP failed to deposit reve-

Fund. All decisions and actions cited above, by the Commission, have been taken strictly in accordance with the SECP Act, 1997, and with the due approval of the competent authority.

The SECP is also dismayed as the objections raised were reported but responses by SECP, mentioned in the report, were not shared, Certain sections also reported that nues and surplus balance SECP was invited to discuss

into the Federal Consolidated the matter in Departmental raised by the AGP in the past, Accounts Committee (DAC) meeting to which no response was given by SECP, which is factually incorrect, as no such invite was received.

The report is currently based on observations only the Departmental Accounts Committee (DAC) level, where opinions from both AGP and concluding on the matter.

which were initially discussed in the Departmental Accounts Committee (DAC) and were conclusively settled by the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) in July 2025 in favor of the legal position taken by SECP. It is regrettable that despite the decision, the issue has been raised again without seeking the opinion from the SECP will be sought before Finance or Law Ministry, however, SECP is confident It may be recalled that that the matter will be settled



similar observations were at the Departmental Accounts Committee stage, based on the existing precedent.

Naqvi eyes cricket growth in **BoG** meeting

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Chairman Mohsin Naqvi chaired the 80th meeting of the PCB Board of Governors. The meeting focused on improving cricket quality across Pakistan. Members of the board, including Anwar Ghani and Zaheer Abbas, attended the session. PCB officials, such as COO Sameer Ahmed and PSL CEO Salman Naseer, also took part. The board discussed important strategies to strengthen Pakistan's cricket.

During the meeting, the board reviewed team performance in international cricket. They emphasized promoting young talent through grassroots programs. Women's cricket development received special attention, with detailed plans to grow the sport. Domestic cricket was also a key topic of discussion. The board stressed the need for continuous improvement to stay competitive internationally.

The upgradation of High Performance Centers was another major point on the agenda. These centers aim to train top athletes and nurture future stars. The board approved updated financial rules for the PCB. They also reappointed auditors for the current financial year. These financial decisions will help maintain



transparency and good governance.

Furthermore, the board approved procedural changes to adopt the Global Anti-Corruption Code. This move will help fight corruption and keep cricket clean. Changes to club scrutiny procedures were also ratified. The meeting stronger governance. Chairman Naqvi positive changes in the near future.

confirmed decisions made in previous led efforts to enhance team performance board meetings. These actions highlight and development programs. The board the PCB's commitment to reform and integrity.

In conclusion, the 80th PCB Board meeting focused on cricket growth and

also pushed for financial discipline and anti-corruption measures. Their combined efforts aim to take Pakistan cricket to new heights. Fans can expect

Lahore Cricket Club Wins Lahore One Day Cricket Championship Final

跨 Tahir Amin Malik

In an exciting final at Lahore, Lahore Cricket Club clinched the Lahore One Day Cricket Championship title after defeated Central Park Cricket Club on the basis of a better run rate.

Central Park posted a strong total of 243 for 6 in 35 overs, led by Saad Siddiqui 57. Daniyal Ahmed 56, and key contributions from M. Zaman (42), Ahsan Kaleem (32), and Arslan Arshad (31). Muhammed Ayyan 43 for 2, Naimant Ali 36 for 1 and Sagar 37 for 1. In reply, Lahore Cricket Club scored 107 for 3 in 15 overs when match was stoped due to heavy rain. We saw with standout performances by Ghazanfar Ali (32), Hamza Khan not out 24, and M. Arslan (16). Sajid Ali 36 for 2 and Ahsan kaleem 23 for 1. Umpires Qaiser Waheed, Irfan Dilshad and Azhar Hussain Scorer of Final.

The prize distribution was ceremony was held after the final. The Chief Guest was Ex. Test Cricketer Mr. Shahid Nazir along with Muhammad Kaleem, Sports Manager Central park and Nadeem

Ali Captain of (Lahore Cricket club),



While Runner up Trophy to Ahsan kaleem (Central park) Final man of the park) Winner Trophy was given to Naimant match Hamza khan (Lahore Cricket

Best Batsman Saad Siddiqui (Central

Best Bowler Ahsan kaleem (Central

Emerging players, Muhammed Ayyan (Lahore C. C)

Ubaid Akhtar (Central park) and Sahil

Nadeem (Central park)

Faisal Gymkhana and Malir Gymkhana moved into Final

Sports Desk

KARACHI: Faisal Gymkhana and Malir Gymkhana moved into the Final of the Y. J. Sports Zone-IV T-20 Inter Club Cricket Tournament at RLCA Gulberg Ground.

The highlights of the days play was brilliant Centuries by Test Cricketer Khurram Manzoor 154 with 18 boundaries 10 huge Sixes just 62 balls, Lal Kumar 134 with 15 fours 8 Sixes in 66 balls and Daniyal Ahsan 121 with 11 boundaries 8 Sixes in 55 balls.

Scores in Brief:

Faisal Gymkhana thrilling 2 runs victory against Sindh Rana Cricket Club at RLCA Gulberg Ground in the Morning session. Faisal Gymkhana 175/9 in 20 Overs. Muhammad Afzal 44 8x4 1x6, Fayyaz Hussain 36, Arsalan Farzand 33. Atif 3/33, S. Khan 2/25, M. Hameed



In reply Sindh Rana Cricket Club 173/7 in 20 overs. Atif 54 5x5 1x6, Hafeezullah 43, Kamran Khan 32. Muhammad Afzal 2/12.

After the Match Muhammad Afzal

declared man of the Match. In the another Match Malir Gymkhana beat Azeempura Gymkhana by 57 runs in the after noon at RLCA Gulberg Ground. Malir Gymkhana 291/3 in 20 Overs. Test Cricketer Khurram Manzoor 154 18x4 10 x6, Daniyal Ahsan 122 11x4 8x6, Kamran

In reply Azeempura Gymkhana 234/5 in 20 Overs. Lal Kumar 134 15x4 8x6, Waleed Ahmed 75 10x4 2x6. M. Hadi 2/41, Rao Abdul Raheem 2/52.

After the end of the Match S. M. Asim Vice President Zone-IV given the Man of the Match Award to Test Cricketer Khurram Manzoor.

Harvey's ton helps Adelaide Strikers to seal semi-final spot in Top End T20

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: An unbeaten century from Mackenzie Harvey propelled the Adelaide Strikers Academy to a seven-wicket victory over Bangladesh A on Saturday, securing their place in the semi-finals of the Top End T20 Series being played in Darwin.

Chasing a competitive target of 176 at the Marrara Cricket Ground No. 2, the Strikers achieved the target with a

comfortable 11 balls to spare. Harvey crafted a scintillating 102 not out from just 53 deliveries, laced with 16 fours and one six. He received steady support from opener Jake Winter, who contributed 35 off 35 balls, while Harry Manenti provided a late flurry with a brisk

unbeaten 25 from just 14 deliveries. The Bangladesh-Abowling attack had few answers, with only Saif Hassan and Mrittunjoy Chowdhury managing to take



Earlier, after being put into bat, Bangladesh A posted a respectable total of 175

Jishan Alam was the top scorer with a fine half-century, while Afif Hossain played a crucial supporting role, remaining not out on 49. Alam built a foundation with a 48-run opening stand with Mohammad Naim (15). However, a double-strike from Strikers' bowler Hanno Jacobs, who removed both Alam and Saif Hassan (15) in the same over, checked their momentum.

Jacobs finished as the pick of the

bowlers with figures of 3-32. A strong, unbroken 70-run partnership between Yasir Ali (25) and Afif Hossain then helped Bangladesh A recover to a competitive score. Jerrssis Wadia was the other wicket-taker for the Strikers.

Punjab completes Youth Games trials



Sports Desk

LAHORE: The trials of Punjab's different male and female teams for participation in the First National Youth Games have been completed under the auspices of Punjab Sports Department at the Nishtar Park Sports Complex Gymnasium Hall on

DG Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Khizar Afzaal said that after transparently held trials, the training camps of Punjab's selected male and female teams will start at various venues of Nishtar Park Sports Complex from August 22 (tomorrow).

On the last day, Punjab's volleyball trials were held at Nishtar Park Sports Complex Gymnasium Hall in which more than 100 girls and boys from the all divisions of province participated. The 3-member selection committee comprising Director Sports Rana Nadeem Anjum, MB Javed and Kafaiytullah conducted the trials.

Khizar Afzaal witnessed the trials keenly and monitored the whole selection process minutely. He also appreciated the performance and game techniques of young volleyball players. Director Admin Abid Shaukat and other officials were also present on

It may be noted here that first edition of National Youth Games will be staged at Islamabad from September 7 to 13.

Sindh Hockey teams trial for National youth Games will be held today

Sports Desk

KARACHI: According to the announcement of the Sindh Hockey Association, keeping in view the weather conditions in Karachi, trials will be held under the following program for the formation of the Sindh Hockey Girls/Boys teams for the First National Youth Games 2025 Islamabad.

Therefore, players selected at the divisional level must partic-

Program:

Date: 24th August 2025 (Sunday)

Venue: KHA, Karachi

Timings: Girls: 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Boys: 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM All players must come in their kits.

Bring original FRC/B-Form and two passport-size photo-

Pakistan Makes History by Winning Ice Hockey Championship Title for the First Time

Sports Desk

LAHORE: Punjab Minister for Sports Malik Faisal Ayub Khokhar has extended heartfelt congratulations to the Pakistan team for winning the Latem Cup Division III Ice Hockey Championship held in the United States. The national team created history by defeating Peru 6-1 in the final and securing the title for the very first time.

In his congratulatory message, Malik Faisal Ayub Khokhar said that the Pakistani players have proved that with determination and hard work, no field in the world is beyond our reach. This remarkable achievement will be written in golden letters in the sporting history of Pakistan."

The Minister also praised the performance of the Pakistan women's team, which won the bronze medal in the Division II competition, calling it "a moment of pride for the entire nation."

A total of 62 teams from 17 countries participated in the tournament, yet the Pakistani side remained undefeated throughout the event, showcasing exceptional skill and resilience on the international stage.

Minister Faisal Ayub Khokhar further added that the Punjab Government will continue to take practical measures to promote sports and encourage athletes so that Pakistani youth can achieve even greater success at the global level.

Pakistan secures first position in trail running in African island



Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Waqar Ahmad Nasir secured first position in a dangerous sport of trail running in the East African island of Seychelles. Pakistan not only secured first position but also succeeded in securing 4 more positions in the top 10.

In Seychelles nature trail, Umar Zaman secured second position, while Shahzad Awan was placed fourth. In women, Anum Uzair and Neelab secured positions in top 10.

A 22-kilometer trail race was held in the East African island of Seychelles, in which 169 runners from 16 countries participated in the international race.

The Spokesman

Meeting DHAKA: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, met with a delegation from the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), led by its Secretary General, Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, on Saturday. Photo: PID

Finance Minister urges govt-academia collaboration to shape digital future

Commerce Desk

Finance and Revenue Sena- a balanced regulatory frametor Muhammad Aurangzeb on Saturday stressed the need of government, academia and the private private collaboration to shape sector, he added. Pakistan's digital future as well as harnessing the Blockchain and digital assets for

Addressing the 'Leadership Summit on Blockchain and Digital Assets: Technology and Innovation', which was and digital assets.

economy by fostering financial inclusion, transparency ISLAMABAD: Minister for and efficiency, while ensuring work through collabora-

> The event brought together stakeholders from academia, industry and government to deliberate on the future of blockchain, digital assets and emerging technologies in the next imperative is to actively tion cannot be ignored," he country.

with LUMS the minister embracing technological and Web 3.0 technologies stressed that with millions of innovation to align with the



participate in shaping the new remarked, stressing the need The minister under- economy driven by block- for acknowledgment, educaorganized in collaboration scored the importance of chain, artificial intelligence, tion and structured policy

He noted that an estimated growing trend. Pakistanis, especially youth, global transition towards the 20 to 25 million Pakistanis, already engaged in blockchain digital economy. He high- primarily youth, are already lighted that while Pakistan is engaged in blockchain and tion in Pakistan: financial The country must embrace making strides in achieving digital asset-related activi-

responses to harness this

He emphasized three key drivers for blockchain adopinclusion, transparency and this shift as part of its new macroeconomic stability, the ties. "This scale of participa- speed. By enabling faster, progress on the FATF front.

cheaper and more efficient transactions, blockchain and allied technologies can provide critical solutions for banking, remittances, agriculture, IT, freelancing and

He cited successful initiatives such as the development of e-KYC systems through blockchain, which reduce duplication of compliance processes in banking, as prac-

tions, and monitoring, poten-

tially reversing hard-earned

tical examples of progress. He also outlined the regulatory dimension of this transformation. He cautioned that given the scale of activity. ignoring digital assets could expose Pakistan to risks related to KYC, AML, sanc-

Ahsan Iqbal stresses engineers' role in Pakistan's progress

👺 Bureau Report

LAHORE: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Prof. Ahsan Iqbal has said that Pakistan's engineers are the backbone of national progress and must play a decisive role in transforming the country into a modern, export-oriented economy.

He vowed that Pakistan would become a one-trillion-dollar economy by 2035, with youth and engineers serving as the frontline soldiers of development.

He was addressing a recepin his honour, following the conferment of the prestigious leaders.



Pakistan Civil Award "Nishantion for gratitude hosted by the i-Imtiaz". The event brought Institution of Engineers Paki- together a large number of stan (IEP) here on Saturday engineering professionals, academics, and industry

Ahsan Iqbal said he felt humbled by the recognition and thanked Allah Almighty for the honour. "Receiving

engineer and Minister for to the minister. Planning is a privilege and a not for me alone but for every Pakistani engineer and professional who has contributed to nation building," he said.

Earlier, Prof. Ahsan Iqbal was also presented with a Gold Medal and Lifetime Achievement Award by the Engineering Council of Pakistan and other engineering bodies. Shields were also distributed among distinguished engineers including Engir. Usman Farooq, Engr. Asim Nazeer, Engr. Sohail Basheer, and Engr. Javeed Qureshi, while academics such as Prof. Niaz, Prof. Serosh Lodhi, Naveed Ramzan, Mahmood Saleem, and Abdul Sattar Shakir

IEP Chairman Engr. responsibility. This award is Mansoor Ali Khan, IEP Secretary General Ameer Zameer, Engr. Muhammad Usman Farooq, Engr. Javed Qureshi, Engr. Khalid Basheer, Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) President Engr. Arif Chaudhry, FEISCA Secretary General Engr. Sultan Mehmood, Federation of Engineers of Islamic Countries representative Engr. Sohail Majeed, and former NED University Vice Chancellor Engr. Serosh Hashmat Lodhi also spoke in the ceremony.

A large number of engineers and professionals also attended, including LESCO CEO Ramzan Butt, Dr. Azhar ul Haq, Afzal Goraya, Nishan-e-Imtiaz as both an presented a collective shield Sohail Basheer, Farooq Arbi,

The ministry collected half of the

Hajj expenses as the first instalment,

while the remaining amount will be

received in a second instalment begin-

The estimated cost under the

Officials noted that the collection

of applications was completed earlier

than in previous years. The final selec-

tion of successful pilgrims has now

government scheme ranges between

Rs1.15 million and Rs1.25 million.

ning November 1.

Rana Sana invites political parties to dialogue on 'Charter for Istehkam-e-Pakistan'

跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to Prime Minister (SAPM) on Political Affairs Rana Sanaullah on Saturday invited all political parties to a dialogue on the 'Charter for Istehkam-e-Pakistan'.

Speaking to the media outside the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) building in Lahore, he said that the government was ready to talk on the charter.

He said that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had talked about the dialogue between political parties in front of the country's military leaderprime minister Nawaz Sharif had said issues confronting the country."



ship. "Nobody is bypassing anybody. at a public meeting in Minar-e-Paki-Whatever will be discussed will be stan that it was his 40-year experibrought to the public's knowledge," he ence that all state institutions must said, adding, "Two years ago, former sit together for the resolution of the

Bilawal visits Waris Dino Union Council in Ratodero



B Abdul Ghafoor Sarohi

RATODERO: Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Saturday visited the Waris Dino Union Council of Taluka Ratodero.

Bilawal visited Khair Muhammad Brohi village of Brohi community along with PPP Women's Wing Central President Faryal Talpur. tions to his party representatives to On this occasion, Bilawal and solve these problems of the residents

under-construction houses built under the Sindh People's Housing for flood victims.

Bilawal visited different houses of Khair Muhammad Brohi village and inquired about the situation from the residents. Residents of Khair Muhammad Brohi village informed Bilawal about their problems.

Bilawal issued immediate instruc-Faryal Talpur visited completed and of Khair Muhammad Brohi village.

Imran Khan's nephews named prime suspects in Jinnah House attack case

跨 City Desk

LAHORE: Two nephews of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan, sons of his sister Aleema Khan, have been named as prime suspects in

the May 9 Jinnah House attack case. According to sources, their arrests were made on the basis of concrete

Officials said the two had been wanted for their alleged role in the

violent incidents of May 9, 2023. Both were taken into custody and

booked as central suspects. PTI leader Hassaan Niazi during the 22, 2025.

attack, sources added.

The FIR registered against Shershah accused him of involvement in Khan, Shershah Khan and Shahrez arson, vandalism, torching of police vehicles, and assaults on police personnel.

Police said they have video footage placing him at the scene.

Shershah had initially gone underground after the violence and later fled to London, where he remained in hiding for nearly two years.

He was accused of running a digital campaign against the state during his stay abroad. On his return to Paki-Shershah was arrested alongside stan, police arrested him on August

Bus hostess making TikTok video runs over pedestrians, one killed, two injured

👺 City Desk

bus stand.

RAWALPINDI: A bus hostess in Rawalpindi, attempting to film a TikTok video while at the steering wheel, lost control of the vehicle, killing one pedestrian and injuring two others on Saturday.

According to police sources, the accident occurred outside a private bus stand near Pir Wadhai terminal.

The driver had briefly stepped away to get tea after starting the

engine, leaving the bus unattended. The hostess reportedly took the steering wheel to record a TikTok video, but the vehicle went out of control and rammed into another



Rescue officials confirmed that a passerby, identified as Irshad Hussain, died on the spot.

Two others, 27-year-old Bilal and 19-year-old Aziz, sustained injuries. The collision also damaged three

Police immediately took the bus hostess into custody and shifted the hostess to the local police station for further investigation.

Govt Hajj Scheme 2026: Application process closed after receiving over 118,000 entries

跨 Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The application process under the Government Hajj Scheme 2026 has officially closed after receiving a total of 118,060 applications from across Pakistan, the Ministry of Religious Affairs confirmed on Saturday. According to ministry sources,

applications were accepted strictly on a first-come, first-served basis. The process, which lasted 17 days,

allowed prospective pilgrims to submit applications online and through designated banks.



Applicants submitted requests for both long- and short-duration Hajj applications being accepted.

been determined, with no further Published by: Almass Ayoub Sabir from Zero Point Printers Rawalpindi