



Daily The Spokesman



Karachi gears up for another monsoon spell, Heavy showers expected

The Meteorological Department has forecast a powerful spell of monsoon rain starting from August 27. The rain which lashed the city five days ago left the roads battered, and water was still standing in many areas.



Roads closed due to landslides in Mansehra and Abbottabad

Landslides in the Balakot and Abbottabad tehsils of Mansehra have cut off road links to Kaghan and Murree, leaving area people and tourists stranded. Landslides in Balakot-Hassa tehsil of Mansehra have closed the Kaghan highway, causing severe hardship to tourists and locals. According to sources, Murree Road has been closed for traffic due to a landslide at the Abbottabad Galiyat Batangi location, which left many tourists stranded.

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Called on

DHAKA: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, called on Chief Adviser of Bangladesh, H.E. Professor Muhammad Yunus, on Sunday.



Photo: PID

Pakistan, Bangladesh sign six accords to boost cooperation

Agreements, MoUs signed during Ishaq Dar's historic visit to Dhaka

Spokesman Report

DHAKA: Pakistan and Bangladesh on Sunday signed six agreements and MoUs to expand bilateral cooperation during ministerial-level talks in Dhaka.

The understanding was reached during the visit of Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar to Bangladesh.

Ishaq Dar also led the Pakistani delegation in the ministerial-level talks on Sunday. Foreign Adviser Touhid Hussain led the Bangladeshi delegation.

Several agreements and MoUs were signed during the talks,

including for holders of diplomatic and official passports, cooperation between foreign services academies, and an MoU between the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) and the Bangladesh Strategic Studies Institute.

An agreement was also signed to establish a joint working group for trade promotion between the two countries.

Additional Foreign Secretary Imran Ahmed Siddiqui, Pakistani High Commissioner Imran Haider and Bangladesh High Commissioner to Pakistan Muhamad Iqbal Hussain Khan were also present at the meeting.

Earlier, Ishaq Dar and Foreign Adviser of Bangladesh Touhid Hussain on Sunday reviewed the entire gamut of bilateral relations, including high-level exchanges, trade and economic cooperation, people-to-people contacts, cultural exchanges, cooperation on education and capacity building, and humanitarian issues.

During wide-ranging talks, regional and international issues, including rejuvenation of SAARC and resolution of Palestine and the Rohingya issue, were also discussed, the Foreign Office spokesperson said in a statement.

The talks took place in

a constructive atmosphere, reflecting the existing goodwill and cordiality between the two countries. Both sides agreed to work for further strengthening of bilateral relations," the statement added.

Bangladeshi foreign adviser also hosted a lunch in honour of the deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

Meanwhile: Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar had a breakfast meeting with Bangladesh's Commerce Adviser Sheikh Bashiruddin. Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan also attended the meeting.

The two sides discussed

ways to promote economic and trade cooperation, with special emphasis on increasing trade and promoting connectivity.

On this occasion, Dar interacted with personalities from different walks of life, including advisers to the Bangladeshi government, bureaucrats, leadership of political parties, vice-chancellors, intellectuals and members of think tanks, athletes, artists, journalists, retired generals and others.

In his speech, Ishaq Dar emphasised the brotherly sentiments of the Pakistani people towards the people of Bangladesh.

PM invites 'heroes' from GB who saved human lives



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif has invited 'three heroes' from Gilgit Baltistan who had saved about 300 human lives by providing timely information about the impacts of glacial burst or glacial lake outburst flood (glof) in Ghizer district.

"Wasiyat Khan, Ansar and Muhammad Khan have been invited to Islamabad upon the prime minister's directive", PM Office Media Wing said in a press release on Sunday.

The prime minister would present special awards to these three personalities in recognition of their role for conveying prior information about the glof in Ghizer district, thus saving hundreds of lives of the residents.

The prime minister observed that Wasiyat Khan, Ansar and Muhammad Khan were the heroes of the nation as they set an exemplary precedent of responsibility.

He, along with entire nation, felt pride over Gilgit Baltistan heroes, he added.

Rangers rescue flood-trapped people in Ganda Singh Wala



City Desk

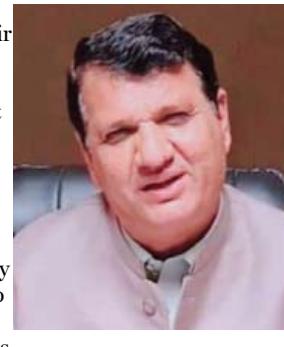
ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Rangers (Punjab), in coordination with other agencies, carried out a rescue operation in Ganda Singh Wala area of district Kasur and shifted the people, trapped in flood, to a safer place.

During the rescue opera-

tion, the victims' belongings were also securely transferred. Given the ongoing flood situation, Rangers remain in constant communication with other rescue organizations. Pakistan Rangers (Punjab) personnel are fully prepared to carry out relief activities in response to any unforeseen emergency.

Federal Govt takes all measures to provide relief to flood victims: Muqam

Correspondent



SWAT: Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs, Gilgit-Baltistan, SAFRON, and Provincial President of Pakistan Muslim League (N), Engineer Amir Muqam, said here Sunday the federal government has taken every possible measures to ease the difficulties of the people in areas affected by natural disasters and floods.

He said rehabilitation of floods victims were a big challenge and emphasized that this is a time to rise above politics and serve humanity.

Speaking to party district officials and newly elected village chairmen after an important meeting at the Muslim League House in Sangota here, the Federal Minister said that the Pakistan Muslim League (N) stands shoulder to shoulder with the people and will utilize all resources for the relief and rehabilitation of the flood affected areas.

Engr. Amir Muqam added that in this hour of difficulty, everyone irrespective of political affiliations must come together and support one another, and it is our collective responsibility to not only help the affected families but also provide them with practical assistance at their doorsteps.

Qaiser Sheikh urges 'dialogue' only way forward



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Investment Board Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh Sunday advised PTI to seek compromise and engage in dialogue, while praising PPP and PML-N for addressing political challenges through mutual understanding and cooperation.

In an exclusive interview with PTV News Channel, Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh urged PTI to move beyond confrontation and engage in meaningful discussions to ensure stability and progress for the country.

Sheikh pointed out that the vision shared by allied parties, especially PPP and PML-N has been effective in navigating

complex political issues.

He stressed that this collective approach was crucial for addressing national concerns and overcoming the ongoing political deadlock.

Sheikh called on PTI to align with this unified vision, recognizing the importance of cooperation over division. He urged all parties to prioritize dialogue and collaboration for the greater good of the nation.

When asked, Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh stated that PPP first proposed collaboration to PTI but now regrets the offer due to PTI's ego-driven response, which he said contradicts democratic principles.

He added that PPP and PML-N are working in unison with mutual understanding.

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PPP Sindh Information Wing meeting held under the chairmanship of Sharjeel Memony

By Abdul Ghafoor Sarohi

HYDERABAD: A key meeting of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Sindh Information Wing was held under the chairmanship of Sindh Senior Minister and Information Secretary Sharjeel Inam Memon. During the meeting, Sharjeel Inam Memon said that the provincial government is continuing its tradition of public service and development projects, and a network of development works has been spread across every district of Sindh.

Sharjeel Inam Memon stated that in the health sector, a province-wide



NICVD network has been established where all heart treatments are provided free of cost. The highly expensive

by the government. Advanced facilities have been provided at JPMC and the National Institute of Child Health to deliver world-class treatment to the public.

During the meeting, MNA Sharmila Farooqi said that PPP workers are like a family and their message should be based on reason and courtesy. The meeting was attended by MNA Sharmila Farooqi, Senator Nadeem Bhutto, Saif Qureshi, Ali Ayub, Spokespersons of Sindh government Sumeta Afzal Sayed, Sadia Javed, Barrister Arsalan Islam Shaikh, and divisional and district information secretaries.

Cleaning

BUNER: Rescue workers busy in cleaning historical Pir Baba Mosque after flash floods hit Buner district.



Photo: Online

Possible Modi-Shehbaz meeting at SCO Summit may shift optics, Masood Khan

By Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Former President of Azad Jammu and Kashmir and Pakistan's former ambassador to China and the United States, Sardar Masood Khan, has said that if Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif meet on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit in early September, the political optics would be very important, as it would mark the first high-level engagement between the two countries following the war.

He noted that the U.S. President has already indicated that dialogue between Pakistan and India could take place in a third country. In the

past, Qatar and some Nordic nations were considered as possible venues. However, if such a meeting takes place in China, it would be premature to draw definitive conclusions about its outcome.

In an interview with a private television channel, Sardar Masood Khan described the China-Pakistan-Afghanistan trilateral talks as a significant breakthrough. He said that for the past two years, the Taliban government in Kabul has been assuring Pakistan that the Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and other militant groups would not be allowed to use Afghan soil against Pakistan. According to him, negotiations at the level of foreign ministers, interior ministers, and special envoys have been ongoing, and the time has



now come to translate these commitments into practical steps.

He added that Chinese mediation has helped improve relations between

Islamabad and Kabul. Pakistan's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister has already visited Kabul, and both sides have agreed to resolve core differences. Pakistan's foremost priority, he emphasized, is the elimination of terrorism and the dismantling of TTP sanctuaries operating from Afghan territory.

The former ambassador revealed that the Taliban government has assured Pakistan that TTP bases would be relocated from the border areas to central and western Afghanistan to prevent cross-border terrorist attacks. He further said that Pakistan has consistently maintained that India exerts influence over the TTP and seeks to sow mistrust between Islamabad and Kabul.

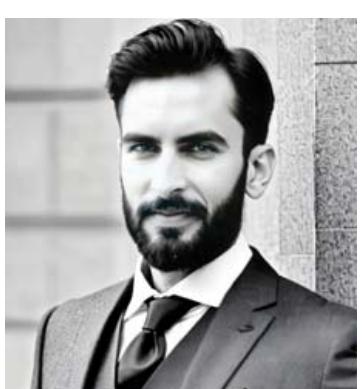
UAJK Faculty Member Secures Prestigious Türkiye Burslari Scholarship for Master's Studies

By Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: The Department of International Relations at the University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (UAJK) has added another feather to its cap of academic excellence and international recognition. One of its young faculty members, Mr. Saqlain Naqvi, currently serving as visiting Lecturer and Research Associate, has been awarded the prestigious Türkiye Burslari fully-funded scholarship to pursue his Master's degree in International Relations.

Mr. Naqvi's remarkable achievement not only reflects his dedication and perseverance but also highlights the department's growing reputation for nurturing globally competitive scholars who excel on international platforms.

Beginning his academic journey at UAJK in 2017 as a BS student at the Kashmir Institute of Economics, Mr. Naqvi quickly distinguished himself through talent and hard work. In



2018, he earned a place in the highly competitive YÖK-Pakistan Scholarship Program, which enabled him to pursue his undergraduate studies in Türkiye marking the start of his international academic career.

His consistent pursuit of excellence led to further achievements, including the Erasmus+ scholarship in 2021 to study at the University of Bielsko-Biala

in Poland. The following year, he secured another Erasmus+ nomination, which gave him the opportunity to study at the Lithuania Business University of Applied Sciences (Lithuania) and the Pomeranian University in Szczecin (Poland). These experiences broadened his academic horizons and deepened his understanding of global politics and diplomacy.

In 2023, Mr. Naqvi graduated in International Relations with an impressive 93.23% marks, earning the distinction of High Honour Student. After returning to Pakistan, he joined the Department of International Relations at UAJK as a Visiting Lecturer and Research Associate, where he has since contributed to teaching, research, and curriculum development. His global exposure has brought fresh perspectives and innovative teaching methods to the classroom, earning him praise from both colleagues and students.

Securing the prestigious Türkiye Burslari Scholarship now marks

another milestone in his academic journey. This highly competitive award, offered by the Turkish government, provides full financial support to international students pursuing higher education in Türkiye.

Reflecting on his journey, Mr. Naqvi expressed heartfelt gratitude to UAJK for its constant support from its initial nomination for the YÖK-Pakistan Scholarship in 2018 to his current role as Lecturer and Research Associate. He acknowledged the mentorship, guidance, and encouragement provided by faculty and administration, which gave him the confidence to represent UAJK at international forums.

The University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir and its Department of International Relations have lauded Mr. Naqvi's achievement as a source of inspiration for current and future students. His journey, they noted, demonstrates how perseverance, dedication, and the right institutional support can open doors to extraordinary opportunities.

No minister from AJK met the Prime Minister of Pakistan

By Spokesman Report



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Muslim League (N) Azad Jammu and Kashmir Central Secretary for Information Barrister Syed Iftikhar Gilani, while expressing his reaction to the news circulating on social media regarding the meeting of some ministers of the Azad Kashmir government with Prime Minister of Pakistan Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif and their joining the Muslim League (N), said that the rumor mills should stop. No minister of Azad Kashmir has met the Prime Minister of Pakistan and no matter of joining is under consideration. The Pakistan Muslim League (N) has electables in all constituencies and we do not need these seasonal birds. He said that some ministers, afraid of the popularity of the Pakistan Muslim League (N) government, are spreading fabricated and fake news on social media through their supporters to save their declining political reputation and sinking boat so that those who are leaving them can be stopped. Barrister Syed Iftikhar Gilani termed such fake propaganda as a premature admission of defeat by the opponents and said that due to the day-to-day hard work of PML-N Azad Jammu and Kashmir President Jamaat Shah Ghulam Qadir and PML-N workers, PML-N has become the largest political force in Azad Kashmir and, God willing, it will form the government with a two-thirds majority in the upcoming elections in Azad Kashmir.

Shah Ghulam Qadir and Chaudhry Riaz meet, discussed political situation of AJK

By Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Muslim League (N) Azad Kashmir President Shah Ghulam Qadir met with Pakistan Peoples Party senior leader Chaudhry Muhammad Riaz at his residence in which the overall political situation of Azad Kashmir was discussed in detail. It was agreed in the meeting that if appointments are made to all other constitutional and major posts in Azad Kashmir including the Chief Election Commissioner, without consulting the two major parliamentary parties, we will never accept it. And in response to this, both parties will decide on a course of action. In response to a question, both leaders have announced that in the upcoming general elections of Azad Kashmir, the PPP Azad Kashmir and the Muslim League (N) Azad Kashmir will not field a joint candidate in any constituency, but rather both parties will field their own candidates in all constituencies.



Delay of appointment Chief Election Commissioner is a question mark: Chaudhry Latif

By Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: Speaker Legislative Assembly Senior Parliamentarian Chaudhry Latif Akbar said that the continuous delay in the appointment of the Chief Election Commissioner is hindering the updating of the electoral rolls and is a question mark on the transparency and impartiality of the general elections. The federal government is committed to holding clean, transparent and impartial elections in Azad Kashmir as per the constitutional requirements. We cannot allow any aspirant to take any action beyond the constitution. The People's Party is the protector of the constitution and the law and has been fighting the longest for the free exercise of the people's right to vote. The people of Kashmir expect improvement from the government led by President Pakistan Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Mian Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif, but some are trying to put national interests at stake in the context of sweet, sweet, hip, yip, bitter, bitter, spit. The great victory we achieved in the battle of Haq Bonyan Marsus under the leadership of Hafiz Syed Asim Mahmood and the disgraced India has suffered on the planet is a lesson for future generations. Meanwhile, Chaudhry Latif Akbar said, while issuing instructions to the workers, that they should start the election campaign up to the grassroots level throughout the length and breadth of Azad Kashmir. The PPP will also achieve a great success in the general elections by trampling all the palace conspiracies under their feet and will complete the incomplete agenda of serving the people by forming the government. He said that the ideological followers, voters, and supporters of the PPP will get good news. One is the formation of a government in Azad Kashmir.



Federal Minister Ahsan vows to provide basic facilities to people of Gwadar



QUETTA: Federal Minister for Planning, Development & Social Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal on Sunday chaired a meeting regarding water and power issues in Gwadar to provide facilities to people of the area.

The meeting was attended by Chief Secretary Balochistan Shakeel Qadir Khan, Secretary Power Division and Chief Executive Officer QESCO, Director General Gwadar Development Authority Moinur Rehman Khan, Chairman Gwadar Port Noorul Haq Baloch and Deputy Commissioner Gwadar Hamoodur Rehman.

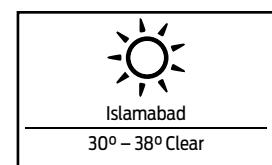
According to a statement issued by the spokesperson of the Public Relations and Information Department of Balochistan.

The meeting discussed in detail the power shortage and water issues in Gwadar.

The Federal Minister for Planning directed that the establishment of a 170 MW solar plant in Gwadar would be reviewed so that an uninterrupted supply of water and power for domestic and industrial needs could be possible.

On this occasion, it was decided that 2 MW of power would be provided immediately to ensure water supply in Gwadar so that the problems arising in water supply due to power shortage could be remedied.

The meeting was briefed that the water level in Shadi Kaur Dam has increased due to recent rains and the work of supplying water to Gwadar from there is underway, which would be completed in a few days. However, for effective distribution of water, continuous and balanced electricity is required, for which immediate arrangements are necessary.


SERVICES
Namaz Timings

Fajr	4:08 am
Zohr	12:10 pm
Asr	4:51 pm
Magrib	6:44 pm
Isha	8:12 pm

EMERGENCY

Rescue (Police)	15
Bomb Disposal	15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/ Islamabad	1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance	1122 & 8888
& Rescue Services	445122
Motorway Police	9266044
Motorway Police	9270601-20

ENQUIRY

Edhi Ambulance	115
PIA Flight Info	114
PIA Cargo	9280979
Railway Inquiry	117
Railway Exchange	9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi	5555489
CAA	4603666

HOSPITALS

CMH	561111
MH	561116
MH	561116
Cantt Hospital	9270907-11
DHQ	555631-4
RGH	9290301-7
Holy Family	9290322-7
PIMS	9216170-97
Polyclinic	9218300-09
Shifa International	4603666

DEPARTMENTS

CDA	9212334-43
CDA	9208301-04
Met Office	9250360-6
RDA	5555864
TMA	5770886
Cantonment Board	9270151-3
Islamabad Metropolitan Corporation	9209224
Potowar Town	9209224
Rawal Town	5773343

COMPLAINTS

Water Tanker Service	
E-7, F-10 & F-11	9204654
G-5, G-6, G-7, G-8	9203883
G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, H-8	92266316
Wapda Islamabad	9217579-80
Sui Gas Complaint	119, 9272249
Wasa Water Tank	
Rawalpindi	0331-5022125

Govt should immediately speed up the relief operation for the flood affected families

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Independent candidate of National Assembly Nawabzada Aamir Khan Babar expressed deep grief and sorrow over the devastation caused by floods across the country. The rains have caused severe loss of life and property to the people. The victims are forced to live under the open sky which is sad. The government should immediately speed up the relief operation for the affected families. He expressed these views while talking to the media while visiting the flood-affected areas of Muzaffargarh and its suburbs. Nawabzada Aamir Khan Babar further said that it is necessary to announce a special package by the government to compensate the victims. He also appealed to the philanthropists to go ahead and help the affected people. He said that the flood victims cannot be left alone in this difficult time. Pakistan The Chief Minister and all the social and religious parties of the country have appealed to them to immediately help the flood-affected areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab and provide them with rations and necessities of life on an emergency basis. They have come to the streets and they are in dire need of ration and medicine at this time.

CM Maryam Labor-Friendly Policies Start

Bureau Report


LAHORE: On directions of Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif, applications have been invited for the allotment of flats to industrial workers. She has allocated a 3% quota for the widows of deceased industrial workers, while disabled workers will also have a 2% quota in the flat allotment process. In Phase-I, applications have been invited from industrial workers of Lahore and Kasur districts for the purpose. The process has started in Workers Welfare Complex Sundar Industrial Estate Kasur Phase-I, where 750 flats will be given free of cost to industrial workers.

Madam Chief Minister noted, "Facility to get application forms from the website from home for industrial workers of Lahore and Kasur districts has been launched." She added, "Forms can also be obtained from the office of Director Labor Welfare North and Deputy Director Labor Welfare Kasur for South for free."

She highlighted, "Last date for the submission of applications is September 8." On directions of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, two-thirds of housing unit quota has been fixed for industrial workers of Kasur district and one-third for workers of Lahore district. She was apprised by the auth-

orities concerned, "Workers can apply from home at www.pwwf.punjab.gov.pk and www.labour.punjab.gov.pk." They added, "Industrial workers can also contact 049-2724261, 0331-4436944, in addition to Punjab Welfare Fund contact number 042-99260240 for seeking guidance and necessary information."

Enjoyment

KHANPUR: People enjoying boat riding at Khanpur Dam, as the water level increase in Dam after the heavy monsoon rains.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Severe Shortage of Meter Readers in MEPCO: Workers Forced into Extreme Exploitation

Special Correspondent


MULTAN: MEPCO is facing a severe shortage of meter readers, leaving the existing staff in miserable conditions. Against the official yardstick of 100 meters per day, meter readers are being forced to record readings of up to 600 meters daily. Their official weekly holidays on Saturday and Sunday have also been withdrawn.

Meter readers start work at 5 a.m. and continue until 6 p.m. without any rest, and even after returning home, they remain engaged late into the night with adjustment work. On average, they manage only 4 hours of sleep before resuming duty again the next morning. This excessive workload and lack of rest is severely deteriorating their health.

According to sources, no new recruitments have been made for many years. Meanwhile, a large number of meter readers have retired or passed away, while the number of electricity connections has tripled. As a result, the burden has fallen entirely on the remaining few workers, pushing the situation into a crisis.

The distressed meter readers have appealed to the MEPCO Board of Directors and private CEOs, who enjoy heavy perks and privileges, by the Daily Spokesman to take notice and resolve the issue.

When MEPCO's spokes-

person was approached for their stance, it was stated that...sufficient number of staff is available, and the recently inducted GENCO personnel will also be utilized to further strengthen operations. MEPCO is moving decisively towards automation, with smart meters as a top priority to ensure accuracy, transparency, and enhanced consumer confidence while also reducing the workload on staff.

In addition, initiatives like "Apna Meter, Apni Reading" and the Power Smart App are actively facilitating consumers by enabling correct billing and minimizing reliance on meter readers. These steps reflect MEPCO's commitment to consumer convenience, digital innovation, and service excellence.

VC Nishtar Medical College University Visited the Outpatient Department

Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Vice Chancellor Nishtar Medical University Prof. Dr. Mehnaz Khakwani, along with Principal Nishtar Medical College Prof. Rashid Qamar Rao and Medical Superintendent Nishtar Hospital Rao Amjad Ali Khan, visited the Outpatient Department of Nishtar Hospital in detail. AMS Outpatient Dr. Anjum Iqbal briefed the Vice Chancellor Nishtar Medical University about the details

of the medical and other facilities provided in the department. Vice Chancellor Nishtar Medical College University Prof. During the Outpatient Department, She told the doctors and staff of Nishtar Hospital that according to the vision of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, all patients coming to Nishtar Hospital should be provided with the best possible treatment facilities and free medicines should also be ensured to the patients. Lab tests, X-rays, ultrasounds,

CT scans and MRIs should be done on a priority basis for the patients. Emergency patients should be given all possible and immediate medical assistance and they should be treated on an emergency basis and blood supply should be ensured in the blood bank 24 hours a day. Vice Chancellor Nishtar Medical College University Professor Dr. Mehnaz Khakwani visited the departments of the outdoor department including the registration counter and also visited



Protest and hunger strike in Qasimabad against water crisis & drug menace


Abdul Ghafoor Sarohi

HYDERABAD: On the call of Qasimabad Awami Ittehad, a protest demonstration and symbolic hunger strike were held today in front of the Hyderabad Press Club against the ongoing water crisis and the alarming rise of drug activities in the area. A large number of residents, social activists, and leaders of the alliance participated in the protest.

The protesters expressed grave concern over the suspension of clean drinking water supply in Qasimabad, stating that sewage water is being mixed into the water supply lines, causing the spread of hepatitis and other dangerous diseases. They strongly criticized the Water and Sewerage Board and the district administration, alleging their failure to resolve the issue despite repeated complaints.

Addressing the protest, Qasimabad Awami Ittehad leaders, including Mehboob Abro, senior leader Asad Sahto, Muhammad Ashraf Sheikh, Naveed Memon, Tanveer Sheikh, SUP leader Rasool Bux Laghari, Inayat Thebo, and others, said that the drug trade in the area has become rampant, destroying the lives of the youth and worsening law and order. They condemned the police and administration for remaining silent spectators.

Nation stands with flood victims Sheikh Abdul Waheed

City Desk


ISLAMABAD: President of the Traders Association, Liaquat Road, and political and social leader Sheikh Abdul Waheed stated that the people stand with the flood victims in their time of hardship. He paid tribute to the Pakistan Armed Forces for their relief efforts and emphasized that the public must always remember the services rendered by the military.

In his important statement, Sheikh Abdul Waheed expressed concern over the National Disaster Management Authority's (NDMA) alert, issued for potential rain and flooding across different parts of the country from August 23 to 30. He noted that the destruction caused by rains and floods in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has already displaced many families. Every Pakistani is saddened by the widespread loss of lives and property.

He further stated that in these trying times, everyone must support and uplift the spirits of the affected brothers, sisters, children, and elders. Government-level relief efforts must be accelerated.

Sheikh Abdul Waheed also highlighted the risk of diseases emerging after the floods and stressed that these cannot be ignored. He urged the government to provide timely medical aid while tackling the situation.

Mehfil-e-Milad to mark 1500th Eid Milad-un-Nabi (PBUH) celebrations on August 25th



RAWALPINDI: A grand torch-bearing rally, dazzling illuminations and a grand Mehfil-e-Milad will be held on the 1500th celebrations of Eid Milad-un-Nabi (PBUH) at Astana Aliya Muhammadiya Qadriya Qalandriya, Gulshanabad Sharif, Chungi No. 04.

The spiritual gathering formed part of the 27th Annual 12-Day All Pakistan Eid Milad-un-Nabi Conference, devoted to Tahafuz Khatm-e-Nabuwat and Namus-e-Risalat.

The conference will commence after Maghrib prayers in the chair of Hazrat Qibla Peer Sarkar Ji.

The distinguished religious scholars, national and provincial leaders, and social figures will attend the conference.

The organizers emphasized that the main objective of the conference is to spread the Holy Prophet's (PBUH) eternal message of peace, compassion, and brotherhood.

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Pakistan determined to stand with Kashmiris politically, diplomatically

Pakistan's ambassador to European Union, Belgium and Luxembourg Rahim Hayat Qureshi said Pakistan was determined to stand with Kashmiris, politically, morally, and diplomatically, until their inalienable rights were realized. He was speaking at a conference organized by the Kashmir Council European Union here on the theme of "Jammu & Kashmir in the Current International Political Scenario". Governor of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi attended the conference hosted by Ali Raza Syed, Chairman, Kashmir Council EU.

The ambassador said, "The question of Jammu and Kashmir is intrinsic to Pakistan's diplomatic agenda and moral compass. At its core, it represents a people's right to self-determination, promised under multiple United Nations Security Council resolutions and recognized by the international community." "Despite persistent efforts, the situation remains deeply challenging and the unilateral actions of 5 August 2019 continue to curtail the rights of Kashmiri people. Fundamental freedoms remain suppressed and political expression, mobility, and access to justice are constrained," he remarked. Ambassador Qureshi said, "Yet, the resilience of the Kashmiri people shines through. Their steadfast commitment to justice serves as a powerful beacon for all who believe in the rule of law and human dignity." "Efforts to silence the genuine leadership of the Kashmiri people are part of the wider hegemonic and extremist agenda behind India's illegal occupation of Jammu & Kashmir," he observed, stating, "The imprisonment of Kashmiri leaders and activists, including Shabbir Ahmed Shah, Muhammad Yasin Malik and Masarrat Alam Bhatti will never dim the resolve of our Kashmiri sisters and brothers. The continued defiance of Kashmiris in an environment of unending intimidation across the illegal Indian occupation is further proof of the indomitable courage of the Kashmiri people. India's illegal occupation of Jammu & Kashmir remains the defining conflict in South Asia and the reason for India's continued rogue behaviour." He stressed that India's unprovoked aggression against Pakistan in May 2025, and its swift and comprehensive military defeat were only the latest evidence of the urgent need for the international community to ensure that resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute becomes a global priority. "Honouring the will and aspirations of the Kashmiri people, in accordance with UN Security Council resolutions provides the only path forward towards lasting peace in South Asia," he asserted. The ambassador said, "Our success in Marka-e-Haq and Operation Bunyan-um-Marsoos is a landmark moment in our history. It was a demonstration of unshakable national will, professional excellence, and united purpose. Faced with unjustified Indian aggression, Pakistan responded with clarity, courage and restraint.

Trump's War on Homelessness in the United States

When I lived in Pakistan, homelessness was largely perceived as a problem, confined to the developing world—a symptom of poverty, conflicts, and weak governance. The idea that a resource-rich country like the United States could face a similar crisis seemed unimaginable. Yet, after nearly a year of living here, I have come to realize that homelessness is neither a "third-world problem" nor a rare phenomenon. It is a deep-rooted crisis at the heart of the world's wealthiest nation, silently transforming its social and urban landscape.

President Donald Trump, already grappling with significant domestic and international challenges—including wars in Ukraine and the Middle East, tensions between Pakistan and India, and his claims of having helped defuse multiple global conflicts—has placed homelessness among his top priorities. From Los Angeles to New York City, the evidence is striking: small tents line sidewalks, makeshift shelters occupy public spaces, and families live beneath bridges or in their cars. What might once have been viewed as isolated instances has become a widespread humanitarian emergency.

In the United States, homelessness has reached record levels. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) reported 771,480 Americans experiencing homelessness on a single night in 2024—the highest figure ever recorded. This equals 23 people per 10,000 residents living in shelters, vehicles, or unsheltered conditions. States like California and New York remain epicenters of the crisis: California reports 187,084 homeless individuals (48 per 10,000), while

New York faces an even higher rate, with 158,019 people homeless (81 per 10,000). In Hawaii, the crisis is worsening, with homelessness nearly doubling between 2019 and 2024, rising from 44 to 80 people per 10,000 residents.

The drivers behind this emergency are complex and interconnected. A severe shortage of affordable housing remains at its core, compounded by rising rents, inflation, and stagnating wages. For many middle- and lower-income families, securing stable housing has become impossible. Mental health challenges and lack of access to treatment exacerbate the issue, as do natural disasters and public health crises that displace thousands of families. In some cases, even full-time employment fails to guarantee a roof over one's head, revealing how deeply structural this crisis has become.

Europe faces its own escalating challenges, demonstrating that homelessness is not limited by geography or wealth. Across the European Union and United Kingdom, over one million people sleep without adequate shelter every night. In France, there are 333,000 homeless people—about 30.7 per 10,000 residents. Germany reports 263,000 homeless individuals (25.8 per 10,000), while the UK faces around 400,000 homeless, including over 309,000 in England alone. As in the U.S., the crisis is fueled by soaring housing costs, insufficient welfare systems, migration pressures, and underfunded public housing initiatives.

According to the European Federation

of National Organisations Working with the Homeless (FEANTSA), the lack of affordable housing combined with inadequate social support structures has left governments unprepared to meet growing demands.

Yet some nations have proven that homelessness is neither inevitable nor unsolvable. Japan offers an exceptional example of effective intervention. As

of 2024, the country recorded just 2,820 homeless individuals nationwide, translating to two per 100,000 people—one of the lowest rates in the developed world. Japan's success lies in comprehensive, long-term strategies that integrate permanent housing solutions, job placement programs, mental health care, and social reintegration services. Its model demonstrates that with structured governance and well-funded social policies, the cycle of homelessness can be broken.

Against this global backdrop, President Trump's administration has unveiled an ambitious strategy to address homelessness in America. His plan prioritizes clearing unsafe encampments, expanding affordable housing projects, and partnering with private developers to accelerate construction. Additionally, his administration emphasizes rehabilitation, including mental health support, job training, and pathways to employment, alongside tighter immigration controls, arguing that undocumented migration adds pressure on limited public resources.

However, experts caution that enforcement alone cannot resolve the crisis.

Removing tents and shelters from city streets may improve appearances temporarily but fails to address the structural causes of homelessness. Long-term solutions require a multi-pronged approach: investing in affordable housing, strengthening mental health infrastructure, reforming wage and rent policies, and equipping individuals with the tools to achieve stability. Without these measures, efforts risk displacing vulnerable populations rather than rehabilitating them.

The issue is no longer confined to impoverished regions or war-torn societies; homelessness has emerged as a global challenge that transcends borders, economies, and ideologies. For the United States, Trump's war on homelessness represents both a political commitment and a moral responsibility. Success will depend on whether the country can transition from short-term optics to comprehensive policies that prioritize dignity, opportunity, and inclusivity.

America possesses the resources, innovation, and leadership to combat this crisis effectively. What is needed is a national consensus that homelessness is not a reflection of personal failure but a consequence of systemic gaps. By embracing compassion and collaboration, the U.S. can ensure a future where every citizen has access to safe, secure, and dignified housing—a future where the wealthiest nation on Earth leads not just by economic power but by its ability to care for its most vulnerable.

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



Qamar Bashir



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

Pakistan Under Water: Climate Crises, Army Response & Way Forward

Pakistan is confronting an escalating climate crisis that poses a severe threat to its environment, its economy, and the very livelihoods of millions of its citizens. Climate change has become an undeniable and inescapable reality within the country, manifesting through consistently rising temperatures, increasingly irregular monsoon patterns, accelerating glacial melt, a rising incidence of cloudbursts, and catastrophic floods that destroy entire communities in a matter of hours. Pakistan, despite being one of the smallest contributors to global greenhouse gas emissions, is consistently ranked among the most climate-vulnerable countries in the world. Its geographic location, diverse topography, and heavy economic dependency on climate-sensitive agriculture further exacerbate its susceptibility to climate-related hazards. In recent years, the heightened intensity and frequency of floods, particularly those triggered by cloudbursts and glacial melt, have caused immense destruction in both rural and urban settings. If Pakistan is to not only survive but thrive in the face of these mounting threats, it must adopt an urgent, comprehensive, and multi-pronged approach to tackle climate change, mitigate the risk of cloudbursts, and manage floods in a more sustainable and effective manner.

To tackle this, city administrations must invest heavily in modern, high-capacity drainage and sewage systems that can handle intense downpours. Urban flooding can be minimized through the construction of rainwater harvesting systems, the use of permeable pavements, the installation of green rooftops, and the digging of artificial recharge wells. Zoning laws must be strictly enforced to prevent construction in topograph-

ically vulnerable areas and illegal encroachments on stormwater drains and riverbeds must be removed without delay. Public awareness campaigns should accompany these infrastructural and regulatory reforms to promote responsible urban living and encourage active community participation in flood prevention efforts.

Pakistan should also play a more active and assertive role in international climate diplomacy. Given its extreme vulnerability, it must consistently advocate for climate justice on global platforms and forcefully demand financial and technical support from wealthier nations that are historically responsible for the vast majority of the climate crisis. International climate finance, particularly funds earmarked for adaptation projects, should be secured through mechanisms

like the Green Climate Fund and the Loss and Damage Fund established under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). These financial resources can be strategically used to build resilient infrastructure, support communities displaced by climate impacts, and create new job opportunities in green and climate-friendly sectors.

Education and public awareness are absolutely vital to fostering long-term climate resilience. Climate literacy should be integrated into the national curriculum at all levels, from primary through to higher education. Citizens need to understand the causes and consequences of climate change, recognize how their everyday actions contribute to the problem, and learn what they can do to be part of the solution. The media, religious leaders, non-governmental organizations, and community-based organizations must all play their part in fostering a

widespread culture of environmental responsibility and stewardship. Youth, in particular, must be empowered and given the platform to lead the charge for sustainability, innovation, and climate activism.

While the Pakistan Army has performed an excellent and commendable job during such disasters, it is equally imperative that civilian departments are also well-equipped, well-trained, and well-organized to tackle disasters effectively. The civilian administration, like in many other countries around the world, should be capable of serving as the first responders, utilizing the specialized services of the Army only in cases of extreme urgency and when civilian capacity is overwhelmed. The Pakistan Army is already tasked with addressing other critical national issues, including defense and counter-terrorism, which themselves represent significant commitments. Civilian departments must be strengthened and professionalized to deal with disasters competently, thereby keeping vital military resources available for other external and internal security challenges.

Pakistan's battle against climate change, cloudbursts, and floods is not a conflict that can be won with temporary fixes or reactive measures. It requires a holistic, multi-sectoral strategy that thoughtfully integrates environmental protection with economic development, disaster management with forward-looking urban planning, and scientific insight with active community engagement. The time for action is not at some point in the future; it is now. Every day of delay comes with a higher cost—measured in lives lost, homes destroyed, and futures irrevocably jeopardized. Only through a united national effort, guided by visionary leadership and robustly supported by the international community, can Pakistan hope to weather the coming storms of climate change and emerge as a more resilient, equitable, and sustainable nation for generations to come.



Abdul Basit Alvi

The dilapidated condition of Sindh's Barrages...!!

Analysis

Rahmatullah Burio

E motion has not yet died, if it had been so, those whose hearts are hurt would not have felt that pain and feeling, competence and importance have not completely disappeared, it is the

need of the hour to have hope in the good and hope for good in the bad. When someone speaks with compassion on important national, provincial, institutional and public issues of Sindh, he also tells the solutions to these social issues on a compassionate basis. Be it politics or government, public works or institutional administrative responsibility, they have not yet died of emotion.

The death of emotion is also felt as a major step in the destruction of nations and states and which can also be called the final step. Recently, I met a compassionate administrative head, he did not cry, but he seemed to cry while talking with compassion on Sindh's agriculture, Sindh's irrigation system and the administrative insensitivity there.!! When I got up from there, I went to the Irrigation Department office and met Special Secretary Sajid Bhutto. Sajid Bhutto has worked on Sindh's irrigation improvement projects. We had a discussion with the Special Secretary Irrigation about the irrigation system of Sindh and especially the dilapidated condition of Sindh's barrages. In response to a question, he said, "We will meet on Monday."

Duration and current conditions of the barrages.

The Sukkur Barrage was built in 1932, the Kotri Barrage in 1955 and the Guddu Barrage in 1962. The technical age of their design is approximately 60 to 70 years old, which is now over. Many places are in a dilapidated state, some doors are rusted, the machinery is old, and the hydraulic system fails repeatedly.

In such a situation, Sindh's agriculture, equi-

table distribution of water and public safety may be at risk.

Need for a technical committee.

A joint technical committee of expert engineers should be formed to conduct a complete physical, mechanical and hydrological assessment of barrages and canals. Decisions regarding repair projects or construction of alternative new barrages should be made based on the committee's report. Including international experts along with local engineers in such a committee will increase transparency.

Consultation with the design company.

The Sukkur Barrage and Kotri Barrage were designed by the renowned London-based company Rendel, Palmer & Tritton, while the Guddu Barrage was also designed by British experts. Today, when it is the era of modern technology and engineering, the same company or their successors can be consulted so that new solutions can be found according to the technical limitations of the previous design and current needs.

Recommendations for the future.

Technical audits of barrages and canals should be conducted on an annual basis. Introducing modern electronic control systems and hydraulic gates is the need of the hour. Joint projects should be formed with foreign engineering institutions. A new judicial and scientific system should be implemented in water distribution. A major rehabilitation project should be started immediately, so that any potential failure can be avoided. The problem of Sindh's barrages and canals is no longer limited to repairs, but is linked to future agriculture, economy and public safety. The government should not delay now, when the need is to form a committee of experts and prepare new engineering projects on the Indus River in collaboration with international institutions.

Israel seeks to prolong aggression to impose forced displacement through starvation and war

WAFA

RAMALLAH: Nabil Abu Rudeineh, spokesman for President Mahmoud Abbas, warned on Sunday that Israel's refusal to halt its military aggression on Gaza is part of a broader strategy aimed at continuing the genocide and the war of starvation to forcibly displace the Palestinian people.

Abu Rudeineh said Israel is deliberately ignoring international calls for a ceasefire, while pressing ahead with policies that violate international law and UN resolutions, from pursuing displacement policies in Gaza to accelerating settlement expansion and settler violence across the West Bank.

He cited recent developments in



the village of Al-Mughayyir, where Israeli forces destroyed property and allowed settler violence to escalate unchecked, as part of a broader

campaign seen in Jenin, Tulkarm, and other Palestinian areas.

The presidential spokesperson urged the U.S. administration to take

responsibility for reining in Israel's destructive policies, warning that continued American silence could fuel chaos throughout the entire region. "This silence is unjustified, irresponsible," he said.

Abu Rudeineh called on the international community to take serious and immediate action in response to Israel's disregard for international legitimacy and law, stressing that widespread condemnations — including those from the United Nations and global leaders — must now be translated into concrete pressure.

"It is time to act to stop this war before it's too late," he concluded, urging a decisive global stance to end Israel's campaign of starvation and collective punishment.

Gaza death toll surges to 62,686 amid ongoing Israeli genocide

WAFA



GAZA: At least 64 Palestinians were killed and 278 others were injured in the Gaza Strip over the last 24 hours as a result of the ongoing Israeli genocide in the region, according to medical sources.

Local health authorities confirmed that the Palestinian death toll from the Israeli onslaught since October 2023 has risen to 62,686 fatalities, with an additional 157,951 people sustaining injuries. The majority of the victims are women and children.

According to the same sources, the death toll since Israel's resumption of the genocide on March 18 after a two-month truce has also climbed to 10,842, in addition to 45,910 others injured.

Emergency services are still unable to reach many casualties and dead bodies trapped under the rubble or scattered on roads across the war-torn enclave, as Israeli occupation forces continue to target ambulance and civil defense crews, according to the health authorities.

Israel's genocidal onslaught continues undeterred despite calls from the United Nations Security Council for an immediate ceasefire and directives from the International Court of Justice urging measures to prevent genocide and alleviate the dire humanitarian situation in Gaza.

Maria B denies receiving any summon or such document from authorities

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Designer Maria B, taking to her Instagram, posted a video saying that she remained silent yesterday when the rumor erupted because she had not received any kind of summon and she will explain herself if and when she receives any.

She captioned the post saying, "NO YOU CANT SCARE ME... I WILL ALWAYS SPEAK ABOUT ISLAM and defend the Islamic Family system Insha'Allah????"

Debunking the rumor about the summon, she said, "I haven't received any official notice from a government department, making it premature to comment. A purported notice circulating on social media may be fabricated, as it's concerning that contents of an official letter could be publicly disclosed before receipt. I'll respond appropriately if and when I receive official communication."

She continued saying that she will remain steadfast in her commitment to highlighting and discouraging activities that undermine family values and Islamic principles in Pakistan regardless of the problems she might face. "As guided by our faith," she said, "I'll continue to speak against such evil to protect the future of our children."

Yesterday, a rumor erupted that The National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency has summoned Maria Butt after a complaint was filed against her regarding videos of an alleged immoral party involving members of the transgender community.

In the complaint, Seema Butt alleged that Maria B deliberately highlighted and circulated videos of the party, which, according to the petitioner, not only targeted the transgender community but also amounted to harassment and defamation.

Acting upon the request, the agency had begun formal proceedings into the matter.

Beijing hails Pakistan Army as 'pillar of national stability', 'guardian' of Pak-China friendship

China has reaffirmed its close relationship with Pakistan, calling the Pakistani military a key contributor to regional stability and a steadfast partner in strengthening China-Pakistan ties.

Following a meeting between Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi and Chief of Army Staff Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir on August 21, the Chinese Foreign Ministry issued a statement praising the role of Pakistan's armed forces.

"[The] Pakistani Army is a pillar of national stability and a strong guardian of Pakistan-China friendship and cooperation," the statement read.

As per the Chinese foreign ministry, FM Wang Yi said that Pakistan's military leadership has consistently played a crucial role in strengthening bilateral ties.

"The Pakistani Army has always strongly supported the implementation of key consensuses reached between the leaderships of both countries," the Chinese foreign ministry quoted Wang Yi as saying.

Touching on broader strategic concerns, the Chinese FM emphasized the importance of the partnership amid shifting global dynamics.

"In the face of growing global uncertainties, promoting strong Pakistan-China relations is highly beneficial for regional peace and stability."

He reiterated that China continues to prioritize its ties with Pakistan. "China has always given top priority to Pakistan in its neighbourhood diplomacy," the statement added.

"Despite tough times, Pakistan-China relations have grown even stronger," he noted, highlighting the durability of the bilateral relationship.

"China will continue to fully support Pakistan in safeguarding its regional integrity and national security," Wang Yi said, welcoming Islamabad's increasing presence in global affairs.

According to the Chinese Foreign Ministry, Field Marshal Asim Munir described China as Pakistan's "iron brother," and said both countries have always shared each other's joys and sorrows.

He called the bilateral strategic partnership "as solid as a rock," and stated that maintaining close ties with China is the unanimous stance of the entire Pakistani nation.

The army chief also expressed gratitude to the Chinese leadership for its valuable contribution to Pakistan's economic and social development.

He assured the Chinese side that Pakistan remains committed to enhancing counter-terrorism and security cooperation.

"Efforts will continue to ensure the protection of Chinese personnel, projects, and institutions in Pakistan," Chinese foreign ministry quoted COAS Munir as saying.

The army chief also pledged continued support for deepening the Pakistan-China friendship and furthering development through mutual cooperation.

Women's Handicrafts Exhibition – A Unique Initiative by Academy of Literature

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: Under the auspices of the Academy of Literature Campbellpur Attock, and in line with the vision of Deputy Commissioner Attock, Mr. Rao Atif Raza, a unique self-help based Women's Handicrafts Exhibition was organized for the very first time at the Municipal Committee Hall, Attock. The purpose of this exhibition was to highlight the hard work and skills of talented women at a public level.

Women set up various stalls and participated in the exhibition in large

numbers. The exhibition was formally inaugurated by Ms. Nabeela Shaheen, Principal Bahria Foundation Attock & Vice President Women Chamber of Commerce Attock, along with Deputy Director Information Attock, Mr. Shehzad Niaz Khokhar, and President of Academy of Literature Campbellpur Attock, Mr. Ahmad Ali Saqib.

Vice President of the Academy, Syed Munees Raza, General Secretary Tahir Aseer, Joint Secretary Prof. Nusrat Bukhari, Finance Secretary Hussain Amjad, and Cantonment Board Attock

Councilor Syed Mehdi Naqvi were also

present on the occasion.



Deputy Director Information, Mr. Shehzad Niaz Khokhar, declared the exhibition a successful and positive event, assuring that the District Government would extend full support in the future as well.

Amusements spectacle

Maryam Basheer

CHINIOU: People live very well with you at first. They assure you as if you have no one else but them. They start sharing everything, neither day nor night, even a person becomes heedless of the remembrance of ALLAH. They are always chasing after worldly desires as if you are their only comfort.

But after some time, these same people leave you alone again. And they make you suffer from loneliness for the rest of your life. They even pass by your path and don't even let you know. You know when, after spending time, you are accused of something or the other and left alone.

And in this solitude, look what happens? In solitude, a person's life becomes completely empty, with no knowledge of light or darkness. In this way, as time passes, the person's body becomes lifeless and helpless, but the soul remains alive.

Then what happens? These same

people teach you to live that this world is mortal, no one here belongs to anyone, neither your own nor anyone else, all relationship here are just for passing time. What it in solitude the body is help-

less but the peace of the soul remains, right? Which is only in the presence of Allah, who never leaves his servant alone in any situation, neither in lighter nor in darkness, nor in sorrow, nor in pain, nor in happiness nor in helplessness, neither in this world nor in the hereafter. Indeed, the peace the souls and hearts is in the remembrance of Allah. Indeed, this world is a amusements and a spectacle.



people teach you to live that this world is mortal, no one here belongs to anyone, neither your own nor anyone else, all relationship here are just for passing time. What it in solitude the body is help-

Bull & Bears PSX 100-Share Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index

Current	Prev. Close
149,493.05	149,235.26
Day's High	Day's Low
150,465.17	149,448.93
Index Value	Change
28,926,083,834	+257.79
Percentage	Time
-0.17%	22 Aug, 2025 4:30 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index

Index Value	Change
9,321.40	+12.20
Percentage	Time
+0.13%	22 Aug, 4:35 pm GMT+1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average

Index Value	Change
45,704.41	+918.91
Percentage	Time
+2.05%	22 Aug, 12:46 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average

Index Value	Change
42,633.29	+23.12
Percentage	Time
+0.054%	22 Aug, 3:45 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates

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
New Zealand \$	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

Former FIEDMC CEO Mian Kashif nominated for Tamgha-i-Imtiaz



LAHORE: Faisalabad Industrial Estate Development and Management Company (FIEDMC) former Chief Executive Officer, Mian Kashif Ashfaq, has been nominated for the prestigious Tamgha-i-Imtiaz civil award in recognition of his outstanding contributions in multiple fields.

His remarkable services in public welfare, philanthropy, Pakistan Furniture Council and industrial development have earned him this honor. Under his dynamic leadership, FIEDMC successfully initiated and developed modern, state-of-the-art Special Economic Zones (SEZs), which are now playing a vital role in boosting Pakistan's industrial growth and attracting foreign investment. His vision and commitment have not only created new avenues for employment but also enhanced the country's exports by facilitating industrialists with world-class infrastructure. Apart from his professional achievements.

Mian Kashif Ashfaq is widely respected for his philanthropic spirit, generously supporting educational, health, and social welfare initiatives which includes establishing state-of-the-art cardia and liver centres at Toba Tek Singh for poor segments of society dwelling in and around the district besides contributing regular donations to Akhuwat foundation projects. His nomination for Tamgha-i-Imtiaz reflects due recognition of his tireless efforts and dedication to national progress and public service.

Commerce Desk

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Pakistani runners shine at Seychelles Nature Trail Challenge 2025

 Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's runners made headlines at the Seychelles Nature Trail Challenge 2025, leaving a mark of resilience and determination on the world stage. In a historic performance, Waqar Ahmed from Chitral emerged victorious, completing the gruelling 22-kilometre mountainous course in 2 hours, 11 minutes, and 30 seconds, outpacing competitors from across the globe.

Close behind, Umer Zaman of Islamabad secured second place with an impressive finish time of 2 hours and 14 minutes, while fellow Islamabad runner Muzammil Shahzad clinched fourth place overall.

Among Pakistani women, Anum Uzair from Lahore stood out as the fastest, finishing the course in 4 hours and 24 minutes, followed by Neelab Kayani of Islamabad, who claimed second place among Pakistani women with a determined run. Zaira Syed also won acclaim by successfully completing the challenging race, showcasing both stamina and grit.

The challenge, regarded as one of the



toughest nature trail races in the region, saw participation from nine Pakistani athletes. Notably, senior journalist Raja Mohsin Ijaz of ARY News successfully finished his first-ever marathon, conquering the demanding terrain, an achievement hailed as inspirational.

Sports journalist Faizan Lakhani also completed the race, adding another proud moment for the Pakistani contingent.

Pakistan's strong performance drew praise back home. Federal Minister for Information, Attaullah Tarar, congratulated Waqar Ahmed, Umer Zaman, Muzammil Shahzad, Anum Uzair, Neelab Kayani, Zaira Syed, Raja Mohsin Ijaz, Faizan Lakhani, and others,

calling their achievements "a source of immense pride for the entire nation." He highlighted the resilience of Pakistani athletes, noting that "by excelling on one of the world's toughest mountain trails, our runners have shown the world that Pakistan's talent is second to none."

Minister Tarar also applauded the role of Pakistani women athletes, particularly Anum Uzair, Neelab Kayani, and Zaira Syed, for "bringing honour to Pakistan on the global stage."

The event's success was further attributed to the outstanding arrangements by the Seychelles Tourism Department, whose hospitality and flawless organization were praised by all participants. Special acknowledgement was also given to Vagatales and its CEO, whose seamless coordination and exceptional services elevated the experience for international athletes.

For Pakistan, the Seychelles Nature Trail Challenge 2025 became more than just a race; it was a moment of global recognition. The grit, endurance, and spirit of its athletes carried the nation's flag high across the rugged trails of the Indian Ocean's island paradise.

Saim Ayub, Imam-ul-Haq among 40 Pakistanis registered for SA20 auction

 Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's opening batters Saim Ayub and Imam-ul-Haq are among 40 players from the country who have registered for the upcoming SA20 auction, scheduled to take place in Johannesburg on September 9, 2025.

The fourth edition of South Africa's premier T20 competition will kick off on December 26 and conclude with the final on January 25.

A total of 784 players worldwide have signed up for the auction, competing for 84 available slots across six franchises, which collectively have a purse of USD 7.4 million.

For Season 4, SA 20 has announced that each team will be allowed to have one Wildcard player—the player can be either a South African player or an overseas player whose salary



falls outside the salary cap.

Notably, 784 players have signed up for the September 9 auction across the globe.

From Pakistan, 40 former and current players have registered for the South Africa Premier T20

competition. The notable names are Azam Khan, Imam-ul-Haq, Abrar Ahmed, and Saim Ayub.

Interestingly, the six SA20 franchises—MI Cape Town, Joburg Super Kings, Durban Super Giants, Sunrisers Eastern

Cape, Paarl Royals, and Pretoria Capitals—are owned by Indians.

It is noteworthy to mention that, during the previous three editions, no teams had ever included a Pakistani player in their squads.

Meanwhile, 150 players from England have listed their names in the Auction list, which also includes ace international players like Jason Roy and Alex Hales.

The curtain raiser and final of the tournament will be played at Newlands.

In the opening match of the SA20, defending champions MI Cape Town will face off against Durban's Super Giants, with the final scheduled for January 25.

The Qualifier 1 of the event will be held in Durban on January 21, followed by the Eliminator in Centurion on January 23. The Qualifier 2 will take place on January 24.

For context, Sunrisers Eastern Cape is the most successful team so far, having won the opening two editions of SA 20 and finishing as runners-up in the last edition, falling short against MI Cape Town.

 Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Nepalese mountaineer Nirmal "Nims" Purja MBE, famously known as Nimsdai, has carved a new chapter in mountaineering history by becoming the first person ever to achieve 50 ascents of mountains higher than 8,000 meters.

His landmark feat was accomplished on Pakistan's formidable Nanga Parbat (8,126m), often described as one of the most dangerous peaks in the world.

"This was the most dangerous climb of my life, battling fierce winds, blue ice, and rockfall," he said after the ascent.

Of his 50 ascents, 22 were achieved without supplemental oxygen—setting a new world record.

Purja dedicated the achievement to 200 years of friendship between Nepal and the United Kingdom, carrying a flag in honor of his service in the Gurkhas and UK Special Forces.

The celebrated climber first rose to global fame with his record-breaking Project Possible in 2019, when he scaled all 14 of the world's 8,000-meter peaks in just six months and six days—a feat later chronicled in the Netflix documentary 14 Peaks: Nothing Is Impossible.

In 2021, he was also part of the historic team that completed the first winter ascent of K2, summiting without oxygen.

Outside of climbing, Purja established the Nimsdai Foundation, which supports education, environmental initiatives, and mountain communities.

Volunteerism: The Missing Link in Mountain Tourism and Disaster Readiness

Analysis



Abu Zafar Sadiq

Pakistan's northern mountain regions—Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), Gilgit-Baltistan (GB), and Azad Jammu & Kashmir (AJK)—are some of the most breathtaking destinations on the planet. Towering peaks, shimmering glaciers, ancient cultures, and lush green valleys draw thousands of travelers each year, boosting local economies and putting Pakistan on the global tourism map. But as the climate crisis escalates, these majestic landscapes are increasingly under threat—not only from natural forces, but also from unregulated tourism, fragile infrastructure, and glaring gaps in disaster preparedness. One of the most critical and underutilized tools in addressing these challenges is volunteerism.

Volunteers, if empowered and integrated into disaster and tourism planning, can serve as the missing link in building sustainable and resilient mountain destinations.

This year's monsoon season served as a brutal reminder. In mid-August, flash floods devastated parts of KP, claiming over 320 lives in Buner, Swat, and Bajaur. In Gilgit-Baltistan, a mudslide in Danyor took the lives of seven volunteers who were working to repair roads damaged by earlier glacial flooding. These tragedies are not isolated. Glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs),

increased rainfall, and rising temperatures are intensifying year after year, turning dream destinations into danger zones.

The rapid growth of tourism in these regions, while economically promising, has unfolded with little regard for climate resilience or community safety.

Construction continues unchecked along rivers and unstable slopes. Entire hotel complexes have emerged in flood-prone zones without any environmental impact assessments.

A case in point is the Luxus Hotel in Hunza, repeatedly struck by flooding, yet still standing in a known hazard area.

Similar examples abound across GB and AJK, where unregulated expansion has far outpaced planning.

Compounding the crisis is institutional fragmentation.

Tourism departments, local governments, and disaster authorities often operate in silos.

There is little coordination, and preparedness remains mostly reactive. Early warning systems are limited or poorly maintained. Tourists often arrive with no knowledge of the risks they may face, and evacuation protocols—if they exist—are

rarely communicated clearly.

However, amid the growing risks, there are signs of grassroots resilience. In Chitral and a few other areas, Community Emergency Response Teams (CERTs)—comprised of trained volunteers—are stepping up. Equipped with basic search and rescue training and emergency supplies, they have saved lives during floods and landslides. National projects like GLOF-II have supported some early warning systems, built gabion walls, and organized risk education sessions. But these efforts are still fragmented, underfunded, and far from the scale required.

This is where volunteerism emerges as a game-changing solution.

Pakistan has a strong tradition of volunteer networks. Organizations such as the Pakistan Red Crescent Society, Alkhidmat Foundation, Edhi Foundation, and several local NGOs already mobilize thousands of individuals during emergencies. Their efforts—evacuating families, distributing food, clearing debris, providing first aid—are often the first line of

defense when disaster strikes. Yet their role in mountain tourism and climate resilience remains largely informal and unrecognized in policy and planning.

Imagine if every tourist district had a structured volunteer force trained in disaster response, environmental monitoring, and tourist safety. Local youth, already knowledgeable about the terrain, could become certified first responders, conduct trail safety briefings, manage clean-up campaigns, and guide tourists through emergency protocols. Trained and insured, these volunteers could be woven into the very fabric of destination management, bridging the gap between overstretched authorities and vulnerable communities.

To realize this vision, volunteerism must be institutionalized. This means providing standardized training, safety equipment, insurance, and legal protections for volunteers. It also means integrating them into official tourism and disaster management plans.

Volunteers should be included in simulations, evacuation drills, and awareness campaigns—not just in response, but in prevention and



preparedness.

Women, in particular, have a crucial role to play. In many mountain communities, women are already involved in running tree nurseries, eco-tourism homestays, and local conservation initiatives.

With proper training and support, they can become leaders in volunteer networks—educating tourists, maintaining environmental standards, and building resilience from the grassroots up.

Tourism operators must also take responsibility. Hotels and guesthouses should collaborate with local volunteer groups to conduct joint safety drills, display evacuation routes, and train staff in basic disaster response.

Tourist orientation sessions should become a standard feature,

educating visitors on environmental sensitivities and safety protocols, especially for trekking, rafting, and high-altitude travel.

Meanwhile, governments must move swiftly to regulate unsafe development.

Construction in hazard zones must be stopped,

and Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) should be made mandatory before any tourism-related infrastructure is approved.

Land-use planning should be guided by hazard maps

and climate data. Local planning committees—ideally with community and volunteer representation—

should oversee compliance and flag violations.

To support all these efforts, disaster management authorities like PDMA, GBDMA, and NDMA need expanded mandates and resources. These agencies must be empowered not only to respond to disasters but also to prevent them through long-term planning, public awareness, and coordination with volunteer networks.

Climate observatories should be established to monitor glacial retreat, rainfall, and flood risks, and their findings must be shared with communities and volunteers in real time.

Data transparency and public oversight are equally important. Hazard maps, construction approvals, and disaster management plans should be publicly accessible.

Oversight committees—including civil society, scientists, and tourism stakeholders—can help track progress, call out non-compliance, and ensure accountability.

Community feedback systems should allow locals and visitors alike to report illegal activity, unsafe practices, or environmental damage.

Ultimately, the sustainability of Pakistan's mountain tourism hinges on whether we are willing to reimagine how we plan, build, and respond.

The current model—high in volume, low in regulation—is unsustainable in a warming world. We need a tourism model that protects not just profits, but people and places.

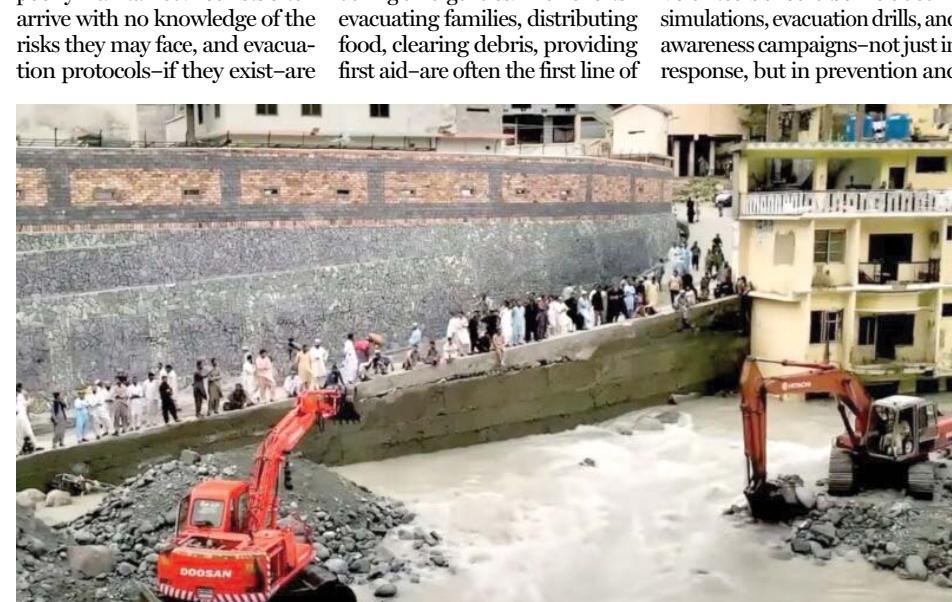
One that treats visitors not merely as consumers, but as participants in conservation. One that values and empowers communities as co-managers, not passive hosts.

The tragic deaths of the volunteers in Danyor are a stark reminder of both our vulnerabilities and our strengths.

Their sacrifice underscores the courage, responsibility, and local knowledge that lie dormant in so many mountain communities. These are the very qualities that, if cultivated through volunteerism, can transform risk into resilience.

Volunteerism is not a temporary fix. It is a strategic necessity. By integrating volunteer forces into tourism and disaster management systems, Pakistan can build a safer, more sustainable future for its mountain regions—one where local people are not just victims of climate change, but active protectors of their land, their culture, and the tourists they welcome. The missing link is not technology, or funding alone—it is human capital, waiting to be activated. And now is the time.

The writer is Practicing Associate Prof. at Riphah University, Islamabad.



Shadab Khan shares positive recovery update after shoulder surgery

 Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's vice-captain and star all-rounder Shadab Khan has reassured fans with a positive update on his recovery from a shoulder injury that had ruled him out of key fixtures, including the upcoming tri-nation T20I series and the much-anticipated Asia Cup 2025.



The 25-year-old cricketer took to the social media platform X to thank fans for their support during his rehabilitation journey. "Alhamdulillah, the sling is off, on the road to recovery now.

Thank you for all your support & prayers," Shadab wrote.

Shadab recently underwent shoulder surgery after persistent discomfort in his right shoulder, an issue that had been troubling him before Pakistan's three-match T20I series against Bangladesh in Dhaka in July.

The leg-spinner, who was appointed vice-captain during Pakistan's white-ball tour of New Zealand earlier this year, is now focused on regaining full fitness ahead of major assignments.

Meanwhile, the tri-nation T20I series shifted from Pakistan to the UAE, will be played from August 29 to September 7, with Pakistan facing Afghanistan in the opening clash.

The event will act as crucial preparation for the ACC Men's T20 Asia Cup 2025, scheduled in Abu Dhabi and Dubai from September 9 to 28.

The Asia Cup will begin with a curtain-raiser between Afghanistan and Hong Kong on September 9.

Pakistan will open its campaign against Oman on September 12, before facing arch-rivals India on September 14.

Their final group-stage match is set for September 17 against the hosts UAE.

Originally, Pakistan was set to host Afghanistan for a bilateral T20I series in August, but the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) proposed expanding it into a tri-series and moving it to the UAE to give teams better preparation for the Asia Cup.

Cloudy weather

ISLAMABAD: Motorists on their way at Srinagar highway during dark clouds on the city, in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

China, Pakistan reaffirm rock-solid strategic ties in Wang Yi-Asim Munir meeting

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Chinese Foreign Ministry has released a statement highlighting the outcome of an important meeting between Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi and Pakistan's Chief of Army Staff, Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, underscoring the unwavering strength of the Pakistan-China strategic partnership.

Speaking at the meeting, Wang Yi emphasised that the Pakistani army remains a pillar of national stability and a strong guardian of Pakistan-China friendship and cooperation. He noted that the military has always played a pivotal role in supporting the implementation of the important consensus reached between the leaderships of the two countries.



tude to the Chinese leadership for its valuable cooperation in Pakistan's economic and social development.

Field Marshal Munir further pledged that the Pakistan Army is committed to actively advancing counter-terrorism and security cooperation. He assured continued efforts to ensure the safety of Chinese personnel, projects, and institutions in Pakistan.

He added that steps to further strengthen the historic Pak-China friendship and to continue the shared journey of progress would remain a top priority for Pakistan.

The meeting reaffirmed the long-standing, strategic, and all-weather partnership between Pakistan and China, with both sides vowing to deepen cooperation across security, economic, and regional stability domains.

"In uncertain global times, promoting strong Pakistan-China relations is highly beneficial to regional peace and stability," Wang said, reaffirming that Pakistan has always held a top priority in China's neighbourly diplomacy. Despite the tests of time, he stressed, Pakistan-China relations have only grown stronger, built upon a foundation of traditional friendship.

Wang Yi further assured that China will continue to fully cooperate with Pakistan in safeguarding its territorial integrity and national security, while also welcoming Pakistan's constructive role in international affairs.

According to the statement, Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir reaffirmed the depth of bilateral ties, calling China Pakistan's "iron friend." He noted that the two nations have always shared each other's joys and sorrows, with a partnership "as strong as a rock."

Maintaining friendly relations with China is the unanimous position of the entire Pakistani nation," the Army Chief said, expressing grati-

Bahraini Interior Minister calls Mohsin Naqvi to express solidarity with Pakistan over flood losses



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi held a telephone conversation with Bahraini Interior Minister Lt. Gen. Rashid bin Abdullah Al-Khalifa, during which the Bahraini minister conveyed deep sorrow and grief over the loss of lives caused by heavy rains and floods across Pakistan, reported 24News-HD TV channel Sunday.

Lt. Gen. Rashid bin Abdullah Al-Khalifa extended heartfelt sympathy and condolences to the families of the deceased, assuring Pakistan of Bahrain's support during this difficult period.

He offered all possible assistance for the relief and rehabilitation of

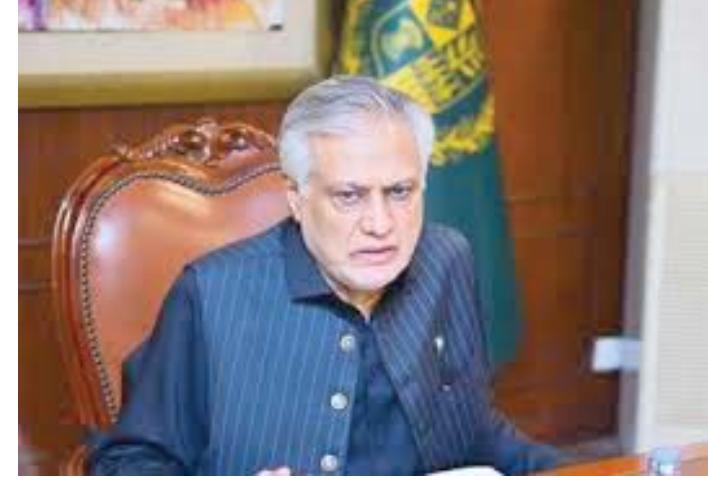
flood victims, stressing that "we stand with our Pakistani brothers and sisters in this difficult time" and reaffirming Bahrain's readiness to provide help to those affected.

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi expressed gratitude to his Bahraini counterpart for the solidarity and good words.

He noted that Pakistan is among the countries most severely impacted by climate change, where the recurring cycles of floods have devastated communities and livelihoods.

"The devastation caused by rains and cloudbursts cannot be described in words," Naqvi remarked, underscoring the urgent need for international cooperation in addressing climate-induced disasters.

Ishaq Dar to attend OIC-CFM extraordinary session in Jeddah



Spokesman Report

DHAKA: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar will undertake an official visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia from 25-26 August to participate in the Extraordinary Session of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) in Jeddah.

The DPM/FM will travel directly from Dhaka, upon completion of his two-day visit to Bangladesh, to attend the high-level meeting.

"The high-level meeting will bring together foreign ministers and senior officials from OIC member states to deliberate upon coordinated

responses to the escalating developments in Palestine, resulting from ongoing Israeli military aggression, its proposed plans for full military control over Gaza and the continued egregious violations of Palestinians' rights," the Foreign Office Spokesperson said in a press release.

As a steadfast advocate for the Palestinian cause, the spokesperson said Pakistan consistently highlighted the issue at the international fora.

During the forthcoming Extraordinary OIC-CFM session, the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister will reaffirm Pakistan's unwavering support for Palestine and reiterate its principled stance.

Another Karo Kari case in Sindh: Former policeman shoots daughter, throws body into river

Spokesman Report

HYDERABAD: A former policeman allegedly killed his 'Kari' daughter in Sukkur to save his honour. 'Karo Kari' is a Sindhi term used for honor killing. Karo means black man and Kari means black woman; the term means they have blackened themselves by committing this sin and dishonoured the family.

According to the police, the accused shot the woman dead and then threw her body into the river. She was identified as Amiran.

A case has been registered at the Airport Police Station against Badal Badani Jatoi and two of his accomplices.

Police said that Badal Badani planned the murder in connivance with his accomplices.

FBR gets powers to check people's banking transactions

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: In another vital move to stop tax evasion, the Pakistani government has empowered the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) to check banking transactions made on the national identity card of any Pakistani citizen.

As part of the plan, a data bank

of the State Bank of Pakistan and other banks will be set up and details of transactions will be provided to the FBR.

In the next step, the FBR will impose tax on transactions exceeding the income declared in the light of the data.

FBR officials say this move will result in increase in tax collection.

Hammad Azhar or Awais: PTI to nominate candidate for NA 129 by-poll today

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The matter of the NA-129 by-election remains unresolved, as Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has yet to finalise the name of its candidate.

According to party sources, the PTI leadership has given Hammad Azhar the authority to select the candidate.

However, ongoing legal cases against him have raised concerns about possible complications.

It is still undecided whether Hammad Azhar himself will contest the by-election or nominate another candidate.

Sources further revealed that PTI is also considering awarding the ticket to Owais Anjum or Arsalan Ahmed as alternatives.

A final decision on the candidate is expected by tomorrow evening, as the party faces the deadline to confirm its nominee.

Rabi-ul-Awwal moon not sighted; 12th Rabi-ul-Awwal to fall on September 6



ISLAMABAD: The Central Ruet-e-Hilal Committee Chairman, Maulana Abdul Khabir Azad on Sunday announced that the crescent for Rabi-ul-Awwal 1447 AH was not sighted anywhere across the country.

Accordingly, the first Rabi-ul-Awwal will commence from Tuesday, August 26, while the 12th Rabi-ul-Awwal - the birth anniversary of Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) - will be observed on Saturday, September 6.

The announcement was made following a meeting of the Zonal Ruet-e-Hilal Committee, chaired by Chairman Maulana Abdul Khabir Azad in Karachi. Representatives from the Paki-

stan Meteorological Department, the Ministry of Science and Technology, and other concerned institutions also provided their technical support in the matter.

After reviewing reports and testimonies from across the country, the committee confirmed that no credible evidence of moon sighting had been received.

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