**Barkat Rice Mills** (Pvt) Limited

Pakistan warns India for violating Indus Water Treaty

Pakistan has warned India for not following the Indus Water Treaty, as New Delhi has conveyed flood warning information to Pakistan through diplomatic sources instead of conveying this message to Indus Water Commission.



Kamal reviews medical devices' licensing system

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Rabiul Awwal 1, Tuesday, August 26, 2025





Daily Spokesman Vol: 19, Issue: 131 Price Rs. 25.00 Pages 8

### Digital Wallet

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif launches the Digital Wallet System by BISP on Monday.



# PM Shehbaz launches 10 mln **BISP Digital Wallets**

B Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday launched 10 million digital wallets for Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) beneficiaries, calling it a historic milestone in Pakistan's journey towards transparency, financial inclusion, and a cashless economy.

With a symbolic palm touch, the Prime Minister inaugurated the system in the presence of federal ministers, BISP leadership, and international partners.

Rubina Khalid, the BISP team, and partner institutions for the "landmark decision that will safeguard genuine recipients and protect them from undue difficulties."

"The digital wallet system is in its true sense blessed by the soul of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto, as it empowers BISP beneficiaries with safe, transparent, and direct access to financial assistance," PM

Shehbaz said. He emphasized that BISP corruption, and bring efficiency, committee was formed to

including GIZ. He congratu- remains a "great initiative for helping Pakistan progress lated BISP Chairperson Senator poverty alleviation and employment generation," but stressed that continued efforts were needed to expand its impact.

The prime minister termed the launch "a great leap towards a cashless economy." He recalled that during Ramazan, 78 percent of the relief package was successfully disbursed through digital channels despite skepticism and resistance from vested interests, "Cashless transactions tary Amir Ali Ahmed briefed are the pressing requirement of that under the Prime Minisour times. They save time, end ter's direction, a high-level

rapidly," he remarked.

The prime minister revealed that he personally chaired multiple meetings on digitization despite initial "indifferent attitudes and boredom" on the issue, underlining his resolve to transform government-to-government, business-to-business. and personal transactions into

digital channels. Earlier, BISP Federal Secreensure transparency and ease of access in the digital system. "After today's launch, 10 million digital wallets will be developed using beneficiaries' CNICs, supported by a biometric verification system to prevent identity theft," he said.

Senator Rubina highlighted that BISP is the continuation of Shaheed Benazir Bhutto's vision for women's empowerment, a dream carried forward by President Asif Ali Zardari and now "excelling further under Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's lead-

# Dar slams Israel's 'Greater Israel' plan, urges OIC to act against Gaza atrocities



**Spokesman Report** 

JEDDAH: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar on Monday strongly condemned Israel's escalatory rhetoric and unveiled measures to end Palestinian suffering, warning that Gaza has become both a graveyard for innocent lives and for international law.

In his statement at the 21st Extraordinary Session of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) in Jeddah, Dar denounced the Israeli cabinet's plan to extend full military control over Gaza and Prime Minister Netanyahu's reference to creating a so-called "Greater Israel," calling it a annexation, reconstruction brazen attempt at annexation and a direct threat to Arab and regional security.

Dar urged the OIC to unite Israeli war crimes.

and take concrete steps beyond

He said Gaza has endured indiscriminate bombardment, blockade, forced displacement, and starvation, with over 60,000 Palestinians, mostly women and children, killed in Israel's assault.

Hospitals, schools, aid convoys, and refugee camps, he noted, were being deliberately targeted as acts of collective punishment.

Outlining Pakistan's position, Dar called for seven urgent steps: an immediate and unconditional ceasefire, unhindered humanitarian access, support for UNRWA. an end to settlements and of Gaza, revival of a political process for a two-state solution, and accountability for

### Mohsin Naqvi praises KP Police, CTD for successful operation against terrorists in Upper Dir

跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi has lauded the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Police and Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) for their successful operation against terrorists of Fitna Al-Hindustan in Upper Dir.

In a statement, Naqvi commended the professional skills of the security forces for eliminating five terrorists during the operation. He said the KP Police and CTD have thwarted the nefarious designs of the terrorists and once again proved their operational strength.

"Our brave forces are resolute



in their mission to completely eradicate terrorism from the country. The nation is proud of its valiant sons," the minister said. He added that the successful operations against Fitna Al-Hindustan are a clear testimony to the professional competence of the forces.

Naqvi reaffirmed that the entire nation stands firmly with its security forces in the fight against terrorism. He also prayed for the swift recovery

## 75 PTI leaders, workers jailed for attacking Rana Sanaullah's house

Mews Desk

ISLAMABAD: An anti-terrorism court in Faisalabad has announced a verdict in a May 9 case relating to the attack on PML-N leader Rana Sanaullah's house, sentencing 75 PTI leaders and workers to different jail terms while acquitting 34 accused, including Fawad Chaudhry and Zain Qureshi.

PTI senior leaders Omar Ayub, Kanwal Shozab, Ahmed Chatha,

leaders and activists who were sent to jail for 10 years each.

While pronouncing the decision on Monday, the court also awarded a three-year prison sentence each to 16 other accused.

PTI's former legislators and prominent leaders like Ashraf Sohna, Rai Hassan Nawaz,

MPA Ismail Saila were among 59 Iqbal, Ansar Iqbal, Bilal Ijaz, Mehr Javed, Shakeel Niazi, Farah Agha, Sheikh Rashid Javed, Mian Jawad, Abdul Rehman, and Zeeshan Hassan are among those who were sentenced to 10 years in

> prison each. The anti-terrorism court also sentenced MPA Sheikh Shahid Javed to 3 years in prison.

attacking the camp of former interior minister Rana Sanaullah in the Samanabad area.

According to the FIR, the incident took place on February 9, when a rickshaw driver turned on music on a loudspeaker in front of the camp.

The camp caretaker, Irfan, tried to stop the rickshaw from parking In February 2024, a case was in front of the camp. Upon this, a

Shibli Faraz, Zartaj Gul, and Sheikh Rashid Shafiq, Murtaza registered against 37 accused for man, identified as Sajid, and his 36 accomplices entered the camp.

The accused vandalised the camp and broke the valuables with sticks. They also threatened Irfan and his staff and fled from

The police registered a case against the accused under various sections of the Pakistan Penal Code and are conducting raids to arrest them.

# Provision of affordable electricity to GB people top priority: Awais Leghari

the project, said a press release. mix and ensure energy security.

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Energy, Sardar Awais Ahmad Khan Leghari, chaired a meeting of the Steering Committee on the 100 the government. MW Solarization Project in Gilgit-Baltistan (GB), here on Monday.

Speaking on the occadirectives of the Prime Minister, towards the timely execution of strengthen the country's energy relevant institutions.

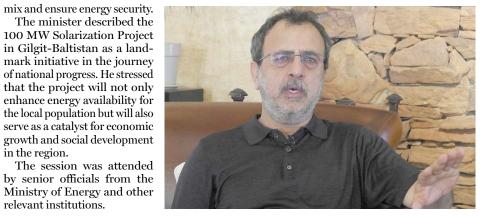
He reaffirmed that the provision of affordable and environment-friendly electricity to in Gilgit-Baltistan as a landthe people of Gilgit-Baltistan mark initiative in the journey remains a foremost priority of

Highlighting the importance of renewable energy, Awais Leghari noted that the transition towards alternative energy sion, he said that the Steering sources is a pressing need of the Committee, constituted on the time. He underscored that the government is pursuing sustainis fully functional and working able and long-term solutions to

The minister described the 100 MW Solarization Project of national progress. He stressed that the project will not only enhance energy availability for the local population but will also

in the region. The session was attended by senior officials from the Ministry of Energy and other

growth and social development



# Bilawal gives away ownership papers to flood-hit people during Ratodero visit

跨 Bureau Report

KARACHI: Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Monday visited Rahoja village of Taluka Ratodero and inspected the newly-built houses for flood victims.

He was accompanied by PPP Women's Wing Central President Faryal Talpur and Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah. On this occasion, Bilawal distributed ownership papers of the newly-built houses to the flood-affected people.

As the project envisages construction of 122,000 houses for the flood victims, SPHF CEO Khalid Mahmood Sheikh said that construction work on 90,000 has already begun.

According to a survey, the Sindh government has distributed thousands of solar kits containing bulbs, fans, inverters, batteries and cables among the deserving people under the Benazir Income Support Programme, SRSO CEO Dethal Kalhoro said during a briefing. Also during his visit to

Rahoja village, Bilawal had an interesting conversation with a young student. "What do you want to become when you grow up?" Bilawal asked sixth grade student Hamza Ali. "I want to become a pilot when I grow up," Hamza replied.

Bilawal asked, "You know how our pilots shot down Indian warplanes? You should become a pilot and shoot down enemy planes."

Tuesday, August 26, 2025

# AJK President, formally ratified the 'University of Haveli Act'

ISLAMABAD: The President of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Barris $ter\,Sultan\,Mahmood\,Chaudhry,\,has$ formally ratified the "University of Haveli Act", terming it a significant milestone for the promotion of higher education across the state.

In his message to the people of Haveli, the President said he was pleased to have fulfilled the promise he made to them.

"I have issued instructions to the concerned institutions for the establishment of Haveli University," he said, adding that all available resources would be utilized to begin educational activities at the univer-

Extending his heartfelt felicitations to the people of Haveli, the President expressed hope that the new university would play a vital role in advancing higher education in the



### Protest

LAHORE: Terminated Employees of Water Management hold protest in favor of their demands outside press club, in Pro-



# A meeting of AJK Legislative Assembly Special Committee held

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: A meeting of the Special Committee of the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly was held at Jam mu Kashmir House, Islamabad, under the chairmanship of the Chairman of the Committee/Speaker of the Legislative Assembly Chaudhry Latif Akbar. The meeting was attended by former Prime Minister Raja Muhammad Farooq Haider Khan, Convener of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference Ghulam Muhammad Safi, Opposition Leader Khawaja Farooq Ahmed, Government Ministers Raja Faisal Mumtaz Rathore, Dewan Ali Chughtai, Hafiz Ahmed Raza Qadri, Abdul Majid Khan, Chaudhry Akbar Ibrahim, Akmal Sargala, Javed Butt, Asim Sharif Butt and Members of the Assembly Chaudhry Ismail, Hafiz meeting, the Chairman Committee Hamid Raza, Secretary Assembly and



Secretary Liberation Cell and Hurriyat leader Altaf Wani. The meeting considered sending delegations of members of the Legislative Assembly abroad to highlight the importance of the Kashmir issue and this important issue.

The meeting also considered issues related to refugees living in Pakistan and refugees of 1989. Addressing the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly

said that a solution to the Kashmir yard of the martyrs on Martyrs' Day issue is necessary for lasting peace in and was stopped by the Indian police. South Asia. He said that India, through its unilateral and illegal measures of August 5, 2019, separated parts of Kashmir and separated Ladakh, while imposing a puppet administration through fake elections in Jammu and the Valley. The world saw that the puppet Chief Minister of occupied Kashmir could not go to the grave-

This can be gauged from how many civil liberties are enjoyed in occupied Kashmir. He said that despite all the illegal measures taken by India, it has failed to suppress the Kashmir issue. Kashmiri martyrs have kept this issue alive with their blood. On this occasion, we pay tribute to the martyrs of Kashmir in wonderful words.

### Serving the suffering humanity is the true Islamic motto: Rizwana Malik



Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Chairman of Inner Wheel Club District 340, Rizwana Malik, has said that serving the suffering humanity is the true Islamic motto and ongoing charity. Serving the poor and deserving classes is our Islamic duty, service to humanity and the rights of the people are the real soul of Islam. In the eyes of Allah Almighty, fulfilling the needs of the needy and spending one's wealth in the path of Allah is the greatest act of worship. She said that our goal is to serve the deserving and deserving people and promote fellowship. Service is not a temporary passion but a duty of humanity, for which the members of Inner Wheel Club District 340 are active in the service of humanity without any remuneration, under their own help, without discrimination of color, race, country and religion. The special guest of the ceremony, NR Mrs. Shahida Tahir, said that the sapling planted by former District Chairman Rizwana Tabassum Durrani has today become a thriving tree and is at the forefront of welfare work in Pakistan and the whole world, and Multan District and all its clubs are serving the suffering humanity in the best way. The ceremony was attended by District Officer Media Manager Ayesha Ikram, Vice Chairman Mrs. Shumaila Shaukat, Conference Chairman Irum Mujahid, Kharanchi Rukhsana Kausar, ENO Umm Kulthum Sial, presidents of 11 clubs and other officials, special guest Mrs. Shireen Khan, Mrs. Naheed Zulfiqar, and a large number of women. The famous Naat Khawan Hira Salman received the honor of reciting Naat. The duties of management were performed by Ayesha Ikram and Mrs. Humaira Farid. All the clubs congratulated Chairman Rizwana Malik, District Secretary Mrs. Saleha Pasha and other officials.

### Buner should complete the flood damage as soon as possible: Mian Sohail

👺 Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: The flash floods caused by the monsoon and unusual-

ly heavy rains (cloud burst) have now spread to other parts of the country, causing widespread destruction and loss of life in a country with a population of 240 million. This was said by Trader Leader Millat Road Mian Sohail Raza while talking to the media. He further said that the way the Pakistan Army has worked on the flood damage in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province is unparalleled. The Pakistan Army built the bridge as soon as possible. The roads were completed and opened for the public and the young men of the military who actively participated in the relief

of the flood victims deserve tribute. The village of Buner where more than 80 houses have been swept away in the flood relay and the flood damage in Buner, 24 funerals were taken from the wedding house

Noor Muhammad, a resident of Buner district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, had a long phone conversation with his mother from Malaysia two days before his wedding, a few hours after which the devastating flood claimed the lives of 23 family members and relatives, including his mother. Faisalabad traders should also contribute fully to the losses of this disaster so that the people of Buner get encouragement. Mian Sohail Raza has demanded from the government that those whose houses have been  $destroyed in \ Buner \ should \ be \ given \ houses \ as \ soon \ as \ possible \ after \ their$ houses are rebuilt so that our brothers can also live a normal life.

### Sindh govt, Green Crescent Trust together to transform academic landscape for deprived communities

News Desk

the province.

KARACHI: Sindh Home and Law Minister, Ziaul Hassan Lanjar, has reaffirmed the provincial government's wholehearted support for non-governmental organisations (NGOs) working to educate children from underprivileged communities across

He further stated that together, the Sindh government and Green Crescent Trust could transform the landscape of education for underserved communities across the prov-

Speaking as chief guest at the inauguration of the landmark Educational Complex of the non-profit Green Crescent Trust (GCT) in Mehrabpur, Lanjar praised the initiative, which in its first phase will provide schooling for 600 children from disadvantaged families.

The Home Minister went a step further by announcing that he would  $per sonally volunteer\ his\ services\ to\ support\ charitable\ educational\ efforts$ anywhere in Sindh.

Naushahro Feroze Deputy Commissioner, Muhammad Arsalan Saleem, also addressed the gathering, pledging full support from the local administration for GCT's schools in his district.

General (retd) Amjad Khattak, GCT Adviser, stressed that enrolling out-of-school children was essential for Pakistan's progress, urging charities, NGOs, and provincial education authorities to work together to eradicate illiteracy and establish quality schools in neglected regions.

# Tribute to the sacrifices of prominent leaders of the Kashmir Freedom Movement

👺 Abdul Majeed Tahir

ISLAMABAD: On the occasion of the death anniversary of prominent leaders of the Kashmir Freedom Movement Mushtaq Ahmed Wani, Dr. Alaa and Sheikh Tajammul, a dignified ceremony was held at the Islam-

eternal sacrifices of the three leaders for the Kashmir Freedom Movement and Fateha was offered for their eternal reward.

Addressing the ceremony, the speakers said: Mushtaq Ahmed Wani, Dr. Alaa

abad office of the All Parties Hurriyat and Sheikh Tajammul-ul-Aslam\* Conference under the leadership of dedicated their lives to the freedom former convener All Parties Hurriyat movement. They lit the candle of Conference Mahmood Ahmed Saghar. freedom in the darkness of oppression At the ceremony, great tribute and oppression and gave the Kashmiri

was paid to the valuable services and people the courage to resist with their sacrifices."

The speakers said that India tried to intimidate the Kashmiri people through extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearances and black laws, but these sacrifices are proof that the Kashmiri people will continue their struggle at all costs

The ceremony was attended by Zafar Malik, Minister of the Government of Azad Kashmir, Maqsood Jafri, Political Leader, Barrister Altaf Hussain,

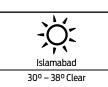
Advocate Supreme Court of Pakistan, Abdullah Khan, Muhammad Hanif Malik, Member Kashmir Council, Dr. Munawar Hussain, Muhammad Officer Khan, Director Liberation Cell, Najeebullah Ghafoor, Senior Hurriyat Leader Syed Yousuf Naseem, Syed Faiz Naqshbandi, Altaf Hussain Wani, Mir Tahir Masood,

General Secretary Advocate Pervez Ahmed, Madam Shamim Shawl, Karnahi, Sheikh Abdul Majeed, Hassan Al-Banna, Javed Igbal, Haji Muhammad Sultan Dawood Khan, Raja Shaheen, Chaudhry Shaheen, Engineer Mushtaq Mahmood, Imtiaz Wani, Mian Muzaffar, Zahid Safi, Zahid Ashraf, Muhammad Ashraf Dar, Muhammad Shafi Dar, Adeel Ahmed Butt participated.

Mushtaq, Abdul Majeed Lone, Nazir Manzoor Ahmed Dar, Syed Gulshan, Abdul Majeed Mir, Zahid Mujtaba, Iqbal Baloch, Khalid Shabbir, Imtiaz Ahmed Butt, Qazi Imran, Abdul Rashid Butt, Mir Mushtaq Ahmed and Secretary Information Mushtaq







### **Namaz Timings** Maghrib .... 8:10 pm

### **EMEDGENCY**

EMERGENCY	
Rescue (Police)	15
Bomb Disposal	15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/	
Islamabad112	2 & 16
Emergency Ambulance	1122 8
& Rescue Services 44	
Motorway Police926	6044
Motorway Police92706	01-20

### **Women Police Stations**

Islamabad	922259
Rawalpindi	9270601-2
ENO	IIIDV

Edhi Ambulance	115
PIA Flight Info	114
PIA Cargo	9280979
Railway Inquiry	117
Railway Exchange	9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi	5555489
CAA	9281092

### HOSPITALS

ALJ
5611111
561116
561116
9270907-11
5556311-4
9290301-7
9290322-7
9261170-79
9218300-09
4603666

CDA	9221334-43
CDA	9208301-04
Met Office	9250360-6
RDA	5555864
TMA	5770886
Cantonment Board	9270151-3
Islamabad Metropol	litan
Corporation	9209224
Potohar Town	9209224
Rawal Town	5773343

**DEPARTMENTS** 

### **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 Wasa Water Tank ...0331-5022125

### KMU mobilizes health team in Buner, launches donation drive for flood victims

PESHAWAR: On the directives of Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Zia ul Haq, Khyber Medical University (KMU) Peshawar has deployed its Public Health Reference Laboratory (PHRL) team to District Buner following the recent floods.

The team, consisting of trained medical laboratory technicians and specialists, is providing diagnostic and healthcare services in coordination with the District Health Officer (DHO).

The deployment aims to prevent the spread of infectious diseases, strengthen flood relief activities, and ensure timely testing for quick response.

A collection point has been set up in Buner with rapid testing kits, while other tests are being sent to PHRL Peshawar for immediate processing. The team  $\,$ has also visited various medical camps to inform people about the testing services available.

In addition, KMU has established a free medical camp in Buner, treating more than 500 patients daily. This initiative is addressing urgent health needs of flood-affected communities.

# SECP chairman on brink after confrontation with AGP

### Private companies paying for governance failures

### 跨 Tarig Khattak

ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) faces its most serious governance crisis in years following a critical audit report by the Auditor General of Pakistan (AGP). The report, which was conducted over an extended period and involved a comprehensive review of SECP's financial records, alleges billions in financial irregularities and tens of millions in unauthorised salary increases, setting up a confrontation between two institutions.

Sources within the government confirm that intense discussions,



is being seriously considered, with some involving high-ranking officials are advocating for a swift action to restore underway regarding the future of SECP's confidence in the regulatory body. The chairman. The possibility of his removal crisis has exposed deep-rooted issues its core responsibilities. Business leaders

in Pakistan's regulatory framework and raised questions about institutional accountability.

According to informed sources, influential politicians are working behind the scenes to shield the SECP chairman from potential action. This political intervention has drawn sharp criticism from business circles, who argue that such manoeuvring undermines transparent accountability processes.

Political interference is protecting regulatory corruption rather than ensuring proper oversight, said a representative of commercial organisation, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The private sector has expressed grave concerns about SECP's failure to fulfil point to inadequate action against market manipulation, corporate corruption, and repeated governance violations as evidence of regulatory failure.

Investor confidence has been severely damaged due to weak enforcement as corrupt practices go unpunished, transparent organisations and the private sector are burdened with additional costs and complex compliance requirements, remarked a businessman.

Regulatory experts warn that this confrontation with a constitutional body raises fundamental questions about the state's commitment to institutional discipline. If political pressure succeeds in protecting the chairman, it will reinforce the perception that regulators operate

Sources believe that without strict accountability of the SECP, investor confidence cannot be restoreda sit will also encourage other regulators and departments to clash with Constitutional insti-

They called for a transparent investigation of all allegations, structural reforms to prevent future governance failures. clear separation of regulatory functions from political interference and enhanced accountability mechanisms.

As this institutional crisis unfolds, the private sector continues to bear the cost of regulatory mismanagement. The resolution of this confrontation will significantly impact Pakistan's business environment and investor confidence in the

### Beautiful

ISLAMABAD: A stunning view of the clouds hovering on the Capital City to mesmerize the joy of



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

# DG Safe City Shakir stresses modern surveillance upgrades



跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Director General (DG) Safe City Islamabad Shakir Hussain Dawar visited the Safe City Command and Control Center, where senior

An official told APP on

the DG Safe City reviewed live surveillance feeds from the cameras and issued directions improvements.

While giving instructions, officers were also present on the he emphasized enhancing the changing times, modern tools

Monday that during the visit, and improving surveillance and monitoring across the city.

He underlined the need to expand the coverage of Safe to the shift in-charge for further City Islamabad services to make them more effective. He added that in line with efficiency of Safe City cameras and available resources should through modern techniques be utilized to enhance indi-

vidual performance.

The DG Shakir noted that information technology plays a crucial role in both the present and future, and its effective use is central to all operations. He stressed that officers must acquire professional expertise in this field to ensure its efficient application in the modern era.

## FPSC abolishes written tests for general recruitment, introduces MCQ-based exams

### 跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Public Service Commission (FPSC) has announced a major overhaul in its recruitment process, eliminating traditional written tests for general recruitment and replacing them with a multiple-choice question (MCQ) based examination system, 24NewsHDTV reported on Monday.

This significant decision was taken during the commission's 175th meeting, as per an official document released on August 22, 2025. According to the notification, the new system will come into effect from September 21, 2025.

The revised structure will apply to all posts filled through general recruitment in Basic Pay Scales (BPS) 16 to 21.

Under the new framework, candidates applying for BPS-16 and BPS-17 positions will sit for a single MCQ paper of 100 marks. For positions in BPS-18 and higher, candidates will be required to

attempt two separate MCQ papers. The FPSC has set minimum qualifying criteria between 40 to 50 percent marks, depending on the post.

# CDA announces plan to offer free Wi-Fi in federal capital

### 👺 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Capital Development Authority (CDA) has announced plans to provide free Wi-Fi services across the city, starting with 30 key locations. The initiative aims to make Islamabad a digitally connected free



wi-fi city. The decision was by CDA Chairman Ali Randhawa. In the first phase, free internet access will be available at metro and feeder bus stations, public parks, and other major public spaces.

Chairman Randhawa said the CDA's technical team will assist the National Telecommunication Corporation (NTC) in setting up the system. However, the operation and maintenance of the free Wi-Fi network will be handled entirely by NTC.

To ensure long-term sustainability, the CDA chief directed the development of a marketing model for the free Wi-Fi system. He explained that any revenue generated will be spent on system repairs and upgrades, keeping the service reliable for citizens.

Randhawa emphasized that the initiative is part of the CDA's broader vision to transform Islamabad into a fully connected smart city. "Islamabad will soon be turned into a 'Free Wi-Fi City,' offering modern digital facilities to its citizens," he announced.

### Public hearing on hike in water, sewerage charges in Islamabad on Sept 3

### 跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: In the wake of an increase in water and sewerage charges announced by the Capital Development Authority's (CDA) Board, the public hearing will be held at the Convention Center in Islamabad from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM on September 3. Citizens will also be able to give suggestions at the hearing.

In this connection, the Capital Development Authority (CDA) has

The Authority earns Rs4 million annually under the head of water and sanitation, while its expenditures stand at Rs4 billion.

# Al-Shifa empowering lives through care, tech, and compassion



### 跨 City Desk

RAWALPINDI: Since its inception in 2009, the Lighthouse, the Low Vision Rehabilitation Department at Al-Shifa Trust Eye Hospital Rawalpindi, has become a beacon of support for people struggling with impaired vision that cannot be corrected through glasses, medication, or surgery.

Over the past 16 years, the facility has treated more than 70,000 patients. According to Al-Shifa Trust President Maj Gen (Retd) Rehmat Khan, this includes men, women, and children facing diverse challenges. The Lighthouse has distributed over 3,000 specialised low-vision devices, enabling patients to regain independence and

Talking to media men, he said that the department caters to anyone with permanent low vision, including children struggling in schools, adults with conditions such as macular degener-

ation, glaucoma, or diabetic retinop- ance, and counselling to reduce isolaathy, and individuals who have lost their sight entirely. Patients can access services through referrals, direct visits, or online records that ensure continuity of care.

For partially sighted patients, the Lighthouse provides magnifiers, telescopes, reading lamps, and AI-based electronic applications. These tools help children continue their education, enable adults to stay in the workforce, and allow seniors to manage daily routines.

For those who are completely blind, the facility offers white cane training, mobility and independence skills, Braille literacy, and AI applications. Blind children are guided toward special schools, while adults are referred to vocational training centres to acquire

livelihood skills. Elderly patients receive tailored support such as large-print materials, electronic readers, home safety guidtion. Families are also advised on how to support loved ones with vision loss.

From its start as a single clinic, the Lighthouse has grown into three modern centres, each serving 50-60 patients daily with the help of trained specialists and state-of-the-art equip-

Manager Lighthouse Ms Mahreen said that our mission goes beyond eye care; we work to restore confidence, independence, and dignity to those living with low vision or blindness.

She added that 80 per cent of patients are rehabilitated at no cost. When someone loses their vision, they often feel they have lost their future. Vision loss is not the end of possibilities, but the beginning of a new journey.

The Lighthouse remains a symbol of compassion and innovation, offering practical solutions and emotional support to thousands of Pakistanis navigating vision impairment.

# Editorial/Opinion

Tuesday, August 26, 2025

Group Chairman/Chief Editor: Almass Ayoub Sabir Asim Nazir Ahmad Vice Chairman: Naveed Ahmad Khan Editor: Head Editorial Advisory Board: Amjad Mehmood

Bureau Chief Karachi: Khurram Jaffrani (jaffrani@adpluse.pk Bureau Chief Lahore: 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

### Monsoon 2025 season marked by record rainfall

xperts on Monday underlined that the 2025 monsoon season marked by record rainfall, glacier melt, urban flooding, and flash floods has underscored Pakistan's extreme climate vulnerability that demands urgent investment in climate-resilient infrastructure, water reservoirs, gender-sensitive relief, and proactive disaster preparedness.

The Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) under its Monday Seminar Series organized a virtual roundtable on "Unprecedented Monsoon Impacts in Pakistan: Climate Extremes and Humanitarian Challenges<sup>®</sup>, said a press release.

In his opening remarks, Dr. Shafqat Munir, Deputy Executive Director at SDPI, said the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), in collaboration with international partners, has presented the National Contingency Plan 2025 and the National Monsoon Contingency Plan 2025, highlighting the urgent need for water management, preparedness, and community-centered disaster response in the wake of Pakistan's climate-induced humanitarian crisis.

The plans are based on four risk scenarios: heavy inflows merging into the Indus from mountain rains; flash floods in northern mountains including Gilgit-Baltistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa; urban flooding in Karachi; and glacier melt, he said.

He noted that three of these scenarios had already materialized this season. "The floods in eight badly-hit districts of northern KP have created a severe humanitarian problem. Many areas remain inaccessible, shopkeepers cannot reopen businesses, and local philanthropies are filling critical gaps," he said.

Dr. Munir stressed the need for behavioral change towards natural hazards, noting Pakistan's response mindset remained reactive rather than proactive.

"Pakistan contributes less than 1% of global emissions but remains among the world's top 10 most climate-vulnerable countries," said Dr. Munir. "This is no longer just a natural hazard—it is a climate-induced humanitarian crisis.

In his keynote presentation, Dr. Shehzada Adnan, Deputy Director and Senior Meteorologist, explained the unusual weather patterns: "This year, monsoon onset was early from July 1 instead of July 15. Depressions from the Bay of Bengal converged on both northern and southern regions, while westerly waves shifted unusually northward."

He cautioned of above-normal rainfall (13%) in northeastern Punjab and Kashmir and temperature rises of up to 6-7°C in July-September, which accelerated glacial melt and triggered glacial lake outburst floods (GLOF).

Due to poor storage capacity in Ravi, Sutlej, Jhelum and Chenab catchments, he warned, flooding in eastern rivers continues to deve astate farmland and communities, he added.

Dr. Sofia Khalid, Chairperson & Associate Professor, Department of Environmental Sciences, Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) said despite repeated warnings from NDMA, people often ignore alerts. Our behavioral response remains reactive.

She said communities in flood-prone areas must be trained on safe evacuation points, emergency contacts, and disaster drills. Preparedness can save lives. She cited an example from Gilgit-Baltistan, where a local shepherd's warning helped prevent major losses during a GLOF event.

# Nawaf bin Saeed Al-Malki – A Diplomat Strengthening the Bonds of Pakistan and Saudi Arabia

and agreements but by the trust and goodwill it fosters between nations. In the case of Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, the presence of Ambassador Nawaf bin Saeed Al-Malki in Islamabad has been a defining factor in further deepening ties that already rest on a strong historical, cultural, and religious foundation. Since his arrival in 2017, Ambassador Al-Malki has become more than just a representative of the Kingdom; he has emerged as a friend of Pakistan, a supporter of its people, and a bridge between two nations bound by faith and shared aspirations. His tenure reflects an enduring commitment to strengthening bilateral relations in every sphere, from politics and trade to humanitarian assistance and cultural exchange.

Ambassador Al-Malki assumed his responsibilities at a crucial time when the global and regional environment demanded stronger cooperation between allies. He recognized that Pakistan and Saudi Arabia shared not only a common religious identity but also interwoven economic and strategic interests. Building on this foundation, he worked tirelessly to expand the scope of bilateral engagement beyond traditional state-to-state diplomacy. His vision was not merely to preserve historical ties but to modernize them in accordance with the changing needs of the 21st century.

Ambassador Al-Malki has also understood the importance of people-to-people contact. In this regard, he has shown a personal commitment to engaging with

iplomacy is often meas- forums has allowed him to interact directly of trust between the two countries. By ured not only by treaties with citizens, fostering goodwill and building stronger bridges. Such outreach is often overlooked in conventional diplomacy, yet it is precisely this human touch that creates enduring friendships between nations. By engaging at the grassroots level, he has demonstrated that the bond between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia is not that Pakistan and Saudi Arabia are not

limited to governments alone but is cherished by the people as well.

Cultural diplomacy has remained another cornerstone of his mission. Ambassador Al-Malki has supported initiatives that promote the shared Islamic heritage of Pakistan and

Saudi Arabia. He has encouraged platforms that highlight cultural exchange, religious cooperation, and educational collaboration. These efforts ensure that future generations on both sides recognize the depth of their shared values. Religious diplomacy, particularly relating to the facilitation of Pakistani pilgrims performing Hajj and Umrah, has also been an area where he has worked closely with authorities to enhance facilities, streamline processes, and improve the experience for thousands of Pakistani pilgrims.

Strategically, Ambassador Al-Malki's presence has contributed to a stronger alignment between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia on regional and global issues. He has been a consistent voice for cooperation in matters of mutual security, counter-terrorism, and regional stability. His Pakistani communities. His attendance close coordination with Pakistan's civil and at local events, universities, and cultural military leadership highlights the depth

ensuring regular dialogue, he has helped in maintaining a strategic partnership that reflects not just momentary alignment but a long-term shared vision for peace and progress in the Muslim world.

Perhaps one of his most notable contributions has been reinforcing the narrative

merely allies of convenience, but true brothers in faith and destiny. He has consistently reminded audiences in both nations that the relationship transcends politics and economics; it is built on shared sacrifices, common struggles, Muhammad Aziz Ur Rehman and a vision of collec-

tive progress. This sentiment resonates strongly in Pakistan, where Saudi Arabia is often viewed not just as a partner but as a trusted elder brother. Ambassador Al-Malki has nurtured this bond through his humility, accessibility, and genuine concern for Pakistan's future.

As Pakistan celebrated its 75th Independence anniversary and Saudi Arabia advanced its Vision 2030 reforms, Ambassador Al-Malki has sought to align these trajectories into a collaborative framework. His speeches, public interactions, and diplomatic engagements have all carried a consistent message of partnership. He envisions a relationship where Pakistan contributes its skilled workforce, talent, and strategic position, while Saudi Arabia supports with investment, energy, and opportunities for growth. Together, this partnership under his guidance stands as an example of how Muslim nations can

unite for mutual benefit while preserving their sovereignty and individuality.

In evaluating his tenure, it is clear that Ambassador Nawaf bin Saeed Al-Malki has gone far beyond the conventional role of a diplomat. He has become a symbol of Saudi Arabia's unwavering support for Pakistan, not only in words but in tangible actions. His work underscores the idea that diplomacy, when practiced with sincerity and vision, can transform long-standing friendships into even deeper bonds of brotherhood.

Looking ahead, as global challenges continue to reshape economies and politics, the role of diplomats like Ambassador Al-Malki becomes even more critical. For Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, his presence has been a source of stability and optimism. His efforts will undoubtedly leave a legacy that future diplomats can build upon. More importantly, his dedication assures both nations that their relationship is not static but evolving, growing stronger with each passing year.

Nawaf bin Saeed Al-Malki has personified the essence of modern diplomacy rooted in tradition, compassion, and vision. Through his tireless efforts, Pakistan-Saudi relations have not only been strengthened but elevated to a level that reflects the true spirit of brotherhood. His contributions remind us that at the heart of diplomacy lies the ability to connect people, inspire trust, and build bridges that withstand the test of time. For Pakistanis, his tenure will be remembered as a chapter of friendship, cooperation, and shared hope for a brighter future.

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



# Al-Hidayah Camp is a hot topic of discussion in Europe

l-Hidayah is an annual three-day and organizational training. spiritual and educational camp organized under the banner of Minhai-ul-Quran UK. Its aim is to provide young people with intellectual training, spiritual development, and a true understanding of the message of Islam. The camp features lectures from renowned Islamic scholars and practical workshops to foster moderation, interfaith harmony, and principles

to safeguard against extremism among the youth. Shaykh-ul-Islam Dr. Muhammad Tahirul-Qadri is the chief speaker, delivering talks on a variety of topics from the opening session to the concluding address.

The 2025 Al-Hidayah camp began on August 2 with the theme "Righteous Intention and Dignified Character." In

one of his significant speeches, Dr. Qadri said, "The Muslim Ummah must avoid self-proclaimed scholars and incomplete academic environments, as these breed ideological chaos within Islam." In his concluding remarks, he urged the youth to build a deep connection with knowledge, morals, and books, stressing that a strong and educated generation is the secure future of the Muslim Ummah.

The camp was first held in 2005 at the Pioneer Centre in Shropshire, attended by around 300 young people. Over time, it expanded greatly in scope and influence. Its core objectives have always been to counter extremism, spread Islamic teachings, and develop positive character among youth. In Europe's fast-paced and materialistic environment, the sight of thousands of families gathering for three days and nights for the sake of Allah and His Messenger Allah is of decades of hard work in intellectual, spiritual, the true spirit of Islam. He has presented an

Over the last two decades, Dr. Tahir-ul-Qadri has lit the lamps of knowledge, spirituality, and moral training in the West, spreading light across the entire region. His well-trained teams of scholars are not only uniting hearts but also transforming minds and shaping new generations. At the University of Warwick, participants were taught how to progress from being a Muslim to a true believer (Mu'min) and

from a believer to a benefactor (Muhsin). They were encouraged to live under the guidance of Shariah, fill their hearts with the light of guidance, and treat others with compassion, dignity, and respect.

Attendees learned to care for the weak instead of taking pride in race, color, or wealth. They

**Muhammad Asif** were shown how to resist the flow of selfish desires, protect themselves and their families from moral decline, and purify their hearts through worship, discipline, and piety. The youth were given the awareness of how to make the soul victorious over the ego and how to become ambassadors of peace and love in society.

Although only a few thousand people were physically present in the hall, the message carried the power to influence millions of Muslims worldwide. Over the past 20 years, the Al-Hidayah camp has given countless Muslims a renewed purpose in life. In the context of Islamic history, the rapid spread of authentic Islamic teachings in modern times is extraordinary, and behind this movement is a leadership determined to unite the Muslim Ummah and restore the lost glory of Islam.

Dr. Tahir-ul-Qadri's message of love and peace not a fleeting emotional impulse but the result is paving the way for humanity to understand

intellectual model that counters secular ideologies, clears misconceptions about Islam, and strengthens the conviction that the Holy Prophet is a mercy for all mankind. Through his writings and speeches, he has exposed historical injustices committed under the guise of power and has presented the Qur'anic methodology as guidance for future generations.

In just half a century, he has restored shaken confidence in Islamic beliefs and teachings, becoming a strong bridge over which the Muslim Ummah can walk securely into the future. Minhaj-ul-Quran is his enduring movement whose sun will never set. The scholarly contributions of his sons-one active in the UK's Al-Hidayah camp and another in Australia-are clear proof that this global mission will always remain under dedicated leadership.

One of the great strengths of the Al-Hidayah camp is that it does not only focus on theory but also offers practical training and personality development sessions. Through various workshops, the youth are introduced to teamwork, punctuality, and social responsibility. Separate training circles are arranged for women and children so that entire families can benefit from the spiritual environment. Participants from around the world build connections that later help them

in charitable and religious projects. This gathering is not limited to the UK alone—its echoes are heard in Europe, America, Canada, the Gulf, and Asia. Through online broadcasts, millions of people benefit from the speeches and training sessions. Al-Hidayah has thus become a global intellectual and spiritual platform that will continue to spread light and guidance in the years to come. It is an effort that not only connects future generations to Islam but also teaches them how to live as dignified, active Muslims in the modern world.

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

### Taliban's Shift towards Pakistan: A Threat to Regional Stability

and Afghanistan has deteriorated significantly since the withdrawal of US troops and the Afghan Tali-

Despite Pakistan's historical support for the geopolitics. Afghan Taliban, the Taliban have drastically

altered their policy towards Pakistan, utilizing the Tehriki-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) against Pakistan's interests. The Afghan Taliban's unexpected alignment with India and their support for the TTP  $\,$ have compelled Pakistan to repatriate Afghan refugees.

In a notable gesture of goodwill, Pakistan provided shelter

to around 5 million Afghan refugees during the Soviet invasion (1979-1989) and the US-led war on terror post-9/11, despite Afghanistan's refusal to support Pakistan's UN membership bid in 1947. Afghanistan's strategic location is crucial for India, particularly given its border with Pakistan, India's arch-nemesis.

India's engagement with Afghanistan appears to be influenced by the old adage "the enemy of my enemy is my friend," given the historical tensions between Afghanistan and Pakistan. However, it's striking that India, a country that champions democracy, appears to be building ties with the Taliban, who took power without democratic processes.

Since 2021, Afghanistan has been without a democratically elected government, and the Afghan people, especially women and girls, have been severely deprived of fundamental rights. The restrictions on female education,

bans on girls' schooling, and limitations on

he relationship between Pakistan art, music, freedom of speech, movement, and expression have fueled a massive brain drain from the country.

Several factors contribute to the Afghan Taliban's capture of Kabul in August ban's use of the TTP against Pakistan, including 2021. As a result, the Afghan Taliban's breach the Taliban's ability to pressure Pakistan into of the Doha agreement, which prohibited the concessions, ideological alignment between use of Afghan soil to threaten the security of the the TTP and Afghan Taliban, long-standing US and its allies, has further strained relations. border disputes, and the influence of global

The US has used Afghanistan and India against Pakistan to destabi-



US troops from Afghanistan, the US's interest in Pakistan waned, and it turned against the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project. The US pressured Pakistan to be its exclusive ally, but Pakistan refused to compromise its sovereignty.

lize it. After the withdrawal of

The US decision to cut off aid to Pakistan for Afghan refugee healthcare prompted Pakistan to decide to deport Afghan refugees. However, there is no bilateral agreement between Pakistan and the Afghan Taliban on the deportation of refugees. International bodies have expressed concerns about the premature deportation of Afghan refugees, raising serious questions about the legality and implications of this decision.

Pakistan and Afghanistan should prioritize cooperation over conflict. They should jointly develop a policy for the deportation of Afghan refugees, ensuring their dignity and minimizing economic losses. Both countries should collaborate on security and economic issues, promoting mutual prosperity and peace. By working together, they can prevent further conflict and promote regional peace.

The writer is student and he can be reached at khalilkhalilrehman259@gmail.com

# Pakistan-Thailand Friendship is Based on Mutual Respect & Economic Cooperation: CM

Maryam Nawaz Sharif

跨 Spokesman Report

LAHORE: Former Thai Prime Minister and prominent telecommunications entrepreneur Thaksin Shina-Shinawatra, another Thai Prime Minispublic Welfare initiatives have had a ter, warmly welcomed Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif, and added,"Innovation and public service hosted a dinner in her honor. Thaksin is the vision of Punjab's develop-Shinawatra appreciated Chief Minisment, your cooperation can increase and initiatives for the development to increase trade and investment in of Punjab, and expressed goodwill textiles, agriculture, tourism, and techand good wishes for Pakistan Muslim nology." League (N) President and former Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif said,"Thailand's business Sharif. He said,"You and your father's community should take advantage invited her to visit Punjab.

public struggle are inspiring."

Madam Chief Minister appreciated the efforts of Thaksin Shinawatra and his daughter Paetongtarn Shinawatra for the development of Thailand and watra and his daughter Paetongtarn its people. She said,"Your reforms and profound impact on Thailand." She ter Maryam Nawaz Sharif's vision its speed." She highlighted,"We want

Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz

of the business-friendly policies and incentives of the Punjab government." She added,"Punjab has also easy access to regional markets." She underscored,"Promoting cultural diplomacy, education, and tourism can bring our people closer."

Madam Chief Minister said,"The reforms you introduced in Thailand are an example of increasing institutional capacity." She added,"You are making the youth skilled in modern fields by following the vision of a digital nation." She expressed her gratitude to Mr Thaksin Shinawatra for organizing the dinner ceremony, thanked her daughter Paetongtarn Shinawatra, and



# ISSI and BIISS conclude MoU on cooperation during DPM's visit to Dhaka

**E** City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Further strengthening its international partnerships, the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Bangladesh Institute of International Strategic Studies (BIISS), a prominent thinktank. The MoU was signed during the official two-day visit of Pakistan's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Muhammad Ishaq Dar to Dhaka on 23-24 August 2025.

Major General Iftekhar Anis, DG BISS, signed the MoU on behalf of BIISS, while Pakistan's High Commissioner to Bangladesh Mr. Imran Haider signed it on behalf of ISSI.

several agreements, MoUs and other is aimed at enhancing institutionalized instruments were signed, was attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign 
It will facilitate establishing academic Minister Ishaq Dar; Advisor on Foreign Affairs, Government of Bangladesh, Mr. Md. Touhid Hossain; Pakistan's Addi-



tional Foreign Secretary (Asia-Pacific) Ambassador Imran Ahmed Siddiqui, and other senior officials on both sides.

Consistent with shared desire of promoting mutual understanding and people-to-people links between Pakistan The signing ceremony, in which and Bangladesh, the ISSI-BIISS MoU cooperation between the two Institutes. contacts and engaging in research endeavors on areas of emerging national, regional, and global issues. The MoU

envisages a detailed program of cooperation, including exchange of information, improvement of research and academic programs, and exchange of experts and researchers. Welcoming the signing of the MoU, DG ISSI Ambassador Sohail Mahmood said that, "in essence, it [MoU] reflects a shared commitment to fostering deeper understanding, mutual dialogue, and academic and research collaboration — thus contributing to the further growth of fraternal ties between Pakistan and Bangladesh."

# Pakistan at a Crossroads: Why We Desperately Need a National & Provincial Sustainable Tourism Policy

**Sadaf Khalid Khan** 

akistan is blessed with some of the most stunning landscapes on Earth. From the snowcapped peaks of Gilgit-Baltistan to the emerald valleys of Swat and Hunza, our natural beauty should be a source of pride—and prosperity. But today, this very beauty is under

Since the catastrophic floods of 2010 in Kalam, the northern areas have suffered disaster after disaster. The 2022 floods washed away homes, bridges, and hotels in Swat and Kalam once again. More recently, sudden cloudbursts and landslides during monsoons have become deadly, destroying lives and livelihoods. Even our big cities—Karachi, Lahore—are drowning in floodwaters every rainy season due to poor infrastructure and unchecked urbanization.

Meanwhile, the north faces a mushroom growth of unregulated hotels

and unchecked deforestation. Fragile Authority, Sindh Tourism Departvalleys are being suffocated by bad ment, AJK Tourism Department, construction, poor waste management, and infrastructure that cannot withstand nature's fury. Overpopulation only worsens these pressures, yet this issue is barely addressed.

Tourism is supposed to bring opportunity. It can generate jobs, uplift communities, and showcase our culture to the world. But unmanaged tourism is becoming a burden instead of a blessing. Without urgent planning, we risk losing both our environment and the livelihoods tied to it.

This is why I make a direct appeal to the Prime Minister of Pakistan and all provincial tourism departments: Pakistan urgently needs a national and provincial sustainable tourism policy.

This cannot be drafted behind closed doors. We need local experts and global consultants working together. We must bring every stakeholder to the table—NDMA, PDMA, local municipalities, WWF, World Bank, PTDC, TDCP, KP Tourism

and GB Tourism Department. And we must integrate global ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) standards into every decision we

Only by doing this can Pakistan protect its natural heritage, empower its people, and create a tourism industry that survives floods, landslides, and the pressures of climate change. We stand at a crossroads. If we fail

ruined valleys or collapsed hotels—it will be in lost lives, lost opportunities, and a lost future. Pakistan deserves better. Our chil-

to act now, the cost will not just be in

dren deserve better. And our natural beauty deserves protection.

The time for a sustainable tourism policy is not tomorrow. It is today.

Writer is Global Consultant Sustainable Tourism & UN SDGs. She can be reached at walnuttours@

### Bravery and Leadership

# CPO Rawalpindi Syed Khalid Mehmood Hamdani – A Symbol of Professional Excellence

**Example 2** Chaudhry Tabraiz Aurah

n the annals of modern law enforcement in Pakistan. few officers have exemplified the rare combination of courage, professionalism, and visionary leadership as SSP Syed Khalid Mehmood Hamdani, the City Police Officer (CPO) of Rawalpindi. His recent award of the Tamgha-e-Imtiaz by the President of Pakistan at Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad, on 14 August 2025, marks a historic recognition of his outstanding contributions to public safety, law enforcement, and national

Rawalpindi holds a unique position in Pakistan's security and governance framework. It is home to the General Headquar-

for national defense. Adjacent to Islamabad, the country's capital, Rawalpindi shares proximity with critical institutions such as the Supreme Court, Parliament, Prime Minister's House, President's House, and numerous foreign embassies. Islamabad also hosts the headquarters of the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), Pakistan's premier intelligence

The district is not only strategically sensitive but also demographically diverse. People from all provinces, Azad Kashmir, and Gilgit-Baltistan reside here, along with a vibrant civic and business community. This unique blend makes Rawalpindi both a hub of activity and a frontline in mainters (GHQ) of the Pakistan Armed and order. In such a complex envi-

Officer is critical, demanding a leader who can operate with foresight, authority, and integrity. In February 2023, CPO Hamdani was appointed by IG Punjab Dr. Usman Anwar to oversee Rawalpindi's police force. From the outset, his approach emphasized coordination, accountability, and proactive engagement. Recognizing the need to bridge gaps between the police department, government agencies, overseas Pakistanis, and local communities, he fostered a cooperative environment that enhanced both operational efficiency and public trust. Officers under his command who demonstrated exceptional dedication and performance were duly recognized, boosting morale and taining internal security and law reinforcing a culture of professionalism. CPO Hamdani's lead-

Forces, serving as the nerve center ronment, the role of the City Police ership has been instrumental in managing a wide array of sensitive and high-profile events. These include processions during Muharram, the highly attended Pakistan Super League (PSL) matches, responses to floods and other natural disasters, and diplomatic and state visits by foreign dignitaries. Each of these events demanded meticulous planning, coordination, and execution to ensure public safety while maintaining the smooth functioning of civic life. Perhaps the defining moment of CPO Hamdani's tenure came during the Indian aggression on 22 April 2025. In a challenging and volatile situation, he coordinated closely with the Pakistan Armed Forces under Operation 'Bunyan-e-Marsous', ensuring the security of both Rawalpindi and Islamabad. His

swift and decisive actions, along with the bravery of the officers under his command, prevented any breach or disruption despite the high-risk scenario. His leadership during this crisis underscored the critical role of effective policing in national defense and highlighted the importance of inter-agency coordination during emergencies. In recognition of his professional excellence, bravery, and dedication, the Government of Pakistan conferred upon CPO Hamdani the Tamgha-e-Imtiaz. Receiving the award at the Aiwane-Sadr, he paid tribute to the brave police personnel of Rawalpindi, saving: "All praise belongs to Allah. It is an honor to receive this recognition on Pakistan's Independence brave men and women of Rawal-



CPO Hamdani's tenure has left an indelible mark on the Punjab Police. His professionalism, strategic foresight, and unwavering courage have strengthened the force's reputation both nationally and internationally. Citizens, civil have lauded his contributions, acknowledging that leadership of this caliber inspires confidence, resilience, and national pride.

In an era where security. accountability, and public trust the enduring values of courage, are paramount, leaders like Syed Day. I dedicate this award to the Khalid Mehmood Hamdani serve as role models for the next gener- the very essence of Pakistan's law

in their commitment to serve the His career demonstrates that courage, dedication, and professional excellence are not merely attributes but essential pillars for building a secure and prosperous nation. Pakistan, as a country, thrives when its defenders — both in uniform and in spirit — rise to the occasion with integrity, vision, society, and the Pakistani diaspora and unwavering commitment to the people.

CPO Rawalpindi Syed Khalid Mehmood Hamdani's story is more than a tale of individual achievement; it is a testament to professionalism, and national service — qualities that define pindi Police, who stand steadfast ation of law enforcement officers. enforcement and inspire a nation.

## Forum on Islamic Banking and Finance Convenes in London

AlHuda CIBE Highlights Growth, Challenges, and Opportunities of Islamic Finance

**Spokesman Report** 

DUBAI - UAE: The Forum on Islamic Banking and Finance was successfully convened on August 23, 2025 at the London Central Mosque Trust Ltd, bringing together an influential gathering of policymakers, regulators, Shariah scholars, financiers and industry leaders. Organized by AlHuda CIBE in collaboration with the Islamic Cultural Centre, UK, sponsored by Royal Bullion Capital (RBC), UAE and the event provided a dynamic platform to explore the evolving landscape of Islamic finance in the UK, Europe, and beyond, while also spotlight-

The forum commenced with a recitation of the Holy Qur'an by Sheikh Dr. Faid Said, from Mr. Muhammad Zubair, robust growth of Islamic finance

and Dr. Ahmad Al-Dubayan, Director General of London Central Mosque & ICC, UK. Distinguished guests of honor, including H. E. Haseeb bin Aziz, Deputy High Commissioner of Pakistan to the UK, H. E. Abdennour Gougam, Counsellor for Economic Affairs at the Embassy of Algeria in the UK, and eminent scholar Mufti Abdul Kadir Barkatulla, underscored the importance of Islamic banking in fostering inclusive finance and promoting ethical economic systems.

The conclave was marked by strong endorsements from key ing the sector's global growth figures. H. E. Haseeb bin Aziz, Deputy High Commissioner of Pakistan to the UK, stated, "This forum is an excellent initiative and a significant event for the City of followed by welcome remarks London. It is heartening to see the

CEO of AlHuda CIBE, UAE, mirrored here in the UK, a trend committed to supporting the we are also witnessing profoundly in Pakistan. The Islamic finance industry in Pakistan is experiencing exceptional growth across all sectors, including full-fledged Islamic banking, Islamic microfinance, Sukuk issuances, Takaful, and the rapidly evolving Islamic FinTech landscape. Forums like these are crucial for sharing knowledge and fostering crossborder partnerships."

Dr. Ahmad Al-Dubayan, Director General of London Central Mosque & ICC, UK, commented on the event's success, saying, "The London Central Mosque & Islamic Cultural Centre is proud to have hosted this significant gathering. The successful organization of this forum underscores our shared commitment to the development of ethical and Shariah-compliant finance. Our institution is deeply

growth of Islamic banking and finance within the UK and will continue to pursue this strategy in the future, providing a platform for dialogue and development."

Echoing the sentiment on the sector's relevance, Mufti Abdul Kadir Barkatulla noted, "Islamic finance is not just a niche alternative; it is a growing necessity for modern society. Its principles of risk-sharing, avoidance of exploitation, and linking finance to real assets offer immense benefits to both Muslims and non-Muslims alike. London, with its unique position as a global financial capital, is perfectly poised to lead the adoption and innovation of Islamic finance in the Western world.

Mr. Muhammad Zubair, CEO of AlHuda CIBE, provided insights into the organization's mission, stating, "For the past 20 years, AlHuda CIBE has been unwavering in its commitment to the development and promotion of Islamic banking and finance globally. We have worked dedicatedly in over 60 countries to raise awareness, build capacity, and provide expert guidance. While we operate as an advisory and consultancy organization, our core mission has always been philanthropic—dedicated to the holistic growth and professionalization of the Islamic finance industry. This forum in London is a testament to that enduring commitment.

The forum's technical sessions highlighted the changing contours of Islamic banking in the UK and Europe, the role of interfaith dialogue through ethical finance, and the contribution of microfinance in advancing financial inclusion. A special session examined the significance of gold investment within Islamic finan-



cial structures, while a high-level panel discussion on the future of London consistently ranked as a Islamic finance featured prominent voices from institutions such as Mayer Brown, Kestrl, Nester, Al Baraka Bank UK, and leading UK academics. The event concluded with a certificate distribution ceremony, recognizing partners and contributors who are advancing the Islamic finance agenda in Western markets.

principal hub for Islamic finance year increase.

global center for sukuk, Islamic funds, and Shariah-compliant banking. By the end of 2021, the UK's Islamic banking assets reached approximately USD 7.5 billion, accounting for nearly 85 percent of Europe's total Islamic banking assets (excluding Turkey). This figure rose to USD 8.2 billion by the close of 2023, reflecting a The UK has emerged as the remarkable 26 percent year-on-

### **Bull & Bears** PSX 100-Share

Index Fluctuation			
Pakistan: PSX 1	00-Share Index		
Current	Prev. Close		
148,815.30	149,493.05		
Day's High	Day's Low		
150,079.75	148,757.13		
Index Value	Change		
16,428,072,582	-677.75		
Percentage	Time		
-0.45%	25 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 I	USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average		
Index Value	Change		
45,405.50	-226.24		
Percentage	Time		
-0.50%	25 Aug, 12:33 pm GMT-4		

### GMT+9 **Open Market Forex Rates**

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average

Change

+174.53

Time

25 Aug, 3:45 pm

**Index Value** 

42,807.82 **Percentage** 

+0.41%

·		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	182	187
Bahrain Dinar	749.80	752.30
Canadian Dollar	203	208
China Yuan	39.01	39.41
Danish Krone	43.6	44
Euro	330.70	332.50
Hong Kong Dollar	35.88	36.23
Indian Rupee	3.15	3.24
Japanese Yen	1.8950	1.9950
Kuwaiti Dinar	915.95	923.95
Malaysian Ringgit	66.4	67.00
NewZealand \$	162.53	164.53
Norwegians Krone	27.47	27.77
Omani Riyal	734.35	736.85
Qatari Riyal	77.05	77.75
Saudi Riyal	75.4	75.6
Singapore Dollar	218.5	223.5
Swedish Korona	29.08	29.38
Swiss Franc	347.32	350.07
Thai Bhat	8.58	8.73
U.A.E Dirham	77.1	77.3
UK Pound Sterling	381.85	383.80
US Dollar	283.2	284

### Uzbekistan is keen $to \ increase \ bil a teral$ trade with Pakistan: Oybek Kambrov

### 

MULTAN: Secretary of the Embassy of the Republic of Uzbekistan in Pakistan, Ovbek Kambrov, has said that Uzbekistan is keen to increase bilateral trade with Pakistan and it is an honor for him to visit Multan. He was speaking on the occasion of his visit to the Multan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, where he was welcomed by the President of the Chamber, Mian Bakhtawar Tanveer Sheikh. Senior Vice President Khawaja Mohsin, Vice President Azhar Baloch, Sved Iftikhar Ali Shah, Sheikh Muhammad Asim Saeed, Syed Saqib Ali, Adeel Iqbal Khan, Imran Hussain and Secretary General Muhammad Shafiq were also present on the occasion. Oybek Kambrov said that in 2021, the trade volume between Pakistan and Uzbekistan was \$122 million, which increased to \$404 million last year, while \$320 million of trade has been done so far this year. He said that the governments of both countries are keen to increase this volume to \$2 billion in the next few years. He said that Uzbekistan is designing a special economic zone where investors will be given tax exemptions, especially those Pakistani investors who will set up industries, while at present 18 industrial zones are already active in Uzbekistan, which are working successfully in different sectors.

# Wafi Energy Launches Shell's Next Generation of Fuels in Pakistan

KARACHI: Wafi Energy Pakistan, the exclusive licensee of Shell fuels and lubricants in the country, announced the launch of the new and improved Shell V-Power, marking a major milestone in premium fuel innovation for Pakistan's motorists. With Shell's century-long legacy of technical leadership, the enhanced Shell V-Power is a fuel designed with cutting-edge technology to deliver more power and better engine performance for our customers.

This launch is a continuation of Shell's 78-year legacy in Pakistan, a journey that began in 1947 as Burmah Shell. Over the decades, Shell has played a foundational role in shaping the country's energy landscape — from powering some of Pakistan's first major industries, to contributing to national infrastructure projects. Shell has also pioneered innovations in Pakistan, including constructing the country's first retail station using recycled plastic.

In 1970, Burmah Shell became Pakistan Burmah Shell, and in 1993 it evolved into Shell Pakistan Limited. Today, as Wafi Energy Pakistan, the company brings together Shell's global expertise with Wafi Energy's vision to be a longterm energy partner for Pakistan. Wafi Energy, a Middle Eastern company and Shell's exclusive licensee in Saudi Arabia, is committed to and delivering advanced energy solutions tailored and becoming a shining example for other foreign mobility future."



to local needs.

A representative from the Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia in Pakistan shared: "The entry of Wafi Energy into Pakistan reflects the deepening bond between Saudi Arabia and Pakistan. We congratulate Wafi Energy for bringing an innovative premium fuel to the market. And we wish driving economic growth, fostering innovation, the company success in upholding Shell's legacy

companies hoping to enter Pakistani market." Javaid Akhtar, Director on the Board of Wafi

Energy Pakistan, added: "The introduction of the new Shell V-Power is in performance, efficiency, and innovation to our fuel launch — it is an investment in the country's

Looking ahead, Wafi Energy sees Pakistan as a country of immense potential — with its young population, growing industries, and stra-

tegic importance in the region. Wafi Energy will a testament to our promise of delivering the best continue to invest and innovate in the energy sector, support communities through sustaincustomers in Pakistan. This is more than just a able initiatives, and help shape a future-ready energy landscape that meets the evolving needs of the nation.

### Strategic partnership

Karachi: Muntaqa Peracha, CEO of foodpanda, Farhan Khan, CEO Brainchild Pakistan and others posing for a group photo after announcing a strategic partnership to revolutionize the retail media landscape in the country between foodpanda and Brainchild Pakistan.



# Hi-MO X10 Anti-Shading Technology Demonstrated at 20th SOLAR Pakistan Exhibition

### **Example 2** Commerce Desk

KARACHI: LONGi, a global leader in solar technology, participated in the 20th SOLAR Pakistan Exhibition at the Karachi Exhibition Center. The three-day event, held in collaboration with Blaze Solar Energy, provided a platform for industry stakeholders to explore the latest developments in renewable energy and solar technology.

LONGi attended the exhibition alongside its local partner, Mian Shafiq, highlighting its cutting-edge products and demonstrating its growing investment and market activity in Pakistan. Among the exhibits, LONGi's Hi-MO X10 module was featured in an anti-shading demonstration, showcasing its advanced capabilities and distinguishing it from other modules in the market.

"The solar market in Pakistan is experiencing remarkable growth, fueled by technological innovation and a rising commitment to renewable energy," said Eric Xin, Head of EMR Central Asia, LONGi. Events like SOLAR Pakistan play a crucial role in



to explore practical solutions that enhance showcasing cutting-edge developments efficiency and promote sustainability. Inno-Pakistan's transition to clean energy."

and encouraging collaboration across the vations such as anti-shading modules sector. They provide an essential platform exemplify how the industry is addressing real-world challenges and accelerating

### foodpanda & Brainchild **Communications** Pakistan announce strategic partnership for retail media innovation

### **E** Commerce Desk

KARACHI: foodpanda, Pakistan's leading food and grocery delivery platform, and Brainchild Communications Pakistan, a premier planning and communications company, have announced a strategic partnership to revolutionize the retail media landscape in the country. This collaboration aims to create new opportunities for brands and greater value for consumers through data-driven, personalized campaigns.

Muntaga Peracha, CEO landscape in Pakistan, By with inventory, This collabostrategic expertise, we are in the Q-commerce sector."

building a structured, collaborative, and growth-focused ecosystem that will reshape how brands connect with consumers. This is a commitment to innovation and to delivering real value for both our partners and our customers.

Farhan Khan, CEO Brainchild Pakistan commented, "Our industry-first partnership with foodpanda/ pandamart marks a significant step in shaping the future of instant commerce advertising in Pakistan. This isn't just faster delivery, it's faster conversion. We're of foodpanda commented, turning 'I need it now' "This partnership is a game-moments into 'I bought it changer for the retail media now' results by syncing ads combining our extensive ration strengthens our ability user data and platform capa- to deliver market-ready solubilities with Brainchild's tions with unmatched agility,

## TikTok Ad Awards 2025: Celebrating Pakistan's most creative campaigns of the year

### S Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: TikTok is proud to announce the return of the TikTok Ad Awards in the METAP (Middle East, Turkey, Africa, Pakistan and South Asia) region, with this year's ceremony set to take place in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia in December 2025. The awards celebrate the brands and agencies leading the way on TikTok with creative, high-performing campaigns that embrace the platform's unique nature and deliver exceptional advertising experiences.

Building on the success of last year's inaugural edition, the 2025 TikTok Ad Awards will once again showcase the most inspiring advertising campaigns from across the region, from brands that have brought authenticity, crea-



tivity, and joy to the platform while achieving outstanding business results. The program aims to recognize and reward exceptional talent, innovation, and impact.

Submissions open from August 18, and are welcome from brands and agencies based in Pakistan, as well as Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Lebanon, Iraq, Egypt, Turkey, Morocco, Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, Cyprus, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. Eligible campaigns must run on TikTok between October 1st, 2024 and October 31, 2025.

# Zong CMPak and Zindigi Partner to Drive Digital Banking Access for G2P Projects

### **Example 2** Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Zong, Pakistan's leading technology innovation company, has entered a strategic partnership funds, primarily distributed under with Zindigi, the fastest growing digital banking initiative of JS Bank, to enable branchless banking services will be accessible through Zindigi's for bulk disbursement under Govern- network of agents & ATMs nationment-to-Person (G2P) projects.

Through this collaboration, Zindigi will open M-Wallets for Zong tivity infrastructure with Zindigi's

in remote and underserved areas directly into their accounts. These government poverty alleviation and disaster management programs,

By combining its advanced connec-

customers, allowing beneficiaries digital banking capabilities, the partnership aims to strengthen Pakistan's to receive monthly cash assistance financial inclusion landscape and deliver meaningful social impact.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, Farooq Raza Khan, Head of Business Solutions, Zong said "This partnership is a step forward in harnessing digital innovation to extend financial access to marginalized communities. By combining Zong's nationwide connectivity with Zindigi's modern

banking platform, we are simplifying and securing transactions for those who need them most. This collaboration demonstrates how public-private partnerships can create scalable solutions for social challenges while driving sustainable business growth for all stakeholders."

Faisal Khalid Bashir, Chief Product Officer at Zindigi stated, "This collaboration between Zindigi & Zong enables government disbursements at scale,



ensuring that millions especially those

financial services. It is a transformain underserved and remote communitive step toward building a more incluties gain seamless access to essential sive and digitally connected Pakistan."

# NA body forms sub-committee to inquire PHF affairs

**➣** Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Standing Committee of the National Assembly on Inter-Provincial Coordination (IPC) on Monday constituted a sub-committee to inquire the affairs of the Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF).

The agenda of the meeting included briefings on matters relating to Pakistan Hockey, particularly the payment of players, participation in the International Hockey Federation events, the Constitution and election process of the Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF), along with other allied issues.

The Committee also received a briefing from the PHF regarding financial irregularities, its election procedure, and constitutional matters during the Financial Year 2024-25. However, the agenda item pertaining to the National Internship Program could not be discussed.

The Committee, which met here at the Parliament House, under the chairmanship of Member National Assembly (MNA) Muhammad Sana Ullah Khan Masti Khel, constituted a sub-committee under the convenorship of MNA Sheikh Aftab Ahmed, to examine the legal status of the PHF body, financial irregularities, and other related issues, and to prepare a future road map.



The sub-committee will be assisted the main Committee. by the Secretaries of the Ministry of Law and Inter Provincial Coordination (IPC), the Director General, Pakistan Sports Board, a representative from the Office of the Attorney General, as well as the President and Secretary of the PHF. The Sub-Committee will submit its report to

The meeting was attended by MNAs Anjum Aqeel Khan, Sheikh Aftab Ahmed, Waseem Qadir, Sardar Muhammad Yaqoob Khan Nasar, Haji Rasool Bux Chandio, Syeda Shehla Raza, Dr. Mehreen Razzaq Bhutto,

Izhar-ul-Hassan, Yousaf Khan, and Syed Sami Ullah.

The Secretary and Additional Secretary of the Ministry of IPC, the DG Pakistan Sports Board, DG Internship Programme, representatives from SNGPL, and the President and Secretary Muhammad Iqbal Khan, Khawaja PHF also attended the meeting.

## Pakistan Independence Day National Ranking Tennis Tournament kicks off

**Sports Desk** 

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Independence Day National Ranking Tennis Tournament commenced here at the PTF Tennis Complex on Monday.

A total of 110 entries across nine categories (Men's Singles, Men's Doubles, Ladies' Singles, Boys 18&under, Girls 18&under, Boys 14&under, Girls 14&under Boys 12&under, and Girls 12&under are participating in the event.

Among the top players in action are Aqeel Khan, Muzammil Murtaza, Yousaf Khalil, Barkat Ullah, Shahzad Khan, Hamza Roman, Sami Zeb Khan, Ushna Suhail, Sheeza Sajid, Esha Jawad, and Noor Malik.

The tournament is being organized to commemorate Pakistan's Independence Day and to celebrate the spirit of sports.

Aisam-ul-Haq Qureshi -President-PTF and Col. (R) Zia-ud-Din throughout the event.

Round: Ageel Khan beat Sami Zeb beat Ahmed Chudhary 6-3,5-0(retd); Zahra 6-0,6-0; Shandana Rabi beat Omer 4-0,4-0.



Tufail Secretary General-PTF extended Khan 6-3.6-3: Ahmed Nael Qureshi their best wishes to all participants, beat Muhammad Salar 6-3,6-2; Hamza 6-1,6-2; Mudassir Murtaza beat Huzaifa 4-0,4-0. encouraging them to demonstrate their Roman beat Abdullah Adnan 6-0,6-3; Khan 6-0,6-4. talent, sportsmanship, and commitment Yousaf Khalil beat Muhammad Yahya 6-1,6-0; Muzammil Murtaza beat Round: Sheeza Sajid beat labika Durab 4-1; Behroze Mehmood beat Zulfiqar In Men's Singles 1st Round 1st Shahzad Khan 6-1,6-3; Barkatullah 6-3,6-0; Shimza Naz Durab beat Sania Omer 4-1,4-1; Salar Khan beat Saifullah

Sofia Tariq 6-0,6-3; Soha Ali beat Lalarukh Sajid 6-0,6-0; Romaisa Malik beat Maria Rasheed 6-1,6-0.

In Boys 18&under Singles 1st Round: Abdul Basit beat Amir Mazari 6-0,6-0; Haziq Asim beat Inam Qadir 6-1,6-2; Razik Sultan beat Moazzam Babar 6-0,6-3; Hassan Usmani beat Mahad Mehmood 6-0,6-1; Hamza Roman beat Rajam Taha 6-0,6-0; Muhammad Yahya beat ahmed Raza 6-1,7-5.

In Girls 14&under Singles 1st Round: Zainah Abdullah beat Zoya Mustaf 4-1,4-1; Shahreen Umer beat Areeba

In Boys 14&under Singles 1st Round: Behroze Mahmood beat M. Turab Bhatti 4-1,4-0; M. Ayyan beat Haseeb Mustafa 4-0,4-0; Ahmed Afzal beat Abdullah Haider 4-0.4-0; M, Faizan beat Mozzam Babar 5-4(6), 4-0; M. Umar Ali beat M. Ehsan Bari 4-0.4-0 Mahad Mehmood beat Ashtar Alam 5-4 (6), 5-4(4); M. Muaz beat Raia Taha

In Boys 12&under Singles 1st Round: In Ladies Singles 1st Round 1st M. Turab Bhatti beat Ali Asghar 5-4(5),

# "Sports Crucial for a Healthy Society," Says RTA Secretary Sardar Zaheer at Dordad Premier League Final

ATTOCK: Promotion of sports is the need of the hour for establishing a healthy society. Due to positive recreational trends, the young generation stays away from bad habits and negative influences. Through sports, growing unrest in society and the waywardness of the youth can be reduced.

These views were expressed by the well-known social and welfare personality, Secretary Regional Transport Authority and Admin Officer Attock, Sardar Zaheer Ahmad Khan,



while addressing as the chief guest at the final match of the Dordad Premier League in the

nearby village Dordad.

In the final match, Dordad competed against Bolianwal, in which Bolianwal won the match quite comfortably thanks to Jalali's outstanding batting. The chief guest of the match was RTA Secretary and Admin Officer Zaheer Khan of Dhoke Hasu Khan. Other distinguished Hussain Shah (Sajjadah Nasheen Darbar Aalia Syed Chan Pir Badshah Bukhari), Malik Khalid Khan (Saqa Abad), Master Sher Afzal (Dhoke Baka), Maqsood Khan (Dhoke Hasu), Nawazish

Khan Patwari, Mubarak Ali, Safdar Khan, Mushtaq Khan, Mazhar Ali of Dordad.

The tournament administration consisted of Tahir Mehmood (General Councillor), Habib Ahmad Khan (Patron-in-Chief), Mehtab Ali Khan, Fahd Yar Khan, and Badr Ali.

In the end, Zaheer Ahmad guests included Syed Asim Khan presented the trophy and prizes to the winning team and congratulated the tournament organizers. On behalf of the people of Dordad, the organizers expressed their heartfelt grati-

### Wing 999 Inter Department Cricket League. Last Date of Entry Extend till 5th September

**₿** Sports Desk

KARACHI: Regional Cricket Association Karachi is Organizing Wing 999 Inter Department Cricket League Tournament with the collaboration of Wing 999 on various Turf Wickets grounds of Karachi. Due to heavy rain in Karachi the last date of entry extended till 5th September. All Departmental teams are advised to collect their entry form of the Tournament from Regional Cricket Association Karachi Office National Stadium from Monday to Thursday and Saturday between 3 to 5 pm. The Cash Prize of (Rupees Five Lacs and Rupees two Lacs Fifty Thousand) will be given to the Winner and Runner up).

For further information Contact Khalid Nafees, Chairman Tournament Committee phone 0332-2103054 or M. Touseef Siddiqui, Tournament Secretary Phone no. 0300-2112727 /0330-2211272

### PCB contradicts news of replacing ODI, Test team captains

Sports Desk

LAHORE: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) on Monday strongly rejected media reports suggesting that Mohammad Rizwan and Shan Masood were being replaced as captains of the national white-ball and red-ball teams, respectively.

In a statement issued by PCB Media Manager Syed Nazir Ahmed, the board dismissed the claims as baseless and fabricated. The reports had speculated that Salman Ali Agha would take over ODI captaincy from Rizwan and Saud Shakeel would replace Masood as Test captain.

The PCB clarified that no such proposals were under consideration by the Selection Committee, and there had been no changes to the players' contract categories.

### Perth Scorchers beat Pak Shaheens to qualify for Top End T20 Series final



ISLAMABAD: Perth Scorchers beat Pakistan Shaheens by 48 runs in the first semifinal of the Top End T20 Series at the Gardens in Darwin on Sunday morning.

According to details, this was Shaheens' second successive loss at the semifinal stage, having lost to Adelaide Strikers in the first semifinal of last year's edition at the DXC Arena.

After being put into bat, Scorchers scored 155 for eight in their 20 overs.

spot of bother in the middle of their innings, as they lost six wickets for 69 courtesy of complete domination by the spin trio of Faisal Akram, Mehran Mumtaz and Saad Masood. At that point, Nicholas Hobson was joined by Matthew Kelly,

and the pair added 44 runs for the seventh wicket to take their score beyond the 100 mark. They eventually finished on 155 for eight in their allotted 20 overs. Hobson top-scored with a 43-ball 59, which included seven fours and two sixes, while Kelly contributed 23 off 19 balls,

hitting one four and two sixes. Shaheens' right-arm leg-spinner Saad was the most successful bowler, taking three wickets for 21 runs, while Mehran and Mohammad Wasim Jnr bagged two wickets each. Left-arm spinner Faisal managed to pick up a wicket, conceding 36 runs

In reply, Shaheens lost three wickets inside five overs with only 17 runs on the board. Khawaja Nafay and captain Muhammad Irfan Khan then came together and added 38 runs for the fourth wicket before right-handed batter Nafay was run out for 26 off 24 balls, which included one four and two sixes.

Irfan, who was named player of the match in the previous game against Nepal, was dismissed for 17 off 15 balls, hitting one four. After the departure of the skipper, Shaheens lost wickets in quick succession and were bundled out for 107 in 17.1 overs, with Wasim  $(25, 26b, 3x4s, 1\times6)$  the last man to return to the pavilion. For Scorchers, Keaton Critchell took three wickets, while Bryce

Jackson and Kelly bagged two each. Before the semi-final, in the 11-team tournament, Pakistan Shaheens had finished second on the table with four wins from

Scores in brief: Perth Scorchers 155-8, 20 overs (Nicholas Hobson 59, Teague Wills 29, Matthew Kelly 23; Saad Masood

3-21, Mehran Mumtaz 2-18, Mohammad Wasim Jnr 2-35). Pakistan Shaheens 107 all out, 17.1 overs (Khawaja Nafay 26, Mohammad Wasim Jnr 25; Keaton Critchell 3-13, Matthew Kelly 2-8, Bryce Jackson 2-14); Player of the match – Keaton Critchell (Perth Scorchers).

# Pakistan squad named for ICC Women's CWC 2025

**Sports Desk** 

ISLAMABAD: The women's national selection committee has named a 15-member squad for the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2025 set to take place from September 30 to November 2.

The same squad will also feature in a three-match ODI series against South Africa, scheduled at the Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore from September 16 to 22, said a press release.

Uncapped right-handed batter Eyman debut against Ireland, is part of the ODI Women's Cricket World Cup, will lead the side for the first time in the mega event.

The 23-year-old had previously captained the side in the ICC Women's where the team maintained a 100 per U19 T20 World Cup held in South Africa

cent win record to secure qualification in January 2023. for this year's ICC Women's Cricket World Cup set to take place in India and Sri Lanka. Pakistan will play all their groupstage matches at the R Premadasa International Cricket Stadium in Colombo. Should Pakistan qualify for the October 29 semifinal and the November 2 final, then both the matches will take place in Colombo.

Also, six players - Natalia Parvaiz (8 ODIs, 24T20Is), Rameen Shamim (8 ODIs, 11 T20Is), Sadaf Shamas (15 Fatima, who recently made her T20I ODIs, 12 T20Is), Sadia Iqbal (27 ODIs, 50 T20Is), Shawaal Zulfiqar (3 ODIs, 9 squad. Fatima Sana, who represented T20Is) and Syeda Aroob Shah (2 ODIs, Pakistan in the previous edition of ICC 15 T20Is) are set to feature in their maiden ODI World Cup.

Moreover, 21-year-old Aroob, 20-year-old Shawaal alongside 20-year-old Eyman featured for Pakistan CWC Qualifier held in Lahore this year, in the inaugural edition of ICC Women's

Additionally, two changes have been made from the 15-member squad that featured in the ICC Women's CWC Qualifier. Eyman and Sadaf come into the squad in place of Gull Feroza and Najiha Alvi, who have been named in the five-member non-travelling reserves alongside Tuba Hassan, Umm-e-Hani and Waheeda Akhtar.

The 15 players alongside five reserves players will take part in a 14-day pre-South Africa series camp from August 29. The players under the coaching staffled by Muhammad Wasim will undergo practice sessions as well as 50-over practice matches. More details regarding the camp will be announced in due course.

South Africa women's cricket team will arrive in Lahore on September 12. 15-member squad: Fatima Sana (captain), Muneeba Ali Siddiqui

(vice-captain), Aliya Riaz, Diana Baig, Evman Fatima, Nashra Sundhu, Natalia Parvaiz, Omaima Sohail, Rameen Shamim, Sadaf Shamas, Sadia Iqbal, Shawaal Zulfiqar, Sidra Amin, Sidra Nawaz (wicket-keeper) and Syeda Aroob Shah. Non-traveling reserves: Gull Feroza, Najiha Alvi, Tuba Hassan, Umm-e-Hani and Waheeda Akhtar.

Player support personnel: Hina Munawar (manager), Muhammad Wasim (head coach), Junaid Khan (assistant coach bowling), Tahir Khan (assistant coach bowling), Abdul Saad (fielding coach), Muhammad Rafi Ullah (media manager), Muhammad Asfand Yar  $(strength\,and\,conditioning\,coach), Waleed\\$ Ahmed (analyst), Tehreem Sumbal (physiotherapist), Kiran Shahzadi (masseuse) and team doctor (tbc).

Pakistan will play South Africa in the ODIs on September 16, 19 and 22. Pakistan team fixtures in ICC Women's



October 8 vs Australia; October 15 vs 24 vs Sri Lanka.

Cricket World Cup 2025 include October England; October 18 vs New Zealand; 2 vs Bangladesh; October 5 vs India; October 21 vs South Africa and October

# The Spokesman

# Assistance ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development Chaudhry Salik Hussain, government representatives and senior officials of NDMA are sending relief supplies to Gaza on a special flight.

# Pakistan sends 21st relief flight with 100 tons of aid to Gaza

### **Spokesman Report**

LAHORE: Another special flight carrying the 21st consignment of 100 tons was sent from Allama Iqbal Interued commitment to providing essential supplies to the people of Gaza.

A special flight carrying 100 tonnes of relief goods Management

Lahore, under the directives of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

latest phase of relief operations, the National Disaster

departed from Allama (NDMA) has sent an addi- 2,027 tonnes across 21 Iqbal International Airport, tional 412 tonnes of essential supplies through five separate

Earlier, on August 23, the Resource The shipment included 19th consignment comprising national Airport in Lahore, ration bags, ready-to-eat 100 tonnes was dispatched as part of Pakistan's contin- meals, and canned fruit, from Lahore, while the 4th aimed at addressing urgent shipment, carrying 12 tonnes food needs in Gaza. In the of aid, departed from Islam-sentatives and senior NDMA abad. With these latest efforts, the total volume of aid sent by

consignments.

Federal Minister for Over-Chaudhry Salik Hussain, attended the dispatch ceremony as special guest. He was joined by government repreofficials.

Pakistan sends 21st relief Authority Pakistan to Gaza has reached flight with 100 tons of aid to

Addressing the occasion, the Federal Minister praised seas Pakistanis and Human NDMA and partner welfare Development, organizations for their swift and coordinated efforts. He reaffirmed Pakistan's unwavering solidarity with the people of Palestine and pledged that every possible effort would be made to meet their humanitarian needs

# Dar Meet with Saudi, Iranian Foreign **Ministers**

JEDDAH: Ishaq Dar also held crucial meetings with the Foreign Ministers of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Islamic Republic of Iran in Jeddah on the sidelines of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers 21st Extraordinary Session.

In his meeting with the Iranian Foreign Minister Seved Abbas Araghchi, Ishaq Dar "discussed the grave situation in Gaza, strongly condemning Israeli aggression, genocide and famine, and emphasised the urgent need for unhindered humanitarian aid and a lasting ceasefire.

According to the tweet by Pakistan Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, both the Iranian and Pakistani delegations reaffirmed "close and brotherly ties" between them.



with his Saudi counterpart, Faisal Bin Farhan, discussed the current humanitarian

lasting peace" for the people of Palestine.

"We also reviewed our crises in Gaza. Both leaders brotherly bilateral ties in in Saudi Arabia, the deputy stressed "permanent cease- diverse areas and exchanged prime minister was received fire, unhindered humanitarian views on key regional & inter- at Jeddah's King Abdulaziz Khalid Majid.

Ishaq Dar, in his meeting access, reconstruction, and national developments of International Airport by Pakimutual interest," Dar wrote in

Earlier, upon his arrival

stan's Permanent Representative to the OIC Ambassador Fawad Sher, Ambassador to Saudi Arabia Ahmad Farooq, and Consul General in Jeddah

### Major Gen Noor Wali Khan appointed as additional secretary at Ministry of Interior



ISLAMABAD: Major General Noor Wali Khan has been appointed as the new Additional Secretary of the Ministry of Interior. According to a notification issued by the establishment division, Major Gen Noor Wali Khan is posted for a period of three years on a secondment basis.

Meanwhile, Sohail Habib Tajik, a grade-21 officer of the PSP, who was previously serving as Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Interior, has been transferred and directed to report to the Establishment

## Pakistan earns \$981m by exporting transport services in FY 2025

跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan earned US \$981.475 million by providing different transport services in various countries during the fiscal year (2024-25) as compared to the corresponding period of last year. This shows an increase of 27.90

percent as compared to \$767.399 million earned through the provision of services during the last fiscal year (2023-24), the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported.

During the period under review, the exports of sea transport services witnessed an increase of 34.26 percent, going up from \$109.654 million last year to \$147.226 million.

Among the sea transport services, the exports of freight services rose by 51.76 percent from \$61.623 million last year to \$93.520 million whereas the exports of other sea transport services rose by 11.82 percent from \$48.030 million to \$53.706 million, the PBS data revealed.

The exports of air transport also



from \$626.953 million last year to \$778.256 million during the year under review.

Among the air transport services, the exports of passenger services decreased by 7.72 percent, from \$445.249 million to \$410.860 million, whereas the exports of freight from \$4.103 million to \$5.536 services surged by 120.03 percent, from \$12.975 million to \$ 28.550 million, in addition, the export of from \$21.148 million to \$34.530 other air transport services witnessed an increase of 100.82 percent from \$168.728 million to \$338.844

Meanwhile, the exports of road \$15.926 million, the data revealed. Published by: Almass Ayoub Sabir from Zero Point Printers Rawalpindi

increased by 24.13 percent going up transport services during the year under review witnessed a growth of 58.67 percent going up from \$25.251 million to \$40.066 million during the year under review, it added.

Among the road transport services, the exports of freight services witnessed a surge of 34.90 percent million, while the export of other road services increased by 63.28 percent

The export of postal and courier services also increased by 187.46 percent, from \$5.540 million to

# Iran offers support to Pakistan after devastating floods



### **E** City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi received a telephone call from his Iranian counterpart, General Iskandar Momeni, who expressed deep minister. sorrow over the loss of lives caused by torrential rains and floods in Pakistan, particularly in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Gilgit-Baltistan.

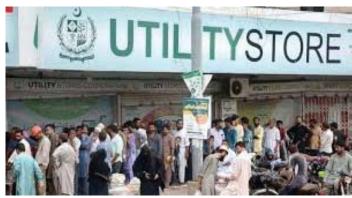
The Iranian Interior Minister conveyed heartfelt condolences to the families of those who lost their loved ones and prayed for patience and strength for the bereaved. He also offered assistance to Pakistan in relief efforts for the flood victims. stressing that Iran considers Pakistan a brotherly neighboring country and stands ready to extend every possible help during this time of being of the flood victims as our top

"Pakistan's devastation from these floods is truly heartbreaking. Hundreds of people have been separated from their loved ones. We stand shoulder to shoulder with the people of Pakistan," said the Iranian

In response, Minister Mohsin Nagvi thanked his Iranian counterpart for the solidarity and support extended. He said Pakistan and Iran share both joys and sorrows, emphasizing that climate change has emerged as a major challenge, causing unprecedented destruction in the country.

"For the first time in history, Pakistan is facing such dangerous climate conditions. All institutions are actively engaged in relief and rehabilitation efforts, with the wellpriority," Naqvi stated.

### NA Committee on Privatization expresses concerns over the privatization of **Utility Stores**



ISLAMABAD: National Assembly Standing Committee on Privatization on Monday expressed serious concem over the privatization of Utility Stores and emphasized that continuing the process despite the committee's recommendations is highly alarming.

The committee met here under the chairmanship of Muhammad Farooq Sattar and discussed matters relating to the Privatization of different loss making entities, said a press release.

The Secretary Ministry of Industries apprised that the operations of Utility Stores have been closed.

However, safeguarding the rights of around 10,000 to 11,000 employees remains the government's foremost priority.

It was further informed that as long as the government was providing subsidies, Utility Stores after the withdrawal of subsidies, the operations went into loss.

ensure the payment of employees' and vendors' dues in two phases, amounting to a total of Rs. 27 billion.

The committee directed that a detailed breakup of the outstanding dues be presented before the ommittee in the next meeting.

The committee expressed concern over the situation of load-shedding across the country.

It was apprised to the committee that there is no electricity shortfall in the country, however, a load management process is being carried out.

For this purpose, feeders where electricity theft or excessive line losses occur are subjected to load manage-

Accordingly, the committee advised that instead of imposing load-shedding on the entire feeder, electricity supply should be disconnected only for those feeders or were operating profitably. However, consumers found involved in electricity theft or causing excessive

# Karachi court grants physical remand of Farhan Ghani in terrorism case

跨 Bureau Report

KARACHI: An Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) in Karachi has handed over Sindh provincial minister Syed Ghani's brother, Chanesar Town others were working under official Chairman Farhan Ghani, along with supervision, but the prosecutor

two co-accused, to police on a four-day physical remand in a case of allegedly assaulting and threatening government employees.

According to details, the three accused, including Farhan Ghani, Shakeel, and Qamar Ahmed, were produced before the ATC by Karachi police failed to clarify which government

on Monday. During the hearing, the court questioned the prosecutor and the investigating officer about

employment and the work they were performing at the time of the incident.

The investigation officer informed the court that the complainant and



department employed them.

When asked about the allegations, police stated that the accused had beaten and threatened the the nature of the complainant's complainant and other officials.