CM Bugti greenlights 'Bank of Balochistan' to spur development

The Balochistan Government has announced the establishment of 'Bank of Balochistan' to provide quality banking services in the province. He stated that the establishment of the Bank of Balochistan would provide quality banking services to the public, traders, and investors.



NDMA issues heavy rain alert for Punjab and AJK

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Rabiul Awwal 2, Wednesday, August 27, 2025



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Calls on



Ravi and Sutlej rivers in high flood after India releases water

跨 Spokesman Report

LAHORE: The Ravi and Sutlej rivers were flowing in high flood on Tuesday after India released water into the two rivers.

Sources said that many villages near Head Sulemanki and Head Ganda Singh Wala had been inundated following the high flood situation.

In response, the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) issued alerts.

The sources said that India made the first contact on Sunday night, stating that water was being released into the Tawi River. In the second diplomatic communication, a flood warning

was issued for the Sutlei River. The PDMA issued alerts to the commissioners of Lahore,



Sahiwal, Multan, Bahawalpur, and Dera Ghazi Khan.

Due to the water release by India, several embankments on the Sutlei River were breached. High-level flooding has been reported near Bahawalnagar and Kasur, while the river has overflowed near Head Ganda Singh

Wala and Head Sulemanki.

Moreover, breaches have occurred in the protective embankments near Head Islam. In Pakpattan, more than 1,400

> In Chishtian, 150 houses have been affected by flash floods. In Jhelum, water from the Banhan Nullah has entered residential land, officials said on Tuesday.

affected people have been shifted

Several villages in Burewala, Arifwala, and Chichawatni have been submerged in recent floods. while crops have been damaged in areas including Farooqabad, Jamlera, Sahooka, Mauza Bhattian Tibbi, Noorarth, and Basti

Mengal. Meanwhile, the Ravi River is experiencing a medium-level flood at Head Sulemanki and Jassar, where the water flow has reached 82.140 cusecs.

According to the NDMA, the Ravi River is 86% full, posing a risk to low-lying areas of Sialkot,

Narowal, and Kasur. Flooding hit several areas of Punjab after India released 50,000 cusecs of water into the Kamonki's nullah Dek, submerging dozens of villages and hundreds of acres of farm-

Authorities warned residents of Mirza Pur, Saib, Ludhar, Suhawa, Kalu Kalan, Sukhana Bajwa and Dalianwali to evacuate immediately as rising waters threatened their homes. At Hanili on Tafrawal Road.

the old nullah Dek bridge collapsed under the pressure of floodwaters.

Meanwhile, water levels in the nullah Aik have also continued to rise, breaching embankments at several points.

A 100-foot-wide breach occurred at Kotli Marla, and another 30-foot gap opened at Badoke Cheema, cutting off road links between several villages.

The flood situation has left residents of Kotli Marla, Ghazi Chak, Kenchian Wali, Badoke Cheema and surrounding villages stranded and deeply distressed.

PM Shehbaz lauds PAF's role in defending the nation

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday paid glowing tribute to the Pakistan Air Force (PAF) for its outstanding role in safeguarding the country's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The Prime Minister expressed these views during a call-on paid by the Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmad Babar Sidhu, a Prime Minister's Office news release said.

Acknowledging the PAF's aerial defence capabilities.

legacy of courage and professionalism, Shehbaz Sharif said the "valiant Shaheens of the Pakistan Air Force stand as an impregnable shield in the defence of our motherland."

He added that during the decisive battles of the nation's history, the PAF dealt telling blows to the adversary, including shooting down enemy aircraft in combat.

The meeting also reviewed professional matters relating to the Air Force, with both sides reiterating their commitment to strengthening Pakistan's

Security forces eliminate 47 militants attempting border infiltration in Balochistan



👺 Bureau Report

QUETTA: Pakistani security forces carried out a successful operation in the Sambaza area of Balochistan, thwarting a major attempt by militants of the outlawed Khawarij network to cross the border into Pakistan between August 7 and 9.

According to security sources, the operation resulted in the killing of as many as 47 terrorists, most of whom were Afghan nationals.

Sources revealed that the militants were intercepted before they could execute any terrorist activities, marking a significant achievement for Pakistan's security and intelligence agencies.

They reported that the bodies of the slain terrorists had fallen on the Afghan side of the Pakistan.

border following the engage-Despite this, Afghan author-

ities did not retrieve the bodies for a full fifteen days after the firefight, leaving them to decompose in the open on the Afghan side.

During this period, the decaying corpses were reportedly consumed by scavenging animals and birds.

On August 25, following a jirga held with Afghan officials at the border, the bodies were eventually removed, reportedly transported on donkeys into Afghan territory.

Security officials hailed the operation as a major success, preventing a large-scale infiltration attempt and neutralizing a dangerous terrorist formation before it could strike inside

Bilawal says despite rifts, PPP to stand with federal govt

B Abdul Ghafoor Sarohi

LARKANA: Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has said that despite some policy differences, his party remains aligned with the federal government'. Speaking at the Clean Larkana and Employment Scheme Program in



Naudero, Bilawal recalled that Sindh had been treated like a 'stepchild" in the past, facing difficulties and neglect. He dedicated his recently award-

ed Nishan-e-Imtiaz to the people of Larkana. Bilawal announced that two million houses were being built across Sindh under the People's Housing Scheme, with ownership rights transferred in women's names.

He termed it the world's largest housing project for women, adding that the initiative also generated up to 100,000 job opportunities.

He praised local body representatives who launched the programme using their own savings and encouraged others to improve financial management.

Imran Khan refuses to accept Salman Akram Raja's resignation

Cioty Desk

RAWALPINDI: Founder of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Imran Khan has refused to accept the resignation of Salman Akram Raja from the position of the party's secretary-general on Tuesday.

Salman Akram announced in a media talk outside the Adiala Jail that the party's founder and incarcerated leader, Imran Khan, has refused his resignation and urged him to continue as PTI's Secretary-Gen-

He also said that PTI's Political Committee will meet today to discuss policy regarding the upcoming by-elections. "All the decisions will be taken as per the founder's directives," he said.

Raja had announced distancing himself from the party's secretary-general role on



Monday through a tweet on X (Former Twitter).

He wrote that "an incident occurred that now demands a firm decision from me". Sources claimed that Raja had a heated argument with Imran Khan's sister Aleema Khan, and after that, he decided to quit the posi-

Speaking to the media outside the Adiala Jail, Aleema Khan denied any dispute between her and Salman Akram Raja. She said, "We are like family".

Engineer Muhammad Ali Mirza arrested



Source Correspondent

JHELUM: Jhelum police have arrested prominent religious scholar Engineer Muhammad Ali Mirza under Section 3 of the Maintenance of Public Order (MPO).

arrest, officials have sealed Engineer Mirza's

academy, locking the premises to prevent any

gatherings or activities. The move comes amid

increased scrutiny and monitoring of religious

institutions throughout the district.

Authorities have also confirmed the sealing of his academy following official directives. According to police sources, the arrest was made on the instructions of the Deputy Commissioner of Jhelum. Mirza was taken into custody and later transferred to jail as part of administrative measures under Section 3 of the MPO, which permits detention to uphold public order. In addition to the

Mohsin Naqvi delivers big: 233% increase in civil armed forces' martyrs package 跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: In another landmark achievement credited to Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi, his efforts have resulted in a 233 percent increase in the compensation package for martyrs of the civil armed forces.

According to details, the federal cabinet has approved the Interior Ministry's decision to raise the compensation amounts significantly.

Under the revised package, the minimum compensation for martyrs has been raised from Rs3 million to Rs10 million, while the maximum compensation has been increased from Rs10 million to Rs20 million.



Previously, the maximum payout under the security-related package stood at Rs 10 million.

The civil armed forces covered under this package include Punjab Rangers, Sindh Rangers, Frontier Corps North and South Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Frontier Corps North and South Balochistan, Pakistan Coast Guards, Gilgit-Baltistan Scouts, and the Federal Constabulary.

A parliamentary delegation of AJK led by Chaudhry Latif Akbar met with Foreign Secretary Amna Baloch

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: A parliamentary delegation led by Chairman of the Special Committee of the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly/Speaker of the Legislative Assembly Chaudhry Latif Akbar met with Foreign Secretary Amna Baloch.

The delegation included former Prime Minister Raja Muhammad Farooq Haider Hafiz Hamid Raza, Altaf also involved in highlighting of the current government is Khan, Convener of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference Ghulam Muhammad Safi, Opposition Leader Khawaja Farooq Ahmed, Government Ministers Raja Faisal Mumtaz the Kashmir issue. Speaker Rathore, Dewan Ali Chughtai, Hafiz Ahmed Raza Qadri, Abdul Majid Khan, Chaudhry Akbar Ibrahim, Akmal Sargala, Javed Butt, Asim Sharif Butt and members of lative Assembly and leaders of rule.



Wani, Secretary Assembly and Secretary Liberation Cell.

The delegation apprised government's steps regarding of the Legislative Assembly Chaudhry Latif Akbar told the Foreign Secretary that the members of the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Legisthe assembly Chaudhry Ismail, the Hurriyat Conference were

the Kashmir issue worldwide.

the Kashmir issue and this

special committee established

concrete action plan to high-

He said that under this

special committee, all-party

conferences will be held in

light this important issue.

He said that the Kashmiri people value the politthe Foreign Secretary of the ical, diplomatic and moral support of Pakistan to the Kashmiris. He said that a strong and stable Pakistan not only strengthens the Kashmir freedom movement but also guarantees the freedom of the Kashmiri people from Indian

He said that the top priority

towards resolving the Kashmir

He said that the martyrs of Kashmir have kept the Kashmir issue alive and the love of Kashmiris for Pakistan is unbreakable which no power in the world can end.

He said that Kashmiris on July 19, 1947 The resolution of accession to Pakistan was passed and we will continue our struggle until the mission of our ancestors is completed.

Foreign Secretary Amina Baloch assured the delegain this regard will formulate a tion of her full support and said that the Pakistani diplomatic mission will provide full support to the special committee comprising members of the Azad Jammu all provincial headquarters and Kashmir Legislative of Pakistan so that the nation Assembly during their foreign can be united on one point visits. The delegation thanked and we can all together attract Foreign Secretary Amina international public opinion

Kashmiris struggle's success for freedom written on wall: ਮੁੱਢੇਂK *Forum*

Bureau Report



MIRPUR (AJK): The Parisbased Jammu & Kashmir Forum, France, has said that the success of the Kashmir freedom movement was written on the wall.

"For the Kashmiri people, freedom is more important than life itself", said Chaudhry Naeem Akhtar, Chairman of the Forum, while talking to the media in the French capital city of Paris. a message was released

to the media here.

Akhter continued that he believed that the night of oppression would not last forever, and the blood of the martyrs would surely bear fruit, ending the dark night of slavery and ushering in the dawn of freedom. He emphasized that no power in the world could stop Kashmiris from getting their rights, no matter what India does.

He said that although freedom movements faced difficult times, they always reached their logical conclusion.

He appealed to the UN Secretary-General, António Guterres, the International Committee of the Red Cross, Asia Watch, and Amnesty International, along with all local and international human rights organizations, to use their influence to secure the release of detained Kashmiris and resolve the Kashmir dispute in accordance with UN

Proctors essential to maintain college discipline: Akbar Ali Haral



Majid Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: The importance of class monitors and projectors in schools, colleges and universities cannot be denied because they keep an eye on the students in the college at all times and if the students violate the rules and regulations of the college or commit any mischief, it is the job of the proctors to report it and present it before the Chief Proctor or the concerned teacher, said Principal Aspire Colleges, Gulberg Campus, Akbar Ali Haral, on the occasion of the interview of the proctors. He further said that in order to maintain college discipline, develop leadership qualities in the students and instill a sense of leadership and responsibility in them, interviews were held today at Aspire Colleges, Gulberg Campus to form a team of proctors and some new students who are capable of handling this responsibility in the college classes were selected and assigned to them. He was made part of this team, which, God willing, will have a significant impact on the discipline of the college.

Famous food brand \mathcal{F} ජKBannu Pulao Shinwari Restaurant maugurated

Maiid Maiid

FAISALABAD: Central President Cloth Board Ittehad Group Pakistan Alhaj Naseer Yousuf Vohra and Pakistan Ulema Council Central Secretary Information and Broadcasting Hafiz Maqbool Ahmed formally inaugurated the J&K Bannu Palao Shinwari Restaurant by cutting the ribbon and praying for the prosperity of the business. On this occasion, the



owners of the restaurant Muhammad Umar, Faisal Awan, and other esteemed guests and elders of the city were present. Alhaj Naseer Yousuf Vohra, while giving the zihar, described the J&K Bannu Shinwari Restaurant as extremely satisfactory in terms of quality and expressed his best wishes for its success. Hafiz Maqbool Ahmed also described J&K Bannu Shinwari Restaurant as an excellent addition to the city's food scene. The organizers and owners of J&K Bannu Shinwari Restaurant thanked the distinguished guests Alhaj Naseer Yousuf Vohra, Hafiz Maqbool Ahmed and other participants and expressed their determination to play a positive role in providing quality food to the farmers. Later, President Cloth Board Ittehad Group Pakistan Alhaj Naseer Yousuf Vohra, along with Hafiz Maqbool Ahmed, also visited his business center Vohra Center in Jinnah Colony and gave a detailed briefing in this regard. While informing about various issues, Hafiz Maqbool Ahmed expressed deep interest in different types of electric motorbikes and prayed for the efforts of Naseer Yousuf Vohra and social development.

Special Secretary South Punjab Visited Children's Hospital Multan



👺 Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Special Secretary South Punjab Amanullah Sahib along with Dean Prof Doctor Muhammad Kashif Chishti visited various wards of at Children's Hospital Multan

MS Dr. Kamran Asif was also present on this occasion.

The Special Secretary visited various departments including medical and surgical outdoor, medical wards, nursery wards for young children, surgery ward, kidney and bladder ward including dialysis unit and laboratory and inquired about the facilities provided by the hospital from the relatives of the patients.

Naan Khatai

MUZAFFERABAD: A person is buying traditional bakery item "Naan Khatai" from shop at local bazaar in the capital of AJK.



Meeting was held at THQ Hospital Kamalia for issuance of Disability Certificates

👺 Zafar Chishti

TOBA TEK SINGH: Under the auspices of the Social Welfare Tehsil Office Kamalia, an Assessment Board meeting was held at Tehsil Headquarters Hospital Kamalia for the issuance of disability certificates. The meeting was presided over by Medical Superintendent Dr. Mian Adeel



Arif, while members includ- Dr. Hafiz Habib-ur-Rehman, Idara Sibghatullah), Shahid

ed Senior Medical Specialist Khalid Hussain (President,

Idara Sibghatullah) and fit from the welfare schemes Medical Social Officer Arshad initiated by the Puniab govern-Qadri. During the session, 46 persons with disabilities underwent detailed medical examination and necessary proceedings for the issuance of their certificates were completed. Speaking on the be able to secure respectaoccasion, Dr. Mian Adeel Arif ble employment in various said that certificates would soon be issued so that deserv-

Hussain Ashrafi (Member, ing individuals could benement. He further stated that those unable to work would be provided stipends through the Himmat Card programme, while persons with disabilities capable of working would departments under the disa-

Ruqia Saba Ashraf, a PhD Scholar Recommended For a Doctorate Degree after a Successful Defense

👺 Quratul Ain Asim

MULTAN: Miss Ruqia Saba Ashraf, a PHD scholar from the Department of English at Women University Multan, has been recommended for a doctorate degree after a successful oral defense.

According to the spokesperson, the public defense ceremony of Miss Ruqia Saba Ashraf was held at the Youth Center Kachhari Campus, with Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Kulsoom Paracha as the chief guest. Miss Ruqia's research paper was titled "Subaltern Struggle and Representation: A Critical Study of South Asian Fiction".

Her external supervisor for her paper was Dr. Asma Kashif of COMSAT University Islamabad and the supervisor was Prof. Dr. Maimuna Khan.



refers to marginalized groups that are excluded from the dominant power structures and narratives.

In the context of South Asian literature, subaltern narratives have emerged The scholar Ms. Ruqia, while answering as an important field of study, which questions, said that the term subaltern offers insights into the lives and expe-

riences of communities that have been historically silenced or misrepresented. This paper Subaltern narratives include those in which authors represent marginalized voices. In South Asian literature, authors representing subaltern narratives adopt various strategies to give voice to marginalized commu-

Narratives in South Asian literature provide a complex and nuanced understanding of marginalized communities and their experiences.

Through the representation of subaltern voices, authors challenge dominant narratives and offer alternative understandings of historical and social events.

By examining the ways in which authors represent marginalized communities, we can gain a deeper understanding of the complexities involved and the strategies that authors use to navigate them.

Finally, Chairperson of the Department of English, Dr. Munza Rabbani congratulated Dr. Ruqia on her successful colloquium defense. Other faculty members also attended the



Namaz Timings Maghrib .. 6:41 pm

...8:09 pm **EMEDGENCY**

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Bomb Disposal 15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/
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Polyclinic	9218300-0
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DEPARTMENTS

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Cantonment Board 9270151-3
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Corporation 9209224
Potohar Town 9209224
Rawal Town 5773343

COMPLAINTS

Water Tanker Service E-7, F-10 & F-11 .. G-5, G-6, G-7, G-8,9203883 G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, H-8 ..9266316 Wapda Islamabad......9217579-80 Sui Gas Complaint..... 119, 9272249

Pakistani Fishermen Demand Release of 15 Detained by **İndian BSF**

Kamran Khamiso Khowaja

SUJAWAL: Members of the Pakistan Fisherfolk Forum and other local fishermen have demanded the release of 15 fishermen arrested by Indian Border Security Forces near Kuch creek on August 25. According to ources Indian forces laid siege to Pakistani vessels fishing near the creek and detained them.

The Indian BSF officials claimed that the fishermen had entered India's territorial limits with ulterior motives, prompting timely action by Indian security forces. However, local fishermen asserted that those arrested belonged to the Bohria and Malah communities of Jati Taluka in Sujawal district.

Concerned government officials stated that they had cautioned Pakistani fishermen to avoid fishing near Indian waters due to the current state of affairs between the two countries.

Officials from the PFF and other fishermen organizations, including Noor Themore, Dada Adam Gandro, Gafoor Gadro, Saleem Malah, and others, demanded the release of the detained Pakistani fishermen. They urged the United Nations to take swift action against Indian authorities for gross violations of international law.

TGA Hosts First-Ever Pakistani Content **Creators Trip to Türkiye**

Spokesman report

ISLAMABAD: In a landmark initiative to strengthen tourism and cultural ties between Pakistan and Türkiye, the Türkiye Tourism Promotion and Development Agency (TGA), in collaboration with the Ministry of Tourism and Culture, hosted the first official influencer trip from Pakistan to Türkiye this month. The trip was curated by Asiatic Public Relations Network (APR). Six prominent Pakistani social media influencers: Hamza Bhatti, Osama Nasir, Umama Ismail, Ghuas Gondal, Fariha Asghar, and Rea Rana, experienced Türkiye's hospitality and vibrant culture, with Istanbul as the centerpiece of their journey.

The carefully curated itinerary offered the influencers a mix of heritage, culture, and modern experiences. From exploring the Blue Mosque, Hagia Sophia, and Basilica Cistern in Istanbul's historic peninsula, to strolling through the colorful streets of Balat and Fener, the group captured the city's blend of tradi-

Bazaar, Istiklal Street, and Galataport gave them a taste of everyday Istanbul life, while the Bosphorus Cruise highlighted the city's unique position straddling Europe and Asia.

Gastronomy was also a central focus, as the influencers enjoyed authentic Turkish cuisine and fusion delicacies, capturing the essence of Türkiye's celebrated food culture. A TGA representative said: "We are delighted to welcome the first

group of Pakistani influencers to Türkiye. This milestone reflects our commitment to further strengthening ties between our two nations, and showcasing Türkiye's unique experiences to Pakistani travelers. We look forward to seeing the stories and content that will inspire more visitors from Pakistan to discover Türkiye."

The influencers will be creating digital content from their trip, offering their audiences a first-hand glimpse into Türkiye's cultural, historical, and culinary wonders.

This pioneering collaboration marks the beginning of a series of efforts to



tion and modernity. Visits to the Spice promote Türkiye in Pakistan, further deepening the long-standing friend- ship and people-to-people connections between the two countries.

Future

ISLAMABAD: Minister of state for Federal Education and Professional Training (FE & PT), Wajiha Qamar along with Chairman FBISE, Prof. Dr. Ikram Ali Malik and distinguished guests posing for a group photograph along with position holder students after announcement of the results of HSSC (Part I & II) Annual Examination 2025, at FBISE Auditorium in Federal Capital.



Commissioner Orders Speedy Completion of Long-Delayed Shaheen Market Project

跨 Zain Khan Malghani

MULTAN: Commissioner Multan, Amir Karim Khan, paid a visit to the long-delayed Shaheen Market project and issued firm directives to expedite its completion. He stressed that the project, launched in 2011, carries immense commercial importance and its operationalization would equally benefit both citizens and traders.

During his visit, the Commissioner instructed officials to prepare a detailed cost estimate of the remaining work and accelerate construction efforts so that the market could be opened for public



earliest. He noted that the Commissioner of Multan with two-story market, situated in devising a transparent allotthe heart of the city, has the ment system, ensuring that

potential to emerge as a major shops are distributed on merit hub of trade and commerce. and that the project's benefits Commissioner Amir Karim reach the public effectively.

and business activities at the Khan also tasked the Deputy

Officials briefed the Commissioner that Shaheen Market consists of 126 shops - 70 in the basement and 50 on the first floor — but it has not yet been made operational. They added that the installation of shutters, construction of washrooms, and completion of the sewerage system remain pending.

The Commissioner was accompanied by Deputy Commissioner Waseem Hamid Sandhu, Chief Officer Corporation Iqbal Khan, Director Development Mubashir Rehman, and other senior officials during the inspection.

CM Punjab's Farmer-Friendly Policy, 56 Motorcycles distributed to veterinary staff

👺 Raza Nagvi

ATTOCK: Member National Assembly and member Supreme Judicial Council, Sheikh Aftab Ahmad, has said that in light of the directives of Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif, farmer-friendly policies are being implemented vigorously so that the farmers of Pakistan may prosper. He expressed these views while addressing as chief guest at a ceremony held at the Livestock Office, Attock, for the distribution of motorcycles among veterinary staff.

On this occasion, Additional Director Livestock Toseef Tahir, Livestock



Officer Muhammad Najaf, Mushtaq, Talal Butt, local former Vice Chairman leaders, officials, and a large Municipal Committee Attock number of people were also Nasir Mahmood Sheikh, District President Pakistan Muslim League (N) Attock Saleem Shehzad, District Information

In his address, Sheikh Aftab Ahmad said that Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Secretary Nawaz Sharif is utilizing all

the Livestock & Dairy Development Department Attock, in the first phase, 56 motorcycles have initially been given to para-veterinary staff. The aim is to make veterinary services more effective in rural areas and to provide timely treatment and vaccination facilities to livestock owners. A total of 106 motorcycles will be provided to the veterinary staff in different

said that the Pakistan Muslim League (N) has always formulated farm-PML-N Dr. Mian Rashid available resources for the er-friendly policies so that

development of livestock farmers can prosper and across the province. He said become self-reliant. He that under the supervision of added that when farmers prosper, the country prospers. At present, 56 motorcycles are being distributed, and after six months more motorcycles will be provided. This series of farmer-friendly policies will continue.

Former Vice Chairman Municipal Committee Attock Nasir Mahmood Sheikh, Additional Director Livestock Toseef Tahir, and other speakers also addressed the gathering. At the conclusion The chief guest further of the ceremony, the chief guest distributed motorcycles among the veterinary staff, followed by a motorcycle rally led by him.



At Rawalpindi Government Associate College for Girls, Gowal Mandi, MPA Malik Mansoor Afsar, Director Colleges Amjad Iqbal Khattak and Principal Saima Shabbir are inaugurating new blocks in the college.

Dr. Syed Muarraf Hussain Passes away

ISLAMABAD: With profound sorrow, we announce the passing of Dr. Syed Muarraf Hussain, esteemed Professor at Rawalpindi Medical University, who left this world on August 26, 2025.

A dedicated teacher, compassionate physician, and respected academic, Dr. Muarraf Hussain served generation of students and patients with integrity and humility. His contributions to the medical community and his commitment to education will be remembered with deep respect and admi-



Namaz-e-Janaza will be held on Wednesday, August 27, 2025, after Zuhr prayer, at RMC Colony, Rawal Road (near RIC), Rawalpindi We request prayers for the departed soul and strength for the

bereaved family in this difficult time. May Allah (SWT) grant him the highest place in Jannah. Ameen.

Sundas Foundation is Doing a Great Service to Humanity: DG PEMRA



跨 City Desk

LAHORE: Director General PEMRA, Ms. Ayesha Manzoor Wattoo has said that the Sundas Foundation is rendering outstanding services in saving humanity and serving the cause of public welfare. She stated, "This organization is truly working to save the lives of innocent children suffering from Thalassemia and other blood disorders.

Speaking to the media during her visit to Sundas Foundation Lahore, Ayesha Manzoor Wattoo said that more than 10,000 Thalassemia patients are under treatment at the institution where they are being provided with world-class medical facilities. She added that the laboratories and other facilities are state-of-the-art, while the blood transfusion system is exemplary.

During the visit, Dr. Adnan Gillani, Medical Director of Sundas Foundation gave Ayesha Manzoor Wattoo a detailed briefing on patient treatment, blood supply systems, advanced laboratories and the free medical services being provided.

At the conclusion of the ceremony Muhammad Yaseen Khan, Founder & President of Sundas Foundation presented a commemorative shield to the distinguished guest and termed her visit a source of encouragement for the organization.

Wednesday, August 27, 2025

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

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

Bureau Chief Karachi:

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

Asim Nazir Ahmad

Khurram Jaffrani

(jaffrani@adpluse.pk

Lahore Office: 7-E, Samanberg, Johar Town.

spokesmanlahore@gmail.com

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With bare hands & big hopes

mid the rubble and haunting silence left by the devastating floods in Buner, a faint but steady clinking of stones rises through the stillness. It's the sound of resilience and steadfast courage of a man, who refused to surrender to despair. Hussain Ali, a 48-year-old resident of Pir Baba in Buner district, is started rebuilding his life brick by brick and stone by stone. With no significant aid yet in sight, no heavy machinery, and no professional tools, he is salvaging stones, bricks, wood, and whatever he can find to reconstruct his house destroyed by the August 15 flash

floods, forcing his family to live in a tent. "I have no money. But I have these strong hands," Hussain says, lifting a dust-covered, sun-burnt palm. "I can't wait forever. My children need a roof before harsh winter."

Just weeks ago, torrential monsoon rains unleashed floods across the district, destroying homes, roads, bridges, agriculture, livestock and livelihoods. Dozens of families were displaced and hundreds lost everything after the natural calamity struck, affecting Buner badly.

For Hussain, the disaster erased years of hard work in a matter of minutes. His modest five-marla stones made house built through grit, labour, and small savings was reduced to rubble, luckily his

family survived. "I saw the flood water coming like a wall," he recalls. "There was no time to save our house luggage. We just ran." He, his wife, and their four children survived, but their home, livestock, wheat stock, and belongings were all disappeared in a jiffy.

Now, every morning, Hussain walks kilometers through nearby areas, gathering usable bricks and broken wood—some from the remains of his own house, others donated by neighbors who've lost

He stacks them under a large plastic tent sheet—his only shelter for now. There's no cement, no formal map, just a dream ie four walls and a roof. "I will build slowly, even if it takes months," he says. "Something is better than nothing."

While the government and NGOs have pledged support, much of the highland aid is slow due to washed-out roads, landslides, and the scale of destruction.

Local community organizer Mohammad Farooq admitted the situation is dire in Buner, urging philanthropists for immediate help. "People like Hussain are falling through the cracks. Aid is coming, but it's too little, too late. But it's inspiring how some aren't waiting. They are acting. They're surviving."

Hussain's humble effort has become a quiet inspiration for others flood victims. Some neighbors help when they can sharing food, lifting stones, or offering encouragement. "I am not the only one," Hussain says, glancing at the muddy hills. "There are many like me who just want to live again."

Far from Pir Baba, in the flood-ravaged region of Shangla, where landslides and washed-out bridges have isolated entire villages, another story of resilience and great courage was unfolded.

Federal Minister Engineer Amir Muqam made an arduous journey through mountainous terrain to reach cut-off communities on foot in Shangla. With roads gone and helicopters unavailable, he tightened his shoelaces and began the steep climb, determined to stand with the flood victims, not above them.

"We thought we were alone," said an elderly villager Hamza Khan, his voice trembling with emotion. "But today, our minister crossed rivers and mountains just for us. This feels like a miracle, raising our moral."

Trump's Confrontation to Coexistence with China

reassumed the pres-2025, he came with a determination to reset the United States, to restore what he called its lost glory, and to end the long years of exploitation by allies and adversaries alike. His first and fiercest target was China. Even before his administration had taken shape, when his cabinet was being scrutinized in the Senate and the Congress, it was clear that nearly every appointee, from the national security leadership to the economic team, carried one unifying agenda: to confront China, to cut down its growing influence, and to reclaim for America the leadership of the international order. The early months carried the full weight of this antagonism. Tariffs were slapped on Chinese goods, hawkish statements were made about containing Beijing in the Pacific, and even talk of stopping the flow of Chinese students to American universities was floated. The tone was confrontational, the stance uncompromising, and the ambition was nothing less than to push China back not only from American shores but from Asia, Europe, and beyond.

When proposals were made to cut them off, university presidents, governors, and state legislators raised the alarm that such a move would devastate higher education budgets and gut critical research programs. By the summer of 2025, Trump reversed course, openly admitting that these students were vital not only for finances but also for America's scientific and technological advancement. What had been framed as a security threat was rebranded as a necessary lifeline for institutions already struggling

On the military front, too, harsh reality intruded. American officials initially talked of quadrupling the U. S. pres-

Beijing. But the Pentagon's own assessments made clear that China now had the largest navy in the world by ship count, and that sustaining such deployments would bleed the U.S. treasury without altering China's resolve. With a defense budget already at \$850 billion in 2024, America faced the prospect of draining itself in a contest it could not decisively win. It was not Beijing that appeared overstretched but Washington, and in the calculus of resources, the United States realized that escalation could only sap its strength.

dollar, proved less decisive than hoped. The dollar still made up about 58% of global foreign exchange reserves in 2024, but China and its BRICS partners had been steadily eroding this dominance. By early 2025, nearly a quarter of intra-BRICS trade was being conducted outside of the dollar, through local currency swaps and yuan settlements. At the same time, Beijing reduced its U. S. Treasury holdings to under \$775 billion, its lowest in more than a decade, subtly weakening America's ability to

Even the

powerful weapon in

America's arsenal, the

It was on rare earths and supply chains that the hardest lesson was learned. Any disruption from Beijing would paralyze entire sectors of the U. S. economy. Defense contractors building F-35s, tech companies producing semiconductors, automakers racing to transition to EVsall were dependent on Chinese supply

weaponize its debt dependence. The weaponization of finance, so effective

against weaker adversaries, had limited

effect on a China that had prepared its

or find alternative suppliers in Africa and Australia were years away from maturity. only drove up prices at home. Walmart, Target, and Home Depot reported that household goods were rising by 10-15%, squeezing American consumers and fueling inflationary pressures. What had been billed as a strategy to punish China threatened to punish the very voters Trump had pledged to protect. Trump is not a leader who easily admits

defeat, but he is a pragmatist when

forced by circumstances. Gradually, the rhetoric softened. Where once he threatened to choke off Chinese students, now he welcomed them. the game for all. Where once he promised to multiply naval deployments, now he quietly acknowledged that China was too big

to intimidate. Where once he boasted that tariffs would bring Beijing to its knees, now he conceded in his own words that "both China and the United States hold powerful cards, but I do not want to use these cards anymore." It was a rare admission of limits, but also a demonstration of flexibility, of learning fast and adjusting course in the face of hard realities.

The implications of this shift are global. For Europe and Canada, the price of submission to American tariffs has been humiliation and economic loss. For developing countries, especially those bound to China through investment and infrastructure like Pakistan, the easing of U. S.-China tensions offers relief, stability, and opportunities. Supply chains can stabilize, inflationary shocks can be tempered, and the specter of a bifurcated technological order can be postponed. The nervousness that gripped global

nen Donald Trumpence in the South China Sea to containe chains. Attempts to reshore productione markets in early 2025 may yet give way to a calmer, more predictable environment.

This is not submission by the United In the meantime, tariffs and restrictions States, nor is it triumph for China alone. It is a recognition of a multipolar world, one where interdependence outweighs the fantasies of domination. It is also a testament to Trump's instinct for survival, his ability to correct course, and his willingness to pivot when faced with the immovable weight of reality. The United States still holds cards—in its consumer market, its technology base, its dollar system, and its alliances. But China holds cards tooin its manufacturing dominance, its rare earths, its investments, and its financial innovation. The test now is not who can outplay the other, but who can recognize that destroying the table destroys

> The course correction we are witnessing may prove to be one of the most consequential strategic adjustments of Trump's presidency. It suggests not weakness, but wisdom—the wisdom to see that America cannot remain a hegemon in a world where China has become the indispensable player. In showing flexibility, Trump has revealed that leadership is not only about force but about judgment. He has acknowledged that America's power, though vast, must coexist with China's, and that a stable balance is the only path to safeguard prosperity at home and stability abroad. To some, this may feel like compromise. To others, like survival. But history may remember it as something larger: the moment the United States accepted the reality of a multipolar world, and chose coexistence

The Writer is Press Secretary to the President (Rtd), Former Press Minister, Embassy of Pakistan to France, Former Press Attache to Malaysia and Former MD, SRBC | Macomb, Michigan, USA



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

"What Jolie Saw - When Will We?"

(Floods, Politics, and Shame: Fifteen Years On, We Stand Unchanged)

Dr. Muhammad Tayyab

Khan Singhanvi

state's priorities, the ethics of governto the global community, it was the cata-

20% of Pakistan's land was submerged; over 20 million people were displaced, thousands of schools, roads, bridges, and crops were destroyed, and the national economy suffered losses exceeding \$10 billion (World Bank Report 2010).

During this tragedy, UN Goodwill Ambassador and renowned Hollywood actress Angelina Jolie who had previ-

ously visited Pakistan in 2005 during the devastating earthquake to bring international attention and support to victims returned once again. Her visit aimed to observe the flood-affected regions, present the ground realities to the United Nations, and mobilize global assistance for Pakistan.

One line from the report went viral around the

"I was served a lavish meal while people

outside were fighting for a bag of flour." This statement, broadcast by CNN, BBC, Al Jazeera, and The New York Times, severely tarnished Pakistan's global image. Based on this report, the UN's Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) labeled Pakistan a "fragile aid recipient," and many international donors began attaching strict conditions to their aid demanding financial transparency, reduction of wasteful expenditure, and implementation of genuine relief strategies.

Fifteen years have passed since that incident. The question is: Have we learned anything? Unfortunately, the answer is no.

In 2022, Pakistan was once again hit by

f there was one moment in Pakistan's a climate catastrophe. According to the UN's recent history that starkly exposed our Climate Resilience Report 2023, over 30 million people were affected across Balochistan, Sindh, ance, and the apathy of the ruling elite and southern Punjab; more than 1,700 lives were lost, and damages exceeded \$33 billion. strophic flood of September 2010. At that time, The response, however, followed the same tired

script helicopter visits by the Prime Minister and provincial leaders, media photo sessions, and hollow calls for international assistance while the ground realities remained dire. Once again, The New York Times wrote:

"The real flood in Pakistan is not of water, but of corruption and incompetence."

transparency

that only 28% of aid reached victims directly while the remainder was lost in administrative expenses, political marketing, and dubious proxy It is no coincidence that Angelina Jolie returned once more to Pakistan in 2022 to

Lack of

deterred international donors. The EU Human-

itarian Office noted in its ECHO Factsheet 2023

meet flood victims but this time, she consciously avoided meeting any government officials. Speaking at an event in Lahore, she remarked:

The people of Pakistan have warmth and resilience. But their leaders need to show humility and accountability."

Her earlier report was not an isolated episode. It reflected a systemic pattern in the ruling class an attitude that remains unchanged even during national calamities. Fifteen years have passed; while the nature of natural disasters has evolved, the state's priorities have not. If this pattern is to be broken, it is imperative to institute fundamental reforms in public accountability, transparency, and governance so that future generations are spared from such international disgrace and internal chaos.

Recent reports by the United Nations, Asian Development Bank, and the World Bank repeatedly highlight that Pakistan's extravagant public spending, unnecessary VIP protocol, and financial mismanagement not only derail relief efforts but also inflict irreparable damage on the country's global standing. In the Transparency International Report 2024, Pakistan ranks 133 out of 180 on the Corruption Perception Index.

In the 2025 national budget, expenditures for the Prime Minister's Office, provincial Chief Ministers, and Governor Houses have been increased by 18%, while allocations for federal education, health, and climate change have been slashed. This decision alone reflects the very mindset that Jolie warned about in her report

fifteen years ago. This is a moment of reckoning.

How long will we merely blush at headlines and move on? How long will we plead for mercy from the world by presenting ourselves as victims? When will we, as a nation and a state, prove ourselves to be responsible, transparent, and accountable?

We must now decide: the use of natural disasters as instruments for political gain and economic indulgence must end. Relief, accountability, and public welfare must not be slogans they must be policy. If we reduce critiques from independent voices like Angelina Jolie to temporary outrage or defensive denials, then the years ahead will only bring more international humiliation, distrust, and domestic collapse

It is time to reconfigure our national priorities, moral compass, and political strategies. For if we still fail to learn, then the next fifteen years will not just drown Pakistan in water but in disgrace, mistrust, and existential peril.

"The history of nations is not written by the deeds of their rulers, but by the patience and perseverance of their people."

The writer is Ph. D and he can be reached at muhammadtayyabk773@gmail.com

Impact of Climate Change on the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor - I

Dr. Hasan Yaser Malik

of cooperation since 2015. Study reveals how climate change threatens infrastructure and sustainable development along the corridor. CPEC, represents initiatives encompassing energy projects, transportation networks, and special economic zones designed to enhance connectivity and stimulate economic

growth. However, CPEC's progress coincides lake outburst floods (GLOFs) and landslides with accelerating climate impacts that may that threaten transportation infrastructure. threaten its viability and sustainability. Pakistan ranks among top ten countries, experiencing irregular rainfall patterns, intense heatwayes, devastating floods, and accelerated glacial melt. These climate challenges directly impact CPEC's infrastructure and operational stability, creating complex interdependencies between economic development and environmental sustainability. The geographical expanse of CPEC traverses diverse ecosystems from high-altitude mountainous regions to coastal zones, each with distinct climate vulnerabilities. Recent catastrophic events. cloudbursts along the KKH in August 2025 have caused extensive damage, including landslides and flash floods in Gilgit-Baltistan/'s Ghizer and Hunza valleys, damaging over necessitating the construction of desalina-330 houses and shops in Ghizer and washing away sections of the KKH. These events have led to displacement, infrastructure disrup-

eeping in view the recent events tion. These floods, attributed to precipitation of cloud bursts, floods and intensities made 75% more intense by climate land sliding along KKH, it will change, caused extensive damage to transporbe pragmatic to evaluate the tation infrastructure, including sections of multifaceted impacts of climate the Karakoram Highway a CPEC centrepiece. change on 3,000 km long CPEC from Kashgar The CPEC route's northern region experiences to Gwadar Port, worth 62 bn USD, a flagship accelerated glacial melt, intensity of heat-

waves affecting population centres along the corridor. By mid-century, climate models suggest temperature increases of 1.5-2°C could significantly alter hydrological cycles, affecting water availability for CPEC's energy and agricultural projects. The Himalayan and Karakoram ranges face particular risks from glacial

Research indicates that climate change has already increased landslide susceptibility by 40% in northern sections, requiring expensive engineering solutions and continuous maintenance.

The southern sections of CPEC, particularly Balochistan and Sindh provinces, face acute water scarcity and desertification. Balochistan, which contains nearly 70% of CPEC's route, experienced catastrophic flooding in 2022 that damaged infrastructure and displaced communities. Coastal city of Gwadar, terminus of CPEC and site of significant Chinese investment, faces existential threats from sea-level rise and increased cyclone activity. Saltwater intrusion already affects freshwater resources,

To be continued

Uzbekistan-Jordan: Towards New Horizons of Cooperation

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: At the invitation of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirzivovev, King Abdullah II ibn Al Hussein of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan arrived in our country on August 25 with a state visit.

Republic of Uzbekistan and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan were established in February 1993. Over the past decades, they have evolved from formal contacts to comprehensive cooperation encompassing politics, the economy, and cultural-humanitarian spheres.

opened in Tashkent. Currently, the Ambassador of Uzbekistan, resident in Riyadh, is concurrently accredited in

In addition, since August 2007, the Uzbekistan in Jordan has been in oper- companies. ation, held by Jordanian citizen Luay Abu-Ghazaleh.

highest level has been conducted mainly

forms, telephone conversations, official messages, and occasional high-level

In recent years, bilateral ties have gained new momentum. Both sides demonstrate a clear commitment to expanding and deepening coopera-Diplomatic relations between the tion, relying on significant potential for mutual benefit.

In 2025, a representative delegation of Uzbekistan headed by Foreign Minister Bakhtivor Saidov visited Amman, during which President Shavkat Mirziyoyev's personal message and greetings were conveyed to King Abdullah II. The dele-In June 1994, the Embassy of Jordan gation was received by King Abdullah II of Jordan, held talks with Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Ayman Safadi, as well as meetings with representatives of the ministries of investment, higher education, awqaf, institution of the Honorary Consul of Islamic affairs and holy sites, and major

One of the significant outcomes was the signing of an agreement on the Since the establishment of diplo- abolition of the visa regime for holders matic relations, political dialogue of diplomatic passports, as well as the between Uzbekistan and Jordan at the
Joint Program of Cooperation between the foreign ministries for 2025-2027.

to give relations a systemic character and bring them to a new level.

Uzbekistan, in general, pursues a policy of openness and multi-vector diplomacy. In recent years, Tashkent has actively developed cooperation with Middle Eastern countries, as reflected, in particular, in the almost fivefold increase in trade with the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states during 2020-2023. Uzbekistan's participation in multilateral formats such as the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), and other international associations provides an additional platform for deepening Uzbek-Jordanian interaction.

Economic cooperation between Uzbekistan and Jordan remains at a relatively modest level; however, both sides have already outlined a strategy to intensify it. In 2024, bilateral trade turnover amounted to about USD 4.6 million. Jordan exports pharmaceuticals, chemical products, equipment, and machinery to Uzbekistan, while Uzbekistan exports copper, dried fruits, nuts, and textiles.

Talks between the ministers of invest-

through meetings on international plat- These steps reflect the mutual intention ment, industry, and trade of the two countries in 2025 confirmed readiness to expand the partnership. Among the key areas are the signing of a Preferential Trade Agreement to facilitate mutual market access, cooperation in the mining sector, including the extraction and processing of phosphates, copper, and other minerals, strengthening ties in agriculture and food industries, and implementing joint projects in pharmaceuticals, textiles, light industry, and the digital economy.

> Of particular importance is the intention to establish the Uzbekistan-Jordan Business Council, which will facilitate direct contacts between entrepreneurs, organize sectoral exhibitions, business forums, and trade missions. Jordan also proposes to use its advantageous geographical location as a hub for Uzbek goods to enter Middle Eastern and North African markets.

> Relations between Uzbekistan and Jordan are built on a profound spiritual foundation. Both states are united by Islamic culture, common historical heritage, and centuries-old traditions of religious and cultural exchange. This creates an atmosphere of trust and

dimension of bilateral relations.

Promising areas of cultural and humanitarian cooperation include expanding academic exchanges, joint educational programs and scholarships for students, organizing cultural festivals, exhibitions, and conferences dedicated to shared historical and cultural heritage, cooperation in Islamic studies, theology, history, and archaeology, as well as experience-sharing in healthcare, including joint medical programs, training, and

The closeness of spiritual values provides a solid basis for long-term partnership, where cultural exchange pecomes an integral part of overall devel-

In recent years, Jordanian representatives have actively participated in cultural events held in Uzbekistan,

mutual understanding, which is espe- including the International Maqom Art cially important for the humanitarian Festival (September 2018, Shahrisabz) and the International Handicraft Festival (September 2019, Kokand).

Undoubtedly, Uzbekistan and Jordan are capable of building a mutually beneficial partnership based on trust, shared cultural values, and complementary economic potential. The implementation of the outlined initiatives will not only deepen cooperation but also transform it into an important factor of stability and development across the Middle East and

In this context, the forthcoming visit of the King of Jordan to Uzbekistan will open new horizons for the intensification of bilateral cooperation. The political will of both sides, supported by concrete agreements, will create conditions for growth in trade, implementation of investment projects, and strengthening

Romana Kousar: A Solicitor Who Serves Both Justice and Community

跨 Chaudhry Tabraiz Aurah

LONDAN: The legal profession is often judged by its ability to interpret statutes and secure verdicts, yet its true measure lies in how it safeguards human dignity. Few embody this principle more clearly than Romana Kousar, solicitor and principal of Legal Pathway Solicitors, whose career reflects both professional excellence and deep social commitment. Romana's work with women experiencing domestic violence stands as a defining feature of her practice. For many survivors, the legal system can appear daunting, but in Romana they find an advocate who combines skill with compassion. Her representation ensures that rights are not only defended in court but also respected in spirit. In doing so, she reminds us that the law that affect ordinary lives. This public must remain a living force for protection and justice. Her reach, however, confusion and misinformation often extends beyond the courtroom. As a cloud people's understanding of their regular guest on television talk shows, rights. By speaking directly to audienc-Romana provides legal clarity on issues es, she transforms legal knowledge into worth following.



engagement is vital at a time when

public empowerment. Equally important is her active role in charitable and community work. Through her support for local initiatives and organisations, Romana demonstrates that professional achievement carries with it an obligation to serve the wider community. She has consistently used her platform not for personal gain, but to foster solidarity and uplift those in need. The example of Romana Kousar carries a timely lesson. The practice of law cannot be reduced to litigation alone; it must embody service, integrity, and responsibility to society. At a moment when public confidence in institutions is fragile, figures like Romana restore faith that the profession can still stand for fairness and the common good. Her career is not only a story of individual success but also a reminder of what the law, when guided by conscience, can achieve for the many. In both justice and community, Romana Kousar has set a standard worth recognising — and

UNODC Pakistan and FIA Trained Journalists on Ethical Reporting on Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling

👺 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Country Office Pakistan, in collaboration with the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA), held a one-day media awareness session in Islamabad to strengthen journalists' capacity for ethical and responsible reporting on Trafficking in Persons (TIP) and Smuggling of Migrants

Over 30 journalists and editors from leading media houses participated in the workshop, which stressed survivor-centered reporting, accurate legal terminology, safeguarding victims' identities, and avoiding sensationalism. Through interactive presentations, case studies, and discussions, participants explored how ethical journalism can shape public awareness, influence



response to these crimes.

Facilitated by senior journalist Mr. Oun Sahi, the session reinforced key principles"Correct terminology: differentiating Trafficking in Persons (TIP) from Smuggling of Migrants (SOM), stressing how misuse confuses the public and undermines legal/policy sponses".

Survivor-centered avoiding stigmatizing language, passive voice, or sensational headpolicy, and support Pakistan's national lines; protecting privacy and dignity tion, Refugees and Citizenship Canada

with pseudonyms, blurred visuals, and trauma-informed interviews.

Legal grounding: references to Pakistan's Prevention of Trafficking in Persons Act (2018) and Prevention of Smuggling of Migrants Act (2018).

Ethical guidelines: avoiding clichés, framing stories within human rights and social contexts (poverty, gender inequality, migration gaps), and highlighting systemic complicity.

Media's role: shaping public understanding, influencing government priorities, exposing organized crime, and sustaining momentum for reforms.

This initiative highlights UNODC and FIA's commitment to working with the media in promoting accurate and constructive narratives that uphold the dignity of survivors while exposing organized crime.

This event is supported by Immigra-

Yango Tech explores strategic collaboration with Pakistan's Ministry of IT & Telecom

Example 2 Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Yango Tech, the unified ecosystem delivering advanced B2B technology solutions to local businesses, recently held a high-level meeting with the Honourable Federal Minister for IT & Telecom, Ms. Shaza Fatima, to explore avenues for advancing Pakistan's digital transformation and fostering long-term technology partnerships. The Yango Tech delegation was led by Evgeny Chernikov, Chief Operating Officer (COO) of Yango Tech.

Discussions with the Honourable Minister centered on opportunities that lie in the technology ecosystem of Pakistan especially in the domain of Artificial Intelligence (AI), reflecting Yango a trusted technology partner for the Government of Pakistan.

"We are deeply grateful to the Honourable Minister for her time and her leadership in leapfrogging Pakistan's technology ecosystem forward.



Pakistan has tremendous potential to accelerate its digital journey, and we are super excited to work alongside the Ministry of IT & Telecom to bring AI technology solutions that can help towards the goals set for this," said Evgeny Chernikov, COO of Yango Tech.

This engagement marks an important step in strengthening ties between Tech's vision of serving the country as Yango Tech and Pakistan's IT sector, paving the way for innovative digital solutions that contribute to the country's economic growth and technological leadership.

Yango Pakistan, is a part of Yango Group, an international tech company that is transforming globally sourced technologies into everyday services that are tailored to local communities. In Pakistan, Yango's services ranging from Ride, Delivery/Cargo, Shops, and Tech-AI solutions for business-have resulted in the creation of numerous direct and indirect iobs and entrepreneurial opportunities in Pakistan.

The Ministry of IT and Telecom (MoITT) is fostering Pakistan's digital growth by focusing on infrastructure enhancement, policy formulation for emerging technologies like AI and cloud computing, and attracting foreign investment. These efforts have led to significant growth in IT and ITeS exports, creating a strong digital ecosystem and contributing to the country's economic development.

With an unwavering commitment to innovation, Yango is committed to reshaping and enhancing leading cutting-edge technologies from around the world into seamlessly integrated daily services for diverse regions.

Former Governor Haji Ghulam Ali and Mayor of Peshawar meet outgoing and newly appointed U. S. Consuls General

E Commerce Desk

PESHAWAR: Former Governor Haji Ghulam Ali and Mayor of Peshawar Haji Zubair Ali held farewell and welcome meetings at the U.S. Consulate in Peshawar with outgoing Consul General Shante Moore and newly appointed Consul General Thomson Weckert.

Former Governor Haji Ghulam Ali stated that the diplomatic services rendered by Shante Moore for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, particularly for the citizens of Peshawar, will always be remembered. He

added that during her tenure, Moore played a positive role in strengthening relations between Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and the United States, while her keen interest in underdeveloped areas, education, and health was highly commendable. He expressed hope that upon her return to Washington, she would continue to be an effective voice for and an honorary shield.



the development and prosperity of the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The meeting was marked by hospitality and warm fraternal sentiments. In a gesture of traditional hospitality on behalf of the people of the province, both leaders presented the Consul General with gifts, including carpets, mangoes,

Mayor of Peshawar Haji Zubair Ali also appreciated the services of Shante Moore, saying that the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa will remember her cooperation and constructive efforts. He added that such relations help strengthen people-to-people ties between both nations.

During the meeting, best wishes were also extended to the newly appointed Consul General, Thomson Weckert. Both Haji Ghulam Ali and Haji Zubair Ali expressed hope that the new Consul General. like his predecessor, would

continue to promote friendly relations between Pakistan and the United States and play a role in addressing the issues of the province's people.

On the occasion, both outgoing and incoming U.S. Consuls General expressed gratitude to the former Governor and the Mayor of Peshawar for their visit and the traditional gifts.

Yasin Malik stands tall and unafraid and, most importantly, he remains undefeated, in the cause of Kashmir

Spokesman Report

WASHINGTON, D. C.: Mowahid Hussain Shah, attorney-atlaw, author, and Member of the District of Columbia and U. S. Supreme Court Bars, served as Of Counsel to the late U. S. Senator James Abourezk. His book "Will & Skill" was launched in Wash-

ington, D. C. Mowahid Hussain Shah, speaking at the site of the Mahatma Gandhi statue in front of the Indian Embassy in Washington, D. C., on Sunday, August 24, lauded the legacy of Mahatma Gandhi in struggling against racial Africa for 21 years. Mowahid of his direct complicity in the

House in Delhi, where Gandhi was assassinated on 30 January 1948, by Nathuram Godse who, at that time, was a member of the RSS which, by common scholarly consensus, is a hate group that incites violence against Muslims and minorities.

The irony of fate, Mowahid noted, is that the ideology which murdered Mahatma Gandhi is ruling and dominating India today, in that Narendra Modi was and is a member of RSS. He said that not for nothing was Modi banned from entering America for 10 years because the U.S. State injustice and oppression in South Department had actual evidence

and massacres when Modi was Chief Minister of Gujarat.

Mowahid made it a point to welcome Rhonda Hamilton, D. C. mayoral candidate, as well as her campaign manager, Beatrice Evans. Mowahid cited the legacy of Malcolm X and Muhammad Ali. He connected Ali's never-quit attitude with the indomitability of Yasin Malik, with whom, Mowahid emphasized, he was honored to share a panel on Capitol Hill on July

Mowahid also said that it is important to connect with the power of civil society, which was at its most effective during the

stated that he had visited Birla Gujarat anti-Muslim pogroms anti-apartheid movement that led to the release of Nelson Mandela and the dismantling of apartheid. He also alluded to Bhagat Singh, who was hanged by the British on March 23, 1931, for resisting British colonial hegemony.

Mowahid said it was important to connect with important segments of Indian civil society who are ashamed and deeply apprehensive of what Modi is doing to India. He reiterated the "power of 1", reminding how a young girl, Darnella Frazier, recorded the murder of George Floyd, providing evidence that led to the conviction of several police officers in Minneapolis, Minne-

Yasin Malik, he stated, stands tall and unafraid and, most importantly, he remains undefeated, in the cause of Kashmir. Mowahid recalled the example of his dervish father, Col. Amjad Hussain Sayed, who, on his deathbed, gave the parting advice to always speak Kalma-e-Haq. Mowahid said that all well-wishers of humanity and proponents of fairness in Kashmir, and advocating for the release of Yasin Malik, should not be bashful in speaking out loud and clear.

Mowahid's remarks were particularly appreciated by Rhonda Hamilton and her entourage, who said they found it particularly inspirational.



Mowahid also quoted the strug- gles raised by Malcolm X, who was not afraid to speak truth to power.

Bull & Bears PSX 100-Share

Index Fluctuation			
Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index			
Current	Prev. Close		
148,435.06	148,815.30		
Day's High	Day's Low		
149,453.19	148,312.57		
Index Value	Change		
19,902,466,422	-380.24		
Percentage	Time		
-0.26%	26 Aug, 2025 4:30 pm		
Europe: FTS	E 100 Index		
Index Value	Change		
9,265.80	-55.60		
Percentage	Time		
-0.60%	26 Aug, 4:35 pm GMT+1		
USA: Dow Jones	ndustrial Average		

Index Value	Change	
Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average		
-0.0034%	26 Aug, 12:05 pm GMT-4	
Percentage	Time	
45,280.93	-1.54	

Change

Index Value

ASIA PACITIC. NIKKEI SLUCKS AVETAYE			
Index Value	Change		
42,394.40	-413.42		
Percentage	Time		
-0.97%	26 Aug, 3:45 pm GMT+9		
Open Market Forex Rates			

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	328.40	330.20
Hong Kong Dollar	35.88	36.23
Indian Rupee	3.15	3.24
Japanese Yen	1.8900	1.9900
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	218.25	223.25
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	380.10	382
IIS Dollar	283 1	283.9

Google brings AI Mode to Pakistan, its most powerful Search experience yet



ISLAMABAD: Google launches AI Mode Pakistan in English, bringing its most powerful AI search experience, AI-powered Search, to local users, enabling faster, smarter, and more comprehensive answers to complex questions.

First introduced in the US earlier this year, AI Mode is now expanding globally, and is resonating with people who appreciate its speed, quality, and fresh responses.

Powered by a custom version of Gemini 2.5, AI Mode allows people to ask longer, more complex questions that would previously require multiple searches. Early testers have shown queries are already 2–3 times longer than traditional searches, proving it is particularly helpful for exploratory tasks like comparing products, planning a trip, or understanding complex how-tos. It dives deep to answer multiple questions at once, with helpful links for further exploration.

What makes this experience unique is that it brings together advanced model capabilities with Google's best-in-class information systems, and it's built right into Search. Users can access not only high-quality web content but also tap into fresh, real-time sources like the Knowledge Graph and

shopping data for billions of products. Designed to be multimodal, AI Mode lets people engage in whatever way they feel comfortable — through text, voice, or images — leveraging the capabilities of Lens to take pictures of what they see and pose their queries. For example, a shopper could snap a photo of unfamiliar spices in a Karachi market and ask: 'What are these spices and how can I use them in Pakistani cooking?' Users can also ask follow-up questions in a conversational style, creating a seamless browsing experience.

China is Pakistan's Timeless Friend and Strategic Partner: Atif Ikram Sheikh

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: A delegation from the Chinese agricultural sector, led by DG Green Corporate Initiative Maj Gen (R) Shahid Nazir (SIFC), visited the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FPCCI), where they met with FPCCI President Atif Ikram Sheikh. The meeting focused on promoting agricultural investment in Pakistan, technology transfer, and enhancing bilateral cooperation.

FPCCI President Atif Ikram Sheikh announced the appointment of Yuan Jemin, Chief Consultant of a Chinese agricultural company, as FPCCI's Chief Consultant for Urumqi. On this occasion, he stated that China is Pakistan's timeless friend and strategic partner, always standing shoulder to shoulder with Pakistan. He emphasized that Yuan Jemin's visit is of great

significance, especially since agriculture is the 20% to the GDP and being a major source of backbone of Pakistan's economy, contributing employment.



 $Maj\,Gen\,(R)\,Shahid\,Nazir\,highlighted\,that\quad project is\,a\,reflection\,of\,the\,deep\,and\,enduring$ significant milestones have been achieved friendship between the two nations.

under the Green Corporate Initiative with China's cooperation over the past year. In the last two months alone, eight projects—including a food processing plant in Skardu—have been successfully completed. Additional projects include a drip irrigation factory, a model agriculture farm in Cholistan, the Kashgar Free Trade Zone, and several agricultural projects in Gilgit-Baltistan. Furthermore, 300 agriculture graduates have received training in China. He credited Yuan Jemin's leadership for these achievements and shared that Yuan will also visit Wahga, Sahiwal, Barani areas, and Cholistan.

Speaking on the occasion, Yuan Jemin, Chief Consultant of the Chinese agricultural company, stated that Pak-China relations span decades and are among the strongest in the world. He remarked that the CPEC

Welfare Aid

FAISALABAD: A view of the grocery and other daily usage stuff as welfare Aid for the affected of flood at Main Office, before departure to the different parts of the Country.



SECP Directs All Regulated Entities to Mandatorily Adopt Digital Payment Solutions by Oct 31

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: In line with the national vision to promote a cashless economy and strengthen Pakistan's digital payment ecosystem, the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has issued a directive requiring all its licensed entities to adopt and display digital payment solutions particularly Raast QR Code, at their business Through the said direc-

tive, all SECP-regulated entities, including Non-Banking Companies (NBFCs), Insurance Companies, Modarabas, Securities market intermediaries shall mentation.

implement digital payment solutions, ensure visibility at their outlets and cannot refuse customers opting to pay through digital means. The compliance to the directive shall be ensured by October 31, 2025.

SECP is fully aligned with State Bank of Pakistan's drive towards digitization. This initiative will not only enhance financial inclusion but also improve transparency, convenience, and business efficiency across the regulated sectors. All the stakeholders are encouraged to proactively collaborate with their respective banks/MFB/EMIs to obtain their free-of-cost RAAST QR Brokers, and other licensed codes and ensure timely imple-

Fakt Exhibitions Signs MoU with Pakistan Plastic **Manufacturers Association**

Example 2 Commerce Desk

LAHORE: Fakt Exhibitions (Pvt.) Ltd. and Pakistan Plastic Manufacturers Association (PPMA) have signed a MoU for the upcoming editions of 3P Pakistan - International Plastic, Printing & Packaging Exhibition in 2025 and 2026.

This collaboration aims to strengthen Pakistan's position in the plastic industry, while highlighting innovation, sustainability, and responsible plastic use. The partnership will encourage sustainable practices, address climate change concerns, and promote circular economy

This MoU marks a significant milestone in creating a future-ready platform for Pakistan's plastic, industry, said a joint statement from Fakt Exhibitions and PPMA. "Our goal is to drive industrial



growth, innovation, and sustainability, while promoting responsible plastic use and climate-conscious solutions."

Standard Chartered Pakistan delivers a resilient financial performance

№ Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Standard Chartered Bank (Pakistan) Limited delivered a resilient financial performance 0.6bn during the period. with a profit before tax of PKR 32.9bn compared to Bank's total deposits stood PKR 49.3bn in H1'24.

The Bank posted a revenue of PKR 44.4 bn year. lower by 24% compared to H1'24, primarily due to a sharp reduction in interest rates. This was partially offset by an increase in accounts mix comprising non-funded income and a 59% of the deposit book decrease in cost of funds. While expenses increased year. On the assets side, net 13% on the back of infla- advances were higher by tion, investment in infrastructure and its people, H1'25, reflecting a pick-up the Bank continues to in economic momentum.

maintain an efficient cost to income ratio of 27%. A prudent risk approach and recoveries of bad debts led to a net release of PKR

On the liabilities side the at PKR 697 billion down 17% from the start of the

This was driven by a deposit optimisation initiative which is reflected in the improved current as compared to 48% last PKR 39bn or 23% during

inDrive Partners with Qist Bazaar to Extend Exclusive Discounts for Drivers

Example 2 Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: inDrive, a global mobility and urban services platform, has partnered with Qist Bazaar to offer exclusive discounts on a wide range of essential products for its driver community across Pakistan. The initiative is part of inDrive's commitment to creating a supportive ecosystem that enhances driver welfare and makes everyday needs more

Through this collaboration, in Drive drivers can purchase various items from Qist Bazaar, the country." including smartphones, bikes, household appliances, and electronics, on easy instalments at specially reduced rates.

"Our driver community is the foundation of our mission to create broader economic and transparent pricing model and low-cost entry social opportunities. By providing access to for drivers, inDrive continues to empower

essential products at reduced prices, we aim to uplift their quality of life and foster a more inclusive, empowered future for all," said Awais Saeed, Country Head of in Drive Pakistan.

Arif Lakhani, CEO of Qist Bazaar, added: "We are proud to partner with inDrive to offer exclusive discounts and extend our flexible payment solutions to its driver community. Our goal has always been to make essential and aspirational products more attainable for everyone, and through this initiative, we can better serve hardworking individuals across

This announcement is part of inDrive's broader efforts to build a purpose-driven platform that invests in the long-term welfare micro-entrepreneurs across Pakistan, whether Pay Later (BNPL) e-commerce platform, of both drivers and customers. With its fair,



they drive full-time or earn supplementary income to support their families.

Qist Bazaar is Pakistan's leading Buy Now, served population.

offering flexible instalment plans for a variety of products and serving the country's under-

Medvedev fined after heated row with umpire in US Open first-round loss

ISLAMABAD: Former US Open champion Daniil Medvedev has been slapped with a hefty fine following a fiery on-court clash with chair umpire Greg Allensworth during his shocking first-round defeat at Flushing Meadows. According to Express, the Russian tennis player faces a fine due to a clash with American official Greg Allensworth for allowing his opponent Benjamin Bonzi to replay his first serve after a photographer walked onto the court during his serve.

After the photographer's invasion, the 2021 US Open champion argued with the chair umpire and got booed by the crowd.

He even halted the game for six minutes in his shocking display of bad sportsmanship. However, when the play resumed with Bonzi serving at 6-3, 7-5, and 5-4 and having the advantage, the Frenchman, whom Reilly Opelka earlier this year called "the worst ref on the ATP" and "real bad, very tense and frantic," missed his first serve to big cheers from the

Medvedev then broke Bonzi's serve



also thanks the crowd by making a I mean, the rule is the rule. The guy was upset with the decision. The delay heart sign with his hands. But eventu- went on the court between two serves. from the photographer was probably ally lost the fifth set and hopes to win a Grand Slam in New York again by 6-4.

Bonzi, after winning the match, it, and he put oil on the fire." said, "It's kind of crazy, this match. and won the third set in a tiebreak. He For me, it's like my best victory ever. was not upset with the photographer. I round on Tuesday, August 26.

I mean, it's not my call to say first serve. And I think, yes, Daniil started

four and a half seconds. I'm not sure it's enough for a (first) serve."

Bonzi will now face American tennis Meanwhile, Medvedev explained, "I player Marcos Giron in the second

A total of 110 entries across nine categories received

👺 Abdul Majid

ISLAMABAD: 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

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

Mr. Aisam-ul-Haq Qureshi -President-PTF and Col. Zia-ud-Din Tufail (R) Secretary General-PTF extended their best wishes to all participants encouraging them to demonstrate their throughout the event.

The results are as under:



talent, sportsmanship, and commitment Khan bt Mudassir Murtaza 7-5,6-3; Ahmad Nael Qureshi 6-1,6-3 Yousaf Khalil bt Hamza Aasim 6-1,3-

6,6-4; Barkatullah bt Hamza Roman Suhail bt Romaisa Malik 6-2,6-1; Noor bt Behroze Maimoon 1-4,4-5(5),4-1;

Ali bt Zunaisha Noor 6-1,0-0retd; Sheeza ajid bt Shimza Naz 7-6(4), 7-5;

Boys 18&under Singles Quarter Finals: Hassan Usmani w/o M. Salar; Haziq Aasim bt Muhammad Yahya 7-5,6-2; Abdul Basit bt Hamza Hussain 6-4,6-3; Hamza Roman bt Razik Sultan 6-2,6-1

Girls 18&under Singles Quarter Finals: Bisamal Zia bt Lalrukh Sajid 7-5,6-3; Zunaisha Noor bt Sania Zahra 6-2,6-0;

Boys 14&under Singles Quarter Finals: M.aayan bt Ahmed Afzal 4-1,4-0; Umar Ali bt M. Faizan 4-1,4-1; M. Muaz bt Behroze Maimoon 4-1,4-1; Razik Sultan bt Mahad Mehmood 4-1,4-0;

Girls 14&under Singles Quarter Finals: Aimen Rehan bt Khadija Khalil 4-1,4-1; Eman Shahbaz bt Zainah Abdullah 4-2.4-0: Bismal Zia bt Anava Khan 4-0,4-0; Shahnoor Umer bt Shahreen Umer 4-1,4-2

Muhammad Faizan bt Ali Asghar 4-0,4-0; Muhammad Muaz bt Ashtar Ladies Singles Quarter Finals: Ushna Alam Khan 4-0,4-2; Daniyal Abdullah Men's Singles Quarter-Finals: Aqeel 2-6,6-4,6-3; Muzammil Murtaza bt Malik bt Shandana Rabi 6-0,6-0; Soha Muhammad Ayan bt Salar Khan 4-0,4-1

New Zealand fast bowler O'Rourke out for three months as injuries mount

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Fast bowler Will O'Rourke will be out for at least three months with a stress fracture in his lower back, New Zealand Cricket said Tuesday, adding to a mounting injury list.

The 24-year-old was injured while bowling in the first Test against Zimbabwe this month and returned home, where scans revealed the extent of the damage.

"We're really feeling for Will at the moment and wishing him speedy recovery," New Zealand head coach Rob Walter said.

O'Rourke will miss the home whiteball series against Australia in early October, England later that month and him miss the Zimbabwe tour. the West Indies in November.



recovers from the groin injury that saw

And opening batsman Finn Allen will All-rounder Glenn Phillips was also be out for a minimum of three months ruled out of the Australia series as he after having surgery on his right foot.

"It's disappointing to lose the services of Glenn and Finn, who have played important batting roles in our T20

set-up in recent times," said Walter. White-ball captain Mitchell Santner

returned home from England's The Hundred tournament at the weekend after feeling groin pain. Walter said the spinning all-rounder

will now have abdominal surgery with an expected recovery time of a month, but would be given every chance to prove his fitness before the three T20s against

"Mitch is a world-class player and a crucial part of our T20 side from a skills and leadership point of view,"

With that in mind we expect to name him in our squad. From there we can assess how his rest and rehabilitation progresses following surgery, before making a call on the eve of the series."

Pace bowler Ben Sears has recovered from a side strain that saw him miss the Zimbabwe tour and is expected to be

DG Sports Punjab awards gift hampers to 4-year-old Hania Kamran and Hadi



Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: Director General Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Khizar Afzaal Chaudhry has said that the participation of thousands of male and female athletes including little kids in Azadi Family Fun Race is an encouraging sign and Punjab Sports Department will continue to organize such sports events in future as well.

DG Sports Punjab Khizar Afzaal Chaudhry expressed these views during his meeting with little athletes 4-year-old Hania Kamran and Hadi, who both completed 1.3 km Azadi Family Fun Race. He also awarded gift hampers to both the athletes. Director Sports Rana Nadeem Anjum, Deputy Director Chand Perveen and parents of athletes were also present on this occasion.

Director General Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Khizar Afzaal Chaudhry said that the number of athletes will be double in the next edition of Azadi Family Fun Race. "Punjab Sports Department is promoting sports activities across the province under the supervision of Punjab Minister of Sports and Youth Affairs Malik Faisal Ayub Khokhar under the vision of Punjab Chief Minister".

Director General Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Khizar Afzaal Chaudhry said that the successful organization of Azadi Family Fun Race will play a key role in the promotion of sports culture among the younger generation. "We are quite upbeat that several of these participating children will emerge as champions in future".

Russian goes missing during Bosphorus swimming race



Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: A Russian athlete who went missing during Istanbul's annual cross-continental Bosphorus swimming race did not leave the water according to data from his tracking chip, the authorities said Monday

The swimmer, 30-year-old Nikolai Svechnikov, had started the 6.5-kilometre (4-mile) race between Asia and Europe that took place on Sunday morning with more than 2,800 participants from 81 countries, officials said.

With the Bosphorus Strait — one of the world's busiest shipping lanes — temporarily closed to traffic, the swimmers were racing from Kanlica neighbourhood on the Asian side to Kurucesme on the European side.

"Russian athlete Nikolai Svechnikov... went missing during the race," said the Turkish Olympic Committee, which organised

In a statement, the Istanbul governor's office said Svechnikov, a professional swimming coach, "had not made it to the finish line". "Security camera footage and the chip attached to the swimmer's foot showed he began the race but did not get out at the finish line," it said.

There was still no trace of him late Monday, with Istanbul prosecutors opening an investigation into his disappearance, the private DHA news agency reported.

Russia's consulate general in Istanbul said it was in contact with Turkish authorities about the situation and confirmed Svechnikov's relatives had been informed.

According to the official race website, swimmers have a time limit of two hours to complete the course, with the coast guard picking up anyone who does not finish within that time.

The Olympic Committee said the race began at 10:04 am (0704

GMT) with the last swimmer entering the water at 10:54 am. After the two-hour race limit finished, an initial check found that three swimmers were missing, but this was later reduced to a single athlete, it said.

"This information was immediately shared with the coast guard command, the maritime police department, and the Istanbul governor's office, and search and rescue operations were... immediately initiated," it said.

We are working in full cooperation with the coast guard and police units to shed light on the incident."

Putting the boot in: Colombian women farmers embrace football

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Skirts swirl and hats fly on a soccer field in Jenesano in central Colombia, as the "Smelly Ones" face off against the "Fillies" in a football extrava-

ganza celebrating women farmers. Every year in August, women in this region of small-scale dairy and vegetable producers come down from the pastures and plots in their traditional garb of culture, which allows women, who she layered skirts, rubber boots, ponchos

and hats to show off their footwork. The Bota, Ruana y Sombrero ("Boot, Poncho and Hat") tournament was initially founded as an outlet for Jenes-

ano's men 12 years ago. But such was the demand from their wives, sisters and cousins that a women's tournament debuted the following year.

well," said Luz Mery Contreras, who wore the Colombian national jersey under her poncho.

The teams' names — the Smelly Ones, the Fillies, the Ticks, the Beans — are a riff on country living.

Beans captain Contreras, 39, sees the tournament as a showcase of traditional "campesino" (small-scale farmer) said are usually "forgotten about," to have a chance at glory.

- A pig for the winners -She fondly recalled her team's first

victory. The prize was a pig. In a spirit of equity, the players sold it and divided the money among them-

There are no artificial-turf pitches or

"We can and know how to play really LED stadium lights at this tournament, held at 2,100 meters (6,900 feet) above sea level in the Andes mountains.

The contest's official ball is covered with cowhide and hair, the playing surface a scrubby expanse of dirt and

Seared by the hot mountain sun, some of the players fainted on the pitch. But the rewards for those who put a ball past the keeper are high.

Each goal is celebrated with a team hug before some 800 cheering, chanting supporters of both sexes.

thirst with guarapo, fresh sugar cane For some of the women, football has become a passion which they play year



They see the beautiful game as a chores. "We all enjoy seeing our women play release from the monotony of domestic

this marvelous football," said Marta Merchan, a 58-year-old pensioner.

The Spokesman

ECC meeting ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb chairing a meeting of the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet held at Finance Division on Tuesday.

Dar and Turkish FM pledge deeper cooperation during OIC session

Spokesman Report

JEDDAH: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar met Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan on the sidelines of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) meeting in Jeddah, with both sides pledging to further strengthen bilateral ties and expand multilateral cooperation.

According to the Foreign Office, Dar lauded Turkey's leadership role in regional closely with Ankara on shared

The two ministers reaffirmed solidarity with the Palestinian



besieged population.

stan's commitment to working tarian crisis and famine in Gaza. nary OIC-CFM session, Dar international forum. Both called for immediate warned that Israeli Prime aid and relief supplies to the hu's provocative remarks about Egypt and Algeria on the side-

pose a serious threat to regional ters' Meeting, in which the situpeace and stability.

He said Israel's insistence on exerting full military control over Gaza reflects a "rogue and annexationist mindset" that tramples international law.

Dar condemned Netanvahu's statements as dangerous, stressing that they will worsen the humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza and derail peace efforts.

Pakistan, he reiterated, stands firmly with the Palestinians and will continue to affairs and expressed Paki- over the worsening humani- address to the extraordi- advocate for their rights at every cooperation with North African

In addition, Ishaq Dar met establishing a "Greater Israel" lines of the OIC Foreign Minis-

ation in Palestine was discussed in detail.

The meeting emphasised the need for immediate humanitarian assistance, a ceasefire, and the establishment of lasting peace in Palestine, while the unity of the Muslim Ummah was described as the need of the hour.

The parties also agreed to further strengthen the mutual relations between Pakistan, Egypt, and Algeria and increase

Ishaq Dar said that Pakidelivery of humanitarian Minister Benjamin Netanya- with the foreign ministers of stan will continue to play its role for the unity of the Muslim

PM directs NDMA to accelerate rescue work in flood-hit areas



E City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday directed the National Disaster Management Authority to expedite rescue operations in the flood-hit districts of Punjab.

The prime minister instructed the undergoing rapid changes. NDMA chairman to take immediate steps for the evacuation of people stranded in flood-affected areas.

He asked the authority to take protective measures and intensify monitoring, considering the flood situation at Ganda Singh Wala in the River Sutlej.

to ensure the provision of food, media and property.

cines, and tents to the affected population, besides instructing the NDMA chairman to maintain close coordination with Punjab's disaster management authority.

Meanwhile, the NDMA chairman has said that due to climate change, the weather pattern in Pakistan is

During a briefing to the Public Accounts Committee on recent floods and torrential rains, the NDMA chief said the coming year would be even more challenging, with a projected 22% increase in rain intensity.

He stressed that residential settlements along water channels should The prime minister also directed be evacuated to prevent loss of life

Hina rejects Foreign Office officials briefing

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: National Assembly's Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs Chairperson Hina Rabbani Khar has rejected the briefing of the Foreign Office officials as inadequate and expressed strong anger.

The meeting of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs of the National Assembly was chaired by Chairperson Hina Rabbani Khar.

Hina Rabbani Khar said that only long English has been written in the briefing, while the committee should be told in two sentences what was achieved from the visit.

She also raised strong of the absence of the Foreign Secretary $\;\;$ sible not to prepare a proper briefing and made it clear that if the Foreign for the committee meeting. Secretary does not attend the meeting in the future, the meeting will be so that you can give quality briefings;

Baloch arrived at the meeting, the secretary warned.



Chairperson adjourned the meeting. After the meeting, the foreign secretary expressed anger at the officers of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and said that it is irres

You are given professional training no complaints regarding the future When Foreign Secretary Amina briefing will be tolerated, the foreign

Dar holds talks with Egyptian, Algerian foreign ministers

跨 Spokesman Report

Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Ishaq Dar on Tuesday reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to further strengthen- interaction" with Foreign of Islamic Cooperation.

JEDDAH: Deputy Prime connectivity and broader coop-

eration across diverse fields. ing ties with North African Minister of Egypt Badr Abde-

countries, including Algeria latty, and that of Algerian and Egypt, through enhanced Foreign Minister Ahmed Attaf in Jeddah on the sidelines of the 21st extraordinary session The deputy prime minister of the Council of Foreign said this during a "meaningful Ministers of the Organisation

In the meeting, the leaders



access, a ceasefire, and lasting lenging times.

discussed the grave situation peace, while underscoring the in Palestine, stressing the importance of unity within the urgent need for humanitarian Muslim Ummah in these chal-

Punjab has not borrowed a single rupee from SBP 跨 City Desk LAHORE: Punjab Information Minister Azma Bukhari has clarified that Punjab has not borrowed a single

Azma Bukhari clarifies

rupee from the State Bank of Pakistan. In statement, Azma Bukhari said the news regarding Punjab's debts is based on lies and misunderstanding. It is devoid of basic understanding

borrowed Rs405 billion from the State Bank, Azma Bukhari said. in the report is actually the Punjab government's investment in the



Azma Bukhari said Punjab is a

of financial matters that Punjab has surplus province, which does not need to borrow from anyone. The Punjab government has more

She said the amount mentioned than Rs1 trillion in its account, Azma Bukhari said.

She said that the institutions federal government's T-bills and the mentioned in the report are probpurpose of which is to earn profit, not ably federal government institutions.

Pakistan receives \$6m from China for housing projects in Balochistan

👺 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The monthly foreign economic assistance report released by the Economic Affairs Division for July 2025 reveals that the grant of \$6 million from China has been disbursed.

Adviser to Finance Minister Khurram Shehzad said the Chinese support is focused on the reconstruction of houses in Balochistan province, which is often impacted by floods and other natural challenges.

He said this contribution underscores China's commitment to Pakistan's development and its role in strengthening infrastructure and housing capacity in one of the country's most vulnerable areas.

He said the aid will directly impact displaced families, providing them national partnerships like the one with and enhance community resilience, includes funding for infrastructure, with durable housing solutions in the wake of devastating environmental events. The assistance aligns with Pakistan's broader reconstruction and recovery strategies, where inter-



China play a pivotal role, he added.

Prominent economist Dr Nadeemul-Haq said the Chinese grant for the reconstruction of houses will spur local economic activity, create jobs,

paving the way for future infrastructural developments.

part of China's broader development China remaining a major partner in assistance to Pakistan, which also Pakistan's economic progress.

energy, and scientific research projects. The strong bilateral ties between the It is noteworthy that this grant is two nations continue to thrive, with

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Several officers reshuffled in federal bureaucracy

跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Important appointments and transfers have been made in the federal bureaucracy. The federal government has appointed Major General Qaiser Suleman as Additional Secretary (IV) of the Defence

The appointment of Major General from August 6, 2025, on the basis of secondment and will remain in effect until further notice.

In addition, the federal government the Attorney General for the Pakistan ments and transfers.

Office Irfan Anjum from his post and directed him to report to the Establishment Division.

Joint Secretary of the National Food Security Division Khizar Saleem has been transferred and appointed as Secretary to the Attorney General for the Pakistan Office

Furthermore, the notification to hand over the services of Grade Qaiser Suleman will be counted 20 OSD Arshad Farid Khan to the Virtual Regulatory Authority has been cancelled, and he has been directed to report to the Establishment Division.

The Establishment Division has has removed Grade 21 Secretary to issued official notifications of appoint-