# le Spokesman

**Barkat Rice Mills** (Pvt) Limited

Jahangir Tareen announces Rs20mn relief for flood victims

Senior politician Jahangir Tareen has announced a relief package of Rs20 million for flood-hit families in Lodhran, vowing to stand shoulder to shoulder with those affected.included in machinery to strengthen embankments, as well as the distribution of ration bags and essential items among victims in Lodhran district.



evacuated as rivers burst in Punjab after India opens floodgates

**NDMA claims 210,000** 

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Rabiul Awwal 3, Thursday, August 28, 2025



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(a) @daily spokesman



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### High alert

LAHORE: Volunteers of Rescue 1122 and Civil Defense are high alert to counter any unexpected situation after raising the water level



## Protective embankments breached as Chenab, Ravi and Sutlej swell to dangerous levels

**Spokesman Report** 

ISLAMABAD: Many districts have been submerged in Punjab after Chenab, Ravi and Sutlej rivers swelled to dangerous levels due to heavy rains and release of water by India into Pakistan, officials said on Wednesday. Due to an exceptionally high flood in the Chenab River, a protective embankment at Qadirabad has manage water pressure.

hydraulic structures at headworks are at risk of damage as the main rivers in Punjab faced "exceptionally high" floods.

More than 50 villages near Ganda Singhwala have been submerged due to the rapid rise in the water level in the Ravi River, prompting the relocation of people from the affected areas.

been deliberately breached to Baeen Nullah has entered residential areas, where 126 people

According to the NDMA, the were rescued. Similarly, a bridge was washed away in Zafarwal due to the strong current.

Dozens of settlements along the riverbank have been flooded, thousands of acres of crops destroyed, and an emergency has been imposed in various districts.

According to the Meteorological Department and PDMA, the Sutlej River is at a high level of In Narowal, rainwater from flood at Ganda Singhwala, while a medium level of flood is passing through Head Sulemanki.

water inflow at the Qadirabad Headworks has reached 935,000 cusecs. A deliberate breach has been made in the protective embankment as a precautionary

According to an official, the current capacity of Qadirabad Headworks is 800,000 cusecs. The breach is expected to cause flooding in parts of Mandi Baha-

emergency measure.

uddin. Near Kartarpur, a protective

According to the PDMA, the embankment of the Ravi River collapsed, allowing floodwaters to enter the premises of Gurdwara Kartarpur Sahib.

> Accumulation of water at the Gurdwara complex is causing significant difficulties for pilgrims in performing religious rites.

> According to reports, 4.4 feet of water is standing inside the compound. Rescue teams from relevant departments are currently conducting operations

## **PM Shehbaz** orders immediate measures to address **Punjab floods**



😂 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday directed the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) to take immediate measures to address potential urban flooding in Lahore, Sialkot and Gujrat, besides continuing its early warning and relief efforts.

Chairing an emergency meeting to review the flood situation in Punjab, the prime minister directed the authorities to enhance the effectiveness of flood and rainfall warnings. He emphasised the impor-

tance of timely information sharing between the NDMA and the PDMA Punjab to mini-

NDMA Chairman Lt-General Inam Haider Malik briefed the prime minister on the river government officials.

situation, preemptive evacuations, safe relocations, and the delivery of relief supplies in affected areas.

Referring to the provision of tents for affected areas in Punjab, he said, the supply of other essential items will continue.

The prime minister instructed the ministers for communications, energy, the NHA chairman and other officials to reach Lahore to cooperate with the provincial government and ensure uninterrupted power supply, communication channels, and road restoration in the affected areas.

The meeting was attended by federal ministers Ahsan Igbal, Awais Ahmad Leghari. Dr Musadik Malik, Attaullah Tarar, and Ahad Khan Cheema, NDMA chairman, and relevant

### UN announces \$600K emergency aid for flood-hit Pakistan

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: United Nations has announced an emergency assistance of \$600,000 for those affected by the recent floods in Pakistan, reproted 24NewsHDTV Channel.

According to a UN spokesperson, this initial amount has been released to meet the immediate needs of the affected people. The spokesperson added that the relief operations are being led by the Pakistani authorities, while the UN and local partners are providing

support. According to the spokesperson, a high-level UN delegation will visit the flood-affected areas today to assess the situation on the ground. The UN has assured that Pakistan will not be left alone in this difficult time, and further assistance will be provided as per the circumstances.

Earlier, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif directed the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) to accelerate rescue efforts in Puniah districts affected by flooding along the Sutlej River.

## Engineer brigade, infantry, medical units deployed for rescue operation during floods: ISPR

Maveed Ahmad Khan

Director General Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) Lt Gen Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry on Wednesday said that one engineer brigade, along with 19 infantry and medical units, has been deployed to carry out a relief and rescue operation in army medical camps have flood-affected districts of the country.

Addressing a press confer-Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar, the Director General of the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), he said that flood response units that despite bad weather, have already been mobilised the Army's aviation has in Punjab, Khyber Pakh- completed 26 sorties. Three tunkhwa, Azad Jammu and major bridges, including Kashmir, and Gilgit-Baltistan for flood-affected areas. have been repaired, and 104 Around 28,000 people have roads have been cleared in been rescued so far during the region, in collaboration

the operation, he said. He said that in total, 29



been set up in Punjab, KPK, GB and AJK. Medical treatment has been provided to ence alongside Minister for over 20,700 people, in addition to distributing 225 tons of rations to flood-affected individuals in various parts of the country, he added.

The DG ISPR said two in KPK and one in GB,

with civil authorities, he said. Continued on Page 7 | flood situation.

## Army called in to assist civil admin in Punjab flood relief efforts

Bureau Report

LAHORE: The Punjab government has called in the army to assist civil administration in the rescue and relief operations in the engaged in rescue and relief flood-affected areas of the province.

rivers by India and heavy rains have caused severe flooding in various areas of Punjab, forcing the government to take emergency measures to address the situation.

The Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) said that India had opened all the gates of its Thein Dam on the Ravi River.

Under the plan, the army will be deployed in seven districts, including Lahore, Okara, Kasur, Sialkot, Faisalabad, Sargodha, and Narowal, to deal with the

According to the Puniab Home Department, the district administration, Rescue 1122, Civil Defence and Police are already active in the affected areas, efforts.

The Punjab Home The release of water into 
Department has written a letter to the Federal Ministry of Interior for the deployment of the army, under which the deployment of the army will be implemented.

The letter outlines that the military's involvement is necessary to assist the civil administration in handling the flood situation caused by India's water aggression.

The number of military personnel to be deployed will be determined after consultation with the district administration.

The Army Aviation and other resources will also be made available in the flood-affected areas.



Thursday, August 28, 2025

## **CPO Multan visits under**construction Safe City Office, reviews progress

### 跨 Zain Khan Malghani

MULTAN: City Police Officer (CPO) Multan, Sadiq Ali Dogar, paid a visit to the under-construction Safe City office and inspected the ongoing development work. He was accompanied by SSP Investigation Multan Haider Ali, SP Safe City Authority Nasrullah Warraich, and other senior officials.

According to the police spokesperson, during the visit, the CPO issued directives to the concerned officers, emphasizing that the project must be completed on time to ensure the swift launch of the technologically advanced Safe City system. He stated that the Safe City initiative would prove to be a milestone in maintaining law and order and curbing criminal activities in Multan.

Highlighting the significance of the project, CPO Dogar noted that modern surveillance systems and high-tech cameras would significantly enhance the city's security. He further announced that the Safe City office would be formally inaugurated soon, after which the advanced monitoring network would assist in controlling crime across the city.



the project have also surfaced. Many citizens expressed reservations, stating that the Safe City system appears to be more focused on penalizing motorcy-

wrong-way driving. Residents argued that before implementing such surveillance, the authorities should address the clists for violations such as not wearing They pointed out the absence of zebra ment.

However, public concerns regarding helmets, missing number plates, and crossings and traffic signals at major intersections, stressing that alongside Safe City measures, traffic signals and road infrastructure must also be city's basic traffic management issues. restored for effective urban manage-

### Carelessness

KARACHI: Due to missing of manhole cover at a Saddar street, creating great hardship to commuters pass around it and it needs the attention of concerned authorities to cover manhole to avoid any mishap



## Economic and business growth is the top priority of the provincial govt: Barrister Saif

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: Advisor to the Chief Minister on Information, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Barrister Muhammad Ali Saif, visited the Peshawar Chamber of Small Traders and Small Industries. On this occasion, Group Leader Malik Mehr Elahi, Chamber President Shakeel Ahmed Khan Sarraf, Senior Vice President Haji Talah Muhammad, Vice President Zohaib Arif, and Spokesperson of Tanzeem-e-Tajiran Shehzad Ahmed Siddiqui warmly welcomed him. Chamber officials, representatives from various markets of Peshawar, and a large number of traders also participated. Malik Mehr Elahi and Shakeel



Ahmed Sarraf briefed the Advisor on the problems faced by the trader community, stating that under the guise of anti-encroachment drives, the prop-

erties and businesses of traders had been damaged. They highlighted that the shops located at Shahi Katha are being declared illegal, despite the fact

that these shops have existed since the British era, with registry documents dating back to before the creation of Pakistan.

After listening attentively, Barrister Muhammad Ali Saif assured the trader community that their issues would be resolved. He stated that he would instruct the relevant departmental secretaries to immediately address the traders' reservations and problems. He also announced that a delegation of the Peshawar Chamber would be facilitated to meet the Chief Minister so that small traders could directly present their proposals and play their role in the improvement of the provin-

## Start new cargo and passenger trains to fulfil the needs of the local business community: FCCI

👺 Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: Organized and collaborative efforts would be made in consultation with all concerned sectors to start new cargo and passenger trains to fulfil the needs of the local business community, said Mr. Qaisar Shams Gucha, Acting President Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI). Addressing a Coordination Committee mandated to contact CEO Pakistan Railways as a follow up of the recent visit of Mr. Hanif Abbasi, Federal Minister for Railways. The meeting decided that a joint committee of FCCI, FDPT, FIEDMC and Customs would be constituted in addition to involving CEO Railways. This committee  $\,$ would also formulate a strategy to start new passenger and cargo trains from Faisalabad. Chairman Coordination Committee Mr. Muzammil Sultan requested FCCI to write down a letter to the Pakistan Railways suggesting that existing business and cargo trains currently operating between Lahore and Karachi may be diverted through Faisalabad. Meanwhile a joint meeting of FCCI, FIEDMC, Railways, FDTP and Customs would be convened to construct a dedicated substation and platforms in M3 Industrial Estate for the expeditious transportation of  $\,$ export and import cargo. He said that FCCI should also write a letter to Chairman FIEDMC to accept the membership of this committee. Similarly, letters should also be written to the PR to revive the executive lounge at Faisalabad Railways Station and restoration of quota in different trains for FCCI members. The meeting was attended by Mian Muhammad Latif, Executive Members Mirza Zahid Iqbal, Engineer Bilal Jamil and Mr. Faisal Pracha who also gave their input.

### ABHI Partners with Fast Cables to Provide Earned Wage Access



### **Example 2** Commerce Desk

LAHORE: In a landmark move towards employee financial empowerment, ABHI, a neobank of the future, has partnered with FAST Cables, one of Pakistan's leading manufacturers of electrical cables and LED Lights, to introduce Earned Wage Access (EWA) for its workforce. This collaboration highlights both companies' shared commitment to employee welfare, ensuring stability and financial security for Fast

Through ABHI's EWA solution, FAST Cables employees can access a portion of their earned salary in real time via the ABHI mobile app or SMS, within 30 seconds, anytime, anywhere. By eliminating the need to wait for payday, this initiative reduces reliance on high-interest loans and enables employees to meet urgent expenses.

"Bringing Earned Wage Access to FAST Cables is more than a collabation: it's a commitment to easing financial pressures for employees across Pakistan," said Rayaan Sayeed, Head of Sales at ABHI.

"Financial challenges are one of the biggest barriers to employee productivity and overall well-being. With EWA, employees gain control over their finances, allowing them to focus on their work and personal growth without worry."

### LONGi and iiEnergy expand presence with new flagship store in Lahore

**Example 2** Commerce Desk

LAHORE: LONGi, the world's leading solar technology company, has announced the opening of another flagship store in collaboration with iiEnergy, located on Hall Road, Lahore. The new store aims to provide customers with authentic, bestin-class solar products and services, while addressing the growing concerns of counterfeit and substandard panels in the local

Hall Road, one of Pakistan's most prominent solar market hubs in Lahore, has seen a surge in grey market and B-grade

panels being sold under the guise of original products. Many of these products are falsely branded with LONGi stickers, misleading customers and compromising performance. To counter this trend and ensure that Pakistani consumers have direct access to genuine solutions, LONGi has officially launched this flagship store at the very heart of the market.

"At LONGi, customer trust and product authenticity are our top priorities. The Lahore flagship store is not just about sales; it's about safeguarding our customers from counterfeit products and ensuring they experience the unmatched quality of genuine LONGi solutions," said Osman Maud, Product and Solutions Manager, LONGi Pakistan.

## Sindh's Renewed Human Rights Commitment: Secretary Khalid Chachar's Leadership and GŠP+ Prospect

👺 Nazia Naz

KARACHI: Since his appointment just a month ago, Secretary Human Rights, Mr. Khalid Chachar, has infused the Sindh Human Rights Department with a renewed sense of purpose and direction. His proactive leadership, marked by tireless dedication, has established advancing the department's broad

Steering Committee on Business and ness among the youth of Sindh.

Human Rights, the Human Rights Rights Committees. By strengthening these bodies through close monitoring, he has ensured greater coordination, transparency, and accountability within the department's framework.

One of the flagship measures under his tenure is the allocation of PKR 100 a remarkable pace for monitoring and million for Legal Aid, earmarked to provide critical assistance to vulnerable and marginalized communities. From the outset, Mr. Chachar In parallel, the department is rolling assumed personal oversight of key out awareness programs in universiinstitutional platforms, including the ties, colleges, and schools, aimed at Task Force on Human Rights, the nurturing a culture of rights aware-

Moreover, specialized capaci-Committee, and the District Human ty-building sessions for journalists and police officers are being introduced to strengthen their understanding of the progressive human rights laws enacted by the Sindh Government. A pioneering initiative to train new officers of the Sindh Human Rights Commission is also underway-an achievement regarded as a significant milestone in institutional development.

Equally notable is the successful completion of a pilot internship program for 60 interns, who received standardized training in human rights mechanisms. This initiative not only produced a cadre of young professionals

equipped with practical knowledge but also reflects the Sindh Government's inclusive and forward-looking vision.

Taken together, these initiatives demonstrate a strategic response to human rights challenges while reinforcing Pakistan's GSP+ compliance framework. By strengthening monitoring and reporting mechanisms on the 27 EU conventions, Sindh is positioning itself to deliver more credible, timely, and transparent reports to international partners.

Under the visionary leadership of Secretary Khalid Chachar, Sindh is charting a course where human rights protection remains central to



governance-ensuring both justice and the economic advantages of continued dignity for its citizens while securing GSP+ status for Pakistan.



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

### Women Police **Stations**

Rawalpindi	
ENQL	JIRY
Edhi Ambulance	
PIA Flight Info	114

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

### HOSPITALS

110011	
CMH	5611111
MH	561116
MH	561116
Cantt Hospital	9270907-11
DHQ	5556311-4
RGH	9290301-7
Holy Family	9290322-7
PIMS	9261170-79
Polyclinic	9218300-09
Shifa International .	4603666

### **DEPARTMENTS**

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

### **COMPLAINTS**

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

### Successful intervention by an Anti-Čorruption Circle in a land-related dispute

### 👺 Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: Due to the efforts and effective investigation of Regional Director Anti-Corruption Muhammad Khalid Masood and Circle Officer Attock Jahanzeb Khan, the complainant was able to regain his valuable land. According to details,

Attock resident Sheikh Asad had purchased 6 kanals and 18 marlas of land in the village of Jassian in 2015 in the name of his brothers. Later, in 2024 he came to know that the transfer of the said land had been canceled. Due to the negligence and malafide intentions of the Revenue Department, the transfer could not be executed.

The complainant then submitted a written application to the Regional Anti-Corruption Office in Rawalpindi. On this, Director Anti-Corruption Muhammad Khalid Masood immediately took action and assigned the case to Circle Officer Jahanzeb Khan. Since the complainant's brothers reside abroad, Sheikh Asad himself pursued the matter as their special attorney.

## As directed by CM Maryam, grand relief & rescue operation for flood victims continues across Punjab

LAHORE: On the direction of Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif, a grand rescue and relief operation has been launched for the flood victims in Punjab. For the first time in the history of Punjab, the largest and most extraordinary rescue and relief operation has been launched in the province due to the alarming flood situation in three rivers.

A total number of 601126 citizens of 769 villages of Punjab were badly affected due to floods in the Ravi, Sutlej and Chenab rivers. 263 relief camps, 161 medical camps have been established to help and look after the flood victims along

ment and temporary shelters. Food, water and other items are being provided to the flood victims in Sambrial, Sialkot and Pasrur.

A grand operation has been carried out to relocate citizens from other flood-affected areas including Kasur, Nankana Sahib, Chiniot, Pulkho Nullah Wazirabad. Pakistan Army, District Administration, Police, Rescue 1122, PDMA and other relevant departments are jointly participating in the rescue and relief operation. Even pets in rural areas have been shifted to safe places through boats. Those displaced by the floods are also being shifted to temporary shelters.

78 relief camps and 28 medical camps with providing them food, medical treat- have been set up to help and provide



medical care to the flood victims. 70,358 people from 101 villages along the banks of the Ravi River have been affected by the floods. The cities affected by the Ravi River flood include Narowal, Nankana Sahib, Kasur and Sahiwal. 81 relief camps and 28 medical camps have been set up to help and provide care for the flood victims in the Ravi River.

380,768 citizens from 335 villages along the banks of the Sutlej River have been affected by the floods. 104 relief camps and 105 medical camps are functioning to help and provide care to the flood victims of Sutlej River. The cities affected due to flood in the Sutlej River include Kasur, Okara, Pakpattan, Multan, Vehari, Bahawalnagar and Bahawalpur.

### Congratulation

ISLAMABAD: Senior Photojournalist Online News Agency/Daily Jinnah Sultan Bashir cutting a cake while congratulating Secretary General National Press Club Nayar Ali on becoming Bureau Chief of 365 News Channel.



## New study by AKU reveals one in four children in Karachi at high risk of developmental delays

### 跨 City Desk

KARACHI: A new study by the Aga Khan University has found that one in four children aged 3 to 8 attending public schools in Karachi are at risk of developmental delays. Children from low-income families and ethnic minority backgrounds are especially vulnerable.

Research was conducted among children in Katchi, grade 1, and grade 2, measuring them in each of five developmental domains-social and emotional, physical, language, cognition, and communication skills. It was found that 28% of children were vulnerable in at least one of these domains, while about 10% struggled in all five. Pashtun children exhibited the highest vulnerability rates across all domains, measured by Early Developmental Index (EDI) compared to Urdu, Sindhi, Punjabi, Balochi, and other speakers. Boys were also found to be significantly more likely to be vulnerable than girls.

"An individual's early years are their



rapid growth and development occurs," says Dr Seema Lasi, Assistant Professor at Aga Khan University and co-author of the research study. "A child's developmental health is deeply influenced by their parents, teachers and the social and environmental most sensitive period, where the most factors they grow up in.

"Children thrive when they are supported by both quality education and a stable, nurturing home," says Dr Salman Kirmani, Director, Centre of Excellence - Women & Child Health, and Interim Director, Human Development Programme, Aga Khan University.

### DC, DPO convene district emergency board meeting 跨 Zafar Chishti

TOBA TEK SINGH: On the directions of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, a special meeting of the District Emergency Board was convened to review preparations in view of the possible high-level flood in River Ravi. The meeting was chaired by Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Naeem Sandhu and District Police Officer Ibadat Nisar. The session was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner (Revenue), Assistant Commissioner Munawar Hussain Kamalana Sial, District Emergency Officer, and heads of Irrigation, Agriculture, Livestock, Social Welfare, Education, Health, Highways, SNGPL, WAPDA, Traffic Police, and other relevant departments. According to the district administration, 48 villages of Kamalia and Pir Mahal tehsils are being evacuated, while five relief camps and a control room have been established to monitor the situation round-the-clock. The Irrigation Department informed the meeting that floodwater from Balloki Headworks will reach Head Sadhnai within 24 hours.

Deputy Commissioner Sandhu said that, as per the chief minister's directives, all arrangements have been put in place to protect lives and property. Residents of the river belt and nearby settlements have been urged to immediately move to safer locations along with their livestock and extend full cooperation with the administration.

## CEO of Punjab Premier League's Gujrat Kings Visits Cleft Hospital Pakistan



### 😂 Aziz Ur Rehman Mujahid

GUJRAT: Chaudhry Nadeem Manzoor Baig, renowned businessman, philanthropist, and CEO of Gujrat Kings (Cricket Team), a franchise of Punjab Premier League, visited Cleft Hospital Pakistan, Jaliani Gujrat. He was warmly welcomed by the hospital's founder and patron-in-chief, Dr. Ijaz Bashir.

Cleft Hospital Pakistan has been serving for decades, providing free-of-cost treatment for children born with cleft lip and palate. During the visit, Chaudhry Nadeem Manzoor Baig praised Dr. Ijaz Bashir's lifelong dedication and appreciated the hospital's humanitarian services.

Presenting his vision "Playing for a Cause: Cricket for Cleft Hospital," he offered philanthropic collaboration with the hospital. He emphasized that cricket, being the most popular sport in South Asia, is not only a platform for youth talent but also a powerful medium to raise awareness and mobilize support for social causes

As part of his patronage, Chaudhry Nadeem Manzoor Baig is leading Gujrat Kings in the upcoming Punjab Premier League Cricket Series, scheduled from 29th September to 8th October 2025 at Jinnah Stadium, Gujranwala. Eight districtbased teams including Gujrat Kings, Lahore Leopards, Faisalabad Lions, Rawalpindi Markhor, Rahim Yar Khan Thunders, Multan Stallions, Gujranwala Titans, and Sialkot Wings will compete in

 ${\bf Dr.\,Ijaz\,Bashir\,expressed\,gratitude\,to\,Chaudhry\,Nadeem\,Manzoor}$ Baig for his generous initiative, and after consultation, looked forward to positive developments in the collaboration.

## British Council brings together partners to champion disability inclusion in education and skills

### **Spokesman Report**

PESHAWAR: The British Council, under Component 4 of the EU-funded TVET Sector Support Programme, hosted a consultative workshop titled "Disability Inclusion - Experience Sharing and Learning Workshop" at Serena Hotel, Peshawar. The gathering brought together a diverse group of stakeholders with one shared goal: to create more inclusive opportunities

for persons with disabilities (PWDs) education and skills. This is how we across technical and vocational education, higher education, and entrepre-

Speaking about the initiative, Maarya Rehman, Deputy Director, British Council Pakistan, said:

"Inclusion is not an add-on—it is the foundation of a stronger, fairer society. By bringing voices together, we are building solutions that ensure persons with disabilities have equal access to

unlock potential and drive progress for

The event drew participation from Organisations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs), NGOs, special education institutions, technology partners, incubation hubs, and EU TVET partners including IMSciences, KIU, GVTTI Haripur, GCT D. I Khan, and GPI Skardu. Their insights and experiences shaped key recommendations to guide



Centres of Excellence and to strengthen

the development of disability-inclusive to thrive in Pakistan's digital economy. education and skills systems in Pakistan

This workshop reflects a growing work for all learners —an essential step pathways for Persons With Disabilities momentum towards ensuring that towards building an inclusive future.

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## **Emergency Measures For Flood Victims Across Punjab**

hief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif presided over a four-hour-long meeting in which the flood situation of all flood-affected areas across Punjab was reviewed. Relief and rescue reports regarding flood affected districts were presented in the meeting. Rescue and relief activities were reviewed in the flood-affected areas.

Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif directed to utilize all available resources for the flood victims. The services of the army were called in seven districts including Lahore, Kasur, Sialkot, Narowal, Faisalabad, Okara and Sargodha. She was informed in the briefing that all relevant departments of the Punjab government are monitoring the flood

The district administration, PDMA, Rescue 1122, Civil Defense and Police are engaged in carrying out rescue and relief operations on the front line. The districts of Kasur, Okara, Pakpattan, Vehari, Bahawalnagar and Bahawalpur were declared affected due to flooding in the Sutlej River. 72 villages and 45 thousand people in Kasur district were badly affected by the high level of flooding in the Sutlej

It was further informed in the briefing that 12 villages in Pakpattan, 23 in Vehari, 75 in Bahawalnagar and 15 villages in Bahawalpur have been affected by the flood. 130 boats, 115 OBMs, 6 AMB bikes, 1300 life jackets, 245 life rings have been delivered to the affected districts. More than 150,000 people and 35,000 livestock have been shifted to safe places and relief camps along with medical and veterinary camps have been established.

More than 2600 flood victims are being treated in the medical relief camps. Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has directed to adopt emergency measures in hospitals in view of the flood situation in all districts across Punjab. Senior Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb, Chief Secretary and other senior officials attended the meeting.

Meanwhile CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif Pays Tribute to Distt Admin & Rescue Team For Evacuating 25 People Trapped in Flood in Shakargarh

"Every life is precious, those who rescued 25 people are national heroes," said Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif while expressing gratitude over safe evacuation of 25 people trapped in flood in Shakargarh area. She congratulated and paid tribute to Shakargarh administration and rescue team for conducting a timely rescue operation.

Madam Chief Minister said,"Flood is a natural disaster, but safety of people's lives and property will be ensured at all costs." She appealed to the people to stay away from the passage of rivers and streams, as it is important to move to a safe place well in time.

## AI: Opportunity or Risk?

human-technology relations have become with the increased level of computational interference in human affairs. Over the centuries, the technological advancements such as the printing press, nuclear technology and internet altered the social reality and bifurcated the opinionated framework that gives significant legitimacy to these technologies. In contemporary times, the advent on algorithms might of artificial intelligence is impacting impact the narrative the political, social, defense, economic, media and cultural spheres of life. This technological breakthrough transcends the conventional understanding of social institutions. Every field of life, in today's world, is catalyzed by the latent and manifest potential of artificial intelligence. Subsequently, countries started to adapt AI into their digital infrastructure and economic integration that also require a legal framework to regulate the AI-driven reality. According to the latest AI Preparedness Index, Pakistan ranked at 0.37 which illustrates the lack of digital and legal infrastructure to accelerate the human capital in the domain of artificial

intelligence. It is noteworthy to analyze the different school of thoughts, based on the extent and trust of AI-integration, which focuses on the downside and upside of the employment of artificial intelligence in human affairs. Broadly speaking, the 'contemporary Luddites' and techno-humans operationalize the constructs that elucidate the apprehensions and strengths, respectively. First, the followers of the dystopian version regarding artificial intelligence highlights the substantial negative impact of its potential on human life. The company workers will lose their jobs because of

he evolving nature of algorithms in marketing, packaging, national companies can leverage the standing to regulate its proliferation. and advertising sectors. There might be a disproportionate impact of AI on high-income and low-income workers because of socio-economic opportudata sets and predictive models. In the nities afforded to the former. For the field of education, students can utilize

> challenges such as deep fakes and misinformation. The proliferation of content based on virality models grounded construction of a state and also lessen the trust on media as a credible source of information.

In the digital public sphere, the amplification of an 'artificial echo chamber' could manipulate virtual reality.

**Zaid Bin Inam** 

The use of AI in the field of education will impact the critical thinking capacity of students and lessen the interaction of person-to-person learning. In the modern times, the concept of micro learning is gaining transactions owing to its customizable aspect and flexibility in the fast-paced environment. However, the virtual mode of learning may impact cultural and social appropriation. Since, the AI system is based on the algorithm which comprises data sets, the use of AI may show bias with respect to stereotypes that reflect the possible spectrum of data sets. In the health care sector, artificial intelligence delivers significant outcomes in the areas like genomic, pharmaceuticals, data management, medical research and virtual care.

The upside of the AI encapsulates the philosophical and observable underpinnings that elucidates the positive impact of AI-integration on human life. AI can be used to supplement the mental construction of ideas and enhance the the increasing level of computational quality of content creators. The multi-

potential of AI into their strategic decision making to maneuver in the competitive landscape based on large media industry, the AI poses <u>significant</u> the AI tools for e-learning. The diffi-

cult concepts and theories can be explained by AI in both textual and graphical forms. In the field of education, the multimodal analysis of complex data sets has become easy to comprehend through the techniques of data visualization. Another important

aspect highlighted by the proponents of AI-integration is the ability of people to spend more time with family and friends because of the less working days made possible by integration of computational models by the companies. Hence, social life will become more "social", in contrast to dystopian frame of thought, through the employment of artificial intelligence.

Both schools of thought elucidate their approach towards the adoption of generative AI technology in contemporary affairs. However, one needs to focus on the importance of skill set and mindset while accentuating the sustainable employment of computational algorithms. The skill set includes the ability to understand data management and prompt engineering. To holistically adopt AI, the mindset of the users' needs to accommodate the binary dimensions of impact of AI, and focus on the potential force of progression relevant to human society. Historically speaking, the revolution in technology and philosophical thinking in human civilization engendered both the utopian and dystopian narratives. Every technology demands a legal framework and customary under-

We need to balance the perceived threats and opportunities resulting from the employment of AI in every walk of life, since AI is impacting both personal and professional lives alike. The strategy needs to evolve in order to facilitate the human creativity catalyzed by the ethical use of AI. Instead as a replacement, the changing AI landscape should be perceived as a facilitator to human's unique consciousness. Moreover, in the realm of academia, the projects and assessment criteria should give prominence to the original contribution of content to promote human creativity and uniqueness. The Walter Benjamin's essay The Work of Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction eloquently elucidated the impact of mechanical reproduction on the uniqueness and authenticity of the art. Along with the beneficial impact of AI, the empirical discourse around the likelihood of implications for political, military and economic aspects needs to be evaluated by keeping in perspective the socio-economic framework. The extensive data sets, on the basis of which the AI models predict the computation analysis, should engender the inclusive approach that fosters the egalitarian model towards "epistemological accessibility."

Artificial intelligence stands as a transformative force that shapes the tangible and intangible social reality. Yet, the power of AI comes with both the opportunities and risks, the focus should be on the sustainable adoption of technology through digital literacy. Moreover, the emphasis should be on the human creativity and imagination that equally promote the optimistic future of human-centered computing.

The writer is an academician and faculty member at NUML, Islamabad.



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

## Impact of Climate Change on the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor II



plant completed under CPEC provides critical water security but remains vulnerable existential threats from sea-level rise and 0.5-1 meter by 2100, which would inuninfrastructure. Storm surges associated with cyclones could cause catastrophic damage disrupting operations and requiring expen- and increasing operational costs.

he 1.2 MGD desalination sive repairs. Beyond physical infrastructure, climate change affects operational efficiency throughout CPEC's transportation network. Extreme heat reduces labour productivity, to extreme weather events with studies indicating potential output and power disruptions. Gwadar Port, faces reductions of 15-20% during summer months without adequate cooling facilities. Changing increased storm intensity. Scientific projec-precipitation patterns affect routing reliability, tions indicate potential sea-level rise of while temperature extremes impact vehicle performance and fuel efficiency across the date portions of the port facility and support trucking fleet that will carry increased trade volumes. Study indicates that rising temperatures could reduce thermal efficiency at coal to container terminals and storage facilities, plants by 5-10% by 2050, reducing output

CPEC Segment	Major Climate Threats	Key Infrastructure at Risk	
Northern (Gilgit-Baltistan)	Glacial melt, landslides, flooding	Karakoram Highway, bridges, tunnels	
Punjab Plains	Extreme heat, flooding, droughts	Power plants, agricultural zones	
Sindh & Balochistan	Drought, water scarcity, sea-level rise	Gwadar Port, coal plants, roads	
Coastal (Gwadar)	Sea-level rise, cyclones, erosion	Port infrastructure, naval facilities	

expressed commitments to green development, the continued reliance on coal-based energy projects and inadequate environmental safeguards exacerbate climate vulnerabilities. The paper concludes with recommendations for enhancing climate resilience through improved governance, renewable energy integration, and community-based adaptation strategies. This study contributes to understanding the complex interplay between mega-infrastructure projects and climate change in developing regions. CPEC's energy portfolio has concerning climate implications, with approximately 70% of initial power generation projects being coal-fired, increasing Pakistan's coal energy transition from coal to renewacapacity from 3% in 2017 to over 19% in bles, leveraging Pakistan's solar and wind

carbon lock-in effect, potentially commit- constraints and policy barriers to renewting Pakistan to high-emission pathways for decades. The Thar Coal Power Project alone is estimated to increase Pakistan's greenhouse gas emissions by 51 million tons annually, contributing to both global climate change and local environmental degradation.

Without substantial interventions, climate impacts may undermine CPEC's economic returns and developmental objectives, particularly for vulnerable communities along the corridor to address which it is imperative to carry out climate risk assessment regularly of CPEC planning and implementation, accelerate

While both China and Pakistan have 2024. This reliance on fossil fuels creates a potential while addressing transmission able integration. Strengthen governance frameworks with enforceable environmental standards, independent monitoring, and meaningful community participation in decision-making. Develop innovative financing mechanisms for climate-resilient infrastructure, including green bonds, climate risk insurance, and leveraging international climate funds for a prudent CPEC.

The Writer is Ph. D in International  $Relations\ and\ Fellow\ Research\ Member$  $with \, Chartered \, Institute \, of \, Logistics \, and \,$ Transportation (UK), Member Board of Advisor "The Beacon" Research Journal of Pakistan Navy War College. He can be reached at hasanyaser91@gmail.com

### Beyond the Fines, PSCA's Real **Mandate Is Protecting People**

safety and law enforcement. The Punjab Safe Cities Authority (PSCA), established become one of the most ambitious projects in Pakistan's ultimately reduce crime before it happens.

history, combining technology with policing to create safer cities and more secure communities. What began as a flagship project in Lahore has now spread to other major cities including Rawalpindi, Multan, Faisalabad, Gujranwala, Bahawalpur, and Sargodha, laying the groundwork for a province-wide revolution in urban security. The authority's mission is defined by a clear vision: "Safe Punjab – Crime-Free Punjab."

Similarly, the authority has introduced a 'Virtual Child Centre' dedicated to protecting in all aspects of public safety and governance. vulnerable children, a 'Virtual Blood Bank' that connects donors to patients during medical emergencies, and a Minority Centre named "Meesaq" to safeguard the rights and safety of religious and social minorities. The establishment of an Electronic Digital Evidence Centre has added further credibility to law enforcement by ensuring secure handling and processing of forensic

and digital evidence, strengthening the judicial process. PSCA has also embraced digital accessibility with citizen-friendly tools such as WhatsApp-based assistance, free public Wi-Fi zones, and the installation of panic buttons in various parts of Lahore to ensure immediate access to help in emergencies. On the ground, policing has been strengthened through increased patrolling in crime hotspots, the expansion of the Dolphin Force, and the restructuring of local police stations to better serve vulnerable communities. Together, these steps are gradually reshaping public attitudes toward law enforcement, fostering trust, and encouraging cooperation between citizens and police.

The authority continues to expand its technological capabilities. Advanced systems such as facial recognition software, vehicle management tools, and predictive analytics are being deployed to analyze crime patterns

unjab is undergoing a remarkable trans- and anticipate risks before they occur. This proactive formation in the way it approaches public approach represents a shift from reactive policing to predictive and preventive policing. By using big data and artificial intelligence, PSCA aims to identify potenunder the Puniab Safe Cities Act 2016, has tial threats, deploy resources more strategically, and

Looking to the future, PSCA plans to extend its operations across all cities in Punjab, with an ambitious roadmap that includes full integration of artificial intelligence into its systems, smarter traffic

management to combat congestion, and enhanced cooperation with health departments, disaster management authorities, and emergency services. These developments are part of a broader strategy to not only modernize policing but also to embed technology

The impact of PSCA has already been profound. Lahore's streets are safer, emergency response times have improved, and public trust in the police is stronger than ever before. Crime statistics confirm the authority's effectiveness, while citizen surveys reflect widespread satisfaction with its services. More importantly. PSCA is showing that policing can evolve into a model of transparency, accountability, and inclusivity when paired with innovation. By pioneering initiatives such as the Virtual Women Police Station, the Virtual Child Centre, the Virtual Blood Bank, the Minority Centre, and the Electronic Digital Evidence Centre, PSCA is expanding the definition of public safety to include

social justice and community welfare. What once seemed a distant vision of a crime-free Punjab is gradually becoming a reality. The Punjab Safe Cities Authority (PSCA) is not only transforming policing in Pakistan's largest province but also setting an example for other regions and countries to follow. By merging technology with social responsibility, PSCA is building a safer, more inclusive, and more hopeful future for millions of citizens.

The writer is Police Communication Officer

## Allah has blessed Pakistan with an abundance of natural and human resources: Advisor to Governor

**Spokesman Report** 

Mustafa, said, "Allah has blessed Pakistan with an abundance of natural and human resources, the greatest of which is a skilled and creative workforce that must now excel in critical technologies to meet modern demands and challenges."

He was addressing the meeting of the Hamdard Naunehal Assembly (HNA), Karachi chapter, held yesterday at the ation is filled with the spirit of national Quaid-e-Azam House Museum under the theme "We are proud to be Pakistanis." Ms Sadia Rashid, President of Hamdard Foundation Pakistan, presided over the proceedings. Syed Tariq Mustafa represented the Chief Guest-Governor Sindh Kamran Tessori, who could not attend due to immediate engagements. Hamdard Pakistan, the institution he Former Governor of Sindh, Gen (r) founded, is part of the childhood memo-Moinuddin Haider, also attended the meeting as Guest of Honour.

people to secure online employment truly ideal society is one that produces role

through freelancing. In addition, a special complaints cell had been estab-KARACHI: Advisor to the Governor of lished at the Governor House, which Sindh and Federal Secretary, Syed Tariq remained active 24 hours a day. Citizens could approach it for the prompt resolution of their issues, including students, if they face some sort of hindrance in their educational pursuit.

He also said, "The speeches of the young participants created a sense of hope of a brighter and better future of Pakistan among all of us. The new generservice and is striving to acquire modern knowledge. The credit for making the children of this forum confident goes to the great human being and reformer of the nation, Shaheed Hakim Mohammed Said, who rendered unmatched services in the fields of health and education. ries of every Pakistani. Many of us learnt Urdu and the importance of disci-Sved Tarig Mustafa said that the pline through the monthly Hamdard Governor of Sindh had launched free Naunehal. The undertraining students courses on artificial intelligence for at HNA will definitely lead Pakistan students, enabling thousands of young tomorrow and take it to new heights. A



models in every sphere, and by the grace of Allah, Pakistan is also producing such individuals who serve as guiding lights. Ms Sadia Rashid is a valuable national asset, and young students should look to her life as an example to follow."

Ms Sadia Rashid, in her address, said that the greatest blessing of Allah Almighty is that we were born in a free country. Pakistan is a priceless gift, achieved through countless sacrifices, prayers, and the continuous struggle of our forefathers. This homeland is not merely a piece of land but the realisation of the dreams of the Muslims of the

subcontinent — expressed in the poetry of Allama Iqbal and realised by Quaide-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah. Our elders laid down their lives so that future generations could live in freedom. Today's youth are the true builders of this nation and the architects of tomorrow's Pakistan.

She said that Pakistan did not come into being on ethno-linguistic basis, but upon the ideology of Islam. Here, every citizen is first and foremost a Pakistani, and therefore we must think and act as one nation in order to secure a dignified place among the nations of the world. Quaid-e-Azam repeatedly empha-

Mohammed Said. He devoted his life to the intellectual and moral guidance of children and youth. Through the HNA and the Hamdard Naunehal magazine, he nurtured the minds of the younger generation. After assuming the office of Governor of Sindh, he organised the HNA session at the Governor House on 14th August — a clear testament to his deep affection for children and his

sised the importance of taking pride in

being Pakistani, and this is also the lesson

reflected in the life of Shaheed Hakim

concern for the future of the nation. Gen (r) Moinuddin Haider said that play.

Shaheed Hakim Mohammed Said was an exemplary figure in punctuality. Shaheed Hakim Mohammed Said established many educational institutions and, as a social leader, he always stressed character-building along with education in his addresses. Unfortunately, the tragedy of our society is that we have always neglected the aspect of character development. He further said that those who endured the pain of migration understand the true value of Pakistan more deeply. Pakistan is moving in the right direction and its future is bright; therefore, there is no need for pessimism.

The young speakers included Ayesha Fawad (Hamdard Public School) as Leader of the House, Sved Muhammad Shuja (Hamdard Public School) as Leader of the Opposition, along with Qareena Awan (The Savvy School), Rohan Adnan (GST Hilal School), and Nazish Khan (Hamdard Village School), who shared their thoughts on the topic. Students of Karachi Vocational Training Centre presented the national anthem and patriotic songs, while the students of Rose House School performed a theatre

## ICAP & CIPFA Host Landmark Conference on Resilient Public Financial Management in Islamabad

ISLAMABAD: The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Pakistan (ICAP), in collaboration with the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA), successfully organized a landmark conference on "Building a Resilient Public Financial Management Ecosystem" at Serena Hotel, Islamabad.

The conference was graced by the Chief Guest, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Pakistan, in his address, emphasized the urgency of aligning Pakistan's financial management with international standards. He reaffirmed the government's resolve to accelerate fiscal reforms, improve efficiency, and foster an accountable system on the importance of sustainable pracof governance.

The session on Global Trends in ESG presence of Dr. Musadik Malik, Federal Minister for Climate Change & Envi-



tices in the current global landscape.

Mr. Saif Ullah, President ICAP, reafand Sustainability was honoured by the firmed ICAP's commitment to fostering transparency and strengthening institutional capacity across Pakistan's public ronmental Coordination, Government sector. He extended his gratitude to poliof Pakistan, who shared his perspectives cymakers, development partners, and

industry leaders for their active participation and emphasized that such collaborative efforts are essential to building fiscal resilience, embedding ESG principles, and advancing governance reforms that serve the public interest.

Mr. Khalid Rahman, Chairman ICAP

Member, termed the conference a milestone in advancing Pakistan's fiscal governance and institutional resilience. Mr. Khalid Hamid, Director International at CIPFA, underscored CIPFA's unwavering commitment to advancing global public financial management Public Sector Committee and Council reforms and shaping stronger govern-

ance worldwide.

Mr. Muhammad Ali, Minister, Privatization Commission, shared insights on strengthening public financial management, while Mr. Ross Smith, Program and Technical Director, International Public Sector Accounting Standards Board (IPSASB), presented on advancing transparency and accountability through global accounting stand-

Mr. Akif Saeed, Chairman SECP, Dr. Iram Anjum Khan, Additional Auditor General of Pakistan, Mr. Shahid Kardar, Dr. Najeeb Ahmad, Member Inland Revenue (Policy), Mr. Farrukh Rehman, Former President ICAP, Ms. Aisha Humera Chaudhary, Secretary, Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Executive Director, SECP; Dr. Mian Farooq Haq, Director, State Bank of Pakistan; Mr. Akmal Minallah, Senior Financial Management Specialist, The World Bank, Mr. Khalilullah Shaikh, Board Member, International Federation of Accountants (IFAC), Mr. Ross Smith (IPSASB), Mr. Majid making the conference a success.

of Pakistan), Mr. Muhammad Salim Khan (Auditor General's Department), and Mr. Musaddiq I. Shaikh (Asian Development Bank) and Mr. Owais Ahmed, Director (FABS), Controller General of Accounts (CGA), Pakistan, Ms. Jahanara Sajjad Ahmad, Executive Director Corporate Governance and Group Financial Advisor, Bibojee Group of Companies, featured distinguished speakers including Mr. Abdul Rehman Warraich, Commissioner, SECP; Mr. Faisal Iqbal, Deputy Managing Director, SNGPL; Mr. Amin Rajput, Acting Managing Director, SSGC; and Ms. Gulzar Khoja, CFO, PSO and Mr. Maiid Soofi, Director General Central Monitoring Unit, Ministry of Finance, Paki-Coordination; Ms. Musarat Jabeen, stan and Mr. Mohammad Magbool, Council Member ICAP, highlighted the need for stronger fiscal accountability and audit-driven reforms. While Mr. Muhammad Awais, Vice President ICAP, delivered the Vote of Thanks, extending gratitude to the distinguished speakers, guests, and participants for

Soofi (Finance Division, Government

## Former CAS Sohail Aman Speaks at ISSI on 'Marka-e-Haq and Beyond'

👺 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: In its latest edition of the Thought Leaders Forum (TLF), the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) hosted former Chief of Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal (R) Sohail Aman as the Distinguished Speaker. The session was titled "Marka-e-Haq and Beyond."

Sohail Mahmood, in his remarks on the occasion, described "Marka-e-Haq" as the latest manifestation of Pakistan's resolute defence against Indian aggression, Mahmood underlined that where the armed forces. with the united backing of the whole nation, thwarted India's reprehensible designs across all key domains and successfully defended diplomatic, military, and the country's sovereignty and territorial integrity. He noted Pakistan Air Force demonthat the crisis was triggered by the BJP regime driven by



ideology, electoral calculations, presumptions of mili-DG ISSI Ambassador tary and technological superiority, misguided war-fighting doctrines, quest for regional hegemony, and incalculable hubris and arrogance.

Ambassador throughout the crisis period and actual conflict in May 2025, Pakistan prevailed informational — with the strating its prowess in what has been termed the largest the toxic mix of Hindutva air battle in history, downing

at least six Indian fighter jets. Air Chief Marshal (R) Sohail Aman, in his comprehensive talk, underlined that there remains a dangerous disconnect between the global quest for peace and India's active pursuit of conflict with Pakistan. He also underlined that it was fundamentally wrong on the part of anyone to think that Pakistan would not respond in the face of the provocation and military aggression undertaken by India. He added that "Markae-Haq" and Operation Bunyan-um-Marsoos repre-

sented a fundamental trans-

formation towards multi-domain warfare, where Pakistan innovatively employed air power alongside precision strikes and cyber disruption. He specifically stressed that India's misperception — that Pakistan would not respond was a reckless notion. firmly dispelled by Pakistan's robust military and national response. He also challenged India's false narrative of having confronted a joint China-Pakistan force, calling it a face-saving measure. He asserted that a technologically advanced and operationally superior Pakistan Air Force decisively outperformed its numerically larger Indian counterpart. While noting that nuclear deterrence held during the crisis, Air Chief Marshal Aman warned against India's misguided belief that there is space for a limited conventional war

### Alhuda CIBE to Host Islamic Banking and Finance Road Show in Kyrgyzstan

Commerce Desk

DUBAI - UAE: AlHuda Centre of Islamic Banking & Economics (CIBE) - UAE is pleased to announce that the Kyrgyz Republic will host a pivotal session of the CIS Islamic Finance Roadshow 2025, featuring a specialized training on the operational and practical aspects of Islamic Banking, Takaful, Islamic Microfinance, and Sukuk. Scheduled for September 15, 2025, in Bishkek, this capacity-building program will be organized in collaboration with Eco Islamic Bank, and the Barakat Educational Center (a leading institution promoting Islamic finance education) serving as the official Partner and will take place at their headquarters.

The CIS Islamic Finance Roadshow 2025 is a multicountry initiative designed to strengthen the Islamic under the nuclear threshold. finance ecosystem across the

Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) by bringing expert knowledge, practical skills, and global best practices directly to financial professionals, regulators, and industry stakeholders in the region. The Kvrgyzstan training, as part of this wider roadshow, will provide in-depth insights into Shariah-compliant financial systems, focusing on Islamic banking, Islamic insurance (Takaful), Islamic microfinance, and Sukuk. Participants will explore global industry trends, regulatory frameworks, and operational models, while gaining practical understanding of key Islamic finance contracts such as Murabaha, Mudarabah, and Musharakah, along with risk management applications. The program will also cover innovations in Takaful operations, including Shariah-com-

pliant underwriting and claims

management, as well as the

structuring and implementation of Sukuk and Islamic microfinance products.

The training will be led by Mr. Muhammad Zubair Mughal, Chief Executive Officer of AlHuda CIBE, a globally recognized expert in Islamic finance who has provided Islamic financial services in more than 80 countries over the last 20 years. His extensive expertise in Takaful. Sukuk, Islamic microfinance, and fintech solutions will provide participants with practical knowledge and actionable strategies to introduce or expand Islamic finance offer-

ings within their institutions. Since its establishment in 2005, AlHuda CIBE has been committed to promoting Islamic finance globally through advisory and consultancy services, research and product development, Shariah certification, and professional training. With a presence in over 104 countries and more

than 1,500 training programs successfully delivered worldwide, AlHuda CIBE has earned recognition as a leading capacity-building organization

in the field. The Kyrgyzstan session of the CIS Islamic Finance Roadshow 2025 will serve as a strategic platform for bankers, Takaful operators, microfinance institutions, regulators, consultants, and financial experts to engage with international best practices, enhance their understanding of Islamic finance, and strengthen their institutions' capacity to offer Shariah-compliant products and services. It will also highlight the untapped potential of Islamic finance in Central Asia and the Kyrgyz Republic, fostering opportunities for industry growth and crossborder collaboration.

The event will take place at the Eco Islamic Bank office in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, on

## Gates Foundation and WHO partner to meet health needs for 465,000 flood-affected people in Pakistan

跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Gates Foundation will support the World Health Organization (WHO) in its partnership with Pakistan to strengthen preparedness and the response to ongoing monsoon floods, meeting health needs for over 465,000 people most affected across 33 high-risk districts in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sindh, Punjab and Balochistan.

The generous donation from the Gates Foundation – totaling US\$ 1 million - will serve to support Pakistan's national and the continuity of life-saving health services by strengthening

targeted locations, health sector coordination, and risk communication and community engagement (RCCE) to provide lifesaving information.

The initiative, to be implemented over the next 6 months, will pay particular attention to pregnant women, children under five, older persons, persons with disabilities, internally displaced persons (IDPs), and the most vulnerable populations in host

"We are particularly thankful provincial authorities in ensuring to the Gates Foundation for this generous and timely support to WHO teams in the field disease surveillance, outbreak supporting federal and provincial

lives. As the climate crisis fuels ever more extreme monsoons and natural disasters, evidence shows that a rapid response and good preparedness are essential to preserve public health. WHO stands with Pakistan to save lives today and build stronger, more resilient health systems for tomorrow, protecting the future generations," said WHO Representative in Pakistan Dr Dapeng Luo during a visit to health facilities in areas affected by the floods in Swabi District, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP).

WHO teams in Pakistan continue to support federal and provincial authorities to meet

response, the availability of authorities to meet health needs, health needs and save lives in essential medical supplies in deliver medical supplies and save response to the recent climatedriven devastating flash floods that, since Friday 15 August, have killed at least 450 people and injured 265 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), affecting over 860,000 people as of 27 August, according to the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA). Flash floods and heavy rain have displaced thousands and damaged 57 health facilities (3 of them fully damaged), 4,243 houses and 60 schools in KP, according to the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA).

At the national level, between 26 June and 27 August, the National Disaster Management

Authority (NDMA) has reported 802 fatalities and 1,088 persons injured, as well as damages in 89 health facilities (7 of them fully damaged), 7,465 houses, 238 bridges, 658 km of roads, and 5,584 head of livestock. Since of onset of the monsoon, 658 relief camps have assisted 29,311 people, 63 medical camps have provided treatment to 5,106 people, and 832 rescue operations have been conducted, rescuing 122,146 people.

Different WHO teams are supporting national and provincial authorities in convening the health sector partners to assess the situation, coordinate the response, and disseminate key information.



WHO has also provided assist up to 380,000 flood-afmedical supplies to reach the fected and displaced persons most vulnerable. One day after the floods hit Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, supplies nationwide, enough to necessary.

As part of the Monsoon Contingency Plan 2025, WHO WHO urgently dispatched health has supported Pakistan and partsupplies to treat up to 15,000 ners in preparing the provision patients to the Government of of emergency health assistance Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Since to 1.3 million vulnerable people June, WHO has sent medical across 33 priority districts when

Thursday, August 28, 2025



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Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index		
Current	Prev. Close	
147,494.03	148,435.06	
Day's High	Day's Low	
149,237.91	147,337.02	
Index Value	Change	
19,902,466,422	-941.03	
Percentage	Time	
-0.63%	27 Aug, 2025 4:30 pm	
Europe: FTSE 100 Index		
Index Volue Change		

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
9,255.50	-10.30
Percentage	Time
-0.11%	27 Aug, 4:35 pm GMT+1

USA: Dow Jones I	ndustrial Averag	
Index Value	Change	
45,518.01	+99.94	
Percentage	Time	
+0.22%	27 Aug, 12:13 pn GMT-4	

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average		
Index Value	Change	
42,520.27	+125.87	
Percentage	Time	
+0.30%	27 Aug, 3:45 pm GMT+9	

### **Open Market Forex Rates**

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	182	187
Bahrain Dinar	749.30	751.80
Canadian Dollar	203	208
China Yuan	39.01	39.41
Danish Krone	43.6	44
Euro	328	329.70
Hong Kong Dollar	35.88	36.23
Indian Rupee	3.15	3.24
Japanese Yen	1.8900	1.9900
Kuwaiti Dinar	915.35	923.35
Malaysian Ringgit	66.4	67.00
NewZealand \$	162.53	164.53
Norwegians Krone	27.47	27.77
Omani Riyal	733.90	736.40
Qatari Riyal	77.05	77.75
Saudi Riyal	75.35	75.55
Singapore Dollar	217.50	222.50
Swedish Korona	29.08	29.38
Swiss Franc	347.32	350.07
Thai Bhat	8.58	8.73
U.A.E Dirham	77.05	77.25
UK Pound Sterling	379.85	381.75
US Dollar	283	283.80

FESCO resends adjustments of electricity bills collected in 2016 to industrialists



Commerce Desk

FAISALABAD: Another wonder of the Faisalabad Electricity Supply Company (FESCO) has come to light, as the company sent adjustments of electricity bills collected in 2016 again after 9 years to industrialists. In this regard, Chairman of Sitara Group, Mian Muhammad Idrees, said thousands of industries have already closed due to such

He questioned, where will the adjustments be given for the goods sold 9 years ago?

He further questioned the government to decide, do you want to run the industry or arrest us? Mian Muhammad Idrees

Policy has to be given; otherwise, everyone will go abroad, Chairman Sitara Group

## ADB chief calls on PM Shehbaz, discusses energy reforms, fiscal

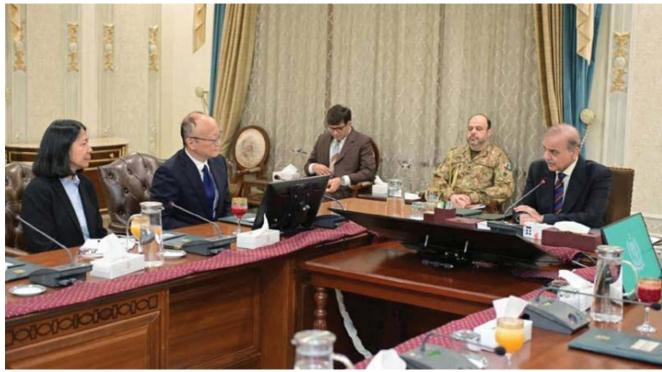
stability

### Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: President of Asian Development Bank Masato Kanda called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in Islamabad on Wednesday.

During the meeting, the Prime Minister appreciated the Asian Development Bank's long-standing partnership with Pakistan. He said ADB has always been a reliable partner in Pakistan's journey of development and pros-

Shehbaz Sharif expressed satisfaction that ADB is showing interest in partnering on several major projects in Pakistan, which can prove transformative for the country's economic landscape. He highlighted potential collaboration in the sectors of railways, public transport, and minerals, noting that such cooperation would be highly beneficial for Pakistan's economy. The Prime Minister briefed the ADB delegation on the reforms introduced by the Government of Pakistan, which include increasing tax revenues, restructuring expanding social protection. the energy sector, improving fiscal stability, addressing the devastating impacts of climate change, reducing untargeted subsidies, and



acknowledged Pakistan's long-standing association with the Bank as a founding member.

He commended the Government of Pakistan On this occasion, the ADB President for undertaking comprehensive reforms and reaffirmed the Bank's continued support for

Masato Kanda reiterated ADB's commitment to strengthening cooperation in infrastructure development, climate change initiatives, and institutional reforms in Pakistan.

### welcomed

TOKYO, JAPAN: Abdul Hameed, Ambassador-designate of Pakistan to Japan, welcoming the Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI) delegation at the Embassy in Tokyo.



## Pakistan-Malaysia B2B engagements will bring fruitful outcomes: ICCI President

### **E** Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Malaysia enjoy strong trade and investment relations which will further grow in the days ahead. This was stated by Nasir Mansoor Qureshi, President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI), while commenting on the highly successful B2B meetings of ICCI's high-level delegation and the Business Opportunities Conference (BOC) held in Kuala Lumpur.

He said that as the premier Chamber of the capital, ICCI is determined to strengthen Pakistan's global trade and investment linkages for the economic development of the country. He added that the Chamber has launched several significant initiatives to promote international business cooperation, which will surely bring fruitful outcomes for Paki-



along with Vice President Nasir Mehmood

The B2B meetings were followed by the Business Opportunities Conference (BOC), which was attended by prominent Malaysian business leaders, Acting High Commissioner of Pakistan to Malaysia Ijlees Mohsin, Trade & Investment Counsellor Ms. Tahira Javed, Trade Development Officer Ms. Aisha Iftikhar, and other delegation was led by ICCI Senior dignitaries. The event was also graced

Vice President Abdul Rehman Siddiqui, by the Malaysian High Commissioner to Pakistan, Datuk Mohammad Azhar Mazlan as Chief guest who extended full support for the materialization of bilateral business collaborations.

> Malaysian High Commissioner Datuk Mohammad Azhar Mazlan reaffirmed Malaysia's keen interest in deepening economic engagement with Pakistan, emphasizing the need for stronger connectivity and enhanced collaboration between the private sectors of both countries.

### **Jazz Rolls Out Industry-First 480W** Massive MIMO to **Boost Connectivity** and User Experience

### Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Jazz, Pakistan's leading digital operator, has introduced an industry-first 480W Massive MIMO solution, reaffirming its leadership in network innovation. This breakthrough significantly boosts network capacity, enhances standards for digital connectivity in Pakistan.

Jazz conducted a multi-~190% increase in traffic By extending signal reach Pakistanis."

mance at the cell edge, the solution directly strengthens customer experience across the network. Khalid Shehzad, Chief

and improving perfor-

Technology Officer at Jazz, said, "By introducing the industry's first 480W Massive MIMO solution, Jazz continues its tradiuser experience, and sets new tion of innovation and customer-centricity, redefining how Pakistan experiences connectivity. Jazz phase evaluation of the continues to set the benchadvanced 480W platform, mark for digital innovawhich delivered a ~340% tion by combining higher cumulative gain, including network capacity with a superior user experience to handling and ~150% deliver stronger, smarter improvement in throughput. connectivity to millions of

### **US tariffs on Indian** goods double to 50% over Russian oil purchases

### 

NEW DELHI: US tariffs of 50 percent took effect Wednesday on many Indian products, doubling an existing duty as President Donald Trump sought to punish New Delhi for buying Russian oil.

India has criticized the levies as "unfair, unjustified and unreasonable", with its export body calling on Wednesday for government intervention to assuage fears of heavy job cuts.

Trump has raised pressure on India over the energy transactions, a key source of revenue for Moscow's war in Ukraine, as part of a campaign to end the conflict.

The latest salvo strains US-India ties, giving New Delhi fresh incentive to

improve relations with Beijing.

While Trump has slapped fresh duties on allies and competitors alike since returning to the presidency in January, this 50-percent level is among the highest that US trading partners face.

Crucially, however, exemptions remain for sectors that could be hit with separate levies — such as pharmaceuticals, computer chips and smartphones.

Industries that have already been singled out, such as steel, aluminum and automobiles, are similarly spared these countrywide levies.

The United States was India's top export destination in 2024, with shipments worth \$87.3 billion.

## SECP's rebuttals intensifies Rs14 billion scandal

### PAC stunned by Akif Saeed's Rs41m salary amid audit storm

### **55** Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan's aggressive rebuttals to federal audit findings has exposed deep contradictions in its governance posture, further eroding institutional credibility. The Public Accounts Committee (PAC), already alarmed by reports of Rs41 million annual salary for the SECP Chairman, now faces a regulator that appears unwilling to engage with oversight mechanisms or acknowledge the scale of documented viola-

Audit records for FY 2023-24 revealed Rs267.5 million in unauthorized payments to SECP's top management, including Rs156.6 million in general perks and Rs110.9 million

under a Rest and Recreation Allowance. These were approved by the Policy Board without mandatory clearance from the Finance Division, in direct violation of a January 2024 directive and the Rules of Business, 1973. The AGP report also cited a binding Supreme Court judgment affirming that such rules are legally enforceable across autonomous bodies.

Despite these findings, the SECP has challenged the AGP's jurisdiction, citing administrative and financial independence under the SECP Act, 1997. It claims the Policy Board holds authority to determine remuneration, a position the audit department has rejected as legally untenable. The regulator's defense hinges on Section 5(4) of its own Act, while ignoring Section 23(1) of the Public Finance

Management Act, which mandates the deposit of surplus receipts into the Federal Consolidated Fund.

The audit estimates that over Rs14 billion, including Rs6.99 billion in surplus receipts and Rs7.11 billion in collected revenues, were withheld from the national treasury. SECP's silence on this issue, while defending executive compensation, has drawn criticism from legal experts and market observers. "If previous PAC decisions truly vindicated SECP's position, why did identical violations resurface?" a corporate lawyer remarked.

The AGP report confirms that SECP was formally invited to Departmental Accounts Committee meetings on January 14 and February 6, but failed to respond. This lack

of engagement has raised concerns about the regulator's commitment to transparency and its willingness to cooperate with constitutional

SECP's claim that the Public Accounts Committee settled similar issues in July 2025 has done little to quell criticism. Business leaders argue that recurring violations point to systemic governance failures, not isolated lapses. The regulator's complaint about media imbalance also appears misplaced, as audit findings carry institutional weight that rebuttals alone cannot dismiss.

As the controversy deepens, SECP faces the challenge of restoring credibility while addressing the governance lapses that triggered the audit in the first place.

The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) has called for an immediate halt to all unauthorized payments and directed that SECP's salary structure be submitted to the Finance Division for retroactive approval.

Chairman Junaid Akbar Khan questioned how a country in economic distress could justify such compensation packages. Does the SECP Policy Board have unchecked authority to set executive salaries without oversight from the federal government or Finance Division?

He instructed the Finance Division to present details including a list of other institutional heads drawing salaries in the hundreds of millions which means that the other regulators may face the consequences of ignoring merit and focusing on personal welfare like SECP.

Higher Presidential Committee for Church Affairs warns of the grave danger of Israel's

continued excavations beneath Al-Aqsa Mosque

GAZA: The Higher Presidential Palestine issued a stark warning over out by the Israeli occupation authorities beneath the blessed Al-Aqsa so-called "Judaization tunnels" are fy and distort the authentic history, heritage, and civilization of occupied Jerusalem, and to impose fabricated claims tied to "building the Temple."

In a statement released by member and head of the Higher Presidential - a secret tunnel stretching from the Muslims in Al-Agsa Mosque.

through the Mughrabi Gate Plaza, and extending to Bab al-Khalil (Jaffa Gate) Committee for Church Affairs in northwest of the Mosque's wall - forms part of the accelerating campaign to the continued excavations carried Judaize occupied Jerusalem and the holy Al-Aqsa Mosque.

Mosque and its surroundings. These tunnel is only one of nearly 60 excavations and tunnels carried out beneath part of a systematic attempt to falsi- and around Al-Aqsa, threatening the stability of its foundations and causing irreversible damage to historic and religious buildings. These structures are protected under international law, international humanitarian law, and of the PLO Executive Committee UNESCO resolutions, all of which forbid tampering with, falsifying, or Committee for Church Affairs in Pales- distorting cultural heritage and which tine, Dr. Ramzi Khouri, the Committee have repeatedly affirmed the exclurevealed that the most recent project sive historical and religious rights of

The Committee called on the international community - and in particular UNESCO - to immediately condemn these grave violations and to dispatch a monitoring and fact-finding mission to occupied Jerusalem and its holy sites, in order to investigate The Committee stressed that this actions that blatantly defy international resolutions on Al-Aqsa Mosque and the city's cultural and religious heritage.

Reaffirming its stance, the Committee declared that occupied Jerusalem - with its Muslim and Christian holy sites, cultural landmarks, and deeply rooted history remains an integral part of Palestine. It is the capital of the State of Palestine, as recognized by international legitimacy, and the Israeli occupation of the city and its sacred sites must come to an end.



ISLAMABAD: British High Commissioner to Pakistan H E Ms Jane Marriott called on Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf at Naval Headquarters, Islamabad on Wednesday.



## Italian Prime Minister denounces deadly Israeli attack on Gaza journalists as unjustifiable

ROME: Italian Prime that has gone beyond the ated Press reporter Mariam Minister denounced on principle of proportionality, Dagga, Reuters news agency Wednesday the Israeli deadly attack that resulted in the killing of five journalists in Gaza as unjustifiolu Agency.

Speaking at the annual Rimini meeting - organized by the catholic association West Bank. Comunione e Liberazione -Meloni said the deadly strike warplanes struck the Nasser able attack on the freedom Yunis, leaving 22 people of the press and on all those dead, including five jourwho risk their lives to report nalists and media personnel, the drama of war."

While Meloni described others. Israel's genocidal aggression

now "impossible to remain Mohammed Salama and claiming too many innocent photojournalist Hussam victims and even involving al-Masri, and freelance Christian communities."

She called on Israel to

On Monday, Israeli and wounding dozens of

on the Gaza Strip as a reac- were identified as Middle casualties were admitted to tion, she added that it was East Eye journalists Gaza hospitals.

silent in the face of a reaction Ahmed Abu Aziz, Associreporter Moaz Abu Taha.

Israel unilaterally ended able, according to the Anad- end its military occupation the Gaza ceasefire agreeof Gaza, to allow aid into the ment and resumed its Palestinian enclave, and halt aggression on the Strip colonial expansion in the on Tuesday, March 18, carrying out a wave of bloody airstrikes across the Strip and killing at least represented "an unaccept- Medical Complex in Khan 11,050 with 46,886 others wounded, according to

medical sources. In the last 24 hours, the bodies of 76 slain Palestin- city of Rafah near the border ians, including one retrieved The media personnel from the rubble, and 298

Israel has waged a military onslaught on the Strip since October 2023, killing 62,895 Palestinians, mostly women and children, and injuring 158,927 others.

Moreover, at least 10,000 people are unaccounted for, presumed dead under the rubble of their homes

throughout the Strip. The Israeli aggression has also resulted in the forceful displacement of nearly two million people from all over the Gaza Strip, with the vast majority of the displaced forced into the densely crowded southern with Egypt - in what has become Palestine's largest

mass exodus since the 1948

### Punjab camps for National Youth Games from 30th: DG Sports Punjab

Sports Desk

LAHORE: DG Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Khizar Afzaal Chaudhry, in a statement on Wednesday, said that the contingent of Punjab Sports Department will participate in the first edition of National Youth Games with full preparations.

Khizar Afzaal informed that the training camps of Punjab teams will start from August 30 (Saturday) to September 5 at different venues of Nishtar Park Sports Complex. "Punjab Sports Department has arranged expert coaches to impart top standard training to Punjab athletes".

He said that the trials of Punjab teams have already been completed. "More than 400 male and female athletes will attend training camps for the preparation of First National Youth Games which are scheduled to be organised at federal capital Islamabad from September 7 to 13".

He said that best facilities will be provided to all the participating players during their camp training on the direction of Punjab Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs Malik Faisal Avub Khokhar. "The camp probables will be given training twice a day in morning and evening sessions".

### Pakistan condemns Israeli air strikes on Nasser Hospital in Gaza

**Spokesman Report** 

ISLAMA-BAD: Pakistan Wednesstrongly condemned the deadly Israeli air strikes on Nasser Hospital in Khan Younis, Gaza,



lives of at least 21 individuals, including four journalists and a

This unconscionable and heinous attack on a medical facility, as well as the continued targeting of civilians and journalists, represents a grave violation of international human rights and humanitarian law, as well as freedom of the press, the Foreign Office spokesperson said in a statement.

We reiterate our call on the international community to hold Israel accountable for such heinous crimes and to take concrete steps towards ending Israel's impunity," the spokesperson said.

Pakistan also condemned in the strongest possible terms the Israeli occupying forces' incursion into the Syrian Arab Republic in contravention of international law and principles of the UN

Pakistan expressed its full support for the sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity of Syria, and called on the nternational community to prevent Israel from undermining the peace and stability of the entire region.

## Nation must always remember the sacrifices of the Pakistan Armed Forces: Chaudhry Inaam Zafar

跨 City Desk

RAWALPINDI: Political and social leader Chaudhry Inam Zafar stated that the destruction caused by floods in Punjab—following similar disasters in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Gilgit-Baltistan, and Azad Kashmir-is deeply tragic. The loss of lives and property is unforgettable. He strongly condemned India's act of releasing 200,000 cusecs of water into the River Ravi, calling it an irresponsible and condemnable move. He remarked that the neighboring country has still not come to terms with its defeats on land and in the air. Awaam Pakistan Party always stand united with the nation and the Pakistan Armed Forces in difficult times.



In his important statement, he added that the Awaam Pakistan Party actively participated in relief operations for country has still not recovered from the the flood victims, proving that when- blow delivered by the Pakistan Army. ever the nation faces adversity, Shahid Endangering the lives and property of Khaqan Abbasi and every member of innocent civilians through flooding is his party will stand with the people. a cowardly act.

Chaudhry Inaam Zafar praised the aid efforts from Rawalpindi and other cities, calling them commendable. He noted that the aftermath of the floods has created even harsher conditions for the affected people. Their homes, property, and livestock have been destroyed. We must face together.

He further stated that India should refrain from such negative actions. The nation, along with its armed forces, knows well how to confront every challenge. Chaudhry Inaam Zafar said it appears the neighboring

## Pakistan, Belarus finalize extradition treaty, agree to boost security cooperation

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Belarusian Interior Minister Ivan Kubrakov visited Pakistan on Wednesday and held high-level meetings with Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi at the Ministry of Interior, where both sides agreed to deepen bilateral cooperation across multiple sectors.

The two ministers, accompanied by their delegations, held detailed discussions on counter-terrorism, counter-narcotics, border security, and police training.

Both countries finalized an extradition treaty and signed a protocol for its implementation.

two interior ministries. "The formation of this group will prove beneficial in promoting relations between



Pakistan and Belarus," said Interior program. Minister Mohsin Naqvi.

During the meeting, both sides It was also agreed to establish a decided to sign a Memorandum of Joint Working Group between the Understanding soon to enhance cooperation in the field of counter-narcotics. An agreement was also reached on launching a police training exchange

Minister Naqvi said Pakistan values its ties with Belarus and seeks to strengthen them in every field. He welcomed the signing of a separate MoU between the Belarusian government and the Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis, under which thousands of

Pakistani workers will be employed

"We will ensure that only the best workforce is sent after thorough scrutiny," he added. Belarusian Interior Minister Kubrakov reaffirmed his country's commitment to expanding cooperation with Pakistan in all areas and invited Naqvi to visit Belarus.

"Your visit will help further strengthen ties between our two nations," he said, praising Pakistanis as a hardworking nation. The Belarusian minister also expressed gratitude to the Government of Pakistan and the Ministry of Interior for their warm hospitality. Minister of State for Interior Talal Chaudhry, Secretary Interior, senior officials of the ministry, Commandant NPA, DG Cybercrime, Director Anti-Narcotics Force, and other concerned officers were also present at the occasion.

## Engineer brigade, infantry, medical units deployed for rescue operation during floods: ISPR

**Continued from Page 1** have been established in the

He said the Karakoram Highway (KKH) is completely open, adding that remaining roads in GB will be cleared within the next 24-48 hours.

Lt Gen Chaudhry said that the army is carrying out a "major rescue operation" with boats in Kartarpur Sahib, adding that if the weather clears, army aviation will join in the rescue effort. Four infantry units and engineer units have been deployed in the area around Kasur, evacuating around 9,000 people and relocating them and animals to safe

zones, he said. He said a military relief centre and medical camps have been deployed with between them.

The DG said that although floods have not yet reached

Bahawalpur and Bahawalnagar, four engineer and infantry units are on standby, besides setting up relief camps. Around 2,000 people have been evacuated from areas with rising water flow, he added.

The DG ISPR said that in abandoned," he added. KP, one engineer brigade, two engineer units, four infantry units, one urban search and rescue team and a medical battalion are carrying out the relief operation.

In Gujranwala division, six infantry units have been

and two medical camps have been set up, he said.

boats and other equipment,

The DG said that in collaboration with civil authorities, 6,000 people in the area have been evacuated. "It is important to note that along the working boundary, the army is maintaining strict vigilance at its posts. No post in flood-affected areas has been

However, he said two armed forces personnel have embraced martyrdom and two sustained injuries during the flood relief operation. He affirmed that the Pakistan Army and the people stood united, adding that no malideployed, two engineer units cious force can drive a wedge

## The Spokesman

# Call on ISLAMABAD: Lieutenant General Yilma Merdassa, Commander Ethiopian Air Force, called on Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force at Air Headquarters, on Wednesday.

## Commander Ethiopian Air Force visits Air Headquarters

### **Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: Lieutenant General Yilma Merdassa, Commander Ethiopian Air Force, called on Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force, at Air Headquarters, Islamabad. During the meeting, both dignitaries held detailed discussions on areas of professional interest and reaffirmed their resolve to strengthen cooperation between the two Air Forces.

gent of Pakistan Air Force

During the meeting, Chief and operational domains. of the Air Staff reaffirmed his commitment to enhancing Merdassa conveyed his sincere military partnership between the two Air Forces through assured the visiting dignitary Ethiopian Air Force lauded of PAF's steadfast support to the Ethiopian Air Force in its readiness, its evolving Multi professional pursuits, while Domain capabilities and its

Upon his arrival, a deeply cherishes its cordial He highlighted that the Ethi- comprehensive briefings at smartly turned-out contin- relations with Ethiopia and remains firmly committed presented Guard of Honour to providing comprehento Lieutenant General Yilma sive assistance in capacity building, advanced training

Lieutenant General Yilma gratitude for the warm hospitality extended to him and PAF's robust operational reiterating that Pakistan credible deterrence posture.

opian Air Force looks forward to drawing lessons from PAF's rich combat experience, integrated command systems and technological innovations to strengthen its own operational capabilities. The visiting dignitary also expressed keen interest in exploring avenues of techjoint training initiatives. He his delegation. Commander nology transfer within the aviation sector, particularly in indigenous development

and modernization initiatives. As part of his visit, the Ethiopian Air Chief received

the National ISR & Integrated Air Operations Centre and PAF Cyber Command, where he appreciated PAF's technological advancement and integration of cutting-edge capabilities in modern warfare.

The visit of Lieutenant General Yilma Merdassa to Air Headquarters, Islamabad, signifies a resolute commitment of both countries to reinforce military partnership, fostering collaboration and promoting robust rela-

## Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi visits National Police Academy

### 跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Syed Mohsin Naqvi on Wednesday visited the National Police Academy in Islamabad where he reviewed an ongoing project aimed at addressing the issue of shortage of accommodation. During the visit, Naqvi ordered the construction of an eleven-storey hostel, comprising 126 rooms, within five months. He inspected the construc-

tion site and emphasized that "speed must not come at the expense of quality."

The minister also watched a swimming competition



forensic agencies, Safe City

projects, and cybercrime units. According to a briefing by the deputy commandant, an approval has been granted to award MS degrees in Criminology and Police Studies to ASPs completing the National

Command Course. The training programme also includes regular field visits to police stations and specialized institutions.

Trainee ASPs expressed gratitude to the interior minister for improving facilities at the Academy.

Senior officials, including the Deputy Commandant of the Academy, Chief Commis-

### officers and joined ASPs at suggestions from the trainees. decisions was reviewed, the Officers' Mess to person-Naqvi chaired an impor- including the reorganization sioner of Islamabad, and CDA between trainee police officers. ally check the quality of food. tant meeting at the Academy, of the institution and trainee engineering members, were Later, he went to the classrooms to meet with trainee He also sought feedback and where progress on previous officers' attachments with FIA, also present on the occasion. PTI announces resigning from standing

committees, boycott of by-polls

### B News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) announced to resign from standing committees and boycott bye-elections. First, Faisal Amin, brother of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur, also tendered his resignation from the economic affairs committee, food security, and parliamentary task force.

A statement issued by the PTI stated the political committee thanked PTI founder Imran Khan for reposing his confidence in the Committee.

The statement also said that other political matters were forwarded to the political committee. The political committee



expressed serious concerns about the daily hearings of the Toshakhana-II case. PTI's political committee stated that the daily hearings directly affect the basic rights of the accused and create hurdles to delivering justice.

The political committee said that all those leaders who were disqualified due to their involvement in the May 9 riots are true representatives of PTI.

The statement paid glowing tributes to PTI leaders who were awarded illegal jail terms. The PTI statement announced that the party will take part in the NA-129 bye-elections.

The Political Committee decided to field their candidate for Advocate Muhammad Afaq filed vacant post of late Mian Mohammad Azhar. nomination papers.

### an appeal against Rana Sanaullah's

## Tarbela reaches 100% capacity; flood alert looms over downstream areas



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's Tarbela Dam has reached 100 percent capacity, while Mangla Dam has filled up to 74 percent, raising the possibility that Tarbela's spillways may be opened at any time.

According to officials, Tarbela's water level has reached its maximum conservation level of metres with a storage capacity of 1,550 feet. If inflows continue to 11.9 billion cubic metres. rise, WAPDA will be compelled to release water through spillways to prevent overflow and maintain dam

Authorities have warned that downstream communities may face units are on alert to deal with any in the world.

Tarbela, the world's largest earthfilled dam, lies on the Indus River in Haripur Tehsil of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Constructed in 1976, it is a vital source of irrigation, flood control, and hydroelectric power generation.

Its reservoir, known as Tarbela Lake, spans about 250 square kilo-

The dam currently has a power generation capacity of 4,888 MW, which is expected to expand to 6,418 MW following the completion of its fifth extension financed by the World Bank and the Asian Infraflood risks once the spillways are structure Investment Bank, making opened. Emergency management it the 12th largest hydroelectric dam

### Bilawal postpones Shahdad Kot tour, visits Garhi Khuda Baksh

### 👺 Bureau Report

RATODERO: Pakistan People's Party (PPP) chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Wednesday postponed his visit to Shahdad Kot due to the alarming flood situation in Punjab. According to officials, Bilawal was scheduled to visit houses being constructed for flood-affected people in Shahdadkot today.

Meanwhile, Bilawal Bhutto visited Garhi Khuda Baksh to pay homage Talpur was also present on the occa-



to his grandfather ZA Bhutto. Faryal sion. Bilawal prayed for the departed soul and laid flowers on their

### Aseefa Bhutto expresses concerns over flooding in Punjab



### 👺 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: First Lady Aseefa Bhutto Zardari expressed her heartfelt grief and concerns over the current flood situation in Punjab. In her message, Aseefa Bhutto Zardari said that "it is a need of the hour to become united as a Pakistani." She said that unity will help us to save the precious lives of the people.

Aseefa Bhutto Zardari also said we should try to provide maximum relief to our flood-affected brothers

## **Election Tribunal** approves Rana Sanaullah's nomination papers for Senate by-elections

### 跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Election Tribunal has approved former federal minister Rana Sanaullah's nomination papers for the Senate by-election and dismissed the appeal against the approval of his nomination papers with a fine.

The Election Tribunal dismissed Advocate Muhammad Afaq's appeal with a fine of Rs 500000.

Justice Khalid Ishaq ordered that no case should be filed until the petitioner pays the fine.

The Election Tribunal comprising Justice Khalid Ishaq heard Advocate Muhammad Afaq's appeal.

Additional Attorney General Malik

Javed Awan appeared on behalf of Rana Sanaullah.

petitioner, The Advocate Muhammad Afaq, appeared and presented his position.

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