**Barkat Rice Mills** 

US official blames India for prolonging Ukraine conflict

Tensions between Washington and New Delhi have intensified after a top White House official referred to the Russia-Ukraine conflict as "Modi's war", sharply criticising India's continued oil imports from



PDMA issues flood alert as Punjab braces for 9th monsoon spell

The Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) Punjab on Thursday forecast the start of the 9th spell of monsoon across the province from tomorrow (Friday), and issued a flood alert for

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Punjab reels under

Rabiul Awwal 4, Friday, August 29, 2025



www.dailyspokesman.net





🚺 @daily\_spokesman 🛂 Daily Spokesman Vol: 19, Issue: 134 Price Rs. 25.00 Pages 8

# Meeting ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting in Narowal regarding the flood situation in Punjab, on

## PM stresses urgent need for water reservoirs to tackle flood challenges

👺 Bureau Report

NAROWAL: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday underscored the urgent need for constructing new water reservoirs, terming it essential to deal with recurring flood situations and climate change chal-

long-term policies must be formulated to mitigate the impact of natural disasters.

these views while receiving a khtunkhwa, Punjab is now facing

flood-affected areas of Narowal. He stressed that teamwork was key to combating disasters like floods, adding that the early warning system had significantly minimised losses. He reminded that Pakistan is among the ten countries most vulnerable to climate change, and institutions He said short-, medium- and responsible for rescue and disaster management must be further

strengthened. The prime minister expressed Gilgit-Baltistan and Khyber-Pa-

briefing during his visit to the heavy rains and floods. Expressing sorrow over the loss of lives, he lauded the role of federal ministers, the Pakistan Army, civil administration, NDMA, Rescue 1122, Narowal's political leadership, and other institutions for their timely efforts. He noted that helicopters and boats had been

arranged to aid rescue operations. The Prime Minister also welcomed Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif's The premier said that after announcement of immediate compensation for farmers who lost their crops and assured relief

for households affected by the Inam Haider Malik briefed the floods. He praised the Punjab government, NDMA, and the Pakistan Army for their relief efforts, including the safe evacuation of pilgrims from Gurdwara Kartarpur despite difficult weather conditions.

Federal Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal called for faster and better-coordinated rescue and relief efforts, immediate restoration of roads, and declaring Narowal a disas-

ter-hit area. NDMA Chairman Lt. Gen.

Prime Minister that extraordinary rainfall in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir and Sialkot region had caused flooding in rivers, with a surge of one million cusecs recorded at Khanki and Qadirabad. He said while western rivers were flowing normally, eastern rivers were facing flood conditions with heavy

flow at Head Ganda Singh Wala. Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar and other senior officials were also present during the visit.

## raging floods: 17 dead, dozens missing as rivers overflow

👺 Bureau Report

LAHORE: Punjab is facing one of the worst flood crises in recent years as torrential rains and the release of water from India into rivers have triggered catastrophic flooding across the province.

At least 17 people have lost their lives in incidents of house collapses and drowning, while dozens remain missing.

The Indus, Chenab, Ravi, Sutlej, and Jhelum rivers are all in high flood, submerging vast tracts of farmland and displacing tens of thousands.

The flooding has caused embankments to breach at multiple locations, sending torrents into villages and sweeping away standing crops.

The Pakistan Army, along with rescue agencies, has launched large-scale evacuation and relief efforts, deploying boats to ferry stranded residents

In Lodhran district, the Punjab Home Department

According to official figures, more than 45,000 people have so far been evacuated from flood-hit areas.

The most affected districts

include Gujrat, Gujranwala, Mandi Bahauddin, Hafizabad, Narowal, Sheikhupura, Nankana Sahib, Kasur, Okara, and Pakpattan. The Provincial Disaster

Management Authority (PDMA) confirmed that 669 boats and 2,861 rescuers are engaged in operations across 30 districts. In just the past 24 hours, rescue teams evacuated 816

people in Mandi Bahauddin's Kala Shedian and 625 in Pindi Bhattian, Hafizabad. In Nankana Sahib, 1,553 people, including 568 women and 318 children, were rescued,

while 2,392 livestock were shifted to safety. Relief camps, set up on the directives of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz

Sharif, are providing food, has officially requisitioned army shelter, and medical assistance assistance for relief operations. to displaced families.

## **Exemplary** coordination averts major flood disaster in Ğujranwala: Tarar

跨 Bureau Report

GUJRANWALA: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar on Thursday lauded the "exemplary coordination" among all stakeholders for averting a major flood disaster

in Gujranwala and Wazirabad. Speaking to the media in Wazirabad, the minister highlighted the highest water flow at Head Khanki, exceeding 1,075,000 cusecs.

This time, the water flow has been significantly higher than role of early warnings from the the 600,000 cusecs which was previously considered an ment Authority (NDMA) extreme flood.

"We were in Narowal today along with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Chief Minister officials from relevant depart- and the Pakistan Army.



PDMA to review the situation," he said, adding there were minimal casualties reported He commended the critical

National Disaster Manageand the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA), as well as the "exemplary" efforts of Rescue 1122, Punjab Maryam Nawaz, and the district administration,

#### Imran's nephew sent on judicial remand in Jinnah House attack case

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Rejecting the police's request for an extension in the physical remand of Sher Shah, the nephew of former prime minister and PTI founder Imran Khan, in the Jinnah House attack case, an anti-terrorism court (ATC) in Lahore on Thursday sent him to jail on a 14-day judicial remand

Saturday, police On produced Shershah before an anti-terrorism court (ATC) in

Lahore amid tight security. The judge, Manzar Ali Gill,

remand after police requested custody. The investigating officer (IO) told the court that Shershah was present at the scene, and his presence had been confirmed through video evidence. Objecting to the arrest of his client, defence counsel Barrister

approved a five-day physical

Salman Akram Raja argued that Shershah was apprehended 27 months after the He said courts had previ-

ously discharged suspects over delayed arrests, adding: "If this practice continues, the entire city will end up behind bars."

## Muqam visits Talidas Spillway in Ghizer

👺 Bureau Report

GILGIT: Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs, Gilgit-Baltistan and SAFRON Engineer Amir Muqam visited the recent landslides and heavy rains

During the visit, the minister was given a detailed briefing by the local administration.

Expressing grief over the destruction of roads and other infrastructure he said that severely affected Talidas Spill- the incident is a top priority Sharif and assured that the destroyed several houses and federal government will extend buried an entire village under all possible assistance to the

Federal Secretary for Kashmir Affairs, Gilgit-Baltistan & SAFRON, Zafar Hassan and other senior officials were also present. Former Chief Minister of Gilgit-Baltistan Hafizur Rehman, DG GB DMA Zakir way area in district Ghizer where for Prime Minister Shehbaz Hussain, Home Secretary Ali Asghar, Commissioner Gilgit Division Asad Haroon, DC Ghizer, and ADC Gupis Yasin also attended the visit.



It may be noted that Federal cial visit to Gilgit-Baltistan Minister Engineer Amir Muqam under the special directives of is currently on a three-day offi- Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

## Govt to stand by flood victims until full rehabilitation: Ch Salik Hussain

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development, Chaudhry Salik Hussain federal government's unwavertunkhwa, stating that solid tation activities.

efforts would continue until the last affected person is fully reha-

Speaking to residents of the severely hit Beshoni village in Buner, he said he was visiting on Thursday reaffirmed the the affected area on the directive of Prime Minister Muhammad ing support for flood-affected Shehbaz Sharif to personally communities in Khyber Pakh- monitor the relief and rehabili-

"No matter which part of the aimed to assess flood damages country we belong to, we are one household and share each other's grief in time of difficulty," he said, commending the work of the district administration, NDMA, PDMA, and other relief agencies in responding to the flood disaster in Swat, Shangla, Buner and Swabi districts. The minister said his visit

firsthand and identify the needs of the affected population. He added that the collected data would be shared with relevant federal departments, as well as national and international NGOs, to facilitate prompt assistance, relief, and reconstruction of damaged infrastructure, including homes and commu-



nication infrastructure.

## Pir Muhammad Mazhar Saeed **Shah reached Istanbul**

ISTANBUL/TURKEY: The Minister for Information of the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Government, Pir Muhammad Mazhar Saeed Shah, arrived in Istanbul to attend a conference at the invitation of the President of the International Union for Muslim Scholars, Ittehad-e-Alameen Ulema-e-Muslimeen. Upon arrival in Turkey, the Minister of Information was welcomed by the Director of the International Union for Muslim Scholars, Muhammad Ali Bayut, President of the International Union for Muslim Scholars, Dr. Ali Muhiuddin Qara Daghi, Director Dr. Walid Al-Haidari and Syed Hasanoglu.

More than 250 Muslim scholars from more than 50 countries around the world are participating in this international conference.

The conference will focus on the humanitarian crisis in Gaza. Information Minister Pir Muhammad Mazhar Saeed Shah will address the conference today. Maulana Pir Muhammad Mazhar Saeed Shah has the honor of being the only reliwho is participating in this grand Superintendent of Jamia Khair conference from all over Pakistan. Sofia Mosque on August 29.



gious scholar from Azad Kashmir Maulana Hanif Jalandhari, Deputy are also participating in this grand be issued after Friday prayers at Aya

Arab Schools Federation of Pakistan Maulana Qasim from Balochistan Friday and the final declaration will

conference. General Secretary of the Madaris Maulana Ahmed Hanif, and The conference will continue till

#### pointment

ISLAMABAD: President Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry, has approved the appointment of Professor Dr. Anila Kamal as Vice Chancellor of Women University Bagh. The decision to this effect was formally taken after interviews with the top three candidates Professor Dr. Anila Kamal, Professor Dr. Ayesha Sohail, and Professor Dr. Shahid Ahmed Khan, based on the merit list forwarded by the Senate of Women University Bagh.



### DC, DPO Visits adjacent Areas to assess flood situation in River Ravi

跨 Zafar Chishti

TOBATEK SINGH: Following directives from Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, the Toba Tek Singh district administration has been placed on high alert as authorities brace for a possible flood in the River Ravi. All relevant departments are actively engaged in emergency preparedness and preventive measures.

Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Naeem Sandhu and District Police Officer DPO Ibadat Nisar visited the Ravi-adjacent locality of Mal Fattiana to assess the flood situation. During the visit, they monitored the evacuation of residents to safer locations and inspected the facilities at relief families is a priority. He added that stock and Agriculture Departments with authorities during evacuation



camps. DC Sandhu emphasized that food and essential services have been have arranged fodder for animals. timely and safe relocation of affected provided for the public, while the Live- He urged citizens to cooperate fully

ified information, advising reliance on official sources only. DPO Ibadat Nisar confirmed that police teams remain deployed to ensure public safety and smooth evacuation. Residents are advised to contact Rescue 1122 immediately in case of any emergency. In addition, a special meeting of the District Emergency Board was held under the chairmanship of DC Sandhu and DPO Ibadat Nisar. The session included the Additional Deputy Commissioner (Revenue), Assistant Commissioner Munawar Hussain Kamalana Sial, District Emergency Officer, and heads of departments including Irrigation, Agriculture, Livestock, Social Welfare, Education, Health, Highways, SNGPL, WAPDA

and warned against believing unver-

## PPP should fulfill its responsibilities to protect the rights of the people of Azad Kashmir

Maieed Tahir:

HAVELI KAHUTA: President Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (AJK) Shah Ghulam Qadir has said that the current political situation in Azad Kashmir can only be regretted. In the past, when WAPDA was asked to provide 600 cusecs of water for the local population from Mirpur Mangla Dam, Sindh Chief Minister Qaim Ali Shah said that the people of Azad Kashmir cannot get water from Mangla Dam. Now, when there is talk of representation of Azad Kashmir and Gilgit in the National Finance Commission, the PPP Sindh government has written a letter saying that this cannot happen.

The PPP Azad Kashmir should clarify its position in this regard. I want to ask the leadership of the PPP Azad Kashmir to fulfill their responsibilities to protect the rights of the people of Azad Kashmir, otherwise protests will be held against the PPP in every corner of Azad Kashmir. The water is ours but we cannot get it, the PPP Sindh government says that Azad Kashmir and Gilgit Baltistan cannot get representation in the National Finance Commission. The PPP will have to answer these things to the people of Azad Kashmir.

Shah Ghulam Qadir further said that we were Pakistanis even when Pakistan and India had not vet come into existence and we have expressed it by giving our blood in every era that we are Pakistanis by choice. I want to tell the youth of Azad Kashmir not to become anyone's tools. The blood and sweat of our elders are involved in building the existing system. Today, we have everything.

Federal Minister for Religious Affairs Sardar Muhammad Yousaf, while addressing the gathering, said that Chaudhry Muhammad Aziz, the late, was a great personality of Haveli District and today, the presence of thousands of you is a manifestation of love for Chaudhry Muhammad Aziz, the late, and for Pakistan Muslim League-N.

He expressed these views while addressing the first annual death anniversary of former government minister Chaudhry Muhammad Aziz (late). Addressing the ceremony, Chaudhry Muhammad Aziz's son and PML-N Azad Jammu and Kashmir Central Vice President Chaudhry Mohsin Aziz thanked the distinguished guests who had come from all over Pakistan and Azad Kashmir and said that my father has served the people of the mansion. You are all wards of Chaudhry Muhammad Aziz.

#### DPOAttock, visited riverine police posts for view of possible flood threats

👺 Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: District Police Officer Attock, Sardar MavarhanKhan, visited riverine police posts in the district in view of possible flood threats. He issued directives to make all riverine police posts across the district fully functional with modern facilities.

According to details, as per the instructions of IG Punjab, Dr. Usman Anwar, District Police Officer Attock, Sardar Mavarhan Khan, has put the police on high alert across the district in light of possible flood threats under the vision of public-friendly policing. The DPO Attock visited Jaba and Formoli riverine posts, where he briefed the police staff present.

Issuing orders to make all riverine posts in the district fully functional, he emphasized that sanctioned manpower, weapons, official vehicles, motorboats, life jackets, and all types of logistic equipment must be ensured and are indispensable.

### Last date for filing income tax returns is September 30: Sanober Sultan Khan

👺 Raza Nagvi

ATTOCK: Assistant Commissioner Inland Revenue Sanober Sultan Khan has said that the last date for filing income tax returns is September 30. Failure to file returns by the deadline may result in a fine of one thousand rupees per day along with legal action.

She expressed these views while addressing a meeting with trader leaders during an awareness campaign at the office of the Central Traders Association (Registered) and Sarafa Association, City and District Attock.

On this occasion, District President of Sarafa Association (Registered) Attock Muhammad Iftikhar Saraf, General Secretary Chaudhry Iftikhar, Senior Vice President of Central Traders Association City and District Attock Haji Rahmat Khan, Joint Secretary Sheikh Saeed Ahmed, President City Traders Union Attock Al-Haj Muhammad Almas Chishti, Muhammad Nadeem Saraf, Ehtisham Khan, Muhammad Khalid Butt Saraf, Chaudhry Ijaz Ahmed Saraf, Bilal Ali Saraf, Muhammad Arif, Jamil Mughal Saraf, Muhammad Faheem Saraf, Patron of Sarafa Association Haji Muhammad Hanif, and a large number of other traders were also present.

The trader leaders assured Assistant Commissioner Inland Revenue Sanober Sultan Khan of their full cooperation.

She said that the purpose of her visit was to create awareness among traders. The campaign for filing returns received great encouragement from the traders of Attock. The meeting with the traders proved to be very useful.

She emphasized that traders should fulfill their national duty by submitting income tax returns before September 30.

## Sindh Textbook Board Holds Two-Day Training Workshop

B Abdul Ghafoor Sarohi

HYDERABAD: The Sindh Textbook Board organized a two-day training workshop on August 27 and 28, 2025, to prepare authors for the development of new 'Aasan Sindhi' and 'Compulsory Sindhi' textbooks. The workshop, attended by 22 renowned authors, experienced educators, and textbook experts, concluded with a brief ceremony featuring insights from prominent literary and academic figures.

Speaking at the closing ceremony, distinguished writer and scholar Jami Chandio lauded the initiative, stating, "The Sindh Textbook Board's efforts to train textbook authors are exemplary, enabling the creation of high-quality and impactful textbooks for Sindh's children." He added, "Textbooks shape a child's priorities and values, making their importance greater than other literary or research-based books. While Sindh's curriculum and textbooks are more advanced compared to other languages in Pakistan, there is a need for thorough editing by skilled editors."

Dr. Ishaq Samejo, Chairperson of importance of connecting institutions with society. "Institutions must engage

vance. The Sindh Textbook Board's initi- into Sindhi lessons. ative to train both senior and emerging authors is commendable and will yield positive results in the future," he said.

Dr. Adal Soomro, a prominent writer, reflected, "Life is a continuous learning journey. Despite our prior knowledge, this workshop taught us valuable lessons that will benefit us moving forward."

Noted writer Syed Zawar Naqvi underscored the importance of quality curricula and textbooks, stating, "Highstandard textbooks are vital as they directly impact the new generation. The Sindh Textbook Board's efforts to train authors and produce quality textbooks are truly commendable."

Literary figure Yasir Qazi remarked, "This training workshop exceeded expectations and proved highly effective. The knowledge gained will enable us to create high-quality textbooks."

Idrees Jatoi, a renowned educational expert, conducted a session on "Understanding Curriculum and Aligning it with Textbooks," providing guidance on aligning textbook content with various curriculum frameworks.

Ghulam Mustafa Nagaraj, a distinthe Sindhi Language Authority and guished writer, led a session on "Inteacclaimed author, emphasized the grating Food and Nutrition Frameworks into Textbooks," offering practical methods to incorporate health, with society, or they risk losing rele-nutrition, and sustainable living topics

Professor Dr. Muhammad Tufail Chandio presented a comprehensive session on "Integrating Bloom's Taxonomy with SLOs and Assessment," guiding participants on improving student learning outcomes (SLOs) and fostering critical thinking skills.

Nazim Ali Khan Matloi, an esteemed educational expert, focused on "Preparing Aasan Sindhi Textbooks," emphasizing engaging and age-appropriate content to make Sindhi language learning effective and appealing.

Dr. Altaf Jokhio, a noted writer and linguist, guided participants on "Preparing Lazmi Sindhi Textbooks," focusing on creating intellectually stimulating content tailored to the educational and cultural needs of middlegrade students.

On the final day, August 28, 2025, Taj Joyo, a renowned author, conducted a session on "Correct Usage of Punctuation in Sindhi Texts," ensuring grammatical accuracy and clarity in Sindhi language textbooks.

Jami Chandio also led a session on "Integrating Cultural Heritage and Career Education Frameworks into Textbooks," emphasizing the inclusion of Sindh's rich cultural heritage and career guidance to prepare students for realworld challenges and instill pride in



their heritage.

Sabir Hussain Mehr, General Secretary of the Sindh Climate Change Network, presented on incorporating environmental changes and their societal impacts into textbooks.

At the opening ceremony, Pervez Ahmed Baloch, Chairperson of the Sindh Textbook Board, welcomed participants and reaffirmed the board's

commitment to producing, printing, and distributing high-quality textbooks in a timely manner. Dr. Fayaz Latif, Director of the Institute of Sindhology and a distinguished writer, praised the board's efforts and offered collaboration between the Institute of Sindhology and the Sindh Textbook Board to produce high-quality textbooks. He noted, "While Sindh's educational

standards may lag behind other provinces, its curriculum and textbooks are more progressive and modern."

Noor Ahmed Khoso, Director of the Directorate of Curriculum, Assessment, and Research, added, "Sindh's curriculum and textbooks are of high quality. Our goal is to incorporate modern teaching methods into our curriculum and books."



### **Namaz Timings** .....8:06 pm

EMERGENCY
Rescue (Police) 15
Bomb Disposal 15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/
Islamabad1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance 1122 8
& Rescue Services 4451122
Motorway Police9266044
Motorway Police9270601-20

#### Women Police

Stations		
Islamabad	9222596	
Rawalpindi	9270601-20	

<b>ENQUIRY</b>		
Edhi Ambulance		
PIA Flight Info	114	
PIA Cargo	9280979	
Railway Inquiry	117	
Railway Exchange	9270831-5	

#### HOCDITALC

WASA Rawalpindi

HUSPITALS			
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 Metropol	itan
Corporation	9209224

*Polluted* water coming from India is dangerous for Pakistan's security

#### 👺 Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: No country in the world has the right to stop or pollute river water in such a way that it affects the aquatic life, agricultural lands, human health and wildlife of another country. There is a river sharing agreement between Pakistan and India, the "Indus Waters Treaty 1960", but it does not mention the prevention of crossder polluted water. Toxic water from Indian factories is coming to Pakistan through various drains, which is being mixed in the rivers and is proving fatal to crops, livestock, fish and humans. It is imperative to look at this issue in the light of international water laws, the country's constitution and judicial prece-

Water is a symbol of life not only for humans but also for animals, birds, fish and forests. There are more than five hundred major rivers in the world that pass through more than one country. Most countries have made agreements on these so that everyone can get water and no country can encroach on the rights of another. There is a similar agreement between Pakistan and India, but unfortunately, it does not include prevention of water pollution and transboundary toxic waste. This is the aspect from which India is benefiting.

## Govt; of Pakistan, Punjab Health Department Organized a HPV Campaign

#### 😂 Quratul Ain Asim

MULTAN: The Government of Pakistan and the Punjab Health Department organized a HPV Campaign District Seminar in Multan district in collaboration with WHO and UNICEF.

The seminar was presided over by Deputy Commissioner Multan Waseem Hamid, Deputy Commissioner Multan Waseem Hamid, Chief Executive Officer Health Dr. Thaban Zia, Dr. Shaukat Ali, Divisional Officer EPI Multan Division. DHO HRM Dr. Arshad Abbas, Immunization Officer WHO Dr. Hamza Ikram, Chief Superintendent Vaccination District Focal Person District Multan Maqbool Ahmed Gujar, Muhammad Furgan CRTO UNICEF Punjab, CCO UNICEF Muhammad Waqas, Deputy DHO Multan Dr. Muhammad Adeel Bhatta, Media Coordinator Chief Minister Punjab Umar Farooq Bhatti addressed the gathering and gave a detailed explanation of the campaign

in Punjab province from September 15 to September 27, 2025.

DHMT Second Level Supervisor, First Level Supervisor Skill Vaccinators have been trained and Hamid Khalil and Madam Sidra Noreen performed the duties of Team Assistant and Stage Secretary. Social mobilizers are being trained. After their training, this campaign will continue for fifteen days from September 15 to September 27,

All the speakers have directed the public to get vaccinated against HPV disease. This vaccine is being administered to girls aged 9 to 14 years through outreach teams and Fix teams in all schools, madrasas, markets, and all areas. Apart from this, the seminar was attended by Deputy Education Officer Shah Muhammad, Dr. Fahim Shahid Surveillance Officer, Saleh Muhammad Health Department, Jamil Ahmed UNICEF, Mehr Khizar Hayat District Population Officer and all Deputy Popuagainst HPV disease, which is being held lation Officers, all line department heads



Supervisor, all Assistant Superinten- Health Workers, heads and teachers of Multan District.

of Multan District, School Health and dents Vaccination, Vaccinators, CDC Nutrition Supervisor, Lady Health Supervisors, Sanitary Inspectors, Lady

employees of the health department of

#### Donations

ISLAMABAD: A view of the grocery and other daily usage stuff along the road side as gather by Jamia Masjid Rehmat ul Lil Alameen as welfare Aid for the affected of flood victims of the country



## Clean Green Pakistan will be achieved through the tree plantation campaign

#### 👺 Arshad Raza Zaidi

MULTAN: Chairman of ICMA Multan Branch Council, Muhammad Yousuf Siddiqui, said that the objectives of Clean Green Pakistan will be achieved through the tree plantation campaign. It is possible to combat the climate change drivers through tree plantation. Environmental pollution can be reduced by promoting tree plantation. The biggest reason for environmental pollution belts near forests, gardens and non-government organizations inate environmental pollution.



in Pakistan is the lack of green highways. Government and need to work together to elim-

The Forest Department should plant trees at the grassroots level so that more and more trees can be planted on streets, houses and highways, which will make the environment clean and attractive. He expressed these views while planting saplings in connection with the tree plantation campaign at ICMA. On this occasion, Vice Chairman of Multan Branch Council, Muhammad Shahbaz and Deputy Director ICMA, Samina Khan Kiani said that planting trees is an ongoing charity and it is our national duty.

## On the call of Prem Union President, a protest held at the Railway Station Faisalabad

#### 👺 Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: On the call of Prem Union President Sheikh Muhammad Anwar, a protest demonstration was also held at the Railway Station Faisalabad in connection with the nationwide protest to resolve the problems of railway employees, which was led by Prem Union Central Chief Organizer Khalid Mahmood Chaudhry, Zonal President Zaheeruddin Babar, Zonal Secretary Kazim Farooq Gul, Rana Muhammad Zahid, Babar Nawaz, Malik Manzoor Ahmed, Muhammad Kashif, Sajid Imran, Muhammad Imtiaz, Adnan Khattak, Rai Shahbaz Ahmed, Abdul Sami, Ahmed Saeed Bajwa, Muhammad Waseem, Noor Ahmed and others. Ameer Jamaat-e-Islami Faisalabad Professor Mehboob-uz-Zaman Butt, former UC Nazim and Chairman Mian



the demonstration to express solidarity with the railway employees.

Addressing the demonstration, Khalid Mahmood Chaudhry said that the railway tracks and coaches Tahir Ayub, specially participated in have become inoperable, non-pay-

employees, Nawaz appointing contracinstead of eliminating vacant posts,

ment of TA to employees since 2019, new recruitment, economic murder dues of retired employees and widows, of carriage cleaners in the name permanent status of TLA and enlisted of outsourcing, elimination of five percent cut and forensic audit of past tors in the name of outsourcing, cuts and other demands are being

#### Workers of Cleaning Punjab Protest Over Non-Payment of **Salaries**



#### 👺 Syed Nadeem Kazmi

MULTAN: Labor union (CBA), Solid Waste Management Company Multan has strongly protested against the non-payment of salaries to hundreds of workers working in Sathar Punjab for two months and has given a three-day ultimatum. Union president Samiullah Khan and general secretary Hammad Afzal Dogar, while holding a press conference, demanded that if salaries are not released within 72 hours, the workers will be forced to protest and this protest may spread to the entire city. Union leaders said that SA Entrepreneur Company, which is responsible for sanitation under Sathar Punjab, has been withholding the salaries of the workers for the last two months and is bent on extinguishing the stoves in their homes. They alleged that unnecessary cuts are also being made in the salaries of permanent employees, which is tantamount to exploitation and anti-worker. They wrote to the Chief Minister of Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif, Commissioner Multan, Deputy Commissioner and CEO Solid Waste Management Company demanded immediate intervention and said that the workers should be saved from the exploitative contractor company, which is violating the rights of the workers by earning only profits.

#### Financial literacy for children must go hand in hand with cybersecurity



#### 跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: As children are now growing up in a world where money is mostly digital, cybersecurity has become a fundamental part of financial literacy. Unlike previous generations, their first experiences with money are not only piggy banks, but in-app purchases, gaming loot boxes, and prepaid cards connected to digital wallets. In Kaspersky's "Digital Schoolbag: A Parent's Guide for the School Year", our experts share insights on how to teach kids to manage money responsibly and securely in the digital world.

 $Back-to\text{-}school\,season\,is\,not\,only\,about\,new\,books\,and\,uniforms, it's$ also a crucial time to build healthy habits that will stay with children for life and help to avoid many problems. And real problems are not rare: 25% of parents participated in "Growing Up Online" survey admitted that they lost money because of their children's online behavior, while 16% of respondents stated that their child's device was infected with a virus.

According to Kaspersky, if kids aren't aware of online risks, even strong financial literacy won't protect them from phishing disguised as giveaways, fake in-game deals, sneaky subscription renewals, or identity theft. By integrating financial education with digital protection, parents can prepare their kids not only to manage money smartly, but also to defend themselves against the cyberthreats that come with it.

Helping children understand boundaries is the first step in building both financial discipline and digital awareness. Rather than micromanaging every purchase, introduce digital money literacy: explain how in-app purchases, microtransactions, or hidden fees can drain their balance if they're not careful.

A safer and more educational alternative to cash is to introduce childfriendly bank cards or digital wallets that come with built-in parental controls. These tools let you set spending limits, receive instant purchase notifications, track transactions in real time, and even block certain categories like online marketplaces or gaming platforms. Banking apps and online stores can become targets for cybercriminals, so installing a cybersecurity solution that includes safe browsing and secure payment protection is essential.

## Editorial/Opinion

Friday, August 29, 2025

Group Chairman/Chief Editor: Almass Ayoub Sabir

Vice Chairman: Editor:

Naveed Ahmad Khan Head Editorial Advisory Board: Amjad Mehmood Bureau Chief Karachi: Khurram Jaffrani (jaffrani@adpluse.pk

Bureau Chief Lahore: Sved Afraz Ali Nazish (afrazalishah@gmail.com)

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

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

Karachi office: A111, Block C, Gulsha-e-Jamal, PRECHS, Karachi Phone:021-33399390

Email: spokesmankarachi@gmail.com

Asim Nazir Ahmad

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

Daily The Spokesman available only on annual subscription

#### **CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif Visits Narowal**

he Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif warmly welcomed Prime Minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif on his arrival in Lahore. Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif along with Prime Minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif visited Narowal to review the latest flood situation. Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif along with Prime Minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif also visited Kartarpur to express solidarity with the flood-affected Sikh community. Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif along with Prime Minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif were briefed by NDMA and PDMA at the Deputy Commissioner's Office at Narowal

Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif addressed a review meeting regarding the flood situation in Narowal. She commended the administration, Rescue-1122 and PDMA. She appreciated the performance of Punjab Disaster Management Authority (PDMA). She appreciated the efforts of provincial ministers, Khawaja Salman Rafique, Kazim Ali Pirzada, Sohaib Ahmed Bherth. She also appreciated Commissioners, Deputy Commissioners, Assistant Commissioners and other officers.

Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif for paying a visit to Narowal to review the flood situation. She directed to ensure drainage of water from the Kartarpur Gurdwara at the earliest. She directed to ensure immediate repair and rehabilitation of flood-affected roads. She directed to ensure timely evacuation of the elderly, women and children from the flood-affected areas.

Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif said, "Narowal is among the districts worst affected by the devastating flood. Everyone is deeply distressed by the loss of lives due to havoc played by the flood. There is no substitute for human life, it is impossible to compensate for the loss of anyone's life. All departments in Punjab are working diligently, no death occurred or reported due to the negligence of any department."

She highlighted, "Future planning of the Punjab government is focused on its foremost priority for flood prevention. Such an extraordinary monsoon spell had never been seen for 38 years. The nation should also know the causes and effects of the floods. Urban flooding and rainwater have reached everywhere in Punjab." She outlined that following the footsteps of Prime Minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif, effective steps have been taken for the immediate drainage of rainwater from the cities.

She underscored that despite the extraordinary rainfall, drainage of rainwater has been made possible within a few hours. She regretted that such a massive flood of water came due to the opening of spillways by India. She revealed that the early warning system is working efficiently and timely evacuation of the population has been ensured. She added that people do not easily prepare to leave their belongings and return from the flood-affected areas.

## Trump's 50% Tariffs on India: Pakistan's Big Break

**Qamar Bashir** 

the status of an ordinary bilateral trade partner to the position of a "strategic partner" and "most favored nation" in the eyes of Washington. Biden's White House envisioned India as a counterweight to China's growing influence in Asia and beyond, pumping extraordinary political, economic, and strategic support into New Delhi. India was projected globally as the next manufacturing hub, replacing China, and U.S. high-tech industries were encouraged to set up captive plants across India. These industries were supposed to produce goods cheaply in India and bring them back to the U.S., granting India unprecedented access to American markets and raising its global geopolitical standing. The scale of respect, economic incentives, and military cooperation lavished on India was unprecedented and elevated its profile on the world stage. But this sudden elevation inflated India's ego, making it more assertive, stubborn, and, at times, confrontational—not just toward its neighbors like Pakistan, Nepal, and Sri Lanka, but even toward China and, eventually, its Western

This rupture between Washington and New Delhi, though damaging for India, has created a golden opportunity for Pakistan. With India's dominance in U. S. supply chains disrupted, Pakistan stands uniquely positioned to step in and fill the gaps. In 2024, Pakistan's total trade with the U.S. stood at around \$7.2 billion, with exports accounting for roughly \$5.1 billion and growing. During fiscal year 2024-25, Pakistan's exports to the U.S. climbed further to \$5.83 billion, driven largely by

uring the Biden admintextiles, apparel, leather products, surgical responsible diplomacy. Unlike India, which istration, India rose from instruments, and home furnishings. Now, as American buyers seek alternatives to Indian suppliers affected by tariffs, Pakistan's competitive advantages make it the natural beneficiary. A weaker rupee against the dollar already renders Pakistani products cheaper and more attractive for the U. S. market, especially when coupled with

quality manufacturing capabilities in key sectors like textiles and surgical goods.

Adding further strength to Pakistan's position is the July 2025 Pakistan-U.S. Trade and Energy Deal, a landmark agreement reached just weeks before Trump announced the final 50% tariffs on India.

This agreement included tariff reductions on Pakistan's key exports—particularly textiles, leather, surgical instruments, agricultural goods, and IT services—giving Pakistani exporters a direct pricing edge over their Indian counterparts. Moreover, Pakistan agreed to align itself closely with U. S. policy goals, including observing restrictions on Russian oil imports and enhancing counterterrorism cooperation. Trump, pleased with Pakistan's consistent support, publicly praised Islamabad's role in regional stability, including its assistance in capturing high-profile terrorists and facilitating U.S. intelligence operations. The agreement also paved the way for future American investment in Pakistan's energy sector, signaling deeper economic cooperation.

Beyond trade policy, Pakistan's standing with Washington has benefited from its

openly defied U.S. requests and doubled down on Russian oil purchases-reportedly worth \$34 billion annually—Pakistan has avoided confrontation by abstaining from deals that would contravene Western sanctions. Pakistan's neutrality on contentious energy policies, combined with its strategic assistance in regional security

matters, has made it a more trusted partner in Washington's evolving Asia strategy. Furthermore, Pakistan's close consultation with the U. S. before its limited strikes on Iran and the unprecedented White House meeting between President Trump and

Pakistan's Army Chief, Field Marshal Asim Munir, demonstrate growing confidence between the two governments.

The confluence of these developments provides Pakistan with a historic opportunity. With Indian goods now priced out of competitiveness in the American market, U.S. buyers will be urgently seeking substitutes for billions of dollars' worth of textiles, jewelry, seafood, furniture, and machinery. Pakistan can meet this demand by rapidly mobilizing its industrial base, investing in capacity expansion, and aggressively marketing its products. An organized, coordinated approach involving the government, private sector, exporters' associations, and the Pakistani diaspora in the U. S. could allow Pakistan to double, or even triple, its exports within the next few years. Success in capturing these supply chains would not only strengthen Pakistan's economy but also position it as a

preferred South Asian partner for other Western economies, including the European Union, which often follows U.S. trade

However, exploiting this opportunity requires swift, strategic action. Pakistan must identify the product categories previously dominated by Indian exporters and aggressively target those niches. It must incentivize new investments in high-demand industries, ensure international quality compliance, and improve supply chain reliability. If executed effectively. Pakistan can fill the void created by India's loss, gain sustained access to premium global markets, and strengthen its economic sovereignty.

In the shifting dynamics of South Asian trade, India's arrogance, fostered by years of pampering under the Biden administration, has collided with Trump's transactional economic realism, leaving it isolated and economically vulnerable. For Pakistan, however, this moment represents more than just a commercial opening—it is a strategic chance to redefine its economic relationship with the United States, elevate its global trade profile, and accelerate industrial growth. The window is open, but it may not stay open for long. If Islamabad and its private sector move decisively, Pakistan could transform this disruption into a long-term opportunity, positioning itself as the primary South Asian beneficiary of the U.S. market and rewriting the region's economic map for years to come.

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



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

## Study in Pakistan: A Growing Destination for International Students

akistan has long been recognized of a one-window operation for international the same time, a key metric in global university as a land of rich history, cultural diversity, and intellectual traditions. Over the past few decades, the country has increasingly invested in higher education, making it an attractive destination for students from around

faculty, and affordable educational opportunities, Pakistan is positioning itself as a hub for

higher learning in Asia. Pakistan today boasts 274 **Higher Education Commis**sion (HEC)-recognized universities and degree-awarding institutes. Among these, more than 140 universities belong to the public sector, while the

rest are part of the dynamic and expanding private sector. Collectively, these institutions cater to millions of students in disciplines ranging from medicine, engineering, natural sciences, and social sciences, to emerging fields such as artificial intelligence, data science, and biotechnology. What makes Pakistan's higher education sector more prominent globally is the recognition of several of its universities in leading international ranking systems such as QS World University Rankings and Times Higher Education (THE) Rankings. Some of Pakistan's top-ranked universities are now on par with respected institutions across Asia and beyond. Importantly, many of these universities are welcoming international students, offering degree programs as well as short-term research and training opportunities.

As a follow-up to the conference, Pakistan as a major step towards realizing the vision power and fosters goodwill across borders. At

students. This digital platform has already been joined by 50 leading Pakistani universities, with many more in the process of integration. The portal serves as a comprehensive gateway for prospective students, providing information about academic programs, admisthe world, particularly from member states of sion procedures, scholarships, and student life the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC). in Pakistan. Consolidating resources, it makes With a large network of universities, world-class it easier for students and parents worldwide to

explore opportunities in Pakistan's universities. Moreover, the portal enhances transparency and ensures accessibility, which are essential factors for building trust among international applicants. The establishment of the Pakistan Education Portal is not just a technological upgrade but a strategic milestone in posi-

tioning Pakistan as a serious contender in the global education market.

**Muhammad Murtaza Noor** 

The importance of attracting international students to Pakistan goes beyond filling classroom seats. It has broader economic, cultural, and academic implications. International students contribute significantly to the economy through tuition fees, accommodation, travel, and other expenditures. Countries like the United States, the United Kingdom, and Australia generate billions of dollars annually from international education. Pakistan, with its affordable education and cost of living, can tap into this global student mobility market to strengthen its economy. Hosting students from diverse backgrounds also creates cultural bridges. International students in Pakistan become ambassadors of Pakistani culture and hospitality when they return home. This people-Education Portal has been recently introduced to-people connection enhances Pakistan's soft

rankings is internationalization, which includes the number of foreign students and faculty. By increasing international enrollments, Pakistani universities can improve their global standing, attracting even more talent and resources in

It is worth noting that Pakistan already has a tradition of welcoming foreign students. In the past, many students from countries in Asia, Africa, and the Middle East came to study in Pakistan's leading universities, particularly in fields like medicine and engineering. Today, those alumni occupy prominent positions in their respective countries, serving as doctors, engineers, researchers, diplomats, and policymakers. Their success stories stand as a testament to the quality of education offered in Pakistan. By revitalizing this tradition and scaling it up with modern tools like the Pakistan Education Portal, the country can re-establish itself as a preferred destination for international students.

Pakistan's higher education sector is at a turning point. With 274 HEC-recognized universities, an increasing number of institutions listed among globally ranked universities, and a growing ecosystem of scholarships and international collaboration, the foundations are strong. Initiatives like COMSTECH's student placement programs and the Pakistan Education Portal are crucial steps in making higher education in Pakistan more accessible and globally competitive. By attracting international students, Pakistan will not only gain economically but also enhance cultural exchanges, academic excellence, and its global reputation. The vision is clear: Pakistan is not just educating its youth but also opening its doors to the world, building a future where education serves as a bridge for unity, progress, and development.=

#### Climate Change and Pakistan's Floods: Lessons for Pakistan-I

👺 Arooba Abbasi

akistan has been grappling with the catastrophic effects of climate change, with over 400 people murdered since the middle of August 2025. The recent monsoon floods, which killed hundreds of people and and crumbling infrastructure are less prepared destroyed infrastructure in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Gilgit-Baltistan, and Azad Kashmir, This explains why more than 4,000 homes have highlighted Pakistan's extreme susceptibility to climate change. Even a major metropolis like Karachi was unable to prevent the devastating effects of monsoon flooding. Karachi was flooded after a torrential downpour. The flooding has paralyzed the southern port metropolis of 20 million people, which is almost the biggest in geographical and population size than many European countries, less than a week after horrific flash floods wiped out towns in the northern province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Almost half of the country's crops were destroyed due to torrential rains ments throughout these nullahs because there and flooding, which could be a primary cause of food shortages throughout Pakistan.

Despite producing less than 1% of the greenhouse gases that warm the earth, Pakistan is particularly sensitive to climate change due to its geographic location. This is why roughly one-third of Pakistan is flooded, including houses that have been submerged in floodwaters. However, the question remains: what is driving the floods in Pakistan? There could be numerous contributing factors, but some of the most important are unplanned urbanisation, poor and inadequate infrastructure, poor river management, and widespread deforestation. Pakistan's forest cover has decreased from areas should use green infrastructure such 3.78 million hectares in 1992 to 3.09 million as permeable pavements and rain gardens to hectares in 2025, accounting for only 5% of the absorb water and prevent run-off. Urban design total land area under forest, the lowest in South should incorporate land use management to Asia —a trend directly linked to increased floods—avoid developing in flood-prone locations.

and landslides.

The Buner district in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province has been the most severely affected, with over 200 people dead and massive damage to houses and public buildings throughout the northwestern mountainous province. This is evident that impoverished countries with weaker flood defences, lower-quality houses, to cope with significant rainfall and flooding. were destroyed by flooding during the same time period.

The devastation caused by these floods was not limited to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa; Karachi also suffered greatly as a result, as mentioned already. Rainwater in Karachi is mostly evacuated through natural stormwater drains, known as nullahs. According to research, Karachi creates more than 20,000 tonnes of solid trash each day, which blocks the nullahs. In 2020, Arif Hasan, an architect and planner, told Dawn that working-class families build encroachwas no viable social housing program in place. The nullahs are used for sewage disposal in both formal developments and informal communities. Therefore, rapid and uncontrolled urbanization is the cause of urban flooding, which exacerbates floods in places like Karachi and Lahore as well by decreasing natural drainage and increasing surface runoff.

Mitigating flooding in Pakistan necessitates a multifaceted approach that addresses both structural and non-structural measures. Structural steps include the construction and maintenance of drainage systems, reservoirs, and the restoration of natural waterways. Urban

To be continued

## Pakistan Navy hands over Command of Combined Task Force 151 To Brazilian Navy

#### **Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Navy has successfully relinquished command of Combined Task Force 151. Commodore Sohail Ahmad Azmie of Pakiwas presided by Vice Admiral George Wikoff, Commander of Combined Maritime Forces (CMF), at HQ CMF, regional maritime security.

January 2025, Pakistan Navy led regional and international navies especially European Union Naval Forces' Operation ATALANTA. The coordination was manifested ENDURING RESOLVE and the forces under CMF. OCEAN WATCH.

sional conduct of Focused OPERAnaval assets from 6 countries, and 8 Regional Coordination Centres. To strengthen CMF's objectives, Cdre various dignitaries including Ambas-Sohail Ahmad Azmie conducted a sadors from Islamic Republic of Pakiseries of Key Leadership Engage- stan, Japan and Federative Republic ments across the region that rein- of Brazil, Deputy Head of Mission forced the importance of collabora- from Republic of Korea.

tion in promoting maritime security. Expressing his thoughts on his tenure as Commander CTF 151, Cdre Sohail Ahmad Azmie thanked his staff and international partners especially Republic of Korea and stan Navy handed over the Command Japan for their consistent commit-

to Rear Admiral Marcelo Lancellot- ment. He further added that PN takes ti of Brazilian Navy. The ceremony pride in its active participation within CMF and its efforts reflect a steadfast commitment to contribute towards The incoming Commander CTF

Since assuming the command in 151, Rear Admiral Marcelo Lancellotti expressed his gratitude to CTF-151 mission, built and main- Pakistan Navy and remarked that tained close partnerships with together with CMF nations we will strengthen cooperation and ensure the safety of maritime commons.

CTF 151 was established as a multinational task force in January 2009, by coordinated patrols such as the and is one of five operational task

In conjunction with the European Hallmark of the tenure was profes- Union Naval Force and together with independently deployed naval ships, TION SEA SPIRIT, where CTF-151 CTF 151 helps to patrol the Intermarshalled 13 CMF partner nations, nationally Recommended Transit Corridor.

The ceremony was attended by



## Experts urge proactive media strategies to counter disinformation

#### **Spokesman Report**

LAHORE: The Centre for Aerospace & Security Studies (CASS), Islamabad, convened a Roundtable Conference on 'Weaponising Information: Media Strategies in Modern Warfare' on 27th August 2025. The discussion highlighted the rising significance of information as a weapon in contemporary conflicts, especially in the wake of the May 2025 India-Pakistan escalation. The event was attended by members of academia and intellectuals. CASS is an independent think tank that continues to arrange academic events for academia and practitioners interested in National Security in its wider context.

The moderator of the conference, Air Marshal Zahid Mehmood (Retd), Senior Director at CASS Islamabad, set the tone by underscoring the centrality of media in modern warfare and its decisive impact on public perception and battlefield outcome Stressing the need for moving beyond reactive responses, he emphasised the importance of proactive media strategies to strengthen Pakistan's resilience against future crises.



Mr Amer Zafar Durrani, Founding President of Reenergia and keynote unlike its Pakistani counterpart, is rity strategy

speaker, highlighted the weaponi- not war-savvy and thus resorted to factor in modern conflict, operating across content, distribution, and

He called for a Joint Information Operations Coordination Cell under the National Security Council, supported by Alpowered detection Stressing the importance of verification, provenance tagging, and pre-bunking, he urged policies that counter foreign influence operations while safeguarding civil liberties. He concluded by emphasising digital literacy, regional alliances, and stresstested protocols as the foundations of Pakistan's resilience in the informa-

tion domain. The second keynote speaker, Mr Rehman Azhar, journalist and anchor in the one-hour aerial combat and at Express News, traced the role of the professional press briefings by media in the recent Indo-Pak May the Pakistan Armed Forces that deci-2025 conflict, highlighting the Indian sively shifted the information battle. media's reliance on sensationalism He emphasised that this experience under the patronage of the far-right underlines the need for Pakistan to

sation of information as a decisive exaggerated false claims of victory in the recent conflict. Pointing to the rapid evolution of tools such as bots and deepfakes, he stressed that information warfare is highly dynamic and demands a proactive approach. He concluded by stressing the importance of the media taking an active systems tailored to local contexts. role in the pre-bunking stage, rather than playing only a reactive role once crises unfold.

In his concluding remarks, Air Marshal Javaid Ahmed (Retd), President CASS, thanked the speakers for their practical and academic insights. He stressed that while India had invested heavily in media preparations to project a narrative of dominance in the May 2025 conflict, it was Pakistan's tactical performance institutionalise media preparedness He observed that Indian media, as a core element of national secu-

### Amb. Baloch holds interaction with Pakistani diaspora in Paris

#### News Desk

PARIS: Ambassador of Pakistan to France Mumtaz Zahra Baloch on Wednesday held an engaging interaction with the Pakistani diaspora in Paris.

The session highlighted the embassy's commitment to fostering unity, supporting the community, and strengthening cultural and economic linkages

Amb. Baloch holds interaction with Pakistani diaspora in Paris

Ambassador Baloch also underscored the importance of diaspora engagement in promoting Pakistan-France

The participants appreciated the embassy's continued assistance



and inclu- sive engagement with the community.

### Multan on Flood Watch: DC and CPO **Announce Emergency Measures**

#### 跨 🛮 Zain Khan Malghani

MULTAN: Deputy Commissioner Waseem Hamid Sindhu and City Police Officer (CPO) Sadiq Ali Dogar held a joint press conference regarding the expected flood situation in River Chenab. The Deputy Commissioner said that on Saturday night, a flood wave of over 700,000 cusecs will pass through the river, potentially affecting 138 villages. To address the situation, 38 relief camps have been set up, while Rescue, Irrigation, and other departments are

actively engaged in the field. According to DC Sindhu, residents living in river belt areas are being evacuated with the help of police and administration. So far, 45,000 people have been shifted to safe places, while a total of 300,000 people need to be evacuated. He added that the complete evacuation will be ensured within the next



Head Muhammad Wala and Shershah will only be made if necessary, and under no circumstances will such breaches be made that could endanger populated areas. Relief camps have also been equipped with fodder and facilities for livestock.

CPO Multan Sadiq Ali Dogar emphasized that the top priority is the tion with the Irrigation Department safe evacuation of citizens. He stated and other relevant authorities.

He further said that breaches at that the entire river belt area will be inundated, but even in areas where breaches are made, people will be relocated beforehand. He assured that no resident of the riverine areas will be left

> The Deputy Commissioner clarified that the final decision on where to make breaches will be taken after consulta-

## Spotify Unveils How Gen-Z is Redefining Music Discovery and Consumption in Pakistan

#### Commerce Desk

KARACHI: As the world marks two iconic occasions in August, International Youth Day and World Hip-Hop Day, Spotify is shining a spotlight on how Pakistan's Gen-Z is reshaping music discovery and consumption. With their phones in hand and earbuds in, young Pakistanis are not just listening to music, they are building communities, reviving genres, influencing global trends, and driving cultural movements on the world's leading audio platform.

From genres spanning Desi Pop and Indie to the unapologetically

10pm and midnight, with mobile remaining their go-to device for streaming. In fact, Gen-Zisn't just streaming, they're curating. Playlist creation is up 45% this year, featuring tracks such as "Jhol" by Annural Khalid and Maanu, "Bikhra" by Abdul Hannan and Rovalio, and "Wishes" by Hasan Raheem, Umair and Talwiinder.

When it comes to hip-hop, Pakistan's youth are not just listeners, they're trendsetters. Local hip-hop has exploded on Spotify with streams surging over 245% since 2022. Leading the charge is Talha Anjum, raw sounds of Punjabi Hip-Hop, whose tracks "Departure Lane"

is tuning in most often between Umair have seen exponential streaming growth, 2,700% and 500% respectively, since their release in 2024. Rising stars like JJ47, Jokhay, and JANI are also fast gaining traction, with Umair himself emerging as a breakout artist with a remarkable 1,200% growth in streams since 2022.

The appetite for new sounds that Gen-Z has, whether it's Desi Pop or the raw energy of Hip-Hop, reflects the generation of music enthusiasts that is bold, expressive and unafraid to experiment," said Rutaba Yaqub, Artist & Label Partnerships Manager at Spotify for Pakistan and UAE. "It is exciting to see how they are Spotify data shows that Gen-Z and "Heartbreak Kid" with not only streaming but actively

curating and building communities on Spotify. This generation is clearly setting the tone for Pakistan's music scene by amplifying voices of their favourite artists and pushing them onto the global

The top local voices in Gen-Z's streaming reflect a generation that embraces both nostalgia and new finds. Talha Anjum, Umair, Atif Aslam, Hasan Raheem and Bayaan dominate the charts, while albums like "Safar" by Bayaan, "My Terrible Mind" by Talha Anjum, and "ROCK-STAR WITHOUT A GUITAR" by Umair have become cultural touchpoints for young listeners. As Spotify continues to elevate



local talent, these insights show- expressive, and connected through while remaining deeply rooted in



Index Fluctuation		
Pakistan: PSX 1	00-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close	
147,343.50	147,494.03	
Day's High	Day's Low	
148,042.00	147,209.55	
Index Value	Change	
21,410,964,382	-150.53	
Percentage	Time	
-0.1%	28 Aug, 2025 4:30 pm	
Europe: FTS	E 100 Index	
Index Value	Change	
9,216.82	-38.68	
Percentage	Time	
-0.42%	28 Aug, 4:35 pm GMT+1	
USA: Dow Jones	Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change	
45,598.56	+33.33	
Percentage	Time	
+0.073%	28 Aug, 12:48 pm GMT-4	

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average		
Index Value	Change	
42,828.79	+308.52	
Percentage	Time	
+0.73%	28 Aug, 3:45 pm GMT+9	

Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	182.75	187.75
Bahrain Dinar	748.85	751.35
Canadian Dollar	204	209
China Yuan	39.25	39.65
Danish Krone	43.88	44.28
Euro	328.5	330.30
Hong Kong Dollar	36.03	36.38
Indian Rupee	3.14	3.23
Japanese Yen	1.8975	1.9975
Kuwaiti Dinar	914.75	922.75
Malaysian Ringgit	66.68	67.28
NewZealand \$	164.33	166.33
Norwegians Krone	27.73	28.03
Omani Riyal	733.45	735.95
Qatari Riyal	77.22	77.92
Saudi Riyal	75.3	75.55
Singapore Dollar	217.75	222.75
Swedish Korona	29.39	29.69
Swiss Franc	350.41	353.16
Thai Bhat	8.59	8.74
U.A.E Dirham	77	77.25
UK Pound Sterling	381.30	383.30

#### Jam Kamal stresses modernization of insurance sector through ordinance amendments

283.70

**US** Dollar



ISLAMABAD: Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan Thursday stressed the urgent need to modernize Pakistan's insurance sector in line with changing economic realities, underlining that wider insurance coverage and an updated regulatory framework are essential for national growth.

He was speaking at a briefing jointly organized by the Ministry of Commerce's Insurance Wing and the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP), where a presentation was made on the proposed amendments to the Insurance Ordinance, 2000, said a news release.

The reforms, prepared after extensive consultations with stakeholders, are set to be submitted to the Federal Cabinet for in-principle approval. The minister highlighted that Pakistan's insurance penetration remains very low compared to regional economies, and called for greater awareness, innovation, and regulatory modernization to expand outreach. "Insurance is not just a financial tool, it is a safety net for individuals and businesses. Pakistan must increase its coverage to support inclusive economic growth," he remarked.

The proposed Insurance Ordinance (Amendment) Bill introduces wide-ranging reforms across four major areas which includes opening of the insurance market to greater competition, including entry of foreign insurers and re-insurers, recognition of micro insurers and digital-only insurers, and allowing private participation in public sector risks.

The reforms also includes promoting ease of doing business, use of technology, and development of new products such as index-based insurance and disaster risk coverage while simplifying the primary law by shifting operational details to regulations, making the framework more flexible and principle-based.

## SECP escalates audit standoff into constitutional showdown

Regulatory autonomy under fire as SECP challenges AGP mandate

#### **55** Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has entered a volatile phase in its standoff with the Auditor General of Pakistan (AGP), shifting from a procedural rebuttal to a full-blown constitutional confrontation. The escalation has triggered warnings from legal experts and market observers alike, with many questioning whether the Chairman of SECP can withstand the institutional and reputational fallout. At the heart of the dispute lies a deepening constitutional crisis, raising serious concerns about the separation of powers and the legal boundaries of oversight in Pakistan's regulatory frame-

targeting SECP's financial decisions, including surplus funds. In its first formal response on and into constitutional territory. This time, the not been fully exhausted.



asserting that all actions were taken in accordits Policy Board. The Commission emphasised statutory framework.

It also criticised media coverage for lacking balance, suggesting that the narrative had Article 169 of the Constitution, which been skewed against the institution. SECP pointed to a July 2025 review by the Public Federation and of the Provinces." They warned Accounts Committee (PAC), which had already addressed similar concerns, implying that the AGP's observations were either redundant or for other regulatory bodies to evade oversight. resolved. However, the tone and trajectory shifted sharply just two days later.

The dispute began with audit observations executive pay revisions and the handling of rebuttal that moved beyond statutory defence suggesting that procedural engagement had

August 23, SECP rejected the AGP's findings, Commission directly challenged the AGP's jurisdiction, arguing that its self-funded status ance with the SECP Act, 1997 and approved by and Policy Board governance exempt it from federal audit scrutiny. The move signalled a its administrative and financial independence, strategic pivot, one that reframed the issue as framing the audit as a misinterpretation of its a test of regulatory autonomy rather than a matter of compliance.

Legal experts responded swiftly, citing empowers the AGP to audit "accounts of the that SECP's stance could erode national accountability standards and set a precedent While repeating claims of media bias, SECP acknowledged that a Departmental Accounts On August 25, SECP issued a second Committee (DAC) review was still pending,

#### Daily wagering

FAISALABAD: A younger boy is working at printing shop at District Courts to earn daily wages for the livelihood of his family in the hard days of life, where common people are suffering from extreme inflation.



## Fatima Fertilizer partners with King's Trust International

#### **Example 2** Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Fatima Fertilizer Company Limited (FFL) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with SEED Ventures in Islamabad, marking a new chapter in its commitment to empowering youth and supporting the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Fatima Fertilizer, as the first company in Pakistan to adopt the UNDP SDG Impact Framework, continues to strengthen its role as a leader in sustainable development and community empowerment.

The ceremony was graced by H. E. Jane Marriott, British High Commissioner to Pakistan, as Chief Guest. Senior leadership from Fatima Fertilizer was also present, including Rabel Sadozai, Director of Marketing & Sales, and Shaista Ayesha, Chief Executive Officer of SEED Ventures, along with other key stakeholders.

Speaking about the Enterprise Challenge Pakistan, Will Straw, CEO of King's Trust International, said, "King's Trust International is proud to support this partnership with Fatima Fertilizers and SEED Ventures for the Enterprise Challenge Pakistan.

Expressing her views, British High Commissioner Jane Marriott CMG, OBE, remarked, "Pakistan's youth have huge potential. The Enterprise Challenge Pakistan provides the perfect platform for



exciting new step for the competition, by giving even more young people the opportunity to participate.

Shaista Ayesha, Chief Executive Officer of SEED Ventures, said, "We are delighted to have Fatima Fertilizer onboard as a new partner for Enterprise Challenge Pakistan. This is indeed momentous because it lays the foundation for scaling the programme across rural Pakistan.

Rabel Sadozai, Director of Marketing and Sales at Fatima Fertilizer, added, "This initiative is about nurturing the in Pakistan's future.

unlocking this. This partnership marks an entrepreneurial spirit of our youth and equipping them with the skills needed to thrive in a rapidly evolving world. Through this partnership, we are reinforcing our commitment to inclusive growth and sustainable community development, while staying aligned with global efforts to achieve the SDGs."

> In a statement regarding the initiative, Asad Murad, Chief Operating Officer of Fatima Fertilizer, said, "At Fatima Fertilizer, we believe that investing in our vouth is the most meaningful investment

### Faysal Bank Reports H1 2025 Financial **Results Amidst Continued Business** Momentum

#### Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD,: Faysal Bank Limited (FBL), one of the leading Islamic Banks in the country, sustained its business momentum in the first half of 2025 and continued to gain market share in key segments while deepening relationships across both retail and corporate clients.

Total deposits increased to PKR 1.2 trillion—19% higher than December 2024—while current-account deposits crossed the half-trillion milestone at PKR 532 billion (up 30%), helping sustain core earnings amid declining rates.

The Bank also exhibited strong ratios, with Advance to Deposit (ADR) ratio mance, said, "Alhamdurecorded at 57.8%, playing a role in the country's growth. half year of 2025 under-CAR remained well above regulatory requirements at and stability of our Islamic

#### faysalbank (sh

improved, with the NPL ratio declining to 3.0% as compared to 3.6% as of As a result, Profit Before

Tax (PBT) recorded at PKR 21.9 billion, whereas Earnings Per Share stood at PKR 6.59 for six months. The Bank reaffirmed its

commitment to shareholder value by declaring an interim cash dividend of PKR 1.5 per share, reflecting a payout of Mr. Mian Muhammad

Younis, Chairman of the Board of Directors, Faysal Bank, reflecting on the Bank's half yearly perforlillah, the results of the score the enduring strength 15.6% and asset quality also banking foundation.

#### Nestlé Pakistan supports NDMA with 300,000 liters of clean drinking water for flood affected vulnerable communities

#### 🚝 Commerce Desk

LAHORE: Nestlé Pakistan has completed donations of 200,000 liters of clean drinking water, in the first phase to support vulnerable communities affected by the devastating floods in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Gilgit Baltistan, following National Disaster Management Authority's (NDMA) calls for flood relief efforts, and has pledged an additional 100,000 liters for districts in Punjab.

Acknowledging Nestlé's contribution Lt Gen Inam Haider Malik, Chairman NDMA, said, "I would like to thank Nestlé Pakistan for their immediate and urgent We are optimistic that with crisis."

a generous contribution from our long-term partners like Nestlé Pakistan, we will be able to provide relief to the flood victims in these pressing times.

Highlighting the efforts, Jason Avanceña, Chief Executive Officer Nestlé Pakistan said, "Access to clean drinking water is the biggest concern for communities displaced by flooding across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Gilgit Baltistan and Punjab and that's where we are focusing the bulk of our efforts, he said, adding, "together Nestlé is committed to be a force for good for flood-affected vulnerable communities and supports the efforts support in this hour of need. of NDMA in these times of

## Increasing Corporatization Through Strategic Partnerships and Enhanced Public Engagement

#### **Example 2** Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) continues to play a pivotal role in advancing Pakistan's corporate sector by streamlining business ly promoting corporatization as a ness incorporation. key driver of sustainable economic growth.

to formalization and inclusive organizations to prioritize engagedevelopment, the SECP has initi- ments with companies regisated strategic collaborations with the SECP. The initiavarious stakeholders. These include government ministries, regulatory benefits of corporatization, which authorities, the State Bank of Paki- include limited liability protection, economy.

tricity distribution companies, chambers of commerce, SMEDA, and digital banking platforms such as Easypaisa and JazzCash. Formal communications have been issued to these entities to foster a more registration processes and active- conducive environment for busi-

These collaborations aim to promote the growth of the formal In line with its commitment sector by encouraging partner tive also emphasizes the immense

stan (SBP), land authorities, elec- enhanced credibility, greater scalability, improved access to capital, perpetual succession, strengthened governance, tax efficiencies, simplified ownership transfer, and stronger brand protection.

Furthermore, companies operating under the SECP's purview benefit from regulatory oversight and statutory compliance, which enhances their credibility, reduces procurement-related risks, and ensures the enforceability of contractual obligations. This collective approach supports the development of a more transparent, traceable, and efficient documented



## The Spokesman

## Thurrock Council Councillor Qaisar Abbas Hosts Senior Pakistani Police Officer Sajjad Ahmad Bajwa SDPO Sambrial Circle, Sialkot

#### Chaudhry Tabraiz Aurah

LONDON: Cllr Qaisar Abbas, 49th Deputy Mayor of Thurrock and Vice Chairman of British-Pakistani Mayors UK, warmly welcomed senior Punjab Police officer Sajjad Ahmad Bajwa, SDPO Sambrial Circle, Sialkot, along with prominent local businessmen Mr. Khizar Hayat Chaudhary and Mr. Azhar Cheema, at a special reception held in Thurrock Town Hall.

Pakistan, while also acknowltions of local business leaders to the UK economy.

Addressing the gathering, Cllr Abbas said, "I am pleased sions were held on commuto welcome Mr. Bajwa to Thur- nity engagement, cross-cul-

rock. He is a highly experienced tural collaboration, and ways officer of the Punjab Police and has demonstrated exemplary dedication and outstanding performance in serving his community." He further appreciated Mr. Bajwa's commitment, noting that such leadership fosters stronger community relations both locally and internationally.

Cllr Abbas also highlighted the vital role of small businesses in the UK economy. 'Small businesses are the back-The Visit was organized to bone of the UK's economy, and strengthen cultural and profes- I sincerely appreciate the valusional ties between the UK and able contributions of our local businessmen, who continuously edging the significant contribu- support community development and economic growth," he said.

During the visit, discus-

to promote business and professional partnerships between the UK and Pakistan. The meeting emphasized the importance of mutual respect, cooperation, and shared initiatives for community development.

Mr. Bajwa expressed his gratitude for the warm reception and the opportunity to meet with both local authorities and business leaders, underscoring the importance of building strong international relationships and exchanging best practices in law enforcement and community service.

The Visit concluded with mutual commitments to maintain close ties, foster collaboration, and promote continued dialogue between the communities in Thurrock and Punjab,



## Engro Holdings Limited results for the half year ended June 2025

**Example 2** Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Engro Holdings Limited, previously Dawood Hercules Corporation Limited (PSX: ENGROH), announced its financial results for the half year ended June 30, 2025.

Overview of Financial Performance For the half year ended 30th June 2025, on a consolidated basis, the Company's consolidated Profit-After-Tax (PAT) stood at PKR 73,318 million (PAT attributable to shareholders: PKR 35,575 million) with an EPS of PKR 29.54 in 2025 vs PKR 8.09 in 2024. The increase primarily arises from reversal of previously recognized impairment during 2023 and 2024, linked to the thermal energy assets, which were previously classione-off impact, consolidated PAT stood at PKR 19,562 million (PAT attrib-



million).

On a standalone basis, the Company reported PAT of PKR 67 million against PKR 4,176 million in the same period last year, translating into an EPS fied as "held for sale". Excluding this of PKR 0.06 versus 8.68 in 2024. The decline is primarily due the transfer of income-generating investments to DH

ment that became effective on January 1, 2025, coupled with reduction in dividends from Engro Corp as it retains its earnings to fund the towers acquisition.

Major Accounting Adjustments This period was shaped by three major adjustments:

1. \*Creation of Engro Holdings: utable to shareholders: PKR 9,002 Partners under the Scheme of Arrange- Effective January 1, 2025, the Scheme

of Arrangement made Engro Corporation a wholly owned subsidiary of Engro Holdings. As a result, profit attributable to owners now reflects 100% of Engro Corporation's earnings compared with 39.97% in the same period last year. In addition, 723 million new shares were issued,

shares from 481 million to 1,204 30 are included in this half year. million. This expanded base impacts EPS comparisons.

2. \*Thermal Energy Assets: Earlier, Engro Energy had signed agreements to divest its thermal assets. When those agreements were terminated in April 2025, the assets were reclassified back into continuing operations under IFRS 5. This resulted in the reversal of previously recognized impairment and other related adjustments amounting to PKR 53,756 million (Owners' Share: PKR 26,573 million).

3. \*Acquisition of Deodar Towers: On June 3, 2025, the Group consolidated Deodar (~10,600 towers) into its financial statements following completion of the transaction with PMCL. The assets and liabilities have been recognized at provisional fair values of PKR 220,612 million and PKR 167,679 million respectively, and Deodar's

These adjustments, while fully in line with accounting standards, had a material impact on the reported results

and complicate year-on-year comparability. For shareholders, it is important to note that the reported EPS and PAT movements stem from structural changes and a one-off impairment reversal, rather than the underlying operating performance of the busi-

Distribution to Shareholders The Board has chosen not to

declare an interim dividend for 2025. The immediate priority is to fund the remaining requirements of the towers acquisition. This is one of the most important investments in Engro's history, with the potential to generate durable cashflows for years to come. Retaining earnings to support this investment is viewed as the best way to increasing the Company's outstanding results for the 28-day period to June build long-term value for shareholders.

### Sindh Prepares for High Flood: Contingency Plans Finalized

Qayoom Sarohi

KARACHI: Chief Secretary Sindh, Asif Hyder Shah, chaired an important meeting regarding the possible flood situation in the province. Senior officials from the Irrigation Department, Local Government, Health, Livestock, Public Health, and other essential service while all divisional commissioners and deputy commissioners attended the meeting via video link. The Irrigation Department briefed the meeting on the water flows in rivers and the emerging flood situation. The Chief Secretary said that in view of the ongoing rains and flood situation in Punjab, Sindh may face high-level floods therefore all preparations across the province must be completed on priority. He emphasized that the provincial administration is monitoring the flood situa-Commissioners have been directed to remain fully alert.

that Chief Minister Sindh, Syed control rooms, will be established at Murad Ali Shah, has also presided the Chief Secretary's Office, Commisover a meeting on flood preparedness, underlining the government's serious- sioner Offices to continuously monitor ness and commitment to ensuring the the flood situation and facilitate public safety of the people. The Chief Secretary complaints. Furthermore, all leaves



sive contingency plans, giving priority to the safety of people and livestock. He also directed that details of all governtion round the clock and that all Deputy ment and private machinery / resources should be maintained so they can be utilized immediately when required. The Chief Secretary further stated 
It was decided in the meeting that sioner Offices, and Deputy Commisinstructed all Commissioners, Deputy of essential service departments,

Commissioners to prepare comprehen- including Irrigation, Local Government, Health, Police, Public Health, live stock and Deputy Commissioner Offices, have been cancelled.

The Chief Secretary also instructed Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners to regularly brief the media so that the public is well-informed about government preparedness and ongoing relief measures. Chief Secretary Sindh, Asif Hyder Shah, stressed that a well-coordinated and systematic strategy is essential to protect the lives and property of citizens as well as livestock in the wake of possible situation. ness, climate innovations and circular

#### **Standard Chartered Pakistan Women in Tech Accelerator Welcomes 2025 Cohort**



**Commerce Desk** 

KARACHI: Standard Chartered Pakistan's Women in Tech Accelerator Programme funded by Standard Chartered Foundation has announced this year's finalists. The programme run in collaboration with Village Capital and INNOVentures Global has selected 10 exceptional startups out of a cohort of 30 who underwent a five-day business acceleration bootcamp

These ventures span diverse sectors including women empowerment, mental health, edtech, health and wellfashion. Each startup will receive funding of PKR 1 million to validate their scaling plan.

Over the next eight weeks each founder will work intensively to validate, strengthen, and scale her business idea through tailored mentorship, structured programming, and strategic support. With access to the validation grant, these startups will refine their models, test market assumptions, and position themselves for growth. Through a mindful and accountable use of funds beacon of what is possible when women they will demonstrate their ability to

scale as well as good financial practices. Raeda Latif, Head-Corporate Affairs

Brand & Marketing, Standard Chartered Pakistan commented, "The Women in Tech Accelerator Programme is multifaceted, supporting women entrepreneurs not just with funding but with mentorship, structured guidance, and the tools that they need to scale their businesses with confidence. Together, we are creating an ecosystem where women-led ventures can drive meaningful economic impact across Pakistan. The programme continues to stand as a entrepreneurs are given not just a platform but the capital, confidence, and

### PTCL Group Continues to Achieve Double Digit Growth

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Telecommunication Company Limited (PTCL), the country's leading telecom and ICT services provider, has announced financial results for the half year ended June 30, 2025 (HY), at held in Islamabad. PTCL Group maintaining its position as Pakistan's premier integrated telecom services provider.

Group revenue increased by 16% on YoY basis, driven by strong growth in fixed broadband, mobile data, enterprise, and carrier wholesale services.

PTCL revenue grew by 12% YoY, led by 62% growth in Flash Fiber and 15% growth in Business Solutions compared to the 0.7 billion in HY 2024.

same period last year. Carrier and Wholesale busi-

ness maintained its momentum with 18% growth. The international segment also recorded a YoY revenue increase of 10%.

PTCL's operating profit reached Rs. 7.9 billion, up 38% over HY 2024 and posted a net a Board of Directors meeting loss of Rs. 3.3 billion primarily due to one-off adjustment of recorded 16% revenue growth, additional pension liability as ordered by the Honorable Supreme Court of Pakistan.

Ufone 4G posted YoY topline growth of 17%, demonstrating resilience across commercial and operational areas.

Sustained topline growth, together with ongoing cost optimization initiatives, enabled Ufone to deliver a strong EBIT of Rs. 7.6 billion compared to Rs.

recorded 25% YoY revenue

PTCL's flagship fiber broadband service, Flash Fiber, remained a key driver of revenue growth. Building on strong momentum from last year, PTCL continued expanding its FTTH footprint to deliver highspeed, reliable internet across the country. The growing subscriber base and strong uptake significantly contributed to topline growth in HY 2025.

PTCL's business services segment maintained its leadership position across IP bandwidth, Cloud, Data Center, and ICT solutions, further strengthening Pakistan's position as a

regional connectivity hub. During HY 2025, PTCL sealed a landmark Trans-Pa-

U Microfinance Bank (Ubank) kistan connectivity agreement with leading Chinese operators, strengthening east-west digital trade routes. In addition, PTCL also achieved a major milestone by executing wet segment capacity sales from Singapore to Marseille through submarine cable partnerships, underscoring Pakistan's growing role in global digital infrastructure.

The Enterprise business expanded into new verticals such as FinTech, securing significant wins. Trakker and IoT solutions gained momentum, while major M2M deals were closed with government customers.

PTCL experienced strong growth in IP bandwidth and managed capacity penetration within the Wholesale segment, digital services such as Content



Delivery Networks. Strategic and satellite-based connectivity mark alliance with a leading boosting adoption of emerging partnerships were formed with across Pakistan, particularly in satellite provider to expand major CMOs for IP bandwidth AJK and GB, including a land-broadband access nationwide.

## The Spokesman

## **CCoSCEs** Meeting ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, chairing a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on State-Owned Enterprises (CCoSOEs) at the Finance Division on Thursday.

## **Economy enters** FY2026 on a high note, says **Finance Ministry**

Improved fiscal metrics, stable inflation, and rising exports set a positive tone

**Example 2** Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The national economy has entered fiscal momentum, building on last optimistic tone for the period er external and fiscal position, are likely to reinforce busi- cent in August 2025. according to a report released ness confidence. by the Finance Ministry on A favourable gl Thursday.

"Pakistan's

ahead," says the monthly pressures from tariff rationalupdate and outlook for August 2025.

along with reforms to support easing inflation, and accom-

ising tone for the months will help contain trade deficit with prudent economic cators prompted interna-

ization-driven imports.

However, flood-related Government measures damages may add fiscal year 2025-26 with positive for investment facilitation, pressures and disrupt food a narrower current account supplies in affected areas, the year's gains and setting an private sector-led growth, report says, adding that inflation is projected to remain the Federal Board of Revenue ahead, supported by a strong- modative monetary policy, within the range of 4-5 per

According to the report, the Consumer Price Index ronment, stronger demand (CPI) inflation remained dation at the beginning of month (MoM), it declined by economy from trading partners, and moderate, suggesting that FY2026, the report said, started FY2026 with posi- the recent trade deal of inflationary expectations adding that the stability tive developments from the Pakistan with the US are were well-anchored through achieved in FY2025 and declined by 0.74 per cent sustained improvements in expected to boost exports, a mix of administrative meas- sustained improvement FY2025 and setting a prom- while workers' remittances ures and policy reforms along in macroeconomic indi- to a marginal growth of 0.78

management.

Likewise, in July FY2026, the external sector showed a favourable performance, with deficit and a stable exchange rate, while tax collection by

tional credit rating agencies to upgrade Pakistan's sovereign outlook, reaffirming confidence in the economic direction and reinforcing the credibility of ongoing reform

The Large-Scale Manufac-(FBR) recorded a significant turing (LSM) sector registered a year-on-year (YoY) These trends highlight a increase of 4.1 per cent in stable macroeconomic foun- June 2025, while month-on-

Cumulatively, LSM output during FY2025, compared per cent last year.

with local residents to listen

to their concerns and evaluate

the support needed to mitigate

He reviewed precautionary

and administrative measures

currently in place along the

river, emphasizing that citizen

safety and property protection

remain the government's top

Dr. Malik assured that all

available resources would be

deployed to address flood-re-

lated threats, pledging timely

and effective responses to any

## Erdogan calls **Shehbaz:** Turkiye offers full support to Pakistan in flood situation



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday received a telephone call from President Recep Tayyip Erdogan of Turkiye, who expressed condolences and solidarity with Pakistan over the devastation caused by recent floods across various parts of the country.

President Erdogan conveyed his heartfelt sympathies on the loss of precious lives and property, assuring and expressed the hope of meeting that Türkiye stood ready to extend again soon on the sidelines of the all possible assistance, including upcoming SCO Summit in Tianjin, support in rescue and relief oper-

Thanking the Turkish President for his thoughtful sentiments and generous offer of help, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said the call reflected the strong and timetested brotherly ties between Pakistan and Türkiye. He noted that both nations had always stood by each other during challenging times.

The two leaders also recalled their recent interactions earlier this year

### DPM Dar, German FM resolve to strengthen bilateral cooperation

跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Ishaq Dar received a call from German Foreign Minister Dr Johann Wadephul on Wednesday

During the discussion, the two leaders affirmed their resolve to further strengthen mutually bene-

ficial bilateral cooperation.



tance of high-level contacts, they also Besides underscoring the imporexchanged views on regional issues.

## Pakistan, UK mull enhancing anti-terror cooperation

ISLAMABAD: British High Commissioner Jane Marriott met Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi in Islamabad on Thursday and discussed a variety of issues with him. During the meeting, discussions were focused on enhancing Pak-UK relations and bilateral cooperation in various fields.

Discussions were also held on enhancing cooperation in counter-terrorism, counter-narcotics, border security and human trafficking.

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on to promote bilateral cooperation with

expressed best wishes for him.

The British High Commissioner expressed grief over the loss of precious lives due to floods and rains in Pakistan and voiced heartfelt sympathy and condolences to the families of the deceased.

Talking on the occasion, Mohsin Naqvi said that Pakistan has always been a proponent of peace, while strongly condemning all forms of terrorism.

He said Britain is an important partner of Pakistan in its journey of Jane Marriott congratulated development. He said Pakistan want receiving the Nishan-e-Imtiaz and Britain in all areas of mutual interest.

#### Farhan Ghani's remand extended in assault case

跨 Abdul Ghafoor Sarohi

in Karachi on Thursday extended the physical remand of Chanesar Town chairman Farhan Ghani by three days in a case related to violence and issuing threats to a government employ-

accused were presented before KARACHI: An anti-terrorism court the court by the police. The court expressed dissatisfaction over the lack of progress in the investigation into the case.

Farhan Ghani and the other

The court ordered that the accused be presented before it on August 30 and asked the police to submit a progress report on the

> investigation at the next hearing. According to the police, the case against

the accused has been registered under the Anti-Terrorism Act.

It is worth noting that Farhan Ghani, the brother of PPP Minister Saeed Ghani, had surrendered in a case involving the assault of a government employee.

Minister Musadik Malik reviews flood preparedness along River Chenab

跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Dr. Musadik Malik, visited the River Chenab on Thursday to assess flood preparedness measures and meet with rescue personnel and local communities.

The visit comes amid ongoing concerns over rising river levels and the potential risk to nearby populations.

During his inspection, Dr. Malik praised the dedication of rescue teams stationed along the riverbanks, highlighting their tireless efforts in safeguarding lives.

"It is through the hard work institutions that precious acknowledging their commit-



and sacrifices of our rescue lives can be protected," he said, ment to public service.

The Minister also engaged

The Government of Pakistan is committed to ensuring that our communities are safe and well-prepared for any potential disaster," he said.

emergencies.

## Tanveer reaffirms govt commitment to food self-sufficiency, farmers protection

跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister for National Food Security and Research Rana Tanveer Hussain on Thursday reaffirmed the government's commitment to ensure food self-sufficiency by protecting farmers interest and stabilizing the wheat market.

Chairing the 8th Wheat Board country's demand and supply position of wheat as well as the availability of critical inputs for the upcoming Rabi season 2025–26, said a news release.



meeting, the minister reviewed the tons (MMT) against a requirement of 33.58 MMT, leaving a marginal shortfall of only 0.11 MMT.

"This gap is insignificant and assured that there is no alarming situation He noted that the national availability regarding wheat stocks in the country", of wheat stands at 33.47 million metric Tanveer emphasized.

He made it clear that, under the present circumstances, Pakistan will not import wheat, as existing reserves are adequate to meet national requirements.

"The government's foremost priority is to protect and benefit local farmers rather than markets or middlemen", he unnecessarily.

The minister reiterated that abundant supplies of urea and other inputs are available for the upcoming season, ensuring that the sowing of Rabi crops will not face constraints. He also reassured that despite rising

fertilizer prices in the international market, the government is strictly monitoring and controlling domestic fertilizer prices to keep the cost of production within farmers' reach.

He cautioned that any strict or abrupt regulatory actions at the provincial level, particularly in Punjab, could create panic in the market and worsen the situation

Published by: Almass Ayoub Sabir from Zero Point Printers Rawalpindi