



# Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول  
ہم سے اسما میں نے بیان کیا کہ مجھ سے  
اس مالک نے بیان کیا کہ ان سے ابو ابراہیم نے  
ان سے اعرین نے اور ان سے ابو ہریرہ نے  
اللہ عز و جل نے نبی کریم صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم سے  
فرمایا ہے تم میں سے کوئی شخص کسی ایسے آدمی  
کو دیکھے جو مال اور شغل و صورت میں اس سے  
بڑھ کر ہے تو اسے ایسے شخص کا وصیان کرنا  
چاہئے جو اس سے کم درجہ کا ہے۔  
(صحیح بخاری: حدیث نمبر 6490)  
**Barkat Rice Mills  
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## President signs Legal Practitioners & Bar Councils Amend Bill into law

President Asif Ali Zardari has approved 'The Legal Practitioners and Bar Councils Amendment Bill-2025'. The Federal Law Ministry issued a notification in this regard on Friday. The National Assembly had passed the above-mentioned legislation on August 13 last.



## PM Shehbaz to leave for China visit today

At the invitation of President of the People's Republic of China Xi Jinping, Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif will be visiting China from 30 August – 4 September 2025 to attend the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Council of Heads of State Summit being held in Tianjin.

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## Meeting

Field Marshal Asim Munir is meeting leaders of Sikh community.



# Field Marshal Asim Munir vows to restore all flood-damaged religious sites in Punjab

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), HJ, Chief of Army Staff, on Friday, visited flood-affected areas of Punjab, including Sialkot sector, Shakargarh, Narowal, and Kartarpur, where he announced that all religious sites damaged by recent floods, most notably Gurdwara Darbar Sahib Kartarpur, will be restored to their original state on a priority basis.

According to the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the Field Marshal reviewed the flood situation, ongoing rescue and relief operations, and future preparedness measures in view of more expected rains.

He was briefed on coordinated efforts by civil administration and military troops, which he praised as "tireless and commendable" in protecting lives and property.

During the visit, Field

Marshal Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), HJ, Chief of Army Staff, met members of the Sikh community affected by the floods.

He assured them that the state would fully uphold its responsibility to protect minorities and their sacred sites.

"The rights of minorities are safeguarded by the state and its institutions, and every effort will be made to preserve their holy places," he affirmed.

The Sikh community warmly welcomed the army chief and expressed gratitude to both the civil administration and the Pakistan Army for their support in this difficult time.

Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), HJ, Chief of Army Staff, also conducted an aerial survey of Gurdwara Darbar Sahib Kartarpur to directly assess flood damage.

Later, he met representatives of the civil administration and

lauded their timely response, which helped minimise loss of life and property.

Addressing troops, he commended their high morale, operational readiness, and dedication to public service, emphasising that "the nation will always find its Army standing firmly by its side in testing times."

Field Marshal Munir was received by the Corps Commander Gujranwala upon his arrival in the flood-hit region.

## Musadik Malik calls trees "nature's factory against disaster"

Bureau Report

KARACHI: Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Dr. Musadik Malik, on Friday launched the Monsoon Tree Planting Campaign 2025 titled "Planting a Green Future" organ-

ized by the Sindh Forest Department.

The minister, accompanied by officials of the department and other participants, planted a sapling before his address, praying for the protection of the people and the growth of young tree into a strong shield for the

future.

Talking to the media on the occasion, Dr. Musadik Malik warned that devastating floods sweeping across the country had already entered Punjab and were now moving towards Southern Punjab and Sindh. "As the water progresses, its intensity will



only grow. I appeal through the media, please move out of the flood's path before it is too late," he urged.

He paid tribute to civil administration, rescue agencies, armed forces, and others working round

the clock in flood-affected areas, and said Sindh's leadership had already mobilized across districts. "This is a natural disaster. It cannot be stopped, but lives can be saved if people step aside from its course," he stressed.

## More army troops put on alert to tackle worsening flood situation

Naveed Aqmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: The Pak Army has placed additional troops on 12-hour notice to tackle the worsening flood situation in Punjab's rivers. Across Punjab, the army has already deployed six rescue teams along the Sutlej and Ravi rivers, with operations ongoing at Head Sulemanki and Atari,

where flood victims are being relocated.

In Sahiwal and Head Sulemanki, rescue preparations have been finalised, while along the Ravi River, three army teams equipped with boats and rescue gear have been stationed at Jandraka.

In Okara, army units, in coordination with the civil adminis-



tration, have rescued 423 people trapped in floodwaters and shifted them to safer locations.

The Okara district admin-

istration has also set up relief camps in Jandraka, Mubalke, and Bangla Gogera.

In Sargodha, army personnel using boats have evacuated women and children from flood-hit areas, while in Kot Momin, around 1,500 people have already been shifted to safe zones.

In Kasur district, over 18,000

residents, along with livestock, have been evacuated.

The Army, in collaboration with the civil administration in Kasur, has set up 21 rescue and relief camps, ensuring food, shelter, and emergency medical care.

Rescue efforts are also ongoing in Mandi Ahmadabad, Ganda Singh Wala, and Okara.

## Joint strategy being evolved to tackle climate change, build water reservoirs: PM



Bureau Report

LAHORE: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Friday said that a comprehensive strategy is being prepared for the construction of water reservoirs and improved water management in all four provinces, Azad Jammu & Kashmir, and Gilgit-Baltistan.

He stated that water reservoirs would be built through consultation and complete coordination with the provinces. "Climate change is a reality, and only through effective preparedness can the damages of natural disasters be minimized," he stressed.

He further underlined that all provinces, Azad Kashmir, Gilgit-Baltistan, and the Federation must work together to safeguard people from the

adverse impacts of climate change, terming it a national issue that requires collective effort.

According to the prime minister's office, work is already underway on his directives to formulate an effective policy for timely response to the impacts of climate change and the monsoon. The working paper of this policy will be shared with all provincial governments to devise a joint course of action.

The statement added that once the emergency situation subsides, the prime minister will convene a high-level meeting with the Chief Ministers of all four provinces, along with the heads of relevant institutions. The prime minister of AJ&K and the chief minister of Gilgit-Baltistan will also be invited to the session.

## Iran offers assistance to Pakistan as President Pezeshkian condoles flood losses

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Friday received a telephone call from President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Dr Masoud Pezeshkian, who conveyed his condolences and solidarity with the people of Pakistan over the devastation caused by ongoing floods in various parts of the country.

Expressing sympathy with the bereaved families who have lost loved ones and property in the calamity, President Pezeshkian assured that Iran stood by Pakistan in this difficult time and offered any assistance his country could extend to the flood-affected population.

The prime minister thanked President Pezeshkian for his thoughtful gesture and



Iran's expression of support, terming it a reflection of the deep fraternal ties between the two nations. He also requested that his warm regards and good wishes be conveyed to the Supreme Leader Ayatullah Ali Khamenei.

Both leaders reaffirmed their commitment to further strengthening bilateral relations and expressed keen anticipation of their interaction at the upcoming SCO Summit in Tianjin, China.

## Aafia Siddiqui case transferred to Justice Inam Amin Minhas

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The cases under hearing by Justice Sardar Ejaz Ishaq Khan of the Islamabad High Court (IHC) have been reassigned to other benches following his issuance of contempt notices to Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz Sharif and his federal cabinet.

According to the details among the high-profile matters affected, the Aafia Siddiqui case has been transferred from Justice Sardar Ejaz Ishaq Khan's court to

Justice Inam Amin Minhas.

According to the new duty roster approved by Chief Justice Sarfraz Dogar, the single-member benches of both Justice Ejaz Ishaq Khan and Justice Babar Sattar have been dissolved.

As per the new duty roster, the two judges will instead sit on a special division bench for tax-related cases.

The updated schedule confirms that from next week, the IHC will operate with nine single-member benches and five division benches.



# PM AJK Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq has hailed the overseas Kashmiris



### Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq has hailed the overseas Kashmiris’ services to highlight the Kashmir issue, terming them as real ambassadors. He said this while talking to a delegation that called on him here today. Led by Presidential Advisor Chaudhry Haq Nawaz of Gorkha, the delegation was comprised of Raja Amjad

Latif, Raja Fahir Advocate, Chaudhry Zulfiqar Ali, Chaudhry Tauseef Rauf Advocate, Chaudhry Altaf Hussain, Chaudhry Muhammad Yasin, Nasir Butt and others. Speaking on the occasion, PM Haq said that strengthening the ongoing freedom movement and highlighting the Kashmir cause at international level remains his government’s top priority. In this regard, the PM noted that a parliamentary Kashmir committee

under the chairmanship of Legislative Assembly Speaker Chaudhry Latif Akbar has been formed. “The committee will not only hold all-party conferences in the provincial headquarters of Pakistan but will also undertake foreign visits to apprise the world about the sensitivity of the Kashmir issue,” he said. The PM said, “In order to evolve broader consensus, consultations were held with all stakeholders including

the leadership of Hurriyat Conference.” He said that overseas Kashmiris should become the voice of the oppressed people of occupied Kashmir. He said that it was high time to forge unity and consensus on the issue of Kashmir to utilize all energies to resolve the Kashmir issue. The visiting delegation appreciated the good governance initiatives of Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq.

## AJK Minister Pir Mazhar Saeed Shah visited the Pakistani High Commission in Dhaka



### Spokesman Report

DHAKA: The Minister of Information of the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Government, Pir Muhammad Mazhar Saeed Shah, visited the Pakistani High Commission in Dhaka, the capital of Bangladesh. The Minister of Information called on Pakistani High Commissioner Imran Haider. Matters of mutual interest were discussed in the meeting. The Minister of Information congratulated Imran Haider on assuming the responsibility as the High Commissioner and presented him with a Kashmiri shawl. Imran Haider has recently assumed his duties at the Pakistani Embassy in Dhaka. On this occasion, the Pakistani High Commissioner welcomed the Minister of Information Pir Muhammad Mazhar Saeed Shah on his arrival at the High Commission and appreciated his services in the field of education, society and unity of the Ummah. Consul Jamil Khan and Mr Kamran Sahib were also present in the meeting among other officers of the embassy.

## DC Attock presiding over a meeting of the DCC

### Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: Deputy Commissioner Attock Rao Atif Raza has said that there will be no permission to install gas cylinders in commercial and educational transport vehicles carrying students, and strict action will be taken against such transport. He expressed these views while presiding over a meeting of the District Coordination Committee. Additional Deputy Commissioner General Anil Saeed, Additional Deputy Commissioner Finance & Planning Nosheen Israr, Secretary RTA Sardar Zaheer Ahmed Khan, officers of law enforcement agencies, and other concerned officials were also present. During the review of departmental performance, the meeting was informed that: From July 1 to July 31, 16,631 challans were issued by the traffic police. 18 illegal petrol pumps were sealed, and fines amounting to Rs. 148,000 were imposed. In action against illegal sale of gas cylinders, 45 shops were sealed, and fines of Rs. 210,000 were imposed. To curb the smuggling of Iranian petrol, 10 shops were sealed, and fines of Rs. 70,000 were imposed. Under the anti-encroachment campaign, 620 operations were carried out, and fines of Rs. 140,000 were imposed. During the anti-electricity theft campaign, 59 illegal connections were detected, 46 people were arrested, and fines of more than Rs. 3 million were imposed.

## AC Iqra Nasir visits flood relief camps and dyke on Ravi

### Zafar Chishti

TOBA TEK SINGH: Assistant Commissioner Kamalia Iqra Nasir visited the flood relief camps and dyke on the Ravi river. On this occasion, the Assistant Commissioner gave a detailed briefing to the media persons about the facilities and arrangements provided in the relief camps. Officers of Rescue 1122, Health Department, Livestock Department and other related departments were also present on the spot and informed about their services and preparations. Assistant Commissioner Iqra Nasir expressed satisfaction over the overall arrangements and directed all departments to make relief activities more effective and faster so that maximum facilities can be provided to the affected people. Residents of the affected areas have been directed to take precautionary measures and to shift to safer places. The Assistant Commissioner appealed to the public to avoid going near the river and immediately report any unusual situation to the local administration. She said they are on alert at all times to deal with any untoward incident and are keeping all their preparations complete.



## Unexpected situation

LAHORE: Volunteers of Government Organizations and Civil Defense are high alert to counter any unexpected situation after the increasing level of water in Ravi River after the massive rain and the Indian side water crossing into Pakistan after which hundreds of acres land in adjoining areas hit by medium level flood.



Photo: Online

# AJK govt to offer 7000 jobs in education department: Minister Zafar Iqbal

### Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: Minister for Higher Education Azad Kashmir, Zafar Iqbal Malik, has said that the government will make 7,000 jobs operational in the education department soon. He was addressing the ceremony related to the laying of the foundation stone of the Additional Admin Block of the Girls’ Hostel of Government Fatima Jinnah Post Graduate College for Women in Muzaffarabad. While talking at the gathering, the minister said that currently, more than 7,000 journal and non-journal posts are vacant in both the departments of colleges and schools. “Test interviews are being held for half of the vacancies in colleges, and most of the needs of the staff of the colleges will be met soon,” he stated.



In addition to that, the Minister appreciated the Supreme Court for issuing directions, which will enable the government to meet the needs of the staff of educational institutions across the state. Malik further announced that the

government will provide a comprehensive education package to meet the needs of all educational institutions in Azad Kashmir without any discrimination. The package is expected to be implemented by the middle of next month,

he stated. He maintained that the construction of the administrative block of the Girls Postgraduate College, Muzaffarabad, will be completed within five months. Minister Zafar Iqbal Malik said that our government, under the leadership of Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwarul Haq, has so far fulfilled the needs of staff and other equipment of educational institutions, especially inter and degree colleges. “Test interviews are being held for half of the vacancies in colleges, and most of the staff needs will be met soon.” While praising the performance and good results of the college, he also assured them of providing other necessary facilities and assured them of implementing the suggestions of the principal.

# BAJK, SIC sign MoU to launch ‘interest-free loan’ program in Azad Kashmir

### Bureau Report

ISLAMABAD: The Azad Kashmir government has announced that interest-free loans, worth one billion rupees, will be provided to empower the youth of AJK. In this regard, Bank of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (BAJK) and Azad Kashmir Small Industries Corporation (SIC) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Under the Prime Minister Youth Loan Program, the interest-free loans ranging from Rs 0.5 million to Rs

2 million will be given to the youth to promote entrepreneurship and economic self-sufficiency among the youth. The statement from the AJK govt’s press department further said that 48% quota has been allocated for women, and loans are also being provided to transgender people for employment. It further added that loans up to Rs500,000 will be available only with five guarantors. The scheme aims to create new employment opportunities, reduce poverty, and promote economic activ-

ities in the private sector. Under this scheme, both institutions, the Bank of AJK and the Small Industries Corporation, will assist the youth in establishing and promoting small businesses in all ten districts of Azad Kashmir. Speaking on the occasion, the government ministers said that this initiative is a significant step towards making the dreams of the youth a reality. “The government wants to empower the youth so that they can create employment opportunities at their own level.”

The bank president said that the entire team of the bank is committed to making this scheme a success. We will provide not only financial but also technical support to the young entrepreneurs. This scheme is seeing a new ray of light in the future for thousands of youth of Azad Kashmir. AKSIC Secretary Industries said that “This step is a significant step towards making the dreams of the youth a reality.” The president of BAJK, Shahid Shahzad Mir, said that the entire team of the bank is committed to making this



scheme a success. “We will provide not only financial but also technical support to the young entrepreneurs.”

This scheme is seeing a new ray of light in the future for thousands of youth of Azad Kashmir, he said.





Islamabad  
30° – 38° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr .....4:12 am  
Zohr .....12:09 pm  
Asr .....4:46 pm  
Maghrib .....6:37 pm  
Isha .....8:04 pm

EMERGENCY

Rescue (Police) ..... 15  
Bomb Disposal ..... 15  
Fire Services Rawalpindi/  
Islamabad .....1122 & 16  
Emergency Ambulance ..... 1122 &  
& Rescue Services ..... 4451122  
Motorway Police ..... 9266044  
Motorway Police ..... 9270601-20

Women Police Stations

Islamabad ..... 9222596  
Rawalpindi ..... 9270601-20

ENQUIRY

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

HOSPITALS

CMH .....561111  
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 Metropolitan  
Corporation ..... 9209224  
Potohar Town.....9209224  
Rawal Town ..... 5773343

COMPLAINTS

Water Tanker Service  
E-7, F-10 & F-11 ..... 9204654  
G-5, G-6, G-7, G-8 ..... 9203883

**Zara Noor  
Abbas  
Siddiqui and  
Zahid Ahmad  
Lead Alpha  
Productions**

City Desk

KARACHI: Alpha Productions, founded by renowned actor Asad Siddiqui, proudly announces its first drama serial, Dil Dhoondta Hai Phir Wohi.

The drama features celebrated actors Zara Noor Abbas Siddiqui and Zahid Ahmad in the lead roles. Known for their exceptional talent and dynamic screen presence, the duo is set to deliver a compelling and memorable performance.

Directed by acclaimed filmmaker Adnan Sarwar (Shah, Motorcycle Girl, Ek Thi Nigar) and written by the brilliant Rida Bilal (Jaane-e-Jahan), the project brings together a creative team committed to delivering emotionally resonant and thought-provoking storytelling.

With its powerful performances, captivating narrative, and high production values, Dil Dhoondta Hai Phir Wohi marks a strong and promising debut for Alpha Productions—an exciting new entrant in the Pakistani drama industry.

Further details about the release will be shared soon.



Zain Khan Malghani

MULTAN: The country's renowned industrialist, Ch. Zulfiqar Ali Anjum,

Chairman Senate Meet with HC Sri Lanka

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate, Syed Yusuf Raza Gillam in a meeting with the Rear Admiral (Retd.) Fred Senevirathne, High Commissioner of Sri Lanka to Pakistan at his residence on Friday.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Arts Council Karachi Hosts Book Launch of Shah Waliullah Junedi's Book 'Karachi ke Ghair Muslim Cricketers'

News Desk

KARACHI: Arts Council of Pakistan Karachi's special Events Committee organized the Book launch ceremony of senior journalist and researcher Shah Waliullah Junedi, "Karachi ke Ghair Muslim Cricketers" at the Haseena Moin Hall.

The event was presided over by former Director of the Quaid-e-Azam Academy, Khawaja Razi Haider. Among the notable speakers were renowned international cricket commentator Qamar Ahmed, former Pakistan cricket team captain and manager Moin Khan, senior



journalist and analyst Mazhar Abbas, Abdul Rasheed, Iqbal Rehman Mandvia, Farsheed Rohani, sports columnist Sohail Danish, and the author himself,

Shah Waliullah Junedi. The event was hosted by Chairman Special Events Committee, Muhammad Iqbal Latif, and Shakeel Khan.

In his presidential address, Khawaja Razi Haider highlighted that a British author writing on Quaid-e-Azam's biography mentioned his interest in cricket. He added that prominent historical figures such as Maulana Muhammad Ali Jauhar and Shaukati Ali were also fond of the game. "Quaid-e-Azam had promised protection for non-Muslim minorities in Pakistan, and that commitment was fulfilled," he stated. He congratulated Shah Waliullah Junedi on authoring such a significant book and expressed hope that his intellectual journey would continue.

Eid Milad-un-Nabi

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), A beacon of mercy for all creations: Ch. Zulfiqar

Chairman SM Group of Industries, Member of the National Export Development Board, and Member of the Board of Investment said that the blessed arrival of the Holy Prophet ﷺ was not merely an event but the very reason for the creation of the universe and the fountain of mercy. His ﷺ birth did not only enlighten the land of Arabia but granted guidance, peace, and tranquility to all humanity. For us, it is essential that we make the noble example of the Holy Prophet ﷺ our guiding light in both world and deed.

Eid Milad-un-Nabi ﷺ, in reality, teaches us that the essence of Islam is not

confined to rituals of worship alone, but its true purpose is the service of humanity and the establishment of peace upon the earth.

The Holy Prophet ﷺ said "The best among you is the one who is most beneficial to others."

If today we shape our lives according to the teachings of the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, our society can not only become a cradle of peace and harmony but Pakistan itself can transform into a true Islamic welfare state. In this spirit, the Parliament of Pakistan has also taken a historic decision.

On 15 August 2025, under the chairmanship of Senate Chairman Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani, the Upper House unanimously passed a resolution to celebrate the 1500th year of Eid Milad-un-Nabi ﷺ with official grandeur. This resolution was tabled by Senator Irfan-ul-Haq Siddiqui, who proposed that on this occasion the federal and provincial governments should organize high-level national ceremonies, illuminate government and non-government buildings as well as highways, and ensure the commemoration of this historic occasion is fully highlighted through the media.

Long-term planning essential to tackle natural disasters: Sadat Shah

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: President of Tourism for Interfaith Peace & Development and President of Lake Shore Club, Syed Sadat Hussain Shah, has expressed deep concern and sorrow over the loss of lives and property caused by the recent floods in Punjab, while extending solidarity with the affected families.

He emphasized that long-term planning is essential to effectively deal with natural disasters; otherwise, the economy and business activities will continue to suffer repeatedly. He urged the government to announce a special relief package for the rehabilitation of the affected families, ensure the restoration of infrastructure, and include the construction of dams, drainage systems, and protective measures in the national agenda to prevent such tragedies in the future.



Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) came as a beacon of guidance for worlds: Sheikh Abdul Waheed

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: President of the Traders Association Liaquat Road and political & social leader, Sheikh Abdul Waheed, said that the Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) came as a guiding light for all of creation. "We would gladly sacrifice our lives for him," he added. "His teachings are a beacon of guidance not only for Muslims but for all of humanity."

Expressing his thoughts on the occasion of 12th Rabi al-Awwal, he said that Rabi al-Awwal is observed with deep devotion and respect in Pakistan and across the Muslim world. "On this blessed day, the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) was born, and the world was illuminated with his presence."

Sheikh Abdul Waheed further stated that on the 12th of Rabi al-Awwal, the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) was sent as a mercy to all mankind. He also highlighted that the Prophet's migration (Hijrah) from Makkah to Madinah took place during the same month. This historical event marked the beginning of the Islamic calendar and the transformation of Yasrab into Madinah.



Second hearing of a writ petition summer vacations held

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: The second hearing of a writ petition filed by student Daniyal Hassan's lawyer, Hafiz Waqar Ahmad Awan, against the Punjab Education Department's decision to extend summer vacations was held on August 27 in the court of Justice Jawad Hassan. Written responses were requested from the Secretary of Education Punjab, the All Pakistan Private Schools Management Association, the Punjab Education Council, the CEO Education Rawalpindi, and other involved parties.

Muhammad Asif Iqbal, Senior Law Officer of the School Education Department, Lahore, and Abrar Ahmed Khan, representative of the All Pakistan Private Schools Management Association (APSAMA), submitted their responses.

Petitioner's counsel, Hafiz Waqar Ahmad Awan, rejected the notifications issued by Respondent No. 2 / Secretary, School Education Department, Government of Punjab, Lahore, dated August 7 and 8, for the extension of summer vacations, arguing that they were issued without citing any relevant law, regulation, or policy clause.

Abrar Ahmed Khan, President of the APSAMA Northern Punjab, stated that the Punjab School Education Department never provided an academic calendar. Therefore, private schools prepare their own academic calendars based on their curriculum. Generally, schools plan for 220 academic days, excluding summer, winter, spring, and gazetted holidays.

Representatives of the Punjab Education Council, Misbah-un-Nabi and Kashir Rasheed, stated that although the Prime Minister of Pakistan has declared an "educational emergency", unscheduled holidays are preventing schools from achieving positive educational outcomes.

University of Agriculture held a workshop on National Plant Health Networking

Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: Under the direction of Vice Chancellor of the University of Agriculture Faisalabad, Professor Dr. Zulfiqar Ali, a workshop titled "National Plant Health Networking: Building a Strong Future" was organized under the auspices of the University's Center for Advanced Studies in Agriculture and Food Security for Agricultural Development under the title of "National Plant Health Networking: Building a Strong Future".

In which national and international experts discussed in-depth the problems of plant diseases and their solutions. Addressing the participants, Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture, Professor Dr. Ghulam Murtaza said that the university is making every effort to solve agricultural challenges. He said that plant health is very



important for food security, rural employment and economy. He said that with joint efforts, we can set a new chapter in agricultural development. Renowned experts including

Dr. Nancy J. Allen, Dr. Neil McRoberts, Dean Social Sciences Dr. Babar Shahbaz, Dr. Qamar Shakeel from Ayub Research, Director of the Center for Higher Education Dr. Sultan

Habibullah, Chairman Entomology Dr. Waseem Akram, Chairman Plant Pathology Dr. Abdul Rehman, Dr. Jafar Jaskani, Director General Pest Warning Dr. Aamir Rasool, Dr. Zulfiqar Ali Ghauri, Director Extension Dr. Khalid Mahmood, Dr. Nadeem Ahmed, Dr. Hassan Riaz, Dr. Akhtar Hameed, Dr. Zunira Afzal, Dr. Muhammad Nasir, Dr. Gulshan Irshad and others also spoke. The speakers said that in the context of climate change, we have to make joint efforts to solve the problems that arise.

They said that we need a strong network that can connect researchers, diagnostic experts, extension workers and policymakers. Experts from all over Pakistan as well as from the United States participated in the workshop. Dr. Qamar Shakeel and Dr. Sultan Habibullah thanked the participants at the end of the workshop.



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## NAG attracts 500 visitors daily, Quaid’s Mazar records 2 mln visitors annually

The National Assembly Standing Committee on National Heritage and Culture was informed on Thursday that the National Arts Gallery (NAG) attracts up to 500 daily visitors, while the Quaid-e-Azam Mazar Management Board records nearly two million visitors annually.

The committee, chaired by MNA Syeda Nosheen Iftikhar at the Pak Secretariat, was given a detailed briefing on the Division’s performance and its attached organizations.

A major announcement was made regarding grand celebrations to mark Allama Iqbal’s 150th birth anniversary in 2027.

The Senior Joint Secretary briefed the committee on the Division’s mandate, which includes preserving and promoting Pakistan’s cultural heritage, arts, languages, literature, museums, archaeological sites, and historical monuments.

It was noted that 11 organizations are currently operating under the Division.

The Director of Iqbal Academy Pakistan informed the committee that Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah had allocated Rs. 100,000 in 1948 for the promotion of Iqbal’s works. Since then, the Academy has published 500 books in 27 languages and preserved 1,730 of Iqbal’s letters.

He shared plans for extensive celebrations in 2027 to commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of the national poet.

The committee recommended digitizing Iqbal’s literary works and promoting them widely, particularly among the youth.

The Director added that a comprehensive Iqbal curriculum — from nursery to post-doctorate levels — had already been submitted to the Ministry of Federal Education for approval.

Earlier, the Executive Director of Lok Virsa announced a ten-day folk festival from November 7 to 16, showcasing the traditional culture of all provinces. The committee advised that greater youth engagement be ensured at the annual Lok Mela.

The Chairperson of the Pakistan Academy of Letters briefed the committee on its literary initiatives, including 22 annual National Literary Awards, the Kamal-e-Fann lifetime achievement award, stipends for indigenous writers, and grants to literary bodies. The committee sought a detailed account of funds disbursed to artists in the next meeting.

Representatives of the Aiwan-e-Iqbal Complex, the National Academy of Performing Arts (NAPA), the Department of Archaeology and Museums, the National Library of Pakistan, and the National Language Promotion Department also briefed the committee. The committee recommended further measures to promote Urdu, including its inclusion as an option in the Combined Competitive Exams.

The meeting was attended by MNAs Shaista Khan, Shahnaz Saleem Malik, Samar Haroon Bilour, Saeeda Jamshid, Ghazala Anjum, Naeema Kishwer Khan, and Sanjay Pervani. Mahtab Akbar Rashdi, Natasha Daultana, and Saba Talpur participated virtually. The Federal Minister and senior officials from the National Heritage and Culture Division were also present.

## “Water Aggression or Our Negligence? A Battle for National Survival”

India’s sudden release of water into the Sutlej and Ravi rivers has once again raised pressing questions about Pakistan’s water security. This tragedy is not merely a natural calamity but the consequence of our collective negligence, administrative incompetence, and political indifference. A glance at the historical record reminds us that although the Indus Waters Treaty of 1960 was a significant document regarding the distribution of river waters, India has repeatedly undermined the spirit of this agreement to serve its own objectives. Under the treaty, India was granted limited rights over the waters of the Ravi and Sutlej, but time and again it has used the pretext of seasonal variations and extraordinary circumstances to release water, unleashing destruction in Pakistan.

In recent incidents, India suddenly released water into the Sutlej River, causing dangerous rises in water levels at Head Sulaimanki and Head Islam. Embankments collapsed, thousands of acres of ripened crops were inundated, and many villages in Kasur, Pakpattan, and Bahawalnagar were submerged. Official records indicate that the water flow at Ganda Singh Wala reached as high as 129,000 cusecs classified as a medium to high-level flood. This is not the first such occurrence; recurring floods over the years have made it clear that we have failed to learn any lessons from the past.

The pressing question is: why are we still unable to take concrete measures for our defense? The fundamental reason lies in the persistent delay in dam construction and the government’s lack of attention to

water management. A global comparison of water storage capacities reveals how far behind Pakistan lags. According to reports, Pakistan has only 153 dams over 15 meters in height, whereas India has 3,200 and China 8,400. Pakistan can store merely 10% of its annual water flow, while India has the capacity to store water for 220 days, Egypt for 1,000 days, and the United States for 900 days. This deficiency results in billions of gallons of precious water flowing into the sea every year water that, if stored, could not only mitigate flood damages but also prove vital during droughts.

The situation at the governmental level reflects sheer negligence and lack of seriousness. Mega projects such as the Diamer-Bhasha Dam have long remained in limbo. Political parties, instead of fulfilling their responsibilities, remain confined to hollow statements. National interest has been sacrificed for personal gain, and the result is that our future generations may face extreme water scarcity. Experts warn that if the situation remains unaddressed, Pakistan’s per capita water availability will decline further to 500 cubic meters by 2025 a figure that, by international standards, signifies absolute water scarcity.

When it comes to flood protection, the administration lacks any clear or comprehensive plan. Failure to repair embankments and to construct modern infrastructure leads to losses worth billions of rupees every year. The efforts of rescue agencies, though commendable, remain limited in scope. Early warning systems, timely evacuation arrangements,

and public alerts are virtually non-existent. There appears to be no integrated strategy between the irrigation department and disaster management authorities, which is why the nation suffers devastating consequences year after year.

India’s so-called “water aggression” is, in reality, a mirror reflecting our own internal weaknesses. If we could build a network of dams across our rivers, modernize our canal systems, and adopt advanced irrigation techniques, India’s maneuvers would lose their impact. At the same time, we must assert our water rights under the Indus Waters Treaty more vigorously at international forums. In the current circumstances, figures such as Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Field Marshal Hafiz Asim Munir have the potential to unite the provinces and build consensus on national projects like dam construction.

Considering the impact of climate change, our focus must extend beyond dams alone. We need to invest in recharging underground water reserves, harvesting rainwater, and introducing modern irrigation systems. At the public level, awareness campaigns through media and educational institutions are essential to foster a culture of water conservation.

The stark reality is that we stand on the brink of disaster not because of our adversary, but because of our own negligence. If we still fail to awaken to the gravity of the crisis and take concrete steps for water conservation, the future will bring only greater hardship. It is imperative that we put aside political differences, unite for the sake of national interest, and begin decisive action today for the secure and sustainable future of generations to come.

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## The State’s Responsibilities in Educating for the Positive Use of Social Media

In the present era, social media has become an essential part of human life. This modern means of communication, while being a source of knowledge, awareness, information-sharing, and intellectual development, has also become a cause of social corruption, moral decline, and the spread of mischief due to its negative use. This raises the important question: what are the responsibilities of the state in ensuring that its citizens, especially the younger generation, are educated and trained for the positive and beneficial use of social media? In this regard, if we study the blessed Seerah of the Holy Prophet ﷺ, we find clear guidance on how Islam defined the principles of communication, training, and moral responsibility, and what duties are placed upon a state.

The very mission of the Prophet’s ﷺ advent was to reform human thought and character and to guide society in distinguishing between truth and falsehood. At the outset of his Prophethood, the Prophet ﷺ emphasized honesty, trustworthiness, and truthfulness. These same principles apply to today’s social media. Spreading false news, character assassination, violating others’ privacy, and creating hate-filled narratives are acts that are strictly prohibited according to the Seerah of the Prophet ﷺ. It is therefore the responsibility of the state to curb such negative trends and to educate its citizens to use communication with truthfulness, justice, and responsibility.

One of the greatest challenges in the age of social media is “fake news” and propaganda. The Holy Prophet ﷺ said: “It is enough of a lie for a person that he narrates everything he hears.” (Muslim). This Hadith teaches us that passing on unverified information is a sin

and a cause of social disorder. The state should therefore include media literacy and social media ethics in the educational curriculum so that the younger generation learns to verify news and share content with responsibility and moral consciousness.

The first principle of education and training in the Seerah was to consider knowledge as the purpose of life. The Prophet ﷺ declared the acquisition of knowledge obligatory upon every man and woman. In this context, it becomes the duty of the state to ensure that social media is not merely used for entertainment or wasting time, but rather as a platform for education, awareness, and the promotion of knowledge. Online libraries, educational lectures, religious and moral teachings, and Seerah-based content should be promoted under state patronage.

In Islamic teaching, the ruler is described as a “shepherd,” and every shepherd will be held accountable for his flock (Bukhari & Muslim). This principle makes it clear that the state is responsible for the moral and intellectual protection of its citizens. Today, when social media is shaping the thoughts and attitudes of the youth, the state must legislate, provide guiding principles, and establish a monitoring system that ensures freedom of expression while maintaining ethical boundaries.

In the Seerah of the Prophet ﷺ, the principle of “enjoining good and forbidding evil” (Amr bil Ma’roof wa Nahi anil Munkar) is a state duty. According to this principle, it is the responsibility

of the state to prevent negative and immoral content on social media, while also ensuring the promotion of positive and constructive content. For instance, campaigns on social reform, religious teachings, moral training, patience, sacrifice, tolerance, and mutual respect should be run at the state level so that youth are positively influenced.

The Prophet ﷺ always preferred speech that was beneficial and reformative. He ﷺ said: “The best among you is the one from whose tongue and hand other Muslims are safe.” (Bukhari). This principle makes it clear that even on social media, no one’s dignity should be violated, no one should be ridiculed, and the beliefs and views of others should not be insulted. The state thus bears a dual responsibility in this matter: both educating its citizens and enforcing laws.

Another significant aspect of the Seerah is the special focus on the training of youth. The Prophet ﷺ empowered young people, gave them responsibilities, and helped bring out their potential so that they could serve as leaders of society. Today, social media can play a powerful role in channeling the abilities of youth in a positive direction. If the state uses this platform wisely, the youth can contribute to knowledge, research, technology, and a positive image of their country at a global level. However, if the state remains negligent, the same platform can lead to intellectual chaos, moral decline, and misguidance.

Among the fundamental responsibilities of an Islamic state is to provide

education to its citizens, safeguard their moral character, and ensure a dignified society. In this context, the state must develop a clear code of ethics for social media usage. Social media education should be included in the curriculum of schools, colleges, and universities. Parents should be provided with training workshops, and media organizations should be encouraged to produce programs that highlight the moral principles found in the Seerah of the Prophet ﷺ.

Another important point is that the state should not rely only on a policy of “prohibition” but also provide “positive alternatives.” If youth are given access to quality, engaging, and morally sound content, they will naturally turn away from negative activities. The Prophet ﷺ also taught people to avoid the forbidden while at the same time offering them permissible alternatives. The same principle applies to social media.

In conclusion, the state’s responsibility regarding the positive use of social media goes far beyond mere legislation. It is a comprehensive duty that includes education, training, curriculum development, laws, monitoring, promotion of constructive content, and the dissemination of moral principles in the light of the Seerah of the Prophet ﷺ. The guiding principles laid down by the Prophet ﷺ are as relevant today as they were fourteen centuries ago. If the state incorporates these principles into its policies and educational system, social media can become a means of knowledge, awareness, morality, and positive transformation rather than a source of mischief and corruption.

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

## Climate Change and Pakistan’s Floods: Lessons for Pakistan II

Arooba Abbasi

Non-structural interventions include the use of cutting-edge early warning systems, improved disaster preparedness, flood risk education in communities, and increased disaster management coordination. Pakistan also has enormous glaciers in the northern region, which make it vulnerable to the effects of climate change. The northern region of Pakistan is frequently referred to as the ‘third pole’ since it has more glacial ice than anywhere else in the world, other than the polar regions. Now these Glaciers are actually melting due to global warming.

Glaciers in Pakistan’s Gilgit-Baltistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa are melting rapidly, resulting in the formation of over 3,000 lakes, according to the UN Development Programme. Around 33 of these are at risk of exploding unexpectedly, releasing millions of cubic meters of water and debris, by endangering 7 million people. Pakistan received approximately 190% more rain than its 30-year normal between June and August, totaling 390.7mm. Flooding has also affected places which normally do not ordinarily receive this type of rain, such as southern Sindh and Balochistan, which are normally desert or semi-arid.

To prevent additional damage to crops and fields, the nation should prioritize rehabilitating wetlands and lakes that have been harmed by unrestrained urbanization, have adequate drainage systems, and make investments in rainwater gathering. Either it is a political or a climate concern, each needs effective governance and administration policies. The primary cause of every issue in any society, including Pakistan, is a weak administration and a lack of governance. With good administration, the government may impose strong restrictions and fines on tree cutting, reduce illegal logging, provide transparent climate finance, and provide alternative livelihoods to forest-dependent populations.

It can also curb unplanned urbanization and eliminate unlawful encroachments to prevent future weather disasters. Besides all other issues, the major issue facing Pakistan right now is the climate crisis. The government must take the aforementioned efforts to address the issue, but at the grassroots level, community-driven activities are equally crucial. The government may prevent the terrible effects of climate change by cooperating with local organizations on an emergency basis, replanting trees, and carefully planning urban structures.

Experts caution that without immediate reforms in afforestation, watershed management, and environmental protection, Pakistan will remain extremely vulnerable to recurrent floods, heatwaves, and droughts in the years to come. Given its already precarious financial situation, Pakistan cannot afford to take these actions. The lower middle class suffers greatly from these torrential rains because they are the ones who lost their homes; therefore, it must be the responsibility of the provincial and federal governments to properly rescue them and provide them with adequate living conditions.

Proper housing planning and construction infrastructure is the most important aspects in designing any metropolitan city across the world. Inadequate infrastructure and housing planning in metropolitan cities such as Karachi have already proven disastrous. Pakistan must learn from China, specifically how to engineer and design cities like Karachi, which are heavily populated and have limited resources. There is no practical way to stop cities like Karachi from experiencing more disasters than proper housing and the construction of sufficient infrastructure. If Pakistan does not take the precautionary measures, the flood rain and landslides could cause widespread destruction, potentially leading to a famine situation and the destruction of more homes, which could be a burden on the national economy. Therefore, the national and local governments need to take action to prevent this disaster from occurring in the future.



# Vietnam Embassy in Pakistan celebrates 80th National Day

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD,: The Ambassador of Vietnam to Pakistan, Pham Anh Tuan, has reaffirmed his country's commitment to expanding bilateral ties with Pakistan, particularly in the areas of trade, investment, and people-to-people exchanges.

Speaking at a reception to mark the 80th National Day of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, the Ambassador welcomed the Chief Guest, Minister of State for Finance and Railways Bilal Azhar Kayani, senior officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, members of the diplomatic corps, and distinguished guests. Heads of ASEAN countries along with other distinguished guests graced the stage with their presence.

Ambassador Tuan recalled the historic declaration of independence by President Ho Chi Minh on September 2, 1945, which paved the way for Vietnam's journey of self-determination. Highlighting the country's progress since the introduction of the Đổi Mới (Renovation) policy in 1986, he noted Vietnam's transformation into a dynamic developing economy with a GDP of \$475 billion in 2024, a growth rate of 7.1 percent, and a global leadership role in exports of pepper, cashew nuts, rice, coffee, textiles, and seafood.

He also pointed to Vietnam's rising profile in the digital economy, with software and IT



service exports surpassing \$11 billion in 2024, making the country a hub for outsourcing and digital investment.

Turning to bilateral relations, Ambassador Tuan said Vietnam and Pakistan have enjoyed 53 years of diplomatic ties, which have grown across politics, trade, and cultural cooperation. He revealed that two-way trade reached \$850 million in 2024 and is expected to cross \$1 billion by 2025.

A significant step forward, he said, was taken at the 5th Meeting of the Pakistan-Vietnam Joint Trade Committee in Hanoi in July 2025, where both sides agreed to start negotiations for a Preferential Trade



Agreement (PTA) this year.

The envoy proposed enhanced cooperation through trade fairs, exhibitions, and investment forums, and expressed readi-

ness to facilitate Pakistani businessmen in Vietnam. He highlighted Pakistan's strengths in cotton, pharmaceuticals, and surgical instruments, while



noting Vietnam's strong exports of tea, rubber, pepper, dry nuts, textiles, chemicals, and IT products.

"Together, we can deepen our

economic partnership for mutual benefit," he said, adding that Vietnam values the continued support of Pakistan and the international community.

The Ambassador concluded by reaffirming Vietnam's dedication to peace, friendship, and development, expressing hope that relations between the two countries would continue to flourish.

Guests also enjoyed an elegant ao dai show by both professional and amateur models, as well as captivating dance performances, leaving the audience amused.

Vietnamese cuisine gave a cultural experience to the guests, while a cake-cutting was also staged where the Ambassador was joined by the chief guest and the ASEAN countries' ambassadors.

Photos by Sultan Bashir ONLINE

## US denies visas for Palestinian officials before UN assembly

Agencies

The administration of United States President Donald Trump has announced it is denying and revoking visas for members of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and the Palestinian Authority (PA) before the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in September.

The announcement was made in a statement released by the US Department of State on Friday.

"The Trump Administration has been clear: it is in our national security interests to hold the PLO and PA accountable for not complying with

their commitments, and for undermining the prospects for peace," the statement said.

The statement said the members "must consistently repudiate terrorism", citing the October 7, 2023, Hamas-led attack on southern Israel.

It also accused the Palestinian Authority of "attempts to bypass negotiations" by appealing to the International Criminal Court and International Court of Justice for Israeli abuses committed in both the occupied West Bank and throughout Israel's war in Gaza, which UN experts have called a genocide.

Both the PA, which has limited

self-governing authority in the occupied West Bank, and the PLO, the internationally recognised Palestinian umbrella organisation, serve as representatives for the Palestinian people and push for recognition of a Palestinian state on the global stage.

The Trump administration had previously sanctioned members of the PA and PLO, accusing them of the "glorification of violence" and "undermining peace".

It was not immediately clear which officials the denials would apply to, as UN members and non-member observers like Palestine typically send large delegations to the UNGA.



## Call on

Ambassador Rahim Hayat met Mr. Luc Tack, CEO Tessenderlo/Picanol Group and He Apprised him about evolving trade and investment opportunities in Pakistan



## PEC honored to 30 eminent engineers Excellence Awards 2023

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) has conferred the prestigious PEC Engineers' Excellence Awards 2023, honoring 30 eminent engineers across eight categories for their remarkable contributions to Pakistan's progress and development. The awards ceremony, held in Islamabad, was graced by the Federal Minister for Science and Technology, Khalid Hussain Magsi, who conferred the awards upon the distinguished engineers. The event was attended by foreign delegates, parliamentarians, bureaucrats, government officials, senior engineers, and prominent figures from diverse walks of life.

Addressing the ceremony, Federal Minister for Science and Technology Khalid Hussain Magsi lauded PEC's initiative, stating "I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) for taking this laudable initiative of organizing the PEC Engineers' Excellence Awards 2023. This



prestigious recognition of the exemplary achievements of our eminent engineers, serving in diverse fields, stands as a tribute to their invaluable contributions to the progress and prosperity of our nation.

Speaking at the ceremony, Chairman PEC Engr. Waseem Nazir congratulated the awardees and underscored PEC's pivotal role in advancing engineering education, practice, and global recognition. He remarked "It is indeed a matter of immense pride and pleasure to be among this esteemed gathering of professionals who have significantly contributed to the progress of our beloved

country.

PEC honored to 30 eminent engineers Excellence Awards 2023 to Engr. Muhammad Mazhar Ul Islam, Engr. Dr. Tabassum Zahoor, Engr. Muhammad Abdul Qadir Jhanagir Durrani, Engr. Dr. Tahir Masood, Engr. Amjad Saeed, Engr. Dr. Masroor Ahmed, Engr. Ejaz Hussain, Engr. Prof. Dr. Tauha Hussain Ali, Engr. Prof. Dr. Muhammad Abid, Engr. Prof. Dr. Muhammad Tufail, Engr. Prof. Dr. Madad Ali Shah, Engr. Prof. Dr. Muhammad Kamran, Engr. Prof. Dr. Osman Hasan, Engr. Syed Nihal Asghar, Engr. Dr. Ajaz Bashir Janjua, Engr. Ifkhar Ahmed, Engr. Hafiz Imtiaz Ahmed, Engr. Dr. Salman Raza Naqvi, Engr. Dr. Muhammad Zakir Shiekh, Engr. Dr. Nasir Mehmood Khan, Engr. Muhammad Raza Chohan, Engr. Syed Nafasat Raza, Engr. Fakhar Un Nisa, Engr. Mushtaq Hussain Dawood, Engr. Fahim Iqbal Siddiqui, Engr. Ahsan Azhar Siddiqui, Engr. Rashid Aziz, Engr. Rashid Ahmed, Engr. Barkatullah Kakar, and Engr. Muhammad Imran Khan Cheema.

## Japanese Foreign Minister's Commendations 2025 Announced; Ms. Neveen Syed, Chairperson of the Lahore Floritage Sogetsu Study Group

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: On August 28, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan has announced the conferment of Japanese Foreign Minister's Commendations 2025 upon Ms. Neveen Syed, Chairperson of the Lahore Floritage Sogetsu Study Group in recognition

of her significant contributions towards the promotion of cultural relations between Japan and Pakistan.

Lahore Floritage Sogetsu Study Group is a cultural organisation of Japanese-style flower arrangement, Ikebana.

Ms. Neveen Syed, Chairperson of the Lahore Floritage Sogetsu

Study Group, has been working selflessly and with full dedication to spread Japanese culture by providing opportunities to introduce Japanese culture to Pakistani people by holding Ikebana flower arrangement classes and exhibitions in Pakistan.

H. E. Mr. Akamatsu Shuichi, the Ambassador of Japan to Paki-

stan, has conveyed his heartiest congratulations to Ms. Neveen upon the conferment of Japanese Foreign Minister's Commendations for this year which is the acknowledgement of her efforts and dedication towards enhanced cultural relations and people-to-people interactions. In addition, Ambassador expressed his expect-

tation that Ms. Neveen continues to play an essential role in the promotion of Ikebana in Pakistan and has acted as a bridge of friendship and goodwill between the two countries.

The commendations conferment ceremony will be held later on where Ambassador Akamatsu will confer the Commendations



on behalf of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan.



Bull & Bears

PSX 100-Share Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
148,617.77	147,343.50
Day's High	Day's Low
149,234.94	147,343.50
Index Value	Change
38,037,776,000	+ 1274.27
Percentage	Time
+0.86%	29 Aug, 2025 4:30 pm
Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
9,187.34	− 29.48
Percentage	Time
− 29.48	29 Aug, 4:35 pm GMT + 1
USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
45,464.43	− 172.47
Percentage	Time
− 0.38%	29 Aug, 12:29 pm GMT-4
Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
42,718.47	− 110.32
Percentage	Time
− 0.26%	29 Aug, 3:45 pm GMT+9
Open Market Forex Rates	

Customs Agents Hail Faceless Clearance as Trade-Friendly, Seek Faster Assessments

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: The All Pakistan Customs Agents Association (APCAA) and the Karachi Customs Agents Association (KCAA) have expressed their strong support for the implementation of the Faceless Customs Clearance system in Karachi. In a joint statement, APCAA Chairman Arshad Khurshid and KCAA President Muhammad Aamir lauded the initiative as a major step forward in ensuring transparency, efficiency, and fairness in the customs clearance process.

In a joint statement, Khurshid and Aamir said, “We highly appreciate the good gesture of Chief Collector Wajid Ali. His immediate engagement with stakeholders and prompt instructions to address practical issues reflect his commitment to making faceless assessment a truly transparent, efficient, and facilitative system. We are confident that his efforts will help streamline customs operations and advance the Prime Minister’s vision for a modern and trade-friendly customs

Gold prices up by Rs.1,200 per tola

ISLAMABAD: The price of 24 karat per tola gold increased by Rs.1,200 and was traded at Rs.363,800 on Friday against its sale at Rs362,600 the previous day, All Pakistan Sarafa Gems and Jewelers Association reported.

The prices of 10 grams of 24 karat also increased by Rs. 943 to Rs.311,814 from Rs. 310,871 whereas that of 10 grams of 22 karat gold went up by Rs.864 to Rs285,839 from Rs 284,975.

The rates of per tola and ten gram silver remained stagnant at Rs.4,121 and Rs 3,533 respectively.

The price of gold in the international market increased by \$12 to \$3,411 from \$3,399 whereas the rates of silver in international market remained constant at \$38.88, the Association reported.

CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif Meets ADB Delegation Led By Its President Masato Kanda

Spokesman Report

LAHORE: Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif met an eight-member delegation of Asian Development Bank (ADB) led by its president Masato Kanda. Other members of the delegation include Chief Advisor Shiro Inoue, Senior Advisor John Juhyun Jeong, Executive Director Noor Ahmed, Director General Leah Gutierrez, Country Director Emma Fan and DDG Cathy Marsh. She warmly welcomed the ADB delegation, and discussed matters pertaining to Punjab’s development in the meeting.

Madam Chief Minister termed support of Asian Development Bank for Punjab’s development as valuable, and emphasized on need for climate adaptation measures in Punjab. She also discussed on how to protect urban and rural infrastructure from hazards of climate change.

Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif expressed her keen interest in transformative mobility and clean energy projects with ADB. She welcomed President of Asian Development Bank on his maiden visit to Pakistan, and mentioned working relations with Japanese institutions JETRO, JICA and METI.



She expressed that Punjab considers ADB’s new Country Partnership Strategy 2026-2035 as an important milestone, and stated that Punjab’s priorities are in line with ADB’s goals.

Madam Chief Minister thanked ADB for extending full cooperation in the past, and highlighted that communities have benefited from ADB’s Clean Energy Program. She underscored that ADB’s role has been impor-

tant in enhancing women’s participation in agricultural sector. She added that Punjab is the most important province of Pakistan in terms of population and economy.

Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif emphasized that Punjab is the center of national struggle against climate change, and appreciated ADB’s cooperation for providing Access to Clean Energy Investment Program. She also appreciated ADB for launching initiatives for human capital development. She noted that recent devastating floods are the worst example of climate disasters, and highlighted that Punjab government strives to further strengthen flood risk management system with the support of ADB.

Madam Chief Minister acknowledged ADB’s support for the establishment of Punjab Climate Observatory as commendable, and revealed that Punjab Climate Observatory will guide climate planning and green infrastructure. Matters relating to digital transformation of government services in Punjab along with promoting export abilities of small and medium enterprises were also reviewed in the meeting.

Called on

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Ireland Ms. Mary O’Neill called on Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq at Parliament House.



Europe’s July car sales rise most since April 2024, BYD ahead of Tesla

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: New car sales in Europe rose 5.9% in July, the best month for more than a year in a boost for the struggling industry as consumer confidence weakens, European Automobile Manufacturers Association data showed on Thursday.

Plug-in hybrid sales in the European Union recorded the biggest jump since at least January 2023, when the ACEA started reporting the figure, while those of battery-electric cars had

the biggest increase since August 2023.

Germany, which in June presented an EV incentive plan replacing a subsidy scheme removed in 2023, recorded increases of 58% and 83.6% in BEV and PHEV sales respectively in July.

Despite rising EV sales, battery-electric carmaker Tesla lost market share in Europe for a seventh consecutive month and trailed China’s BYD, which was included in the monthly sales data for the first time.

Bukhari Travel & Tourism Services and Saudi Tourism Authority Hosted Successful

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: In a Landmark collaboration to strengthen tourism ties between the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Bukhari Travel & Tourism Services and the Saudi Tourism Authority jointly organized a high-profile roadshow at the Marriott Hotel Karachi on August 27, 2025. The event aimed to highlight Saudi Arabia’s growing potential as a leading global tourism destination and to promote travel opportunities for Pakistani travelers.

During the event, Mr. Muhammad Rafiq Khan, Chairman of Bukhari Group of Companies, extended his best wishes and appreciated the strengthening partnership between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia in the tourism sector. He was confident that this initiative would open new



opportunities for bilateral travel business, and cultural exchange.

Speaking on the occasion, Ms. Sofia Al-Khawar, Country Manager-Saudi Tourism Authority, shared her point of view on the evolving tourism landscape of Saudi Arabia. She emphasized the Kingdom’s

commitment to creating world-class experiences for travelers and highlighted the importance of the Pakistani market in their regional strategy.

SECP urges Corporate Sector to contribute to Prime Minister’s Relief Fund for flood, earthquake and other calamities

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: In light of the recent unprecedented rains and flooding that have severely impacted communities across Pakistan, the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has issued a circular urging all companies to actively contribute to the “Prime Minister’s Relief Fund for Flood, Earthquake and Other Calamities”, on voluntary basis.

The Circular, issued today, emphasizes the critical role of the corporate sector in supporting national relief and rehabilitation efforts. The SECP has called upon companies to channel their contributions as part of their established Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and Environmental, Social, and

Governance (ESG) commitments.

The SECP underscored that timely and proactive support from businesses is essential to provide urgent relief to affected populations. Such contributions will also reinforce the corporate sector’s vital role as a key partner in the nation’s sustainable development and resilience against calamities.

The Commission also appreciated the corporate sector’s ongoing dedication to social welfare and for its robust participation in this crucial national cause.



Senate exposes legal gap in regulator pay decisions Lawmakers demand cabinet control over SECP salaries

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: The urgency of debate over regulatory autonomy has been underscored as the Senate Standing Committee on Finance confronted the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) over controversial salary and perks increases. The episode, following an exchange between lawmakers and the SECP chairman, has drawn attention to a broader legal vacuum; the unchecked authority of autonomous regulators to decide their own financial privileges.

The committee, chaired by

Senator Saleem Mandviwalla, termed the pay hike an abuse of power by the SECP Policy Board and recommended that the Prime Minister and Cabinet should make such decisions. Members also ordered details of salaries and benefits across all state-owned entities for the next sitting. But beyond the immediate reprimand, the hearing exposed a deeper governance challenge that successive governments have failed to address.

Senator Farooq H. Naek questioned how regulators could be allowed to raise their own pay when even Supreme Court judges do not

enjoy such discretion. His remarks underscored the constitutional imbalance created when autonomous bodies are given sweeping powers without adequate oversight. Senator Anusha Rehman stated that three major regulators, including the SECP, are currently awarding themselves pay raises without external approval.

The SECP chairman attempted to downplay the controversy, insisting that media reports exaggerated his remuneration. Yet the committee’s scepticism reflected a broader public perception that regulators increasingly act as insulated power centres,

serving personal interests rather than the public good.

The controversy comes at a politically sensitive moment. The government is attempting to project fiscal restraint, citing budgetary pressures and IMF commitments, yet regulators appear to operate under different rules. Lawmakers warned that without corrective legislation, independent regulators could become “states within a state,” unaccountable in areas where accountability is most critical.

Criticism was not limited to pay structures. Excessive perks and weak regulatory performance hinted at an

emerging consensus that autonomy has too often translated into impunity. The committee also flagged Rs. 267 million in irregularities at SECP, as noted in the Auditor General’s report. While the SECP chairman claimed similar issues had been settled in previous years, Senators remained unconvinced. The Finance Division was directed to submit amendments within one month to rationalise salary-setting powers across regulatory bodies.

Meanwhile, the Committee also reviewed the Virtual Assets Bill and noted progress in CCP’s backlog clearance and penalty recoveries.



# Government-Business Community have to join hands to win economic battle: S. M. Tanveer

## Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: A high-profile press conference was held at the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), jointly addressed by leading figures of Pakistan's business community, including S. M. Tanveer, Patron-in-Chief United Business Group (UBG), Atif Ikram Shaikh, President Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI), and Nasir Mansoor Qureshi, President ICCL. The event was conducted by Malik Sohail Hussain, Chairman Coordination FPCCI, and attended by prominent business leaders, former ICCL presidents, and senior FPCCI officials.

Addressing the media, Patron-in-Chief UBG S. M. Tanveer said that "Pakistan is a blessing of Allah and we are determined to work alongside the government to ensure its prosperity and development while enhancing its stature in the comity of nations." He stressed that every division

and district of the country has an export potential of at least \$5 billion, which, if tapped effectively, can help Pakistan expand its exports to \$200 billion.

Paying glowing tributes to the armed forces, particularly the Pakistan Air Force, S. M. Tanveer remarked that "we have already won the 'Marka-e-Haq' and now we are fully committed to winning the 'Marka-e-Maeshat' (economic battle)." He highlighted that with Pakistan's GDP at \$412 billion compared to India's \$4 trillion, China's \$19 trillion, and the USA's \$29 trillion, it was imperative to harness local resources, particularly in exports, agriculture, and industry.

He noted that there is little to no value addition in the agriculture sector and announced that FPCCI will present a six-year roadmap for agricultural reforms within the next two months. He also voiced concern over the deterioration of the textile sector and pointed out that Pakistan wastes water

worth \$25 billion annually. He called for reducing the interest rate to single digits, ideally 6%, to stimulate industrial and investment growth.

On the economic front, he described the \$40 billion trade deficit, unemployment, inflation, rapid population growth, and poverty as "ticking bombs," stressing that only united and dedicated efforts can help the country overcome these challenges.

Speaking on the occasion, FPCCI President Atif Ikram Shaikh outlined FPCCI's Vision 2030, aimed at boosting exports to \$100 billion in the near term. He said that FPCCI's Research and Development (R&D) department has worked extensively on district and sectoral economies, preparing a roadmap to empower divisions and districts. "If there are 38 divisions of the country and each of it, is given a \$5 billion export target, achieving \$200 billion in exports is possible," he asserted.

Atif Ikram urged the govern-

ment to take FPCCI's proposals seriously, adding that "FPCCI has always played on the front foot for national economic causes and will continue to do so with full dedication."

In his welcome address, ICCL President Nasir Mansoor Qureshi reaffirmed the collective resolve of the business community to support reforms for sustainable economic growth. "We acknowledge the challenges our economy faces, but we firmly believe that with the right reforms, policy consistency, and a strong partnership between government, business, and civil society, Pakistan can unlock its true potential," he stated.

He said the purpose of the press conference was to present actionable recommendations to address economic issues, including inflation, high cost of doing business, currency instability, energy shortages, and declining investor confidence.

Chairman Founder Group ICCL Tariq Sadiq also addressed



the gathering, emphasizing Pakistan's resilience and ability to overcome challenges.

The press conference was well attended by senior business leaders, including Tariq Mehmood Jadoon, Zaki Ejaz (Vice Presidents FPCCI), Malik

Sohail Hussain (Chairman Coordination FPCCI), former Presidents Abdul Rauf Allam, Zafar Bakhtawari, Mian Akram Farid, Shaikh Amir Waheed, executive members, and prominent business personalities of the region.

The event concluded with an interactive Q&A session with the media, reflecting the business community's strong commitment to contributing ideas, resources, and efforts towards Pakistan's economic revival and nation-building.

## 140 male and female taekwondo players awarded belts, certificates and shields



## Tahir Amin Malik.

A grand annual prize distribution ceremony was held at the Punjab Taekwondo Academy, Elite Training Center, Nishtar Park Sports Complex under the auspices of Punjab Sports and Youth Affairs Department on Friday.

Director Admin Abid Shoukat, Director Sports Rana Nadeem Anjum, Deputy Director Budget and Accounts

Farhat Ehsan, Senior Taekwondo Coach Raes-ur-Rehman and other officials were also present on this occasion.

Director Admin Abid Shoukat, Director Sports Rana Nadeem Anjum distributed belts, certificates and shields among the successful and top performing athletes of the academy. Overall, 140 girls and boys participated in the ceremony.

Addressing the prize distribution ceremony, Director Sports Rana Nadeem

Anjum congratulated the successful athletes and appreciated their dedication and discipline. "Punjab Sports Department is giving scholarships to the best players from the Sports Endowment Fund".

Director Sports Rana Nadeem Anjum said that Director General Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Khizar Afzaal Chaudhry has played a key role in making the Punjab Taekwondo Academy func-

tional. "Punjab Sports Department is taking effective measures for promotion of sports culture under the leadership of Punjab Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs Malik Faisal Ayub Khokhar".

Director Admin Abid Shoukat on this occasion congratulated all the prominent players of Punjab Taekwondo Academy. "Punjab Sports Department is taking all possible measures for the promotion of taekwondo among the youth".

## UAJK, HEC, ACT, and UNFPA Join Hands to Address Youth Challenges through Helpline



## Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: The University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (UAJK), in collaboration with ACT International, Higher Education Commission (HEC), and UNFPA, hosted a seminar on the National Youth Helpline (NYHL) at the Chehla Campus. The event was attended by a large number of teachers, students, social activists, and people from diverse walks of life.

The seminar aimed to introduce the National Youth Helpline, its free-of-cost services, outreach, and role in assisting students with academic issues, psychological support, future planning, and guidance on various youth-related challenges. It also sought to build trust in the helpline as a reliable platform for young people seeking timely assistance.

Welcoming the participants, Dr. Kashif Iqbal, Dean Faculty of Health Sciences, expressed gratitude to ACT International, HEC, and UNFPA for organizing the program in collaboration with UAJK. He termed the initiative a positive step toward raising awareness, noting that such platforms help youth cope with educational, psychological, and social challenges in their daily lives.

## Stabilizing Syria: Role of Regional Engagement

## City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Institute of Regional Studies (IRS) hosted an eminent speaker session on "Stabilizing Syria: Role of Regional Engagement", featuring Dr. Mahjoob Zweiri, Non-Resident Senior Fellow at the Middle East Council on Global Affairs. The session examined Syria's ongoing transition, the challenges of domestic reconstruction and the pivotal role of regional and international actors in ensuring long-term stability.

Opening his remarks, Dr. Zweiri

stressed that the Middle East was experiencing a critical juncture. He outlined three phases of Syria's recent trajectory: the immediate aftermath of December 8, 2024 events, the evolving dynamics of domestic politics and the regional dimensions shaping Syria's future.

Dr. Zweiri highlighted the fragility of the Assad regime at the time and the failure of its regional alliances to provide timely support. The rapid shift in opinion among Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Jordan alongside cautious recognition from Europe and the United States reflected how



"regional players have done their homework correctly by engaging with Europe and the United States, trying to respond to their

fears and concerns." Turning to domestic politics, Dr. Zweiri noted the importance of national identity and inclusivity in stabilizing

Syria. "One identity politics, Syrian identity, means all Syrians are part of the future, regardless of their ethnicity or religion. It is not about who rules now, but about who contributes to Syria's stability," he explained. He also underscored the economic dimension. Improvements in infrastructure, salaries, and trade links with neighboring states were cited as crucial factors restoring public confidence.

Dr. Zweiri described Syria as a vital space for preventing further destabilization in the Middle East. "Syria is a place where you can achieve two major things: main-

tain the status quo by keeping the country's borders intact and stop any potential civil war," he stated, warning that renewed conflict would destabilize Jordan, Iraq, Turkey and beyond.

During the Q&A, Dr. Zweiri emphasized Pakistan's potential contribution through diplomacy, investment, and humanitarian support. "Pakistan has strong ties with Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Jordan. This network can be a great asset to help Syrians," he noted, suggesting that Pakistan's growing technological sector could play a role in Syria's reconstruction.

Addressing concerns about Israel's aggression, Dr. Zweiri drew a parallel with post-9/11 U.S. wars, stressing that Israel's current course was unsustainable and driven by political calculations.

The session concluded with an engaging discussion on regional alignments, the pressures of reconstruction and the delicate balance between external support and domestic resilience. The discussion underscored that sustained regional engagement coupled with inclusive governance in Syria, will be central to ensuring long-term peace and stability.

## UN Secretary-General appoints Muniba Mazari, UN Women National Goodwill Ambassador, as SDG Advocate

## City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres has officially appointed Muniba Mazari — UN Women National Goodwill Ambassador, renowned public speaker, artist, and human rights advocate — as a Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Advocate on 24 March 2025.

This prestigious appointment recognizes Muniba Mazari's unwavering commitment to promoting inclusion, gender equality, and social justice, both in Pakistan and globally. In this role,

she will join a distinguished group of global leaders and influencers, including the Prime Minister of Barbados, H. E. Mia Mottley, and Her Majesty Queen Mathilde of Belgium working to raise awareness, inspire action, and mobilize support for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

In his official letter, the Secretary-General commended Ms. Mazari's inspirational leadership, stating: "Muniba is an inspiration to many and a prominent voice on inclusion and gender equality. I applaud her numerous achievements and unwavering commitment to equality, and I ask that

she leverage her talent, influence, and platform to bring the Sustainable Development Goals to the forefront of global attention and action."

Speaking about her appointment, Muniba Mazari said "I am deeply honored to be appointed as an SDG Advocate. This is not just a title — it's a responsibility to use my voice for those who remain unheard and to inspire collective action for a healthier, fairer, and more compassionate world. Together, we can accelerate progress for people and the planet."

Jamshed M. Kazi, Country

Representative of UN Women Pakistan, also congratulated Muniba Mazari on this remarkable achievement, and stated, "Muniba has been an incredible force for change as UN Women National Goodwill Ambassador. Her appointment as an SDG Advocate is a proud moment for Pakistan and for women everywhere. She embodies the spirit of resilience, courage, and equality, and we are confident that she will continue to use her powerful voice to promote inclusive, rights-based development and gender equality, both nationally and globally."

UN Women Pakistan and

the United Nations in Pakistan proudly celebrate Muniba Mazari's appointment as an SDG Advocate. This recognition reflects her inspiring leadership and dedication to promoting equality, inclusion, and social justice. Her growing global role will further strengthen efforts to advance the Sustainable Development Goals and the rights of women and girls in Pakistan and around the world. We look forward to continuing this journey together, amplifying voices, and creating opportunities for a fairer, more sustainable future.

"Inclusion is not a privilege; it is a right. I am proud to be an SDG Advocate and to elevate the voices of those who are often unheard."

## MUNIBA MAZARI

Advocate for Disability Rights and Inclusion





Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate, Syed Yusuf Raza Gillam in a meeting with Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Speaker of National Assem- bly at his residence on Friday.



# Gilani, Ayaz Sadiq discuss parliamentary cooperation

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Senate Chair- man Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani and National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq on Friday discussed enhancing institutional cooperation between the two Houses of Parliament and strengthening parliamentary coordina- tion on national and interna- tional issues.

During a meeting at the Chairman Senate's residence in the federal capital, Gilani briefed the Speaker on prepa-

rations for the upcoming Inter-Parliamentary Speakers' Conference, scheduled for November 11-12, 2025.

He informed that the event would bring together repre- sentatives from more than 45 countries, making it one of the most significant multilateral parliamentary gatherings ever hosted by Pakistan.

He said that the conference would deliberate on key global challenges, including regional peace, sustainable develop- ment, climate change, and the need for collective strategies

to address emerging threats.

On the occasion, Ayaz Sadiq extended heartfelt condolences to the Senate Chairman over the demise of his cousin, Syed Tanveer ul Hassan Gilani.

Paying tribute, he described the late Gilani as a pious and community-oriented individual whose religious, spiritual, and social services would be long remembered.

The Speaker assured the Senate Chairman of the National Assembly's full support in ensuring the

successful organisation of the Inter-Parliamentary Speakers' Conference.

He expressed confidence that the event would serve as an important opportunity for Pakistan to demonstrate its commitment to global dialogue, cooperation, and peacebuilding.

Both leaders also exchanged views on the prevailing polit- ical and economic situation.

A significant part of the discussion was devoted to the devastating impact of recent rains and floods, particularly

the situation caused by India's release of floodwaters into the rivers of Punjab, which has aggravated human and material losses in the affected areas.

They jointly appealed to the people of Pakistan to adopt precautionary measures amid the ongoing natural calamity and to extend full cooperation with the government and relevant authorities. The leaders stressed that united national efforts were essential to mini- mise casualties and mitigate financial damages.

# Aurangzeb meets UAE business leaders

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb on Friday held a meeting with a group of leading United Arab Emirates (UAE) investors and businessmen and high- lighted the country's econom- ic reforms and investment opportunities.

The delegation led by Mohamed Baradei-Group CIO of the EIX, an Abu Dhabi-based global company specializing in invest- ment and strategic advisory services, said a news release.

Welcoming the delegation, the minister expressed his appreciation for their visit to Pakistan and hoped that their interactions with government leaders, private sector repre- sentatives, and local investors had provided them with valu- able insights into the coun- try's investment potential.



Aurangzeb briefed the delegation on the state of Pakistan's economy and the wide-ranging structural reforms undertaken over the past one and a half years, emphasizing that the direc- tion of travel was firmly posi- tive across all macroeconomic indices.

He highlighted the achieve-

ment of a primary surplus after many years, the return of inflation to single digits, stable currency, robust foreign exchange reserves, and external validation from leading international rating agencies which are now aligned in their improved assessment of Pakistan's economy.

Exports and remit- tances were described as healthy, while the Karachi Stock Exchange has been witnessing unprecedented activity, with over 70,000 new investors entering the market, reflecting growing confidence among both domestic and foreign investors.

He underscored the

government's commitment to addressing investor concerns, noting that taxation reforms, tariff rationalization, privatization of state-owned enter- prises, and a series of bold structural measures were aimed at fundamentally transforming the DNA of the economy.

He informed the investors about promising opportuni- ties in the mining sector, espe- cially the Reko Diq project, which is expected to signifi- cantly strengthen Pakistan's external sector through sustainable foreign inflows.

He also shared updates on the government's upcoming Industrial Policy, which will provide a roadmap for further improving the investment climate, and noted that bold tariff reforms and the launch of policies such as the digital and export promotion poli- cies indicate the government's future trajectory of reforms.

# DPM Dar unveils Pakistan's diplomatic reset amid bold global engagement, strong economic diplomacy



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minis- ter and Foreign Minister (DPM/FM), Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Friday unveiled Pakistan's diplomatic rest what he called "one of the most active phases in Pakistan's recent diplomatic history."

Addressing a media briefing here at the Foreign Office, the DPM provided details of his series of high- stakes visits, policy discussions, and multilateral engagements over July and August, and articulated a clear vision of Pakistan's foreign policy priorities, rooted in regional peace, global connectivity, trade revival, and principled international advocacy.

Dar underscored Pakistan's July presidency of the UN Security Council, during which it chaired multiple sessions, including one on Palestine. "A unanimous resolution calling for peaceful conflict resolu- tion was adopted under Pakistan's leadership which was a diplomatic milestone," he said.

In Washington, Dar met US Secre-

tary of State Marco Rubio on July 28 for a "frank and constructive" exchange on bilateral, regional, and global issues. He also engaged think tanks like the Atlantic Council, where his remarks on judicial independence were "misinterpreted" by local polit- ical actors. "The judiciary operates independently in Pakistan. Twisting English remarks for political mileage is unfortunate," he clarified.

Dar reaffirmed Pakistan's unwav- ering support for Palestine, citing his participation in the France-Saudi co-hosted international conference and the OIC Emergency Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Jeddah on August 25. At the OIC, Pakistan categorically rejected the so-called 'Greater Israel' plan, calling it "ille- gitimate and unacceptable", he added.

He also disclosed Pakistan's quiet diplomatic efforts during the Iran-Is- rael conflict, noting that "sincere engagement" led to Iran acknowl- edging Pakistan as a true friend. "The Iranian Parliamentarians chanted 'Shukriya Pakistan' in their parlia- ment. That speaks volumes," he said.

# Pakistan, Armenia agree to establish diplomatic ties



Pakistan and Armenia have agreed to consider establishing diplomatic relations between them. According to a statement on X, Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar said this under- standing was reached during a tele- phonic conversation with him and Foreign Minister of Armenia Ararat

Mirzoyan today. Foreign office spokesman said foreign ministers of Pakistan and Armenia discussed diplomatic rela- tions. Both side agreed to consider establishing diplomatic rela- tions, Foreign Office spokesperson concluded.

# JI chief visits flood-affected areas in Pasrur

Faisal Khawar Butt

PASRUR: Jamaat-e-Islami Emir Hafiz Naeem-ur-Rehman visit- ed flood-affected areas in Pasrur to review the flood situation and express solidarity with flood victims.

On the occasion, JI chief also distributed ration and relief materials to flood-affected people on behalf of Al-Khidmat Foundation.

Talking to media, Hafiz Naeem said he has seen huge losses. He

said Al-Khidmat Foundation will continue its relief activities.

Hafiz Naeem said Al-Khidmat Foundation has set up relief camps for flood victims across the country. He said the government should be serious about preventing floods and providing relief to the victims. JI chief said Punjab government should take practical steps instead of photo sessions as they have huge funds. He urged the masses to support the flood victims.

# PM lauds LESCO employees for donating one-day salary to flood victims

LAHORE: Prime Minister Muham- mad Shehbaz Sharif on Friday appre- ciated the gesture of Lahore Electric Supply Company (LESCO) employ- ees for donating their one-day salar- y, amounting to Rs. 20 million, to support flood victims.

The Prime Minister termed the donation a commendable and exem- plary act, saying that such initiatives reflect the spirit of solidarity in times of national hardship.

He reaffirmed that the government stands shoulder to shoulder with



all flood-affected people across the country and was utilizing all available resources to address their problems.

# US envoy Baker meets Mohsin Naqvi; expresses sympathy over flood losses

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Acting US Ambassa- dor to Pakistan Natalie Baker held a meeting with Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi, focusing on a wide range of bilateral matters, including the extradition of US-wanted individuals, border security, counter-narcotics coop- eration, Coast Guard support, and foren- sic collaboration.

According to the details, during the meeting, the Acting Ambassador expressed deep sorrow over the loss of lives and property caused by recent floods in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab.

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi, while responding, welcomed former US President Donald Trump's announce- ment regarding Pakistan's increasing oil reserves, terming it a positive devel- opment.

Mohsin Naqvi invited US investors to explore opportunities in Pakistan's oil sector and other industries, assuring them of all possible facilities and govern-



ment support. Ambassador Baker reaf- firmed that the United States attaches special importance to its relations with

Pakistan and intends to strengthen coop- eration in multiple sectors.

The meeting was also attended by

Federal Interior Secretary Muhammad Khurram Agha and Additional Secretary Major General Noor Wali Khan.