

A Leading National Daily ABC Rectified The Spokesman



PIA shifts flight operations from Sialkot to Lahore

A spokesperson for the Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) on Friday issued a statement regarding flight operations from Sialkot. According to the NOTAM issued by the Sialkot International Airport, flight operations at the airport are temporarily suspended.

Internet service again suspended across Balochistan

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Rabiul Awwal 6, Sunday, August 31, 2025







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Visit TIANJIN (China): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif arrives in Tianiin for his official visit to China to attend 25th SCO Council of Heads and 80th anniversary of Chinese People's War of Resistance on Saturday.

Flood crisis intensifies in Punjab: Over 1.5 million affected, 30 dead

Waseem Khokhar

ISLAMABAD: The flood situ ation in Punjab remained critical on Saturday, where water flow in major rivers - Chenab, Sutlej and Ravi - remained high, posing threats to settlements and farmland. The next 24 hours are being considered dangerous for the Islam headworks in Hasilpur tehsil, where the Sutlej river is flowing in high flood.

In Vehari, a breach has occurred in the protective embankment of the Sutlej River, causing flooding in areas, including Khichi, and severing land communication. Evacuation of people is underway from the affected areas.

Meanwhile, explosives have been placed at the Head Muhammadwala and Sher Shah points of the Chenab River to create



in the protective embankment of

To save the city of Kasur, the continues at 211,000 cusecs.

A breach has also been made RRA-1 embankment has been breached. At Head Balloki, extremely high-level flooding

The Ravi River was flowing in high flood at Shahdara, where the water flow reached 129,000

The strong flow of water caused a breach in the embankment of mini dam in the Domeli area of Dina tehsil in Jhelum district, causing water to enter homes.

At least 15 people have been rescued from Manga Mandi and Malhi village

A very high level of flood has also been witnessed at Ganda Singh Wala in the Sutlei River. Meanwhile, the water level at Islam headworks has decreased.

The water level in the Indus River has begun to rise, where a low-level flood situation persists.

According to barrage officials, water inflow at Sukkur Barrage increased by 31,000 cusecs over the past 24 hours.

The officials reported that the inflow at Sukkur Barrage was recorded at 315,172 cusecs, while the outflow stood at 260,512

Pak, China all-weather partnership anchors in trust, strategic alignment: **DPM/FM Dar**



E City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister (DPM/FM) Senator Mohammad Ishaq on Saturday said that Pakistan's all-weather strategic partnership with China was anchored in trust and strategic alignment.

'We value President Xi's leadership and initiatives such as the Belt and Road, and the global development, security & civilization Initiatives, which continue to transform economies and strengthen regional integration," the DPM posted on X handle.

Ahead of Pakistan's participation in the SCO Heads of leadership of Prime Minister states."

Shehbaz Sharif in Tianjin and Beijing, he shared Pakistan's perspective on CGTN's Global South Voices, highlighting the depth of Pak-China ties and the growing significance of SCO for the region. The DPM/FM further

said that Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) had become a pivotal Eurasian platform, advancing cooperation in security, trade, energy, connectivity, and culture under the principles of mutual trust and shared development.

In today's multipolar world, the SCO's role in promoting multilateralism, stability, and inclusive growth was more vital than ever, he added.

Deputy Prime Minister/ Foreign Minister Dar said, "I wish China every success in hosting the Summit, as collective commitments emerge for regional peace, prosperity, and cooperation. We also look forward to constructive highlevel engagements with the Chinese leadership and with State meetings, under the heads of other SCO member

Kim, Putin to Join Xi at Beijing Parade Marking WWII Anniversary

Naveed Ahmed Khan

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and Russian President Vladimir Putin will attend a major military parade in Beijing next week to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II, China's Foreign Ministry announced recently.

The "Victory Day" parade, scheduled for Tiananmen Square, will feature tens of thousands of troops and a display of China's latest military hardware. Chinese President Xi Jinping is expected to host 26 foreign leaders, with Kim and Putin taking center

Other attendees include Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko, and Indonesian President Prabowo President Xi and Russian President Putin declared a Subianto. South Korea will be represented by Woo Won-shik, speaker of the National Assembly, while Slovak Prime Minister Robert Fico will be the only Western leader present.

The event coincides with September 3, 1945, the date Japan formally surrendered to Allied Forces in Tokyo. While it is unclear if Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi will attend, he will be in China that week for a Shanghai Cooperation Organisation summit in Tianjin. India's ties with Beijing have shown signs of easing after years of tension following a 2020 border clash.

The parade underscores deepening ties among over the Ukraine conflict.



China, Russia, and North Korea. Beijing provides Pyongyang with vital economic support amid sanctions, while Moscow has received North Korean munitions and soldiers during its war in Ukraine. Chinese "no limits partnership" before the invasion, with China continuing to buy Russian energy and supply dual-use

Kim, who rarely travels abroad, will visit China for the first time since 2019. According to North Korea's KCNA, he will attend at Xi's invitation to celebrate the anniversary of China's resistance against Japan and the global fight against fascism.

President is expected to review the parade alongside visiting leaders. No U. S. or other major Western leaders will attend, reflecting divisions with Moscow

PM arrives in Tianjin to attend **SCO** summit

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif arrived here on Saturday to attend the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit, the 80th anniversary of the victory of the Chinese People's War in Beijing and other official engagements.

The Pakistani delegation accompanying the Prime Minister included Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Muhammad Ishaq Dar, Federal Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal, Minister for

Attaullah Tarar and senior government officials.

Sun Meijun, Minister and Secretary of the CPC Committee of the General Administration of Customs of China and Yu Yunlin, Chairman and Party Secretary of the Standing Committee of the Tianjin Municipal People's Congress, China's ambassador to Pakistan Jiang Zedong and Pakistan's ambassador to China Khalil Hashmi received the Prime Minister at Tianiin airport.

The Prime Minister will address the SCO Council of Heads of State Summit to be held from August 31, to Information and Broadcasting September 01, 2025.

SC makes submission of proforma mandatory in criminal cases



👺 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court (SC) on Saturday issued an important proforma for submission to the apex court in murder and other criminal

Under the new arrangement, from now onwards, parties to the case will have to jot down before submitting it to the apex of a case.

The details include the FIR number, the police station, names of the accused, their ages, the date on which they were arrested, decisions by a trial court as well as a high court, the day on which the post-mortem was conducted and others.

The purpose of the exercise is to make it easier for judges all details of the case on paper to determine the importance

Army evacuates 150,000 people from flood-affected areas

Pakistan Army on Saturday continued in flood-affected areas of Jhang, Faisalabad, and Toka Tek Sindh in coordination with civil administration, reported 24NewsHD TV channel.

Contingents of the Pakistan Army have evacuated 100,000 through Burewala which also to 150,000 people from flood-gripped the adjacent areas. waters and shifted them to The connection between safer locations with

the help of helicopters and boats. About 14,050

out of 15,800 people, including women, children, and senior citizens who were stranded in flood-affected areas, were rescued successfully.

Five relief camps, eighteen medical camps, and six rescue camps were established in Tandilianwala.

Pakistan Army, in collaboration with the Rescue 1122 teams, continued flood relief operations in Toka Tek Singh, where free medicines were being distributed among flood victims, while first aid was also

being provided to them. Pakistan Army is continuing

Relief operations by the relief efforts for the flood-af-

fected people.

Pakistan Army also evacuating people trapped in the floodwaters of River Sutlej and Head Sulemanki to safe locations.

Currently 90,000 feet cusecs of floodwater is passing



Basti Jan Mohammad was also suspended.

So far, thousands of people along with their livestock have been shifted to safe places from several villages.

Arrangements have also been made to provide essential medical assistance to the affected people.

People lauded the tireless efforts of the Pakistan Army to rescue people from flood-affected areas.

Sunday, August 31, 2025

Narendra Modi, brutally using military force to suppress the struggle of Kashmiris: Sardar

Attique

跨 Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD/RAWALPIN-DI:Former Prime Minister and President of All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan said that the Indian government led by Narendra Modi is brutally using military force to suppress the struggle of Kashmiris for the right to self-determination, but it will never succeed in its nefarious intentions. India has waged a war against the defenseless people of occupied Jammu and Kashmir and Indian atrocities have intensified after August 5, 2019. India has been subjecting Kashmiris to brutal atrocities for the last 78 years for demanding the right to self-determination. However, Indian oppres-



sion has not been able to force the Kashmiri people to give up their legitimate demands. He appealed to international human rights organizations to raise their voices against Indian atrocities in occupied Jammu and Kashmir. He expressed these views

while talking to Muslim Conference delegations at Mujahid Manzil in Rawalpindi.

Sardar Attique said that Kashmiris want implementation of UN resolutions in which the people of Jammu and Kashmir have been on the Kashmir issue.

guaranteed the right to self-determination. He said that they stand shoulder to shoulder with their Kashmiri brothers in the struggle against Indian occupation. He said that all political parties are on the same page

Nomination Papers

FAISALABAD: Senior Politician Raja Raiz Ahmed submits his nomination paper to returning officer to contest the election of National Assembly from the constituency of NA-104 on Saturday.



Rescue 1122 is on high alert for all possible measures. Mian Faraz Munir

👺 Zafar Chishti

Ravi River. Rescue 1122 Toba

Tek Singh is issuing repeated property at any time. On this ty. Citizens should fully coopwarnings. Citizens living near occasion, the district admin-TOBA TEK SINGH: District the river should immediately istration and Rescue 1122 are Emergency Officer Rescue leave low-lying areas and move on high alert for all possible 1122 Toba Tek Singh Mian to safer places to save their lives measures and all resourc-Faraz Munir has said in a and the lives of their families. es are being utilized. Mian statement that Toba Tek Singh He clarified that the water Faraz Munir appealed to the district is currently facing level in the Ravi River is rising public that this is not the time is the only way to save human for possible emergencies along a very high flood risk in the dangerously, which could for carelessness or negligence lives. It is gratifying that the with evacuating the people to result in massive loss of life and but for collective responsibili-

erate with the district administration, rescue personnel and other relevant institutions so that any major tragedy can be avoided. He further said that timely evacuation to safe places personnel of Rescue 1122 are



present in the field day and night and are fully prepared

Capital Development Authority TENDER NOTICE

LAST DATE & TIME DATE & TIME FOR FOR UPLOADING OF OPENING OF EARNEST MONEY OPENING OF TENDERS NAME OF WORK TENDERS Providing / Manufacturing / Fixing of G.I Duct at differen 18-09-2025 At 11:30 A.M Rs. 82,330/locations in Election Commission of Pakistan, Islamabad Year-round Operation / Maintenance of Lifts installed at Election Commission of Pakistan, Islamabad. Rs. 66,640/-2,221,344/-Repair/Maintenance of MISC.E&M components at NAB Headquarter Building, Islamabad (SH: Providing /Installation of Audio / video Conference System) in Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), Secretariat, Islamabad. Renlacement of Defective Main Control Card of Package type up 18-09-2025 At 11:30 A.M Rs. 93,561/-20 Ton capacity and allied works at executive building, Is 3,118,690/-Year-round operation / Maintenance of Air Conditioning Plant of Rs. 203,881/-18-09-2025 At 11:30 A.M 18-09-2025 At 12:00 Noon Direct fire absorption & Allied equipment, Installed at executive 6.796.020 oviding / Laying of electric cable for fixing of additi Rs. 28,908/-963,592/-Repair/Up-Gradation of Misc. E&M Components at NAB Rs 974,900/-Rs. 29,247/-Headquater Building Islamabad. (S.H: Providing/Replacement of electric Geysers & Repair of Hydraulic Road Blockers.) Replacement of Compressors for AC Units and Replacement of AIR Conditioner (AC) of the office of Member Election Commission of Pakistan in ECP Secretariate, Islamabad. 807,840/-

TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR BIDDER

Biding Documents are available on PPRA, E-PADS portal, no hard copy issued.

Only firms / contractors registered with PPRA E-PADSas vendors are eligible through online E-PADS Tendering.

The prospective bidders are required to submit bids security / earnest money CDA amounting as mentioned above works in favour of Deputy

Director (E&M), PMOH, CDA issued from any local schedule bank against firms account. Name of firms should be clearly mentioned on instrument call deposit at receipt (CDR). The prospective bidders shall upload scan copy of bid security on E-PADS and original will be

submitted at 16-09-2025 12:00 Noon, pay order is not acceptable.

The prospective bidders shall upload scanned copy of certificate is required on original judicial stamp paper for worth of Rs. 50/- their firms are not involved in any litigation and original will be submitted at the time of opening of bids.

In case the total bid amount is less than 10% below the NIT amount, the bidder shall submit call deposit as performance security equal to the difference between NIT amount and total quoted amount less 10% of NIT amount. This call deposit shall be in addition to the earnest money for the work and shall be deposited at the time of submission of bids. Bids not carrying the performance security shall be rejected. The performance security of the successful bidder shall be released after completion of the p

performance security of the successful bidder shall be released after completion of the project.

6. Work related information may be sought from the office of Deputy Director (E&M), PMOH, CDA.

7. In case of any gazzated / occasional holiday the tender will be open on next working day.

8. The bid security of the bidders will be submitted in CDA account and the same will be return to the unsuccessful bidders after acceptance of the lowest bid.

9. The bid for the works at Sr. No. 6 to 8 will be opened publically on 18-09-2025 12:00 Noon in the presence of the bidders or representative who chose to attend the opening session to be held in office of Deputy Director (E&M), Maintenance of Public Buildings, in Prime Minister's Office (Public).

10. The bid for the work at Sr. No. 1 to 5 will be opened publically on 18-09-2025 12:00 Noon in the presence of the bidders or representative who chose to attend the opening session to be held in office of Director. Maintenance of Public Buildings, in Prime Minister's Office (Public) chose to attend the opening session to be held in office of Director. Maintenance of Public Buildings in Prime Minister's Office (Public)

chose to attend the opening section, so building. CDA.

The authority reserves the right to accept or reject the bid.

Advertisement is also available on CDA website www.cda.gov.pk and PPRA website www.ppra.gov.pk and E-PADS Portals.

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Deputy Director (E&M), Maintenance of Public Building, CDA Islamabad

Governor stresses urgent need for dams, supports flood relief efforts

LAHORE: Punjab Governor Sardar Saleem Haider Khan has emphasized the urgent need to construct dams on a priority basis to address recurring flood situations.

He assured that the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) will stand firmly with flood victims and ensure their rehabilitation.

The governor made these remarks while visiting a relief camp set up in collaboration with

the Governor's House Lahore and the Red Crescent near Babu Sabu Toll Plaza, here on Saturday. During the visit, he personally distributed food items among the

flood-affected families. He said each victim would be provided two meals a day in the Red Crescent Mian Hanif said relief camps and thanked Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif for taking immediate action following his statement on the need for dam that the Pakistan Red Crescent

urged all citizens to join the government in supporting the victims, saying, "It is heartbreaking to see families displaced



from their homes due to heavy rains. I and my team are in the field to assist them, and we will not leave them alone under any circumstances.

He highlighted the importance of a proactive policy to address climate change and necessity of reviewing rules and regulations for housing societies along riverbanks, with penalties for violations.

On this occasion, Chairman that relief camps were being established across Punjab under the Governor's directives. He added Society was actively engaged Sardar Saleem Haider Khan in relief operations in districts, including Lahore, Hafizabad, Buner, Kasur, Muzaffargarh, Rajanpur, Narowal, and Mandi Bahauddin.

Mangla Dam is very satisfactory and there is no threat of any kind Commissioner Mirpur



MIRPUR: Commissioner Mirpur Division Chaudhry Mukhtar Hussain, keeping in mind the concerns and reservations regarding the recent new spell of rains and the worst flood disasters in Punjab, convened a meeting of the divisional and district administration and WAPDA Mangla officers in his office to deal with the sudden situation of monsoon rains, flood situation of rivers, water capacity in Mangla Dam and expected floods in Mirpur Division. He reviewed the situation and instructed the relevant institutions to take all necessary and safety measures. The meeting was attended by DIG Police Dr. Liaquat Hussain, Deputy Commissioner Yasir Riaz, SSP Khurram Iqbal, SC Shahrat Inam-ul-Haq, SC Electricity Raja Umar Hayat Khan, Exxon WAPDA Adnan Azeem Kundi, Divisional Director Schools Women Munza Kokab, Divisional Director Schools Men Syed Mugrin-uz-Zaman Bukhari, Assistant Commissioner Raja Zahid Hussain, Tehsildar Mirpur Chaudhry Imran Yousaf, Deputy Director Food Ijaz Ahmed. Qamar, District Information Officer Muhammad Javed Malik, Assistant Director Agriculture Azhar Hanif, Assistant Director 1122 Najam Al-Shahab, Naib Tehsildar Mirpur Asghar Mahmood, Naib Tehsildar Islamgarh Altaf Hussain, Bomb Disposal Civil Defense Humayun Raza participated, while Chief Engineer WAPDA Mangla Dam Raising Project Muhammad Faizan participated in the meeting through video link and briefed the Commissioner Mirpur Division regarding the water coming into the rivers of Azad Kashmir, floods and the water capacity in Mangla Dam. He said that till now the situation of Mangla Dam is very satisfactory and there is no threat of any kind. However, in view of the risks of large water relays coming into the rivers from occupied Kashmir and cloud bursts, a strategy should be prepared for security arrangements. He said that at present, the water level in Mangla Dam is up to 1224, while the capacity of filling Mangla Dam is up to 1242. Monitoring is being carried out at various places in Azad $\,$ Kashmir on the basis of WAPDA regarding the arrival of large water

Mushtaq paid rich tributes to Syed Ali Shah Geelani, on his fourth death anniversary

Spokesman Report

All Parties Hurriyat Conference Information Secretary Mushtaq Ahmed Butt, in a statement, paid rich tributes to the father of Hurriyat, the great leader of the Kashmir Freedom Movement, Syed Ali Shah Geelani, on his

fourth death anniversary. He said that Syed Ali Shah Geelani is an epoch-making leader in the history of Kashmir who spent his entire life resisting against Indian illegal occupation and oppressive rule. Geelani Sahib not only gave a



clear ideology to lead his nation to the goal of the right to self-determination, but also never deviated from his principled stance by following this ideology. He repeatedly went through the hardships of imprisonment and imprisonment, faced periods of house arrest, was deprived of medical treatment facilities, but

never backed down from his steadfastness and sincere determination. He said that Syed Ali Geelani is not the name of a person but the name of continuous struggle, a movement, a pledge, firm belief, a revolution, a hope and a light. His famous saying still resonates in the hearts of the Kashmiri people that *"Even if India spreads gold instead of tar on our roads, we will demand freedom from them." This saying is a clear proof of his steadfastness, unwavering faith and unconditional commitment to the freedom movement.

Funeral prayers offered of DG, FDA Asif Choudhry Brother Mian Shoaib Akhtar



Abdul Majid

GOJRA: Director General FDA Faisalabad, Muhammad Asif Chaudhry's elder brother Mian Muhammad Shoaib Akhtar has passed away due to divine decree. The funeral prayers of the deceased were offered in his native village Chak No. 248 Maldri near Mongi Bangla Gojra, which was attended by high-ranking government officials, relatives, industrialists, traders, Media Representative, lawyers, friends, FDA officers and staff and people of the village in large numbers. He was laid to rest in the presence of thousands of mourners. People from various government, business, social and journalistic circles and other schools of thought have expressed their condolences to Director General FDA Muhammad Asif Chaudhry on the death of his brother and prayed that Allah Almighty may forgive the deceased and grant him a high place in Paradise. May the bereaved family be given the courage and patience to bear this loss, Ameen.

PFA discards 108,000-litre adulterated milk

LAHORE, AUG 30 (APP): The Punjab Food Authority (PFA) enforcement teams have uncovered a network of suppliers producing and distributing adulterated milk in Bahawalnagar and supplying it to major cities, including Lahore, Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Chakwal, Faisalabad and Bahawalpur.

Dairy safety team discarded 108,000 litres of fake milk arrested three suspects, registered six FIRs and seized six vehicles along with drums, utensils, oil pumps, mixing machines, plungers and ghee tins. Operation was carried out under the supervision of PFA Director General Muhammad Asim Javaid after a prolonged surveillance of suppliers and their units.

The DG said that the accused identified as Dr. Asif, Abdul Rauf, Azhar Iqbal, Farooq and three unidentified accomplices were found preparing counterfeit milk with powder, water and vegetable ghee, using refractometers to make it resemble genuine milk. Spot tests failed and further laboratory analysis confirmed the adulteration.



Namaz Timings

EMERGENCY

Rescue (Police) 15		
Bomb Disposal 15		
Fire Services Rawalpindi/		
Islamabad1122 & 16		
Emergency Ambulance 1122 &		
& Rescue Services 4451122		
Motorway Police9266044		
Motorway Police9270601-20		
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	561110
MH	561116
Cantt Hospital	9270907-1
DHQ	5556311-4
RGH	9290301-
Holy Family	9290322-
PIMS	9261170-79
Polyclinic	9218300-09
Shifa International	4603660
DEPARTM	IENTS

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

COMPLAINTS

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

Technical guidance regarding crop management vital for farmers

LAHORE: Punjab Agriculture Secretary Iftikhar Ali Sahoo said on Saturday that field formations of the agriculture department had been assigned tasks regarding flood-related activities.

He chaired a special meeting here at Agriculture House to review the flood situation.

Issuing directions, he mphasized that active participation must be ensured in flood rescue

and relief operations. He instructed that in collaboration with the livestock department, arrangements should be made for fodder and feed for the livestock of flood victims, and that duties in flood relief and rescue operations must be performed diligently under the supervision of the district administration.

Secretary Agriculture Puniah Iftikhar Ali Sahoo stressed that in these extraordinary circumstances, the best professional skills should be executed whereas duties must be discharged considering them as national obli-

He said that full support must be extended to the divisional and district administrations. Initial surveys regarding crop losses in the field should be continued and farmers must be provided with technical guidance on crop management in light of the flood situation

Maryam says rescue and

the flood situation and rescue activities across the province. Speaking at the meeting, Maryam Nawaz said that performance of her entire team during the flood was commendable. She said, "I appreciate the performance of the administration as all institutions are working tirelessly for the flood victims."

She said that provincial minis-

Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz explaining that the situation worson Saturday chaired a meeting to review ened due to the continuous rain. She said that India opened spillways due to which the rivers overflowed, but the places. local administration rescued the flood victims in time.

Maryam said it was not easy to deal with the flood water. She said that rescue teams saved millions of lives and added: "I appreciate the performance of the administration as around

The Punjab chief minister said, We made a 5-phase plan in view of the flood. At least 450,000 people were rescued." She said it was the biggest rescue operation carried out in the history of Pakistan. She said that Jhang, Multan and Muzaffar-

floods may hit Okara, Sahiwal, Toba the flood affected people. She said Tek Singh, Khanewal and Kasur in the coming days. Pakpattan, Vehari, Bahawalnagar, Bahawalpur, Rajanpur and Rahim Yar Khan may also be affected, she added.

The Punjab chief minister said the district administration should make ters were visiting the affected areas, 100,000 people were moved to safer garh may be affected by floods. Also, arrangements for boats and rafts for should also be ensured.

that relief operation was going well in Punjab, adding that food should be provided to flood victims.

She directed the administration to provide food, drinking water and dry ration to flood victims. She said that availability of fodder for animals

Dinner

Islamabad: H.E Ms Dorsaf Maaroufi- Charge' de' Affaires Tunisia Embassy, Ammad Rasheed - Honorary Consul General of Tunisia for KP and spouse and Honorary Consul General of Turkmenistan Hatim Yagoob Tabani were invited by the President Shafigue Ur Rehman & team of EO Islamabad.



Civil Society Unites to Advance Population Stabilization Under CCI Action Plan

Rafiullah Mandokhel

QUETTA: The Population Council, with support from UNFPA, convened a meeting of the CSOs Coalition on Population in Islamabad, bringing together leading civil society organizations to strengthen collaboration and accountability for the implementation of the Council of Common Interests (CCI) National Action Plan on Population.

In his welcome remarks, Dr. Ali Mir, Senior Director at the Population Council, emphasized the importance of implementing the CCI-en- Change for tomorrow (ACT), schools, and grassroots youth dorsed National Action Plan Shirkat Gah, Strengthening mobilization. (NAP), which calls on NGOs

and civil society organizations to work closely with Health (DOHs) and Population Welfare Departments (PWDs) to extend family planning and reproductive health services to underserved and unserved areas.

Civil society organizations presented their progress family planning, best practices at the community level, and proposed strategies for strengthening accountability Participatory Organiza-

Marketing (GSM), Rahnuprovincial Departments of ma-FPAP, Jhpiego, HANDS, Rural Support Programmes Network (RSPN), Bedari, Institute for Social and Youth Development (ISYD), Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Pakistan (SOGP), Search for Justice, Today's Women Organizaon key achievements in tion (TWO), Balochistan Rural Support Programme (BRSP), and Taraqee Foundation, highlighted diverse innovations ranging from mechanisms of population women's empowerment initiaprogrammes. Member organtives and digital health tools to izations, including Aiming tele-health services, husband

In addition, PODA, Marie

tion (SPO), Greenstar Social Stopes Society (MSS), Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF), HOPE Foundation, and Hujra Village Organization also took active part in the discussions, contributing valuable perspectives to strengthen collaboration and accountability in the implementation of

the CCI National Action Plan. In his concluding remarks, Dr. Ghulam Farid Khan, Programme Analyst M&E (SRH) at UNFPA, emphasized the need for synergy across parliamentary, media, and civil society platforms, underscoring that evidencedriven advocacy and accountability frameworks are essential to sustain recent policy

Flood Relief and Evacuation Drive Intensified Across Multan Division on CM's Orders

跨 Zain Khan Malghani

MULTAN: On the directives of Punjab Chief Minister Marvam Nawaz, district administration and rescue agencies in Multan Division have accelerated operations for the evacuation, relief, and rehabilitation of flood

Commissioner Multan, Amir Kareem Khan, said that more than 261,747 people have been shifted to safe places so far, including 238,419 from Multan, 2,307 from Vehari, 17,068 from Khanewal, and 3,953 from Lodhran. He added that over 255,538 livestock have also been

rescued and moved to secure locations.



division – 25 in Multan, 13 in Vehari, rupted food supply, clean drinking households that have not yet evacuated According to the Commissioner, 22 in Khanewal, and 24 in Lodhran. water, medical aid, and other essen-84 relief camps are active across the The camps are providing uninter-tial services, while arrangements for avoid any loss of life.

fodder and water have also been made for livestock.

He further stated that drone technology has been introduced for continuous monitoring of flood-affected and low-lying areas to ensure timely evacuation and the safety of citizens. "Once the water level recedes, losses will be assessed and compensation will be provided on a priority basis," he assured.

Commissioner Amir Kareem Khan added that district administration and rescue teams are working round the clock, urging public cooperation to make the efforts more effective. Teams

are also repeatedly approaching to persuade them to leave in order to

Sindh CM orders strict monitoring of barrages, embankments



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah contacted the designated ministers regarding the expected flood situation in the River Indus and instructed

them to strictly monitor the embankments and irrigation systems on both the right and left banks of the river.

According to a statement issued from the CM House, Minister for Irrigation Jam Khan Shoro briefed the Chief Minister on the river

The briefing revealed that at 12 noon on Saturday, the upstream water flow at Guddu Barrage was recorded at 383,299 cusecs and the downstream at 350,943 cusecs. At Sukkur Barrage, the upstream flow was 313,000 cusecs and downstream 259,050 cusecs, while at Kotri Barrage, upstream was 264,131 cusecs and downstream 233,216 cusecs.

The chief minister was informed that the current status of the barrages is under control and that all safety measures have been

On this occasion, Syed Murad Ali Shah directed the relevant departments and district administrations to remain fully active in the field, while ministers should continuously supervise all measures directly. The ministers assured the Chief Minister that continuous monitoring of the barrages and embankments is ongoing and that they are present on the banks to ensure the safety of the public.

The Sindh Chief Minister urged the residents living along the riverbanks and in low-lying areas to fully cooperate with the administration to ensure their protection in case of any emergency

Dist Peace committee Attock interfaith Harmony at DC office Attock

👺 Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: The month of Rabi-ul-Awwal is the month of blessings and mercy, in which the Leader of Prophets, Mercy for all the worlds, Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH) came into this world. This blessed month is the foundation of unity and solidarity, through which we can defeat tyrannical forces. These views were expressed by Deputy Commissioner Attock, Rao Atif Raza, while presiding over a meeting of the District Peace Committee and Interfaith Harmony at DC Office Attock in connection with Rabi-ul-Awwal. The meeting was attended by Member National Assembly Sheikh Aftab Ahmad, PML-N ticket holder Malik Hameed Akbar Khan, DPO Attock Sardar Moawrah

Khan, and members of the District Peace Committee. Addressing the meeting, the DC said that we should demonstrate full unity and sacrifice in this blessed month, as taught to the Muslim Ummah by our Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). With the arrival of the Prophet (PBUH) in this sacred month, the darkness of disbelief vanished and mercy spread across the entire universe. He emphasized that in this important month, it is necessary for people from all schools of thought to come together, as taught by Islam. Attock has always been a cradle of peace and harmony, and it is hoped that this peace will continue in the future.

PkMAP rejects colleges, schools Outsourcing Plan in SW Lower, Upper



SOUTH WAZIRISTAN: Pashtunkhwa Milli Awami Party's (PkMAP) provincial additional general secretary, Ashfaq Wazir, on Saturday, rejected the Khyber Pakhtunkhowa government's decision to outsource colleges and schools in South Waziristan (Lower) and South Waziristan Upper branding it an "ambush on education" and a blatant violation of the Constitution.

Mr Wazir, in his statement, said that education cannot be treated as a commercial commodity but is a social and constitutional right that every government is obliged to provide to citizens without discrimination. Citing Article 25-A of the Constitution, he said the state is bound to provide free education to all children between the ages of five and sixteen. He stressed that outsourcing colleges amounts to evading this constitutional responsibility.

The PkMAP has vowed strong resistance against the policy and called upon elected representatives from the region—including MNA Zubair Wazir, MPA Asif Wazir, and Ajab Gul Wazir—to stand with the people and play their role in stopping the decision, which Mr Wazir described as against the public interest.

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Pakistan stresses dialogue, diplomacy to end Ukraine war

mid the escalation of large-scale Russian attacks on Ukraine, Pakistan has called for an end to the conflict, now in its fourth year, through dialogue and a negotiated settlement.

"We note with deep dismay the continuation in fighting, resulting in the loss of innocent civilian lives, including children," Ambassador Asim Iftikhar Ahmad, permanent representative of Pakistan to the United Nations, said at an emergency meeting of the Security Council convened by

Russia hit Ukraine with deadly missiles and drone strikes early on Thursday in a sweeping attack that the U. S. special envoy on Ukraine said undermined President Donald Trump's peace efforts.

At least 23 people were killed in the capital, Tymur Tkachenko, head of Kyiv's military administration, said in a statement.

Pakistan, Ambassador Asim Iftikhar Ahmad said, had repeatedly voiced its concerns on the continuing hostilities and devastating consequences of this conflict, particularly its humanitarian toll.

He welcomed the recent diplomatic efforts spearheaded by U. S. President Donald Trump to bring an end to this conflict, noting the leadership-level contacts between the U.S. and Russia, as well as summit-level interactions between the US and Ukraine and a group of European leaders.

"We remain hopeful that the diplomatic groundwork laid down at the start of the year, including Security Council Resolution 2774, multiple rounds of negotiations between Russia and Ukraine, and the recent high-level interactions, would lead to a meaningful outcome, an early end to hostilities and an enduring peace in the region," the Pakistani

"These efforts must not stop and should in fact be continued earnestly and followed up with more diplomacy, deeper engagement and structured and sustained talks," he added.

"Only a sincere and meaningful dialogue which addresses the security concerns of all sides, which is anchored in the principles of the UN Charter and international law, and respects the relevant multilateral agreements, can help secure peace, which is both just and enduring".

Briefing the 15-member Council, Miroslav Jenca, UN Assistant Secretary-General for Europe, Central Asia and the Americas at the Departments of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, said that Russia's large-scale escalation of attacks against civilians persists, killing children, setting grim casualty records and jeopardizing fragile diplomatic momentum.

A Defense Without Dams

in many develremains the most neglected resource. Pakistan, a land of mighty rivers, fertile plains, and a rapidly growing population, finds itself in the grip of recurring floods, droughts, and water scarcity. The irony is sharp: a nation blessed with natural water sources struggles because it has failed to manage them properly. The absence of sufficient dams and water reservoirs has left Pakistan vulnerable to disasters that could otherwise be prevented. In simple words, we are trying to defend ourselves against climate change, food insecurity, and energy crises without the most crucial shield dams. This is what one may call a

defense without dams. Dams are not mere structures of cement and stone; they are strategic assets for any nation. They regulate river flows, store floodwaters, generate electricity, provide irrigation, and ensure water availability during dry seasons. Countries like China and the United States have demonstrated how building large-scale dams can transform agriculture, industry, and energy sectors. In Pakistan, however, the story is different. Despite being an agricultural country where more than 70% of the population depends on farming, Pakistan stores water for only about 30 days, compared to India's 170 days and the world average of 200 days. This means that without dams, our food security, economy, and

national stability remain at constant risk. The phrase "a defense without dams" highlights Pakistan's vulnerability. Every year, torrential monsoon rains swell rivers, destroy villages, sweep away crops, and cause billions of rupees in damage. Just recently, devastating floods submerged large parts of Punjab and Sindh, displacing millions and ruining

ater is the life- fertile lands. If dams had been built, is also about ensuring that the people, line of nations, yet these waters could have been stored for irrigation and power generation instead oping countries it of wreaking havoc. On the other hand, during dry spells and droughts, farmers cry out for water, industries face shortages, and cities confront drinking water crises. The tragedy is that the same water that destroys us in floods abandons us during droughts because we have

nowhere to store it. This is equivalent to going to war without weapons, a defense without dams.

Another critical aspect of dams is hydropower. Pakistan is facing one of the worst energy crises in its history. With growing demand and costly reliance on

imported fuel, electricity shortages have crippled industries and increased inflation. Yet, experts estimate that Pakistan has the potential to generate more than 60,000 MW of hydropower, but currently, it produces less than 10% of this potential. Without dams, we depend on expensive thermal and imported energy sources, draining our economy. In contrast, hydropower from dams is clean, renewable, and sustainable. Therefore, every unbuilt dam is not only a missed opportunity but also a burden on future generations.

The 2010 super floods and the 2022 unprecedented deluges serve as harsh reminders that floods are no less than a national security threat. Thousands of people lost their lives, millions were displaced, and infrastructure worth billions was destroyed. In military terms, leaving yourself open to repeated assaults without building defensive walls is suicidal. Similarly, ignoring dams is leaving the nation open to the assault of floods. A true national defense is not only

fields, and economy are safe from natural disasters. In that sense, Pakistan has strengthened its military but neglected its hydraulic defenses.

Agriculture forms the backbone of Pakistan's economy, contributing about 20% of GDP and employing nearly half of the workforce. Yet, agriculture in Pakistan is highly dependent on irrigation

from rivers. Without dams farmers face water shortages in critical seasons. Crops such as wheat, rice, and cotton lifelines for food and export - cannot achieve their full potential. At the same time, floods destroy standing crops and fertile soil.

This double-edged sword threatens the very foundation of food security. To feed a growing population that is expected to cross 300 million by 2050, Pakistan must build dams to store and regulate water. Otherwise, hunger and poverty will deepen, causing further instability.

Muhammad Asif

Climate change has further intensified Pakistan's water crisis. Melting glaciers in the north and unpredictable monsoon patterns have made floods and droughts more frequent and severe. Scientists warn that Pakistan may face absolute water scarcity by 2025 if urgent measures are not taken. In this context, dams are not a luxury but a necessity. They act as buffers against extreme weather, storing excess water during heavy rains and releasing it during dry spells. Without dams, Pakistan's defense against climate change is incomplete.

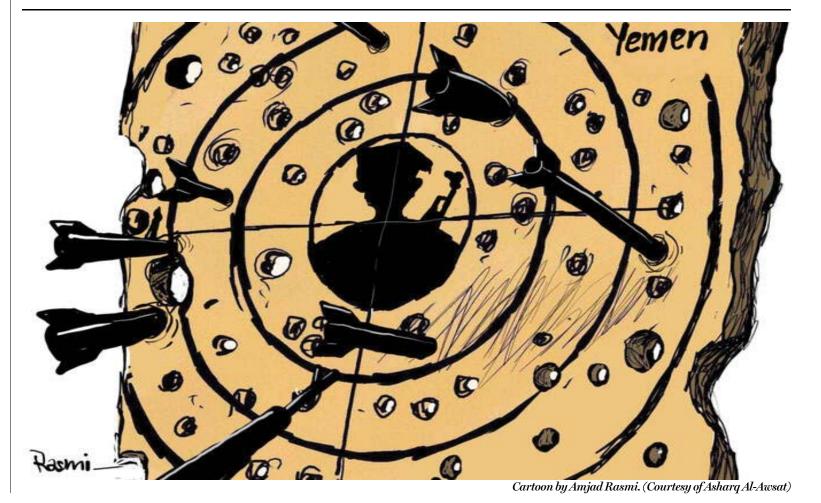
Around the world, countries have used dams as tools of national development. China's Three Gorges Dam, India's Bhakra Dam, and Egypt's Aswan High Dam are symbols of how water manageabout tanks, jets, or nuclear weapons; it ment can uplift economies. These nations

realized early that controlling water is as important as controlling borders. Unfortunately, Pakistan has wasted decades in political disputes and bureaucratic hurdles, failing to build consensus on vital projects like Kalabagh Dam. While the debates dragged on, the population grew, rivers overflowed, and energy crises deepened. The lesson is clear: without water infrastructure, a nation cannot stand strong.

The time has come to treat dams as instruments of national defense. Building large and small dams across provinces should be prioritized just as much as defense budgets. Projects like Diamer-Bhasha Dam, Mohmand Dam, and Dasu Dam must be completed without further delay. At the same time, smaller community-level reservoirs should be developed to store rainwater and recharge groundwater. Public awareness campaigns are also needed to highlight that water management is everyone's responsibility. The state, politicians, and civil society must rise above divisions and unite for water security, because the survival of the nation depends on it.

A defense without dams is no defense at all. Pakistan's true strength will not only be measured in missiles and tanks but also in its ability to store, manage, and use its water wisely. Each flood that destroys lives and each drought that cripples agriculture is a reminder of our negligence. Dams are not just concrete structures; they are shields against disaster, engines of growth, and guarantors of survival. To defend Pakistan's future generations, building dams must become a national priority. Otherwise, we will remain exposed, unprepared, and vulnerable standing in the storm without shelter, fighting battles without armour, struggling for survival with a defense without

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Local Governance and Climate Resilience

Muhammad Zain Ul Haq

without effective implementation by local government. Climate change is a phenomenon that requires the collaboration of multiple stake holders to effectively counter its devastating effects, but for that to happen the stake holders must deliver their part in countering clime change. Arguably one of the biggest stake holder is local government. The concept of local government is that, they are given certain amount of power and autonomy to manage affairs at a local level and effectively execute the states policy. No matter what type of government it may be, I.e., from pro authoritarian to pro-democracy, the government at

a local level must play their part to execute

states domestic policy. Pakistan, developing itself as a more functional democracy, is constantly faced with challenges to of effective local governance. The recent floods have explicitly showed fundamental flaws in Pakistan's response to climate change, among which it can be clearly seen how provincial government handles immediate threat through provincial institutions. The governance decentralizes to district level, playing its part in effective crisis management. Without a doubt the most successful local government in this regard is Punjab government but it still significantly lacks behind the higher standard, essential for stable environment and sustainable community.

How can Pakistan improve its local governance to effectively counter climate change?

30 people died in Chakwal in first 24 hour of flash flood (July 2025), and significant infrastructure loss including homes, and government infrastructure, this is the case of best

than the disaster Buner (KPK) is facing, with more than 300 deaths and extremely poor management. Balochistan Droughts, Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (2022), and Smog olicy at national level can never effectively counter climate change post 2022, all have one thing in common, they were poorly addressed by local government. The failure includes absences of localized risk monitoring system, absence of relocation plans, communities not educated with disaster response, weak coordination between federal and local government and ineffective enforcement and regulation of sustainable policies. Hence we can conclude that resilience at local level effects people the most and absence of that resilience has caused the most

Climate resilience begins at grass root level, where communities directly faces the effects of climate degradation. Hence local resilience is essential to and the fastest way to address problem related to local community. Each region in Pakistan faces a different sets of problem, unique to it geography and local conditions. Floods in Sindh, droughts in Balochistan, smog in Punjab, melting glaciers in Gilgit, are all addressed while keeping in context of local environment emphasizing importance of effective local governance.

Visionary Acumen: The longevity of a policy and infrastructure which persist and remains practical through the time is perhaps the most essential. Just addressing things for today and not planning for the future fundamentally challenges the concept of sustainability and development. If an infrastructure, institution or any policy were to be made it should encompass all the significant aspect essential for staying relevant and practical.

Monitoring and data collection: Real time update and data of must be readily available to predict future possibilities and data driven and impact for vulnerable communities across policy making. This will include data related the country. to damages to local communities, data relating provincial and local government in Pakistan. to business and industries for sustainable prac-But comparatively it is still significantly better tices, and data related to weather forecasting etc.

Inclusive resilience: engaging local communities for better climate resilience, directly addresses the human security factor and promotes grass-root approach for better management and cohesion during during crisis. Inclusive resilience also takes advantage of local knowledge of climate and coping strategies for more effectiveness and builds

adaptive capacity by involving diverse groups. Technology and AI: AI powered system can predict disasters and climate change, this technology used in IRSA, Indus River System Authority and PMD, Pakistan Meteorological department to predict rainfall and river flow by using satellite imaginary and AI foretasting. Improving this system predict other disaster and climate change, especially in other provinces, by using PDMA, Provincial Disaster Management Authority as an administrative body. Other benefits by AI power include GIS, Geographic Information System and risk estimation, monitoring soil health and crop yield, and urban climate planing especially after

growing industrialization. Local governments in Pakistan are critical for climate resilience, but weak implementation, poor coordination, and lack of data systems undermine their effectiveness. Strengthening local governance with inclusive practices and AI-based tools can significantly improve climate response and disaster

Addressing climate change at the local level is not optional, it is essential. Pakistan must decentralize climate responsibilities more effectively, build institutional capacity in local governments, and integrate community participation and technological innovation. Only by empowering local governance can national climate goals become meaningful

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Maryam Nawaz Sharif's Active **Diplomacy Brings Japan** Closer to Punjab

world's most advanced economies. Her packed schedule included high-level meetings with Japanese government officials, business leaders, technology companies, and development organizations. The visit reflected her forward-looking vision for Punjab, centered on modern urban development, environmental sustainability,

investment opportunities, and skill development for youth.

CM Maryam Nawaz was warmly received at Handa Airport, Tokyo, by senior Japanese officials, Pakistan's Ambassador to Japan Abdul Hameed, and a large number of overseas Pakistanis. While some opposition critics have raised questions about the size or cost of her delegation, such remarks are unfounded when weighed against the significance of this visit. Her tour is a clear symbol of active diplomacy, an approach that Pakistan's economy urgently needs to attract investment, create jobs, and strengthen international partnerships. Maryam Nawaz demonstrated clarity of vision, energetic leadership, and determination to deliver results through her extensive engagements in Japan. Her meetings and agreements are strong evidence of her and rice exports. Moreover, enhanced cooperaperformance and her commitment to turning diplomacy into real economic opportunities for Puniab and Pakistan.

Her symbolic meeting with Tokyo's first female Deputy Governor Matsumoto Akiko was another to becoming a hub of innovation, sustainability, highlight. Both leaders being the first women and global cooperation.

hief Minister Punjab Maryam to hold their respective offices, underscored the Nawaz Sharif's recent five-day importance of women's leadership and empowofficial visit to Japan has opened a erment in shaping progressive societies. They new chapter of bilateral coopera- agreed to strengthen bilateral cooperation in tion between Punjab and one of the urban development, renewable energy, and clean



"Future City," blending tradition with innovation. As she concluded her historic tour, it was evident that the engagements went far beyond protocol. They marked the beginning of a forward-looking partnership where Japan's advanced expertise meets Punjab's potential, with opportunities to build modern cities, empower youth, and create an investment-friendly ecosystem. The visit is expected to result in concrete outcomes such as Japanese investment in Punjab's Special Economic Zones, collaboration in electric vehicles and IT parks, and technology transfer in waste management and renewable energy. Agreements and discussions with leading Japanese companies and officials are likely to open new markets for Punjab's dairy products, surgical instruments, tion in policing, disaster management, and urban planning will strengthen Punjab's governance framework. For Punjab, the visit was not just a bold step in diplomacy but a practical roadmap

President to host record SCO Summit amid rising geopolitical tensions

Naveed Ahmed Khan

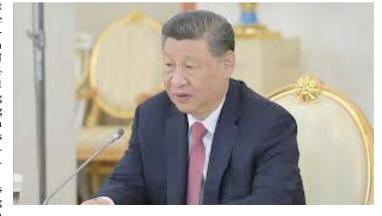
ISLAMABAD: Chinese President Xi Jinping will welcome more than 20 world leaders to the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit the forum's history, as global trade frictions and geopolitical rivalries intensify.

The two-day meeting in the northeastern port city of Tianjin will bring China in 2018 pushed manufacturers together a high-profile guest list that to pivot toward Southeast Asia, spurincludes Russian President Vladimir ring new cooperation in digital infra-Putin and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, alongside leaders from Central Asia, South Asia and the Middle East. United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and ASEAN Secretary-General Kao Kim Hourn will also of the world's population and about a

ASEAN's expanded presence is

sented, including Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto, Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim and Vietnamese Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh. China's trade with ASEAN reached 1.7 trillion yuan (US\$234 opening today, the largest gathering in billion) in the first quarter, up 7.1 percent year-on-year, underscoring the bloc's role as Beijing's top trading partner. Analysts say U. S. tariffs on structure and Belt and Road projects.

The SCO, founded in 2001, has grown to 10 members, including China, Russia, India, Pakistan, Iran and Belarus, accounting for 42 percent quarter of global GDP. Seen as a Eurasian counterweight to U. S.-led alli-



grouping typically focuses on security, counter-terrorism, energy and trade.

notable, with five member states repre- ances such as NATO and the G7, the the war in Ukraine and tensions in While Beijing has called for dialogue, event, joining North Korea's Kim regional and global order.

the Middle East. The summit comes just weeks after Putin met former U. This year's agenda is expected to S. President Donald Trump in Alaska feature conflict hotspots including without making progress on Ukraine.

in any peace process.

China is also expected to push again for an SCO Development Bank, a plan stalled since 2010 due to Russian opposition. Analysts note Moscow may now be more open, given Western sanctions following its invasion of Ukraine. However, consensus remains elusive, with divisions over governance, funding, and China's potential dominance. "The primary hurdle has been a lack of consensus on funding and governance," said Dylan Loh of Singapore's Nanyang Technological Univer-

Following the summit, Beijing will stage a massive military parade on Wednesday to mark 80 years since Japan's surrender in World War II. Some leaders will remain for the

Kyiv has ruled out China as a guarantor Jong Un, Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko and Iran's Masoud Pezeshkian.

Despite unresolved tensions, Beijing is casting the SCO as a platform for dialogue. "The Shanghai Spirit which transcends Cold War thinking and zero-sum games - remains as relevant as ever," said Assistant Foreign Minister Liu Bin. Analysts caution, however, against expecting major breakthroughs. "At the very least, the SCO provides space for grievances to be aired without interference from the U.S. or other Global North actors," said Brian Wong of the University of Hong Kong.

China last hosted the SCO summit in 2018, during the height of the U. S.-China trade war. This year's gathering comes as Beijing seeks to project itself as a central force in shaping

General Sahir attends Victory Day Celebration of armed forces of

Türkiye

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Turkiye on Friday celebrated the Turkish Armed Forces' Victory Day with a formal ceremony in Islamabad, attended by top civil, military and diplomatic representatives. Federal Minister for Railways, Mr. Muhammad Hanif Abbasi and H. E. Atadjan Movlamov, Ambassador of Turkmenistan to Pakistan and Dean of the Diplomatic Corps were also present on the occasion.

Committee (CJCSC), graced the occanations.

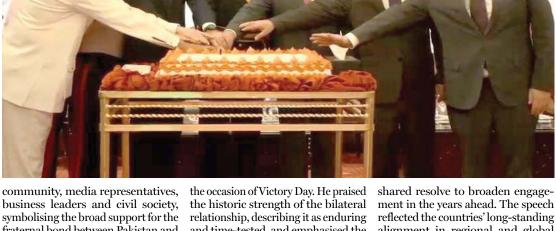




General Sahir Shamshad Mirza, sion as Chief Guest, underscoring Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff the significance of the event for both

The gathering brought together senior government officials, military officers, members of the diplomatic





fraternal bond between Pakistan and Turkiye. The ceremony highlighted the depth of people-to-people, institutional and strategic ties shared by the two countries.

In his address, General Mirza people of Turkiye, its political leader-

and time-tested, and emphasised the mutual trust and common values that continue to guide cooperation.

to further expand cooperation across extended warm felicitations to the all domains. He underlined the part- welcome highlighted the spirit of nership's importance in defence, polit-camaraderie that has long defined ship and the Turkish Armed Forces on ical and economic spheres, noting the relations between the two nations.

ment in the years ahead. The speech reflected the countries' long-standing alignment in regional and global matters of mutual concern.

Earlier on his arrival, General The CJCSC reaffirmed Pakistan's Mirza was warmly received by Berk determination, along with Turkiye, Ece, Chargé d'affaires of the Embassy of Turkiye in Pakistan. The official

Yemen's Houthi prime minister and key ministers killed in Israeli airstrike

Reuters

The prime minister of Yemen's Houthi government and several other ministers were killed in an Israeli strike on the capital Sanaa, the news agency run by the group said on Saturday, citing a statement by the head of the Houthi Supreme Political Council, Mahdi al-Mashat.

Several others wounded in Thursday's strike, it said, without providing details.

Israel said on Friday that the airstrike had targeted the Iran-aligned group's chief of other senior officials and that

not make clear whether the among the casualties.



Head of the Houthi-led government Ahmad al-Rahawi. Reuters: File photo

The Houthi-run news made before or after the agency ran a statement from attack. the defence minister shortly staff, defence minister and after it confirmed the prime minister's death and quoted it was verifying the outcome. him as saying the group was Mashat's statement did ready to confront Israel.

Houthi defence minister was mention Thursday's airstrike, on Saturday to carry out the and it was unclear if it was prime minister's duties.

Ahmad Ghaleb al-Rahwi became prime minister nearly a year ago, but the de facto leader of the government was his deputy, Mohamed The statement did not Moftah, who was assigned

Rahwi was seen largely as a figurehead who was not part of the inner circle of the Houthi leadership.

minister Defence Mohamed al-Atifi runs the Houthi's Missiles Brigade Group and is considered their leading missiles expert.

The Israeli military said its fighter jets had struck a compound in the Sanaa area where senior Houthi figures had gathered, describing the attack as a "complex operation" made possible by intelligence-gathering and air supe-

On Thursday, Israeli security sources had said the targets had been various locations where a large number of senior Houthi officials had gathered to watch a televised speech recorded by leader Abdul Malik al-Houthi.

Evacuation of Gaza City would be unsafe and unfeasible: Red Cross

The head of the Red Cross warned on Saturday that it would be impossible to keep people safe during a mass evacuation of Gaza City, as Israel intensifies its assault.

Israel is pushing ahead with its plan to take full control of the whole Gaza Strip, starting with Gaza City, after nearly 23 months of war, while facing a global outcry over starvation in the besieged

enclave. "It is impossible that a mass evacuation of Gaza City could ever be done in a way that is safe and dignified under the current conditions," Red Cross President Mirjana Spoljaric said in a statement.

An evacuation would provoke a massive population displacement that no other area in the Gaza Strip is equipped to absorb,



amid severe shortages of sick or injured, Spoljaric in Gaza. This makes any food, shelter, and medical said. supplies, Spoljaric said.

to leave for the south of the Palestinian enclave.

Many people in Gaza City would not be able to orders are issued. follow evacuation orders because they are starving, cannot currently be met civilians.

International humani-Israel has asked civilians tarian law requires Israel to ensure that civilians have access to shelter, safety and nutrition, when evacuation

"These

evacuation not only unfeasible but incomprehensible under the present circumstances," Spoljaric added.

Israel's military campaign in Gaza has killed more than 63,000 conditions people in Gaza, mostly

US approves \$150m Starlink, \$179m Patriot defence sale to Ukraine

Reuters

A launcher of a Patriot air defence system of the Ukrainian Air Forces is seen on the ground, in an undisclosed location in Ukraine. Reuters file

The US State Department has approved the potential sale of Starand related equipment to Ukraine, the Pentagon said on Friday.



link services and related equipment air-launched cruise missiles and related and Patriot air defence sustainment equipment to Ukraine for an estimated

The Trump administration has The transactions are worth \$150 agreed with European allies to step up million and \$179 million, respectively. military support for Kyiv as US Presi-On Thursday, the Pentagon dent Donald Trump seeks to pressure announced US approval for the sale of Russia into agreeing to a peace deal to

end its war in Ukraine.

Under the agreement, European governments will pay for US weapons on Ukraine's behalf.

Starlink has been integral to Ukraine's communications on the battlefield, including its control of drones, the backbone of its military's strikes on Russian forces.

The Patriot systems have proven effective at destroying Russian ballistic missiles aimed at Ukraine's cities.

Despite approval by the State Department, the notifications do not indicate that contracts have been signed or that negotiations have concluded.

fire to regional parliament building 跨 Reuters Three people died and five were

injured in Indonesia after protesters set fire to a regional parliament building, authorities said on Saturday, as demonstrations pose the first major test to President Prabowo Subianto's government. The Southeast Asian nation's

disaster management agency, in a statement, did not give the causes of out of the building. the deaths in the Friday evening fire in Makassar, the capital of South Sulawesi

The Antara news agency said the dead victims allegedly had been trapped

in the burning building. The disaster agency said two of the injuries resulted from people jumping late on Friday, offering condolences to



Three dead as Indonesian protesters set

Protests began in Indonesia's capital Jakarta this week over lawmakers' pay, escalating on Friday after a police armoured vehicle hit and killed the

driver of a ride-hailing motorbike. Prabowo, who took office in October last year, visited the home of the driver his parents and vowing to oversee the investigation into his death.

People travel past a bus stop burned during a protest over lawmakers' pay in Jakarta, Indonesia. – Reuters

Local media reported isolated looting in Jakarta and damage to several transportation facilities in Jakarta on Friday, as well as demonstrations in the major cities of Bandung and Yogyakarta.

Jakarta's mass rapid transit railway said trains were not stopping at one station on Saturday near Friday's protest site, while the Jakarta province-owned Transjakarta bus service

said it was unable to serve customers. There were no immediate signs of

protests on Saturday.

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: FTS	E 100 Index		
Index Value	Change		
9,187.34	-29.48		
Percentage	Time		
-29.48	29 Aug, 4:35 pm GMT+1		
USA: Dow Jones I	ndustrial Average		
Index Value	Change		
45,464.43	-172.47		

-0.38%	GMT-4			
Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Averag				
Index Value	Change			
42,718.47	-110.32			
Percentage	Time			
-0.26%	29 Aug, 3:45 pm GMT+9			

Time

29 Aug, 12:29 pm

Percentage

Open Market Forex Rates			
Currency	Buying	Selling	
Australian Dollar	183.5	188.5	
Bahrain Dinar	748.85	751.35	
Canadian Dollar	204	209	
China Yuan	39.25	39.65	
Danish Krone	43.88	44.28	
Euro	328.9	330.70	
Hong Kong Dollar	36.03	36.38	
Indian Rupee	3.14	3.23	
Japanese Yen	1.8975	1.9975	
Kuwaiti Dinar	914.75	922.75	
Malaysian Ringgit	66.68	67.28	
NewZealand \$	164.33	166.33	
Norwegians Krone	27.73	28.03	
Omani Riyal	733.45	735.95	
Qatari Riyal	77.22	77.92	
Saudi Riyal	75.3	75.5	
Singapore Dollar	217.75	222.75	
Swedish Korona	29.39	29.69	
Swiss Franc	350.41	353.16	
Thai Bhat	8.59	8.74	
U.A.E Dirham	77	77.2	
UK Pound Sterling	380.90	382.80	
US Dollar	282.8	283.6	

Qaiser Shams Ğacha met with new Chief Traffic Officer

👺 Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: Acting President of Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Qaiser Shams Gacha met with the new Chief Traffic Officer Rana Nasir Javed and discussed with him about solving traffic problems. The CTO said that the traffic staff will have to try to keep the traffic flowing with full diligence, hard work and sincerity and no negligence will be tolerated on their part in this regard. Qaiser Shams Gacha said that there are excellent links between the business community and the traffic police. In addition to learner licenses, other facilities are also being provided by the police in the Faisalabad Chamber, while in addition to issuing permanent driving permits, arrangements are also being made to take driving tests at a place adjacent to the chamber. He also informed the CTO about the construction of new cabins for the traffic police in the basement of the chamber and the provision of modern facilities in them. He said that parking on the roads of higher educational institutions causes traffic congestion, so they should be required to provide parking and pick and drop facilities within their boundaries. He congratulated $\,$ Rana Nasir Javed on performing Umrah and also invited him to visit the Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Gold prices up by Rs 3,600 per tola

ISLAMABAD: The price of 24 karat per tola gold increased by Rs 3,600 and was traded at Rs 367,400 on Saturday against its sale at Rs 363,800 the previous day, All Pakistan Sarafa Gems and Jewelers Association reported.

The prices of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also increased by Rs. 3,172 to Rs 314,986 from Rs 311,814, whereas that of 10 grams of 22 karat gold went up by Rs 2,908 to Rs

288,747 from Rs 285,839. The rates of per tola and ten gram silver increased by Rs 81 and Rs 69 to trade at Rs 4,202 and Rs 3,602.

Commerce Minister meets RCCI delegation, calls for seizing global trade opportunities

Example 2 Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Commerce, Jam Kamal Khan held a meeting with a delegation of the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) led by its President, Usman Shaukat, to discuss avenues for expanding Pakistan's exports and strengthening the role of industry in global trade.

During the discussion, Jam Kamal underlined the government's commitment to supporting the business community and highlighted the importance of creating an enabling environment for exporters, said a release issued here on Saturday.

He stressed that Pakistan's growth depends on removing unnecessary barriers, reducing costs for industry, and facilitating access to new international markets



Commerce Minister meets RCCI delegation, calls for seizing global trade opportunities

The Minister observed that global trade dynamics are shifting rapidly and urged the business community to be proactive in identifying emerging opportunities. He noted that Pakistan's industrial and commercial potential can only be realized if industries are empowered to compete globally.

"Instead of creating hurdles, we must focus on facilitating our industries. This is the only way Pakistan can capture new markets and boost national revenue," Jam Kamal remarked.

The RCCI delegation assured its full cooperation with the government's trade and industrial initiatives and shared proposals to strengthen Pakistan's presence in

Mud pottery

ISLAMABAD: A vendor is displaying mud pottery to attract customers at Shah Allah Ditta area of



Malaysia and Pakistan enjoy timetested friendship: Azhar bin Mazlan

Spokesman Report

KUALA LUMPUR: A high-level delegation of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) visited the iconic Petronas Towers in Kuala Lumpur at the invitation of Petronas management, highlighting the importance of energy cooperation between Pakistan and Malaysia. The visit was specially arranged with the support of H. E. Dato Muhammad Azhar bin Mazlan, Ambassador of Malaysia to Pakistan.

Speaking on the occasion, he said that "Malaysia and Pakistan enjoy a time-tested friendship rooted in mutual trust and shared prosperity. I am delighted to see ICCI's leadership engaging with Petronas, one of Malaysia's flagship companies. This initiative will open new doors for business cooperation and will further strengthen our bilateral economic ties."

ICCI Senior Vice President Abdul Rehman Siddiqi said that energyparticularly petroleum-remains the backbone of modern economies, and $Pakistan's\ rapidly\ growing\ energy\ demand$ presents vast opportunities for international investors.



Chadurhy further highlighted that renewed engagement by Petronas would not only strengthen Pakistan's energy security but also enhance bilateral trade and economic cooperation between Pakistan and Malaysia, opening new avenues of growth, technology sharing, and job

The ICCI delegation included Convener Delegation Committee Imran Minhas,

Muhammad Ali along with other board members. Commercial Councilor of Pakistan High Commission in Kuala Lumpur Ms. Tahira Javed also graced the occasion.

The visit concluded with ICCI expressing gratitude to Petronas management for warm hospitality and to Ambassador Dato Muhammad Azhar bin Mazlan for facilitating this important engagement, reaffirming Pakistan's commitment to ICCI Vice President Nasir Mehmood Convener ASEAN Committee Chaudhry deepening economic ties with Malaysia.

Pakistan gets 4-year extension for seafood exports to US



Sommerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has secured a four-year extension for the export of fish and fish-related products to the United States, Minister for Maritime Affairs Muhammad Junaid Anwar Chaudhry said on Saturday.

In his statement, the minister said that this decision is a recognition of the quality of Pakistan's seafood on the global stage and will the country's fisheries sector.

"This extension will strengthen Pakistan's position healthier marine ecosystems. in the global seafood market and ensure continued access to one of the world's largest seafood importers," he said.

Chaudhry explained that the United States National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

fisheries listed on its List of Foreign Fisheries (LOFF) as "comparable" under the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA).

"This confirms that Pakistan's fisheries meet US standards for protecting marine mammals from incidental mortality and serious injury during fishing operations," he added.

The MMPA requires fisheries to minimise marine mammal bycatch, adopt provide long-term stability to conservation practices, and ensure sustainable fishing measures that contribute to

> Currently, seafood earns approximately \$2 per kilogram in the global market.

With this international endorsement of compliance, the price is expected to rise, opening new markets in has classified all Pakistani Europe and the Gulf.

Cement export increases 140.99% in **July 2025**

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The export of cement from the country witnessed an increase of 140.99 percent during the first month of the current financial year (2025-26) as compared to the exports of the same month last year.

The country exported cement worth US\$34.924 million during July 2025 as opposed to the export of July 2024, showing a growth of 140.99 percent, revealed.

according to the data released by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS).

In terms of quantity, the cement exports also rose by 117.50 percent from 403,260 metric tons to 877,086 metric tons, the data revealed.

Meanwhile, on a monthon-month basis, cement exports decreased by 16.54 percent during July 2025, in contrast to the exports US\$14.492 million during of US\$41.848 million in June 2025, the PBS data

Pakistan' banana harvest hits record 317,000 tonnes in FY 25

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's banana harvest has surged to an unprecedented level, more than doubling over the last 15 years to reach a record 317,000 tonnes in 2024-25, according to the Pakistan Bureau of representing a jump of over 50 Statistics (PBS).

The official data available with Wealth Pakistan shows upward trajectory, touching that banana output stood at only 139,000 tonnes in 2010-11, but steady growth particularly over the past five sional record high of 317,000

to become Pakistan's fastest-growing crop.

The most striking leap occurred from 2020-21 onwards, when production increased from 142,000 tonnes to 216,000 tonnes in 2021-22, percent within a single year.

Output then continued its 292,000 tonnes in 2022-23, 311,000 tonnes in 2023-24, and hitting the provi-

years — has pushed the fruit tonnes in the ongoing 2024-25 season.

This sustained rise in production reflects a major transformation in Pakistan's fruit farming, as growers increasingly shift towards banana cultivation due to strong market demand and better returns compared to several traditional crops.

Waheed Ahmed, Patronin-Chief All Pakistan Fruit and Vegetables Exporters, Importers, and Merchants Association, told Wealth Paki-

stan that the rapid growth in banana production highlights its export potential.

He pointed out, however, that Pakistan's share in the \$14 billion international banana export market remains negligible, with current exports standing at only \$27.4 million.

Waheed stressed the need for building a comprehensive banana value chain model that spans cultivation, processing, packaging, and distribution. Such a system would not only improve quality standards and



reduce post-harvest losses but also deliver better incomes for farmers while boosting exports.

He called for the establishment of large-scale corporate farms to produce high-yielding, premium quality bananas for

He said state-of-the-art pack houses are essential for cleaning, grading, packing, storing, and exporting bananas, as these facilities serve as a vital link between farms and markets, ensuring freshness and preventing spoilage.

Elective General Council Meeting of Punjab **Boxing Association 2025-2029**

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Elective General Council Meeting of the Punjab Boxing Association was held on at the Pakistan Olympic House, Lahore. The meeting was presided over by Ch. Zulfigar Ahmed, President Punjab Boxing Association.

The meeting was attended by representatives of the affiliated Divisional Boxing Associations of Bahawalpur, Dera Ghazi Khan, Faisalabad, Gujranwala, Gujrat, Lahore, Multan, Rawalpindi, Sahiwal, and Sargodha, as well as the Chairs of the Coaches, Referees/Judges, and Women's Commissions.

The following Office Bearers and Members of the Executive Committee and Chairs of various Commissions of the Punjab Boxing Association were elected unanimously for the term of four years 2025-2029:

Khalid Mahmood, President, Ch. Zulfigar Ahmed, Executive urer, Syed Muhammad Jams-Vice President, Mr. Mehboob haid Khalid Kazmi, Joint Secre-



Klair, Vice President, Mr. Jalal Badar, Vice President, Mr. Atif Riaz, Vice President, Mr. Parvaiz Paracha, Lady Vice President, Ms. Anam Rafagat, Secretary Chairman, Mr. Muhammad General, Lt Col (R) Muhammad Nasir Ijaz Tung TI(M), Treas-

tary Mr. Rizwan Mehboob, Associate Secretary, Mr. Azam Chisti, Lady Associate Secretary, Ms. Raheela Raheel, Members Executive, Mr. Tahir Ayub, Mr. Liaqat Butt, Mr. Sohail Gujjar, Mr. Zeeshan Butt, Ms. Esma Atif, Chairman Coaches Commission, Mr. Muhammad Tariq, Chairman R/J Commission, Mr. Abdul Haq,

Chairman Legal Commission, Ch. Muhammad Rashid Bashir. Advocate.

The Elections were conducted under the supervision of the Election Commissioner of the Pakistan Boxing Federation, Mr. Parvaiz Ahmad, President Pakistan Gymnastic Federation. The proceedings were duly observed

by Mr. Muhammad Zaeem Nisar Ch., representative, Pakistan Boxing Federation; Mr. Zahid Mehmood, representative, Punjab Olympic Association; and Mr. Zulfiqar Ali, representative. Sports Board Punjab.

The house unanimously approved the induction of Mr. Zubair Rasheed as Media Coor-

dinator of the Punjab Boxing Association.

The House commended the outstanding performance of Punjab Boxers, who secured first position in the 1st KPT Inter-Provincial Under-22 (Men candidate, Mr. Ajay Singh, by a & Women) Boxing Championship 2025 by winning 2 Gold, 1 inaugural Elective Congress held

was further resolved to field the best boxers of the Punjab Province team in the forthcoming First National Youth Games 2025 in Islamabad.

The House congratulated Ms. Ayesha Mumtaz, hailing from Sargodha, Punjab, on winning the Silver Medal in the 48kg weight category. The House further extended its felicitations to the following Pakistani boxers for their remarkable achievements at the 3rd Belt and Road International Boxing Gala, China: Ms Maria Rind - Bronze Medal, 50kg weight category

Ms Malaika Zahid - Bronze Medal, 54kg weight category Mr. Qudrat Ullah - Bronze Medal (Debut), 57kg weight category

The House congratulated Mr. Muhammad Khalid Mahmood on his election as Member of the Board of Directors of Asian Boxing (South Asia), where he secured victory over the Indian margin of 18 votes to 9 during the Silver, and 2 Bronze medals. It in Bangkok on 2 August 2025.

Diplomatic FC, Pakistan Veterans emerge victorious in exhibition football matches

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: To commemorate Pakistan's 78th Independence Day, Dream Sports Group organized exhibition football matches here at the Jinnah Stadium of the Pakistan Sports Complex on Saturday.

The event featured two thrilling matches, with Islamabad Veterans. Diplomatic FC and Pakivictorious.

matic FC outplayed Islam-

Nasir scored both goals for

The second match saw stan Veterans emerging Pakistan Veterans secure a 4-2 win against Diplo-In the first match, Diplomatic Stars. Imran Niazi scored two goals, and Mian abad Veterans with a 3-2 Abbas and Allah Nawaz each

one goal for Diplomatic FC. goals for Diplomatic Stars.

The event drew prominent attendees, including guest of honours, Member of National Assembly (MNA) Nawabzada Mir Jamal Khan Raisani, President PIA CBA Hidayatullah Khan, President Fata Olympic Associawin. Gibson scored two added one goal for Pakistan tion Shahid Khan Shinwari, goals, while Edward added Veterans, Amica scored both and President, Islamabad

Football Association Sheikh Ahmed Rehan. A large gathering of foreign diplomats, sports personalities, and fans also attended the event.

Dream Sports Group CEO Arslan Mushtaq, said the exhibition matches were aimed to promote sports and foster friendly relations between diplomats and the people of Pakistan.

The event was part of the Dream Festival, focusing on youth development. Shields and trophies were awarded to the winning teams, runner-ups, chief guests, players, referees, and officials during the closing ceremony.

National U23 team completes training camp in Islamabad

Sports Desk

ISLAMA-BAD: The Pakistan U23 national football team has concluded its training camp in

Islamabad ahead of the AFC U23 Asian Cup 2026 Qualifiers.

The two-week camp was held under the supervision of head coach Nolberto Solano,

said a press release. The team is scheduled to depart for Cambodia on August 31, from Karachi to Phnom Penh with a layover in Bangkok.

Pakistan will play its opening match of the qualifiers against Iraq on September 3. The second group match will be against

host nation, Cambodia, on September 6. Pakistan will conclude its group stage campaign with a match against Oman on September 9.

Saim, Hasan and Nawaz power Pakistan to victory over UAE

SHARJAH: Saim Ayub, Hasan Nawaz's brisk knock followed by Mohammad Nawaz's clinical spell powered Pakistan to a 31-run victory over the UAE in the second match of the tri-series here at the iconic Sharjah Cricket Stadium on Saturday.

In pursuit of a daunting 208-run target, UAE could only muster 176-8 in their allocated 20 overs.

The hosts started strongly in the chase, with openers laying a solid foundation with a brisk 39-run stand in just 4.1 overs. However, Mohammad Nawaz removed Muhammad Zohaib, who made 13 from 14 deliveries. Meanwhile, Mohammad

Waseem continued the charge from one end. Pakistan roared back with successive strikes in the last over of play as dangerous Waseem ran himself out, whereas Ethan D'Souza followed his next ball.

Thus, the UAE were reduced to 54-3 in the first six overs, and with those wickets, Pakistan sparked a collapse which left the hosts in dire straits.

UAE were 79-4 in 10 overs with Asif Khan and Dhruv Parashar at the crease. The pair steadied the innings with a 54-run partnership with the former taking the core aggressor role.

Asif played a valiant knock but it was not enough as he was removed in the last over with. He played a scintillating knock off 77 runs from just 35 balls, an innings featuring half a dozen fours and sixes.

From Grassroots to Boardroom

How Systemic Failures undermine Pakistan Cricket

game; it's a national passion that unites urban centers to quiet rural towns. It is a source of pride, identity, and conversation in tea stalls and drawing rooms alike. Yet today, even the most die-hard fans find themselves asking the same question: "How did it come to this?"

The recent performances across formats speak volumes about the state of Pakistan cricket. Pakistan ended the last ICC World Test Championship cycle languishing at ninth place. In T20 internationals over past two years, the team has suffered series defeats against Australia, England, year after year, eroding the true New Zealand and South Africa talent pool before it reaches the

and the only wins have come against lower ranked sides like Zimbabwe Banglaand desh (home). In one dayers the champions trophy at home

was also an absolute disaster where the home fans were left perplexed by illogical selections that led to one sided defeats. The T20 losses to Ireland and USA further compounded the fans misery. Taken together the last place test championship finish, the Champions Trophy failure and the shocking T20 defats against minnows are not isolated incidents that can simply be fixed by replacing the coaches or swapping players. They point to deeper systemic failures that originate at the very grassroots of Pakistan cricket and run all the way up through the domestic structure to the highest levels of PCB management

1. Selection Misdeeds at District and Regional Levels

At the district and regional levels-the foundation of Pakistan's cricketing structure—selection should be about rewarding performance and nurturing future stars. Instead, it is often dominated by politics and personal alli-

ricket in Pakistan ances. Local district and regional is more than just a cricket board presidents, elected with votes from specific clubs and districts, frequently priorpeople from bustling itize players linked to those who supported their campaigns. District and regional teams through junior and senior levels are manipulated by regional cricket association officials and the team coaches comply with directives so they can keep their jobs-resulting in selections that have very little merit. By the time teams for premier domestic tournaments like the Quaid-e-Azam Trophy or youth competitions (U13, U17, U19) are finalized, many deserving players have already been overlooked. This quiet injustice repeats

> 2. The Death of Multi-Day Cricket at Junior Levels

Equally troubling is the slow disappearance multi-day cricket at junior and club levels.

Once, young batters and bowlers honed their craft through twoand three-day matches, learning patience, technique, and the mental discipline needed to perform over long periods. At the Under-19 level, players used to play two-day matches that gave them valuable exposure to longerformat cricket. Batters learned how to build an innings, read game situations, and pace themselves. Even more importantly, bowlers bowled longer spells of 15-20 overs, which taught them how to understand their own bowling, how to hit consistent lengths, and how to adapt plans with the new, semi-new, and old balls. This process strengthened both skills and fitness as players moved up the ranks.

Meanwhile, countries like India have maintained the Cooch Behar Trophy—a prestigious four-day tournament for Under-19 players—and Australia continues to run a mix of three-day and

one-day games at youth levels. These formats are central to developing players ready for Test cricket. In Pakistan, however, the PCB moved to primarily 50-over cricket at the Under-19 level, often citing cost and logistics as reasons. But if the board cannot allocate resources to the very junior teams that feed the national side, then the ICC and media rights revenue PCB receives is hardly being put to meaningful use. Making three or four grounds available to host multi-day youth matches should not be beyond reach for a cricket board of Pakistan's scale and

By now, it should be clear that shorter T20-focused formats alone do not build the temperament, technique and stamina needed for the longest formats, and the national team's recent

struggles only reinforce this point. 3. PCB Governance: Inconsistency, Secrecy, Irregularities and Declining Standards

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) ultimately bears responsibility for shaping the sport's direction. Unfortunately, recent years have exposed glaring weaknesses in governance and vision. Selection decisions at the national level often echo the political maneuvering seen in district and regional cricket and with no consistency in selection even good players find it hard to give their best. Out of nowhere players seem to come into the team and then similarly they are dropped without much cricketing reasons. Players like Faheem Ashraf and Khushdil Shah were nowhere close to the one-day team before champions trophy and they suddenly appeared. Aamir Jamall was selected as a bowling all-rounder, and he suddenly was dropped before the champions trophy. Word from cricketing stakeholders in the country is that players with the right political networks appear to find ways into team. On top of this selection related mess, 3 captains and 4 coaches have been changed

since May 2024 and that itself can

disrupt team stability ultimately

harming performance.

Adding to these sporting struggles is a troubling culture of silence. Journalists who ask direct questions-about why Pakistan dropped to ninth in Test rankings, or why selection lacks consistency or why Pakistan keeps losing to all types of lower and higher ranked team—are not even allowed to ask these questions and often find themselves excluded from press conferences or removed from official and social media groups.

Now, the auditor general of Pakistan has confirmed what many long suspected. A staggering PKR 6 billion in financial irregularities inside PCB's 2023-24 operations. The audit revealed:

Unpaid sponsorship dues worth PKR 5.3 billion - Not sure what exaclt PCB's commercial, finance and legal departments are doing? Unauthorized allowances and perks for PCB chairman, despite his federal ministerial status which

already covers expenses PKR 63.39 million spent on meals for police security - a cost normally handled by government even if PCB must pay this, it's a massive figure that potentially should be split between the government and PCB

Irregular appointments of junior coaches who lacked proper qualifications and a media director hired outside standard procedures

Contracts for broadcast rights and media services awarded below reserved price or bypassing

competitive bidding For years fans feared PCB's mismanagement was undermining cricket, with millions documented as missing or mishandled, it's no longer speculation-its a fact clearly revealed by the above points in the audit report. We haven't seen any of this type of news about financial irregularities coming from BCCI, Cricket Australia or ECB, clearly, they are driven by goals to be number one in cricket while PCB is caught up in controversies and governance lapses that have dragged cricket backwards in Pakistan.

4. A System that Discourages Talent and Drives It Abroad



These problems create a system that not only fails to nurture talent but actively discourages it. Young players, once inspired by the dream of wearing the national colors, increasingly look overseas—to leagues in the UAE, county second XIs in England, or club cricket in Australia and beyond—seeking fairer opportunities and financial stability.

Conversations with local coaches and club owners reveal the same bitter assessment: it feels less like a system built on merit. and more like a closed network where connections matter more than performance. The inner workings of PCB seem to have no checks and balances and the board does not seem to care about Pakistan team performance. The damage is not only to the present generation of players but to the future of Pakistan cricket itself. Everywhere vou ask a Pakistan cricket stakeholder, they will say: "Pakistan cricket is finished."

Conclusion: Can the Dream Be

Pakistan cricket doesn't lack talent; it lacks fairness, consistency, and transparency. The repeated humiliations on the global stage are not simply bad luck but the predictable result cation pathways

of structural failures: politically driven selections, neglect of longformat cricket, and governance that fears accountability and totally lacks any strategic vision. The single simple goal to drive Pakistan cricket towards the top across formats is just not there. If these patterns continue, Paki-

stan cricket risks deeper decline, ment where even its most passionate fans begin to turn away in frustration. But change remains possible—if the sport's leadership chooses merit over politics, transparency over secrecy, and long-term vision over short-term maneuvers. Selections at district and regional levels need to be monitored-former first class and test cricketers who have coaching and drive towards a long-term certifications need to be put in charge with full authority of selections and any selection manipulations must be dealt with serious consequences. As far as the inner workings of PCB, the board across all departments needs a comprehensive independent review led by an external consulting firm. This years, has won multiple top divireview should systemically asses the whole board operating model and grass roots system across at

least the following areas: Grassroots and talent identifi-

Selection processes and how merit is (or isn't) enforced

Format of junior and senior level domestic cricket Governance, decision making

process and accountability across each board department and at district and region levels

Coaching and player develop-

Media strategy and fan engage-

PCB's Capital deployment

strategy and roadmap for next 10 years

This type of systemic review has been used successfully by many sporting bodies including cricket Australia and New Zealand to break cycles of underperformance sustainable vision. The question remains: does Pakistan cricket wish to keep fooling itself, or will it finally rebuild a system worthy

cricketing heritage? The writer has followed Pakistan Cricket closely for over 30 sion league championships in USA as a player and captain, played college cricket in Pakistan, and is a university badminton coach at Swarthmore College in Philadelphia USA.

of its people's love and the nation's

The Spokesman

Calls on ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi calls on Saudi envoy, Nawaf bin Said Al-Malki on Saturday.

President Zardari okays revision of 11th NFC

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari has approved a change in the constitution of the 11th National Finance change became necessary after the Government of Balochistan revised its nomination, recommending Mahfooz Ali Khan as its non ex-officio member in the 11th NFC. The President accorded approval to



this nomination, superseding the earlier approval," President Secretariat Press Wing said in sion (NFC) due to the wors-

a press release issued in Islamabad on Saturday.

The NFC plays a key role in determining the distribution of financial resources between the federation and the provinces. The latest changes are aimed at finalizing the commission's composition so it can begin its

government has postponed the scheduled meeting of the National Finance Commis-

ening flood situation across the country.

According to the Ministry of Finance, the Sindh government had requested a delay, citing the difficulties created by the ongoing floods. Officials confirmed that the meeting will be rescheduled once conditions improve.

Moreover, the president has also given his assent to the Criminal Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2025, as passed by the

Heavy rains, urban flooding risks expected in Punjab, upper areas

👺 Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Met office has warned of heavy rains during next 24 hours in Punjab, Kashmir, Potohar region, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Moreover, rainwind/thundershower is expected at isolated places in Northeastern Balochistan, Southeastern Sindh and Gilgit-Baltistan during evening/night.

Due to heavy rains, there is a risk of flooding in Dir, Swat, Shangla, Buner, Kohistan, Abbottabad, Mansehra, Nowshera, Swabi, Murree, Galiyat, Islamabad/Rawalpindi, North East Punjab, Kashmir, Dera Ghazi Khan and adjacent local/rainy rivers. There is a risk of traffic movement being affected due to landslides in the hilly areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Murree, Galiyat and Kashmir.

of Islamabad/Rawalpindi, Gujranwala, Lahore, Sialkot, Narowal, Peshawar, Nowshera and Mardan. Heavy rains/



Heavy rains may cause winds/snowstorms and thunflooding in low-lying areas derstorms may disrupt daily chances of urban flooding is Jhelum, Attock, Chakwal, routines, damage fragile infrastructure (mud houses/walls, electricity poles, billboards, vehicles, solar panels etc.

Okara, Sheikhupura, Sialkot,

In Punjab, heavy rain with Murree, Galiyat, Rawalpindi, expected in Lahore, Kasur, Khushab, Noorpur Thal, Sargodha, Nankana Sahib, Narowal, Gujranwala, Gujarat, Faisalabad, Toba Tek Singh, Mandi Bahauddin, Hafizabad, Jhang, Chenot, Sahiwal,

Bhakkar, Mianwali, Bahawalnagar, Rahim Yar Khan, Vehari, Pakpattan, Rajanpur, Bahawalpur, Layyah, Multan, Khanewal and Dera Ghazi

India's false narrative against Pakistan to cover up Operation Sindoor exposed

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: India's false terrorism narrative against Pakistan, aimed at covering up the humiliation of Operation Sindoor, has been exposed.

On the directives of its intelligence agency RAW, the Indian media has launched an anti-Pakistan propaganda as elections in Bihar draw near.

On August 28, the Indian media carried a fabricated story about three Pakistani citizens, claiming that Hasnain Ali, Adil Hussain, and Muhammad Usman had entered the Indian state of Bihar via Nepal's capital, Kathmandu.

The Indian media not only labelled them as terrorists but also issued a "red alert" against them.

Soon after the fake story was aired, statements from all three Pakistanis surfaced.

Evidence shows that they were actually travelling via Nepal and Malaysia



to Cambodia for employment, according to media reports.

Hasnain Ali, son of Abrar Hussain and a resident of Rawalpindi, travelled to Nepal via Dubai on August

He stayed for 18 days at the Yambu Hotel in Kathmandu. However, due to insufficient financial resources, Nepali immigration authorities did not allow him to board a flight to Malaysia, causing an eight-day delay.

Eventually, on August 28, 2025, he departed for Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on Batik Airways flight OD-183.

"I am a Pakistani citizen and resi-

dent of Rawalpindi. I only stopped in Mustafa and a resident of Mirpur Cambodia for work, and later return August 8, 2025, via flight FZ344. to Pakistan," said Hasnain Ali.

of Basharat and a resident of Baha- August 15. He later reached Cambodia, walpur, travelled to Kathmandu via Dubai on August 8, 2025.

After staying six days at Black Yard Hotel, he left for Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on August 15.

On August 17, he arrived in Bangkok, Thailand, and two days later proceeded to Cambodia on August 19. He is currently employed at a call centre in Cambodia.

"False and fabricated news has been circulated by the Indian media claiming that we are terrorists. I only used Nepal as a transit point to reach Cambodia. I stayed in Nepal for seven days to obtain an NOC. I am currently in Cambodia, not in Bihar, India," said

Muhammad Usman.

Nepal for sightseeing, then I will go to Khas, travelled to Kathmandu on

After staying six days at Black Yard Similarly, Muhammad Usman, son Hotel, he left for Kuala Lumpur on where he is now working at a call

"I arrived in Cambodia from Nepal on August 27. I only stayed in Nepal for tourism," said Adil Hussain.

Evidence and testimonies clearly prove that the Indian media is deliberately portraying these individuals as terrorists under a pre-planned agenda.

India has repeatedly levelled baseless accusations against Pakistan through false-flag operations such as the Pahalgam incident.

The Modi government, seeking electoral success in Bihar, once again wants to exploit the anti-Pakistan card. However, such cheap tactics are only

bringing further disgrace and embar-Adil Hussain, son of Ghulam rassment to Modi and his government. Published by: Almass Ayoub Sabir from Zero Point Printers Rawalpindi

Mohsin Naqvi meets Saudi Ambassador, highlights deep-rooted Pakistan-Saudi ties

Spokesman Report

Minister Mohsin Naqvi visited the Embassy of Saudi Arabia in Islamabad's Diplomatic Enclave on Saturday, where he was warmly received by Saudi Ambassador Nawaf bin Saeed Ahmed Al-Malki.

During the meeting, Minister Naqvi expressed gratitude to the Government of Saudi Arabia and Ambassador Al-Malki for their sincere, brotherly, and effective role during times of tension between Pakistan and India. He remarked that Saudi Arabia has always stood firmly by Pakistan, whether in times relations have consistently withstood in multiple sectors.

the test of time.

Naqvi also briefed the Saudi envoy ISLAMABAD: Federal Interior on Pakistan's ongoing crackdown against organized groups involved in begging abroad, particularly in Saudi Arabia. He reaffirmed that a zero-tolerance policy has been adopted against the "begging mafia" to protect Pakistan's image and citizens working in the Kingdom.

Ambassador Al-Malki, while appreciating the Interior Minister's efforts, said that Saudi Arabia regards Pakistan as a brotherly and friendly nation. He emphasized that Rivadh attaches the highest importance to its relationship with Islamabad and looks forward to of war or peace, and that bilateral further strengthening cooperation

One cop martyred, three terrorists killed in Kohat shootout



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: At least one policeman was martyred and three terrorists were killed in a firing incident in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Kohat district, police said on Saturday. According to Regional Police Officer Kohat Abbas Majeed Marwat ASI Ashfaq was martyred and two others were injured in an operation against

tilled and several others injured as in the mountains of Darmalak.

He said an operation is underway social figures and police personnel.

to arrest the injured terrorists, the official added. Regional Police Officer Kohat asserted that police will not let the sacrifices of martyrs

Funeral prayers of ASI Ashfaq offered at Kohat Police Lines

The funeral prayers of ASI Ashfaq, who was martyred in the firing of terrorists in Tehsil Lachi, Kohat, were offered at the Police Lines. The funeral prayers were attended He said three terrorists have been by RPO Abbas Majeed, Commissioner Kohat Division Mutasim police retaliated [against terrorists] Ballah Shah, DPO Dr. Zahidullah, various district officers, political and

Court issues arrest warrants of PTI leader **Kanwal Shozab**

ISLAMABAD: Non-bailable arrest warrants have been issued for Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) senior leader Kanwal Shozab in the GHQ attack case. Judge Amjad Ali Shah of the Anti-Terrorism Court Rawalpindi issued the warrants.

In the verdict, the court ordered the accused to be arrested and produced on September 3.

Following the court order, Chaklala police station raided the house been arrested yet.



of the PTI leader. However, the accused has not

Imran Khan's nephew sent to jail on judicial remand in Jinnah House attack case

Mews Desk

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

Raja and Rana Mudassar Umar one of the country's best athletes. Advocate, told the court that their client was not present in Lahore on May 9, 2023, and that he was in

Chitral along with his friends.



the court the affidavits of Shahrez's Shahrez's lawyers, Salman Akram friends, and said that the suspect was

They argued that he had been implicated in a May 9 case only because he was Imran Khan's nephew; so, therefore, he should be The lawyers then presented before acquitted in the case.