وصيت كاحق تھا۔ پھر اللہ تعالیٰ نے اس میں

(صحيح بخارى: مديث نمبر 6739) **Barkat Rice Mills** (Pvt) Limited

## **President Zardari to visit China on September 12**

President Asif Ali Zardari is scheduled to visit China on September 12 at the invitation of the Chinese leadership, sources said on Tuesday. According to sources, Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari will also accompany the President during the



Supreme Court announces 2026 summer vacations

The Supreme Court of Pakistan (SC) has official

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

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# Call on ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Kazakhstan, Mr. Murat Nurtleu calls on Prime Minister Muhammad

# Pakistan keen to enhance trade, connectivity ties with Kazakhstan: PM

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday said that Pakistan was keen to enhance bilateral trade, investment, people-to-people exchanges and connectivity through air, rail and road with Kazakhstan.

The prime minister, in a meeting with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Kazakhstan Murat Nurtleu,

that Pakistan and Kazakhstan enjoyed strong fraternal relations, and there was a mutual desire on both sides to further strengthen bilateral cooperation across multiple areas of shared

Accompanied by a ministerial delegation, the Kazakh deputy prime minister is on his first two-day official visit to Pakistan. While welcoming the Kazakh

who called on him here, said deputy prime minister, Prime Minister Shehbaz conveyed his warm wishes for President Kassym Jomart-Tokayev, whom he had recently met in China.

He indicated that Pakistan was attaching great importance to the visit of the Kazakh President and offered to send a delegation to Astana to finalize the various MoUs and agreements under consideration. The two sides have been in regular discussion over

the past several months and are expected to ink key MoUs and agreements during the Kazakh President's visit later this year.

Kazakh Deputy Prime Minister Murat Nurtleu thanked Prime Minister Shehbaz for the warmth and hospitality extended to him and briefed him on his detailed discussions with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar earlier in the day.

He emphasized that the upcoming visit of President Tokayev to Islamabad would be historic and successful, and would open a new and exciting chapter in Pakistan-Kazakhstan

DPM Ishaq Dar and federal ministers for communications, economic affairs, and railways, SAPM Tariq Fatemi and foreign secretary also attended

# NDMA warns of heavy rains and flash floods across Punjab, Sindh and Balochistan

👺 City Desk

Disaster Management Authority possible flash floods, urban flood- advising residents to remain ing and landslides in vulnerable cautious.

ISLAMABAD: The National Gujranwala, Sialkot, Lahore, Faisalabad and Sargodha, with (NDMA) has issued a fresh alert stormy conditions forecast for for heavy rains across Punjab, Multan and South Punjab. Sindh and Balochistan over the Authorities warned of potennext 12 to 24 hours, warning of tial flash floods and landslides,

Southern Sindh districts, schools across the city. Heavy rains are expected in including Thatta, Badin, Hyderabad and Karachi, are likely to witness stormy rains, while light showers are forecast in upper

> In Hyderabad, overnight downpours submerged several low-lying areas, disrupted power supply and forced the closure of

Thatta also reported heavy rainfall, leading to severe waterlogging and drainage failures. Flood victims in temporary shelters continue to face mounting

Thunderstorms and gusty winds are predicted for Zhob, Loralai and Khuzdar, with

NDMA warning of possible urban flooding in low-lying areas.

In Islamabad and Rawalpindi, the weather is expected to remain partly cloudy with chances of rainfall.

The Met Office has forecast further downpours in several districts of Punjab, Sindh and Balochistan.

# Chenab floodwaters put Multan at risk, next 24 hours critical

跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: India has once again released water into the Sutlej, aggravating flood conditions in Punjab, while the swollen Chenab continues to pose a threat

Authorities have declared the next 24 hours critical and are prepared to breach the Shershah embankment to divert floodwaters and protect urban populations.

According to officials, India notified Pakistan's Ministry of Water Resources through its High Commission about the release of water, following which the

ministry issued a flood alert. The Punjab Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) said the fresh inflows will further raise water levels in the Sutlei.



At Head Ganda Singh, more than

253,000 cusecs surged downstream, submerging 120 villages. Around 20,000 residents were rescued from affected

PDMA confirmed high flood levels at Harike and Ferozepur downstream, with the civil administration, army, and allied departments on high alert.

At Head Sulemanki, inflows climbed to 133,000 cusecs, while Head Islam recorded 119,000 cusecs.

In the Pakpattan district, 25,000 people were evacuated as 23 villages were completely inundated and 53 were partially submerged.

Around Okara, more than 137,000 cusecs were flowing at Head Sulemanki, leaving 36 villages and 160 settlements along the Sutlej and Ravi still underwater.

# Funeral prayers of Major Adnan Aslam Shaheed offered at Chaklala: ISPR



**E** City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Funeral prayers of Major Adnan Aslam Shaheed (age: 31 years, resident of Rawalpindi) who embraced martyrdom while undergoing treatment at Combined Military Hospital were held at Chaklala, Rawalpindi. The officer gallantly fought the Indian proxy Fitna al Khawarij during their cowardly attack in Bannu on 2 September 2025.

Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif, Defence Minister, Information Minister, Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir NI (M), HJ, (COAS), serving Military and Civil Officers and relatives of hometown with full military Shaheed attended the funeral.

Major Adnan Aslam embraced shahadat with unflinching bravery, leading his men from the front. Prime Minister honoring the bravery of the officer said that today, we have lost a valiant son of the soil whose courage and sacrifice will forever remain etched in the nation's heart. He represents the best of Pakistan: unwavering resolve, love for the homeland, and an unbreakable spirit of sacrifice.

Major Adnan's martyrdom is a testimony that Armed Forces of Pakistan remain resolute in our mission to root out terrorism in all its forms. Officer will be laid to rest in his

## Fire-damaged factory collapses in New Karachi, seven injured



跨 Bureau Report

KARACHI: A fire-damaged garment factory in Karachi's New Karachi Industrial Area collapsed after a massive blaze, injuring six firefighters and a private TV cameraman, while rescue workers are feared to be trapped under the debris. A loud explosion was heard at the moment of the collapse, causing panic in the area.

According to sources, the fire broke out around 7:00am on the ground floor of the threestorey Al-Zeeb Factory, located in Sector 8A.

Initially, two fire brigade vehi- the operation progresses.

cles were dispatched, but the number was later increased as the blaze intensified. Currently. 15 fire tenders and snorkels are engaged in the firefighting operation. One firefighter was also injured earlier during the initial firefighting efforts.

Fire brigade officials said that efforts are underway to control the flames using both water and foam, while search and rescue operations continue amid fears that more personnel may be trapped under the collapsed structure. Authorities are monitoring the situation closely, and further updates are expected as

## **ATC acquits Shah** Mahmood Qureshi, jails Yasmin Rashid and others for 10 years

👺 Bureau Report

LAHORE: An anti-terrorism court in Lahore on Tuesday acquitted Pakistan Tehreeke-Insaf (PTI) vice chairman Shah Mahmood Qureshi in another May 9 violence case, while awarding 10-year prison sentences to senior party leaders Dr. Yasmin Rashid and Mehmoodur Rasheed.

The verdict was announced by Judge Manzar Ali Gul at Kot Lakhpat Jail in connection with a case related to the burning of a government vehicle near Jinnah House during the May 9 riots. Several prominent PTI leaders were

sentenced under the ruling. The court sentenced

Dr. Yasmin Rashid, Ejaz Chaudhry, Mehmoodur Rasheed, and former Punjab governor Omar Sarfraz Cheema to 10 years in prison each, while party activist Khadija Shah was awarded a five-year jail term.

According to the judgment, the ATC completed the trial of 39 accused, convicting 18 of them and acquitting 21 others. including Rubina Jamil.

This is the second verdict in recent weeks, acquitting Shah Mahmood Qureshi in May 9-related cases.

Earlier, he was cleared in the Shershah Bridge arson case, while Dr. Yasmin Rashid and Mehmoodur Rasheed were also handed 10-year sentences.

# Good governance, merit, and accountability remain the guiding principles of his government: PM ÅJK

## **Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq has said that good governance, merit, and accountability remain the guiding principles of his government in Azad Kashmir.

Speaking to various delegations, he said that he began accountability with himself, giving preference to the welfare of the people across Azad Kashmir rather than focusing only on his own constituency.

The Prime Minister recalled that when he assumed charge, the government was burdened with financial losses and institutional indiscipline. He said reforms introduced during the past couple of years restored institutional discipline, ended stagnation, and ensured merit-based appointments.



Prime minister Haq said that in more than two years of his tenure no charge of corruption could be levelled against him or his cabinet. He added that strict measures had been taken against mafias besides keeping the

common man's interest at the center. He said he has neither taken a salary nor TA DA.

Adopting austerity measures and been a Hallmark of his government's governance initiatives.

policy. "There cannot be luxury at the expense of the people," he stressed. The visiting delegations from Janjua and Sanghar appreciated the PM's safeguarding public taxes, he said, have welfare-oriented approach and good

## Struggle

KARACHI: Fire fighters struggle to control a fire which broke out at a garment factory as A section of the building collapsed due to the intensity of the fire and explosions were heard from inside in Pakistan's port city.



# Historic First Meeting of Sindhi Engineers in North America Held on Zoom

## B Qayoom Sarohi

VIRGINIA: The historic first meeting of Sindhi engineers living in North America was held on Zoom, presided over by Engineer Iqbal Tareen (Chairman SENA-SANA). A large number of the event a success

but also to take practical steps that will benefit the Sindhi community and future generations.

SENA's founder and SANA's Central Treasurer, Engineer Aakash Ramani, Sindhi engineers participated, making expressed hope that the organization would soon become an effective plat-In his presidential address, Engineer form for Sindhi engineers, while the Iqbal Tareen said that the purpose of proceedings were conducted by Vice SENA (Sindhi Engineers of North Chairman Engineer Muslim Burdi.

America) is not only to bring Sindhi He said, "SANA has planted the seed engineers onto a common platform of SENA, and in time all Sindhi engineers will reap its fruits."

Key decisions made during the meeting included "Establishing and leading a LinkedIn group for SENA (Engineer Sagheer Shaikh). Compiling a directory of Sindhi engineers in North America (Engineer Muslim Burdi and Engineer Aakash Ramani). Members to share job opportunities and engineering-related knowledge within the group.

Efforts by all members to encourage more Sindhi engineers to join SENA. Connecting on LinkedIn and attending biweekly meetings to review action items.

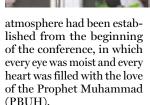
Participants also shared their personal and professional backgrounds, including Engineer Shakeel, Engineer Akhtar, Engineer Jameel Solangi, Engineer Javed Burdi, Engineer Adnan Memon, Engineer Habib Memon,

# A religious conference on the birth of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) held in Nila Butt

## 跨 Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD/ DHIRKOT: A grand religious conference on the birth of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and the finality of the Prophethood was held in Nila Butt. This gathering was a blessed and faith-inspiring occasion in every sense, in which thousands of devotees and lovers of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) participated. The atmosphere of Nila Butt was filled with the fragrance of blessings and

greetings that day. The voices of Naat reciters were resounding, and people coming from every village were raising slogans in favor of the birth of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and (PBUH). the finality of the Prophethood with flags and placards in their hands. A spiritual Minister of Azad Jammu and Neela Butt has been a witness



President of the Muslim Conference and former Prime

Kashmir, Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan, said in his passionate address, "The finality of the Prophethood is our fundamental belief, it is the foundation of our faith, no weakness or softness can

be tolerated in it. He said that the land of the guise of enlightenment under the banner of the

in the past and today this Prophethood and the love of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him).

Sardar Attique added and said that the politics of the Muslim Conference revolves around the protection of the basic beliefs of Islam and the ideology of Pakistan. He announced that his party will always play a leading role in defending the finality of the Prophethood.

Speaking on the current situation, he said that the world powers are trying to attack the spirit of Islam. Sometimes in the name of freedom, sometimes under and sometimes under the finality of the Prophethood.

to the foundations of the guise of protecting minori-Kashmir freedom movement ties, the beliefs of Muslims are being targeted. But conference is a reminder that the day Muslims allow the no movement can succeed finality of the Prophethood without the finality of the to come into play, that day will be the day of the end of their faith.

Speaking as the chief guest, Pir Syed Ghulam Shamsuddin Shams Gilani, the spiritual leader and Sufi saint of Astana Alia Golra Sharif, Islamabad, said that believing in the finality of the Prophethood of Hazrat Muhammad Mustafa (peace be upon him) is the foundation of religion. This belief not only unites the Muslim Ummah but also preserves the identity of Islam. He said that today Muslims should come out of mutual discord and sectarianism and unite

## PMAJK paid a rich tribute to SSG Čommando Major Adnan Aslam Shaheed

### **₿** Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD/ ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Chaudhry Anwar-ul-Haq, paid a rich tribute to SSG Commando Major Adnan Aslam Shaheed. In his special statement, the Prime Minister said that Major Adnan Aslam set a supreme example of courage and sacrifice. Pertinently, Major Adnan Aslam was critically injured during the Bannu operation while saving his comrade, and after remaining under treatment for three days at CMH Rawalpindi, he embraced martyrdom. The



Prime Minister said that this brave son of the soil will always be remembered for his unprecedented sacrifices. "The entire nation salutes this courageous officer who sacrificed his life for the country", he further said, adding that his bravery, courage, and service in the defense of this nation will be remembered for generations.

## Dr. Idrees Khan Slams Media for False Accusations, Announces Legal Action Over Hospital Scandal

### **Bureau Report**

MUZAFFARABAD: Dr. Sardar Muhammad Idrees Khan, former Director Health Services Admin, Directorate General of Public Health, Azad Jammu and Kashmir, has no connection with the financial and construction projects of Cardiac Hospital Muzaffarabad. In some sections of the media, an unsuccessful attempt is being made to show Dr. Idrees as the Chairman Purchase Committee to defame him regarding the serious financial mismanagement and purchase and sale of equipment in the

Dr. Sardar Muhammad Idrees Khan's role in the Cardiac Hospital project by the government was to ensure the installation of civil work and electrical and medical equipment and physical checking and prepare a report on it. It was Dr. Idrees' responsibility to ensure the availability of equipment in the Cardiac Hospital, for which a five-member Inspection and Physical Checking Committee was formed under his leadership and Dr. Idrees was the chairman of this committee. It should be remembered that Dr. Idrees was supposed to inspect the same equipment and supplies at the Cardiac Hospital that were purchased separately by the Purchase Committee, and Dr. Idrees had no connection with this Purchase Committee, nor was he a member of it.

## Azad Kashmir High Court Orders inquiry into illegal lockdown calls by Jammu Kashmir Joint Public Action Committee

## **Bureau Report**

MUZAFFARABAD: According to the details, in recent days, a petition has been filed in the Azad Kashmir High Court against the meetings of the Jammu Kashmir Joint Public Action Committee, the main idea of which is that for the last two years, the people of Azad Kashmir have been facing difficulties due to the meetings and strikes of an illegal group called the Jammu Kashmir Joint Public Action Committee. This year, on August 30, 2025, public safety was harmed by calling for a sudden lockdown. The Public Action Committee is announcing a lockdown on September 29, 2025 through social media every day, which is illegal. The government institutions established in the state are unable to take action against this group. The petitioners Sardar Imran Hussain, Sardar Ahsan and Munir Riaz have filed a petition through Sardar Bilal Shakeel Advocate. A petition has been filed in the court that the court should, taking into account the performance of the parties, rid the public of a group called the Public Action Committee. According to sources, the court has approved the petition and issued notices to 30 concerned parties

## Sindh government has made arrangements to tackle floods

## **Sometime** Correspondent

HYDERABAD: Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Ladies Wing Hyderabad leader, Ishrat Hassan, has said that after facing defeat in war, India is now trying to use water as a weapon. However, in Sindh, under the directives of PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, the provincial government has made full preparations to tackle possible floods. She said the embankments are secure and the situation is fully under control.

Ishrat Hassan further stated that the Sindh government has appointed provincial ministers Sharjeel Inam Memon, Nasir Hussain Shah, and others as focal persons, who are monitoring embankments and reporting on the flood situation round the clock. "The public should not panic as the government and its institutions are fully active," she added.

She emphasized that the PPP has never abandoned the people in the past, whether it was the coronavirus pandemic, heavy rains, or floods. "In every difficult time, PPP has stood with the people. Considering the heavy losses in Punjab, the PPP is striving to ensure that such damage and situations are prevented in Sindh," she said.

Ishrat Hassan further remarked that the PPP gives top priority to safeguarding the lives and property of the people and is utilizing all available resources to protect every citizen of Sindh.

## Senate Standing Committee on Railways meets

LAHORE: The Senate Standing Committee on Railways met at the Railway Headquarters, Lahore, under the chairmanship of Senator Jamullah Khan. The meeting was attended by Senators Dost Muhammad Khan, Kamil Ali Agha, and Nasir Mahmood.



The committee received a detailed briefing on the performance and capacity of the Railway Workshops Division. Officials informed the members that Pakistan Railways is manufacturing its own coaches under a transfer-of-technology arrangement with China, with new coaches being inducted in phases. Ongoing collaboration with provincial governments on projects such as track up-gradation, suburban train rehabilitation, station sanitation, and modernization of railway stations was

The committee emphasized the need to ensure equal facilities across all provinces and called for accelerating the station up-gradation process. Later, members visited Lahore Railway Station, where they inspected the escalators, VIP lounge, family lounge, and sanitation system.





# **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
Woman Polica

### **Women Police Stations**

Islamabad . 9270601-20

## PIA Flight Info Railway Inquiry ..

## Railway Exchange WASA Rawalpindi **HOSPITALS**

C	MH	5611111
Ν	1H	561116
Ν	1H	561116
C	antt Hospital	9270907-11
D	HQ	5556311-4
R	GH	9290301-7
Н	loly Family	9290322-7
Ρ	IMS	9261170-79
Ρ	olyclinic	9218300-09
S	hifa International	4603666

## **DEPARTMENTS**

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

## **COMPLAINTS**

Water Tanker Service G-5, G-6, G-7, G-8, .....9203883 G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, H-8 ..9266316

## Civil servants backbone of state, Says Governor Kundi

PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Tuesday said that civil servants are the permanent pillars of the state whose professional and constitutional role is vital for national development and public serv

He emphasized that strengthening the capacity of government institutions is essential for addressing public issues and ensuring better service delivery.

He expressed these views while meeting officers of the 44th Mid-Career Management Course (MCMC) who visited the Governor's House Peshawar on a study tour. The 38-member delegation, led by Director General NIPA Karachi Dr. Syed Saif-ur-Rehman, was briefed on the constitutional responsibilities of the Governor.

The participants also discussed provincial matters including security, climate change, FATA merger, natural resources, religious tourism, ancient civilization, and energy production.

Welcoming the officers, the Governor extended his best wishes and highlighted the multifaceted challenges facing the prov-

# Azerbaijan-Pakistan Business Ties Get Boost with New Display Centers and Upcoming Trade Delegations

### **Spokesman Report**

agreed to promote bilateral trade, enhance investment, establish longterm business relations, set up permanent product display centers in Baku and Islamabad, and organize joint business-to-business (B2B) sessions.

This commitment was expressed during a high-level meeting between the Azerbaijan Export and Investment Promotion Agency (AZPROMO) and the Azerbaijan-Pakistan Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (APJCCI) held in Baku. The Pakistani delegation was led by APJCCI Patronin-Chief Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, while AZPROMO's Deputy Executive Director Tural Hajili welcomed the

Tural Hajili emphasized that promoting exports and attracting investment are the core objectives of his organization, and the establishment of APJCCI is a milestone in structured cooperation between the private sectors trade and investment initiatives

of both countries. He underlined that the current trade volume is below its BAKU: Pakistan and Azerbaijan have real potential, but closer collaboration and B2B linkages can unlock vast opportunities.

Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari stated that Pakistan is an attractive market for Azerbaijani products, particularly food and cosmetics, while fertilizers can be imported from Azerbaijan to Pakistan. He announced that APJCCI will organize an Azerbaijan-Pakistan Business Forum, hold single-country exhibitions, and work towards establishing permanent product display centers in both Baku and Islamabad.

He further noted that both governments have set a target of USD 2 billion in bilateral trade, and it is the responsibility of the private sector to play its role in achieving this goal through sector-specific partnerships.

It was also agreed during the meeting that a business delegation from Azerbaijan will visit Pakistan early next year to inject new momentum into bilateral



## Traffic Jam on daily basis

ISLAMABAD: A view of the massive traffic jam at Faizabad Interchange as on daily basis in offices pack up timing the traffic jam is normal, in Federal Capital



# Pakistan's First National Gender Parity Report to be launched

ISLAMABAD: National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW), with support from UNFPA, UN Women, Group Development Pakistan, and the Embassy of the Netherlands, has concluded a two-day national consultation to finalise a unified framework for Pakistan's first National Gender Parity Report, to be launched on International Women's Day, March 8, 2026. Federal Minister for Law

and Justice Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar called gender discrimination the biggest that development cannot be achieved by excluding half the population. He said women's rights must go beyond Laila Azhar said credible and



in many fields. He assured full obstacle to progress, stressing government support to inte- and provincial governments

grate the new framework into to become responsive partlaws, policies, and institutions. ners, providing data that meets NCSW Chairperson Ume international standards.

as women are already excelling the right image of Pakistan to the world. She urged federal

The consultation concluded

speeches to practical action, timely data is vital to present with consensus on a lean, sustainable, and comparable framework. In her vote of thanks, NCSW Secretary Humaira Zia Mufti acknowledged all partners and appreciated Minister Tarar's commitment to advancing reforms.

# Fake claims threatening survival of \$3.5 trillion insurance industry

**™** Tariq Khattak

sector is grappling with a deepening crisis of fraudulent claims that is steadily undermining the industry's financial stability. Investigations and industry accounts reveal that organised networks are systematically targeting insurers by orchestrating fake claims, often through deliberately staged incidents such as

The pattern, according to sector insiders, is alarmingly consistent. Owners of loss-making factories quietly remove machinery and valuable stock before setting fire to their facilities. Soon after, they filed multimillion-rupee claims with insurance companies. When insurers refuse to pay without proper verification, they are subjected to threats, orchestrated media trials, propaganda campaigns, and even pressure from

government officials.

Industry sources point out that such ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's insurance cases are not isolated. Policies are often purchased from financially strong companies, which are later targeted for fabricated claims. A recent incident in Sialkot has further exposed the scale of this practice. During Eid holidays, a factory was deliberately set ablaze, yet the fire brigade did not arrive for four days. When the insurance company demanded evidence of the machinery and stock that had allegedly been destroyed, the factory owners responded with violence, attacking the company's head office, while simultaneously launching a coordinated smear campaign on social media, insiders informed.

One of the country's top five insurers, rated AA+ by two leading credit rating agencies, is now under sustained attack despite its track record of paying out

billions of rupees annually in genuine claims. In one instance, the company's decision to decline a suspicious claim led to a false complaint being lodged with the regulator, apparently as an attempt to pressure it.

This wave of fraudulent activity has serious consequences. Cash flow at several companies has been disrupted, leaving them struggling to meet payroll obligations and cover operational expenses. More worrying is the potential impact on ordinary policyholders, whose legitimate claims may be delayed or jeopardised as resources are diverted to contesting fraudulent demands.

The insurance industry is one of the country's largest financial sectors, valued at approximately Rs 3,554 billion. Each year, insurers pay out around Rs 450 billion in claims and collect nearly Rs 675 billion in premiums. The sector supports an estimated 250,000 households,

underscoring its role in providing financial security to families and businesses alike. However, rising fraud threatens this delicate balance.

Analysts warn that if unchecked, this racket could drive several insurers toward bankruptcy. Fraud not only inflates the cost of doing business but also makes insurance more expensive and less accessible. Processing times are lengthening as companies devote more effort to verifying claims. At the same time, overall trust in the system is being eroded.

Industry professionals have now appealed directly to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb, and regulatory authorities, urging immediate action against what they describe as an entrenched mafia. They argue that without decisive steps to curb fraudulent claims, the sector's survival and the livelihoods it sustains will be at risk.

## Young students must play a vital role in the country's development: Principal

**₿** City Desk

RAWALPINDI: A grand event was organized at the Government Associate College for Women, Sihal, Rawalpindi in connection with Pakistan Defence Day. The program began with the recitation of the Holy Quran, followed by a naat (a tribute in praise of the Prophet Muhammad 凝影). Students presented speeches, patriotic songs, and skits, all paying tribute to the sacrifices of the Pakistan Army and the martyrs.

Later, Principal Ms. Samera Hameed addressed the gathering and highlighted the historical significance of Pakistan Defence Day. She highly praised the courage and patriotism of the armed forces and reaffirmed the commitment that the college staff and students would contribute positively to the country's progress.

The event concluded with special prayers for Pakistan's prosperity,

## PHAF Launches Accelerated Development and Construction Work at PHAF Residencia

News Desk

PESHAWAR: Pakistan Housing Authority Foundation (PHAF) has commenced fast-paced development and construction work at the site of PHAF Residencia, Peshawar.

As per the agreement between PHAF and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Housing Authority (KPHA), construction of the boundary wall, main boulevard, and main gate has been initiated and is progressing rapidly. To ensure foolproof security, a permanent police station has also been established, with personnel deployed by the Government of Khyber

The project, spanning over 8,000 Kanal of land, is one of the largest government-owned residential schemes in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and across Pakistan. Being a joint venture between the Government of Pakistan and the Government of KPK, it is regarded as one of the safest and most reliable investment opportunities in the housing sector.

## CPO and DC Multan Launch Free Bus Service to Relocate Flood-Affected Families



跨 🛮 Zain Khan Malghani

MULTAN: On the special directives of the Government of Punjab, the district administration and police have taken swift and exemplary measures to support families displaced by the floods. Deputy Commissioner Multan, Hamid Waseem Sindhu, and City Police Officer (CPO) Multan, Sadiq Ali Dogar, have launched a free transport service from Jalalpur Pirwala's Fawara Chowk to Multan.

Under this initiative, flood-affected families are being transported free of cost to safe locations in Multan or to the homes of their relatives. Police officers supervising the buses were seen instructing passengers not to pay any fare, reflecting a strong spirit of compassion and

Rescue operations are being supervised around the clock, with officers deployed on 24-hour duty to ensure uninterrupted assistance. Citizens may also seek information or support through the following contact numbers: Until 8:00 PM: SHO BZ, Roof Lothar

From 8:00 PM to 8:00 AM: SHO Raja Ram (0300-7800401) CPO Multan, Sadiq Ali Dogar, emphasized that the safety of every flood-affected citizen is the administration's top priority. He affirmed: "This rescue operation will continue until the very last citizen has been safely relocated to secure places." The timely action of the district administration and police has been widely appreciated by the public, who regard it as a shining example of duty, humanity, and service.

# Editorial/Opinion

Wednesday, September 10, 2025

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## **Tourism in Punjab on** the Rise

he ancient city of Taxila, once a beacon of the Gandhara civilization, is poised for a renaissance as Punjab's government embarks on a massive restoration and tourism development program. With a dedicated budget of Rs60 billion, Taxila has been officially declared an International Heritage City, alongside Harappa and Bhera, under new provincial heritage protection laws on the instructions of Chief Minister Punjab. Officials say this designation marks the beginning of a new era for Punjab's cultural tourism sec-

Taxila, renowned for its ancient university, the Dharmarajika Stupa, and a network of monasteries, has long been considered one of South Asia's most significant archaeological treasures. However, decades of neglect left many of its historical sites in need of urgent care. The new initiative aims to restore key landmarks, enhance the Taxila Museum, develop open-air exhibits, and create a Gandhara Art Village. Improved access routes, cultural trails, and tourist facilities are also part of the plan, designed to attract both domestic and international visitors.

The government's broader tourism vision extends beyond preservation. Infrastructure projects such as the 123-kilometre Tourism Expressway, linking Rawalpindi to Muzaffarabad via Murree, are expected to improve connectivity and stimulate the hospitality industry. Authorities are also introducing a digital tourism app that will provide virtual access to more than 160 historical sites across Punjab, including Taxila, offering visitors a preview before they set foot on the ground.

Partnerships between heritage organizations and environmental groups are shaping the development into a sustainable tourism model. The Gandhara Resource Centre and the Climate Hub Forum recently signed an agreement to promote eco-friendly practices, climate education, and community engagement in Taxila. Initiatives such as tree planting, artisan workshops, and climate-friendly infrastructure are being incorporated into the restoration strategy.

Experts, however, caution that the success of these projects will depend on ensuring basic infrastructure, including lodging, dining, transport facilities, and safety measures, before promoting Taxila on the global stage. "Taxila's potential is undeniable, but it needs the right infrastructure to handle the influx of visitors while preserving its cultural essence," said Syed Zaheer Hussain Shah, head of the Gandhara Art Village project.

# When Nations Collide: The New **Face of Interstate War**

### **Qudsia Imran**

"The ordering principle of world politics is anarchy." — Kenneth N. Waltz. n 2025 the world is marked by a striking return of interstate armed confrontation: several theatres now host direct, stateon-state violence rather than only insurgencies or internal collapse. These are not episodic flare-ups; they are wars or sustained military confrontations that involve regular armed forces, cross-border strikes, and largescale political stakes. The facts on the ground, from the grinding campaign in Ukraine to the intense fighting in Gaza, direct strikes exchanged between Israel and Iran, short but violent India-Pakistan exchanges, a sharp Thai-Cambodian border war and dangerous naval incursions in the Guyana-Venezuela dispute, together form a map of interstate contestation that demands analysis grounded in international politics. The claim I advance here is simple: these conflicts are best read through the realist

Southeast Asia's summer 2025 border war between Thailand and Cambodia around Preah Vihear shattered the remain low-intensity. Artillery duels,

ington Post)

displacement on an industrial scale and emphasized by Jervis; misperception accept the world's anarchic pressures border closures show how territorial and identity claims can spark conventional engagements between neighbors; the bouts of fighting have required ASEAN and external diplomacy to broker fragile pauses even as local actors sustain pressure for symbolic and material gains. The violence in this theatre is a reminder that territorial indivisibility and domestic politics remain potent causes of interstate fighting. (Reuters, The Guardian)

In South America the long-running Guyana-Venezuela dispute over the Essequibo has produced naval incidents and confrontations around offshore blocks that host valuable hydrocarbon projects; while not (yet) a fully joined-up continental war, the 2025 incursions and legal manoeuvres risk spiraling into wider interstate clashes if coercive moves continue. International responses ICJ filings, regional diplomacy and warnings from third powers — have so far prevented an all-out rupture, but the pattern is clear: resource stakes and maritime coercion create classical interstate contestation. (Reuters, Crisis Group)

frame - anarchy, security competition, Why do these wars recur now? The commitment problems and status or realist theoretical toolkit remains resource claim, and doing so clarifies the most concise explanatory device. both why they are happening and what Kenneth Waltz's structural realism practical steps could reduce the risk of locates causality in an anarchic interfurther escalation. (Reuters, The Washnational ordering that compels states to secure themselves by accruing power and hedging competitors; Morgenthau's classical realism reminds us that national interest and power calculations assumption that ASEAN disputes frequently trump moral or institutional constraints. Decision-level problems

and the security dilemma — and Fearon's bargaining account, private information, commitment problems and indivisibilities, explain why bargaining sometimes fails and why rational actors nonetheless fight. Together these works make intelligible why states with enforceable grievances, revisionist aims or heightened insecurity opt for force in 2025. (Saldanha, JSTOR)

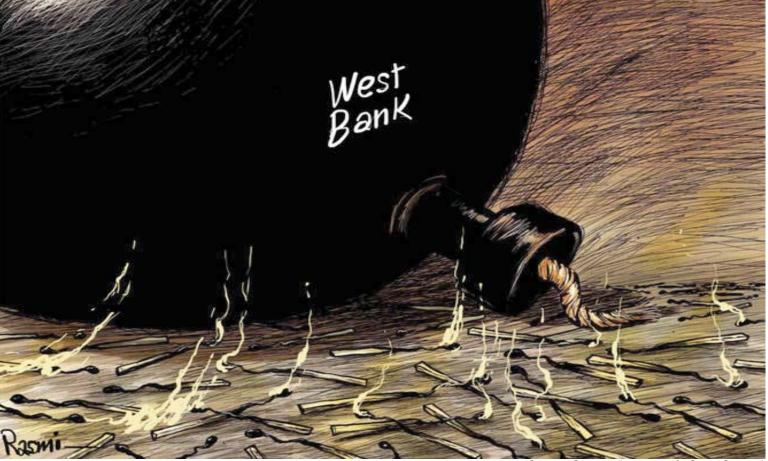
If realism diagnoses the disease, sound policy must be pragmatic and institutional. States should priorities durable crisis-management channels; hotlines, neutral observers and rapid de-confliction mechanisms, so that tactical incidents do not escalate into strategic commitments; they should stabilize deterrence by clarifying doctrines and reducing incentives for pre-emptive gambits; and they should use legal forums and joint development to defuse resource disputes that otherwise incentivize military coercion. For regional powers like Pakistan, strategic autonomy coupled with active diplocommunications with rivals and avoiding uncompensable coercive steps — is the surest route to national security in an anarchic system. (Harvard University

Press, University of Chicago) Nonetheless, realism may sound cold; it is not a plea for despair. It is a prescription for sober, empirically grounded policy making in a year when multiple states openly wage war or conduct direct interstate strikes. The practical lesson for readers and policymakers is simple:

without surrendering to them, build institutions that work under anarchy, harden crisis management, and craft bargains that adversaries can credibly keep; in 2025 those are the actions most likely to turn collisions into containment. (Reuters)

Ultimately, if realism explains why wars erupt in an anarchic world, liberalism shows us how to end them. As Immanuel Kant envisioned in Perpetual Peace, a durable order emerges when nations bind themselves to laws, institutions, and mutual commitments rather than the whims of power. Robert Keohane's work reminds us that international regimes can reduce mistrust, foster transparency, and make cooperation rational even among rivals, while John Ikenberry argues that only rulesbased systems can transform raw power into legitimate order. To extinguish the likelihood of future wars, states must strengthen multilateral institutions, empower regional security frameworks, pursue economic interdependence, and macy, supporting mediation, preserving invest in diplomatic norms that reward compromise over coercion. As Joseph Nye observes, "power with others can be more effective than power over others," and it is this logic of collective security, economic connectivity, and institutionalized dialogue that can finally turn today's collisions into tomorrow's cooperation replacing the cycle of war with a framework for lasting peace.

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

# Vaccine: The Truth of Protection and the Rebuttal of Rumors

epidemics have always swayed between fear and protection. The plague, smallpox, and influenza each claimed millions of lives. Yet modern science provided a weapon that strengthened humanity against diseases: the

When the COVID-19 pandemic swept across the world, fear gripped every heart in the early days. After millions of deaths and the collapse of global health systems, only one hope remained

that an effective vaccine would be discovered. Remarkably, within a single year, scientists achieved what had once taken decades. The development of the vaccine was a monumental scientific triumph. But alongside it arose a global question: Was this vaccine truly safe? And was it really true that those who

Dr. Muhammad Tayyab received it would die prema-Khan Singhanvi This question was not confined to the public alone. Social media, YouTube channels, and even some self-styled experts amplified doubts. Rumors spread that the vaccine would alter human genes or drive people to death within a few years. But is this truly the case? The answer lies only in scientific data and research from cred-

ible institutions. In the United States, the CDC and its Vaccine Safety Datalink, which continuously monitor millions of patients, found the same results: vaccination did not increase "all-cause mortality." A few rare side effects were documented, particularly myocarditis (inflammation of the heart lining) and blood clots. But these were exceedingly rare, with only a handful of cases per

millions of doses.

hroughout human history, million people, with findings published in the New England Journal of Medicine. The study confirmed that while myocarditis cases were somewhat higher among young men after vaccination, most were mild and resolved with treatment. By contrast, COVID infection itself posed a far greater risk of myocarditis and other complications. Thus, the risk from infection far outweighed the minimal risk from vaccination.

Similarly, a massive Nordic study covering 23 million people across Norway, Denmark, Sweden, and Finland reached the same conclu-

sion. Published in JAMA Cardiology, it reported just 4 to 7 myocarditis cases per 100,000 vaccinated young men an incidence considered "extremely low" in scientific terms. Moreover, the majority of these patients fully recovered.

The British medical journal BMJ published Danish data showing a slight increase in mvocarditis risk after vaccina-

tion, but the overall incidence remained minuscule. In fact, the risk of cardiac complications was many times greater following a COVID infection. Likewise, a NEJM study from England demonstrated that vaccination reduced the risk of COVID-related death by up to 90%, with protection further enhanced by booster doses.

All of these findings make one fact abundantly clear: vaccines saved lives and did not cause premature death. Had they been harmful, global safety systems would have immediately raised alarms and halted their use as has happened in the past with certain drugs and vaccines. In truth, the benefits of COVID vaccines far outweighed

But why do rumors spread in the first place? In the early days of the pandemic, fear and uncer-Israel's Clalit Health Services studied 1.7 tainty made people suspicious of everything.

Social media amplified these doubts at lightning speed. Some exploited this fear for financial gain, others for political or ideological agendas. Yet science stands on facts, and the facts show that billions of vaccinated people are alive today, living normal lives.

Of course, vaccines like all medical treatments carry rare adverse effects. But medicine always weighs risk versus benefit. When the benefit of saving millions of lives so vastly outweighs the risk of a handful of rare complications, the choice is clear. That is why WHO, the CDC, the EMA, and other authorities have repeatedly stated that

the benefits of vaccination far exceed the risks. Let us also examine the claim of "excess mortality." Some argued that higher death rates in 2021 and 2022 were caused by vaccines. But studies revealed that these excess deaths were due to COVID surges, hospital strain, delays in treating non-COVID conditions, and broader social and healthcare disruptions not vaccines.

In summary, the claims that COVID vaccines cause premature death are scientifically baseless. If such allegations were true, the global impact would have been impossible to hide after billions of doses. Instead, vaccines saved millions of lives and stabilized healthcare systems. Still, continuous monitoring of rare side effects remains vital to developing even safer vaccines in the future.

Ultimately, decisions about health and disease must not be guided by rumors or conspiracy theories, but by science and evidence. COVID vaccines have demonstrated the profound role of science in serving humanity. The notion that vaccinated individuals will soon die is nothing more than a frightening myth disproved by both time and research. The reality is clear: those who received the vaccine had far greater chances of survival and of living healthier lives.

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# **Physiotherapy: Restoring** Movement, Reducing Fall Risks, Changing Lives

Dr. Raja Aqib Sagheer

art of healing through movement. has evolved from being an optional aspect of healthcare to an essential a crucial role in aiding patients to regain mobility implementation of exercise prescriptions necessipost-surgery and allows older adults to maintain tates the targeted knowledge of physiotherapists. their independence, addressing a broad range 
Encroachment into this area not only compro-

of human needs. Unlike shortterm fixes such as pain medications or ample rest, physiotherapy works at a deeper level to restore functionality, prevent future issues, and foster longlasting health.

The advantages of physiotherapy are both immediate and enduring. It alleviates pain without the adverse effects asso-

ciated with medications, enhances mobility for those experiencing stiffness or weakness, and accelerates recovery following injuries or surgical procedures. For instance, a person recuperating and acknowledged by global health organizafrom a knee replacement or heart bypass surgery is likely to return to their normal life more swiftly with a tailored physiotherapy program. It is also highly effective in managing chronic illnesses. Individuals dealing with arthritis, diabetes, or stroke frequently depend on physiotherapy to uphold their independence and stave off deterioration. Athletes, too, benefit from physiotherapy, not only in recovering from injuries but also in enhancing their performance and preventing

Falls rank among the leading causes of injuries and loss of autonomy in older adults, and physiotherapy plays a proven role in preventing them through specific strength, balance, and mobility programs. It is crucial to highlight that physiotherapy should only be delivered within its

hysiotherapy, often regarded as the professional scope. Increasingly, medical professionals have started to prescribe exercises directly to patients, which extends beyond their expertise. Although physicians are vital in diagnoses component in today's society. It plays and medical interventions, the safe and effective

> mises professional boundaries but may also subject patients to risks, such as prolonged recovery or further harm. For optimal patient results, it is essential for each healthcare professional to operate within their respective scopes and collaborate through appropriate referrals.

In summary, physiotherapy encompasses much more than

simply recovery following an injury—it acts as a pathway to enhanced health, independence, and dignity. Supported by robust scientific evidence tions, it is a profession that warrants increased backing and visibility. Governments need to allocate resources to physiotherapy, healthcare providers should emphasize correct referrals, and patients ought to seek professional assistance rather than resorting to unsafe self-directed exercise plans. Physiotherapy truly encapsulates the concept of "healing through movement" and serves as a fundamental element of contemporary healthcare, aiding societies in achieving healthier ageing, stronger recovery, and improved quality

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# President Tokayev Outlines Vision for Kazakhstan's Digital Future

**Spokesman Report** 

President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev today delivered his annual state-of-the-nation address, "Kazakhstan in the Era of Artificial Intelligence: Key Tasks and Their Solutions through Digital Transformation." The Head of State presented an Digital Asset Fund to build a strategic ambitious program of reform centered on digital transformation, investment modernization, global connectivity, and stimulate fintech and attract new market institutional renewal.

At the heart of the address was the era of artificial intelligence. President Tokayev announced the creation of and Digital Development, which will be headed by a Deputy Prime Minister-level specialist. The new body will spearhead Kazakhstan's transition into nation within three years." The President called for rapid adoption of a compreeconomy, and directed the Government performance, while urging a rethink all sectors of the economy.

abstract concept," Tokayev said. "It is market potential," he said.

already influencing the worldview and behavior of people, especially young people. We must be prepared for this reality. Kazakhstan has no alternative but to embrace this transformation." He also highlighted financial innovations, announcing the establishment of a State crypto reserve and urging the adoption of a new Banking Law by year-end to entrants.

Alongside digital transformation, the Kazakhstan's determination to lead in President focused on investment and economic modernization. He called for a renewal of Kazakhstan's investment a new Ministry of Artificial Intelligence attraction system, noting that excessive bureaucracy had undermined efficiency. "Attracting investment is a priority that requires new approaches," he stated, stressing that the Prime Minister is what he described as a "fully digital" directly responsible for overseeing this process. Tokayev also proposed introducing a Regional Investment Attrachensive Digital Code covering artificial tiveness Index to hold local governintelligence, big data, and the platform ment accountable for their economic to ensure total integration of AI across of the role of the National Fund. "The Fund's resources should be used wisely "Artificial intelligence is no longer an to finance promising projects with high

Transport and logistics featured prominently as Kazakhstan continues to strengthen its role as a vital bridge between Europe and Asia. Tokayev announced the imminent completion of the Dostyk-Moyinty double-track railway, a project he described as "of special significance for the East-West corridor," and pledged timely progress on other key railway links. He stated that by October a unified Smart Cargo digital customs and logistics platform must be launched, allowing private operators equal automated access to customs and logistics infrastructure. In aviation, he reiterated Kazakhstan's strategic ambition to become the leading hub in the Eurasian space, underpinned by the proposal to create a national cargo carrier with foreign partners and integrate new airports into global logistics chains.

On foreign policy, President Tokayev reaffirmed Kazakhstan's multi-vector approach, emphasizing the importance of balance and constructive engagement. He welcomed the results of recent highlevel summits, including U. S.-Russia dialogue in Alaska and peace efforts between Azerbaijan and Armenia, and highlighted Kazakhstan's growing partnerships with China, Türkiye, the



United Nations, particularly its Security Council. "The UN still has no alternative," he said, "but reform is overdue, above all of its key body, the Security Council." He added he would present Kazakhstan's views on global reform during the upcoming session of the UN General Assembly in New York.

The President also proposed a major

Central Asia, the European Union, and institutional reform that will have longthe United States. Looking ahead, he term political implications. He suggested underscored the need for reform of the a transition toward a unicameral Parliament, with the issue to be decided by a nationwide referendum in 2027. Tokayev insisted the process must be transparent and consultative: "I am convinced that it is necessary to conduct. an open dialogue with the people on such fateful issues. Only then we will move forward on the path of building a Just and Strong Kazakhstan."

The President also outlined broader national priorities. These included granting special status to Alatau City as a new innovation hub, adopting a new Construction Code by the end of the year, creating a unified digital land resources map, and pursuing long-term strategies for food security and water management. He called for continued restoration of the Aral Sea, joint efforts to preserve the Caspian Sea, and accelerated use of advanced water-saving technologies. In social policy, Tokayev urged reform of Kazakhstan's extensive system of benefits to ensure sustainability and fairness, alongside measures to strengthen pensions, expand healthcare, and improve financial literacy. He further emphasized the role of education in preparing the next generation for the AI era, highlighting programs to integrate AI into school curricula and to expand digital learning for rural students.

Closing his speech, President Tokayev stressed the unifying principles of law, order, and patriotism as Kazakhstan navigates global change. "If our people are united and the internal situation is stable, we will overcome all difficulties and meet any trial," he stated.

# Nepal PM Oli quits as anti-corruption protests spiral, his aide says

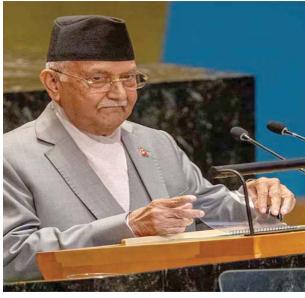
**Reuters** 

KATHMANDU: Nepal Prime Minister K. P. Sharma Oli resigned on Tuesday, his aide said, as anti-corruption demonstrators defied an indefinite curfew and clashed with police, a day after 19 people died in violent protests triggered by a social media ban.

Oli's government lifted the social media ban after protests turned violent, killing 19 and injuring more than a 100 after police fired tear gas and rubber bullets at protesters trying to storm parliament on Monday.

The unrest is the worst in decades in the poor Himalayan country that is wedged between India and China and has struggled with political instability and economic uncertainty since dialogue to find solutions to any chased them through narrow protesters in areas nearby, aviaprotests led to the abolition of its problem". onarchy in 2008.

Earlier on Tuesday, Oli had called a meeting of all political imposed by authorities. parties, saving violence is not in the interest of the nation and



But anger against t "The PM has quit," Oli's aide ment showed no signs of abating, on their mobile phones as thick Prakash Silwal told Reuters, a as protesters gathered in front black smoke rose to the sky. move that plunges the country of parliament and other places defiance of an indefinite curfew

The protesters set fire to tyres "we have to resort to peaceful police personnel in riot gear and phone.

and shot videos of the clashes Bhul said

Hundreds of people from into fresh political uncertainty. in the capital Kathmandu, in some towns located near the India-Nepal border had started marching towards Kathmandu to support the protesters, one of on some roads, threw stones at the protesters told Reuters by

Witnesses also said that protesters were setting fire to the homes of some politicians in Kathmandu, and local media reported that some ministers were plucked to safety by military helicopters.

Reuters could not immediately verify the information.

"We are still standing here for our future... We want this country corruption-free so that everyone can easily access education, hospitals, medical (facilities)... and for a bright future," protester Robin Sreshtha told

Arrival of planes from the southern side at Kathmandu airport, Nepal's main international gateway, was closed because of poor visibility due to the smoke from fires set by streets, while some looked on tion authority official Gyanendra

Organisers of the protests, which spread to other cities in the Himalayan country, have called them "demonstrations by Gen Z", driven by young people's widespread frustration with the government's perceived lack of action to tackle corruption and boost economic opportunities.

## Kazakhstan to attract over 5 trillion tenge in investments

**Kazinform** 

ASTANA: Kazakh Government plans to attract over 5 trillion tenge in investments, Deputy Prime

Minister - National Economy Minister Serik Zhumangarin told a Government meeting, Kazinform News Agency reports.

He stressed the main emphasis is placed on the new investment cycle, the development of Alatau city, inflation control, reduction of dependence on imports and economic liberalization. He noted it is expected to step up economic growth rates to double GDP by 2029 through the Government's direct role in stimulating high investment activity.

Among the promising areas are the car industry, railroad rolling stock manufacturing, chemical and petrochemical industries, replenishment of mineral resources base, including rare-earth

metals and agro-industrial output processing.

Recall that the Head of State instructed to develop an action plan to renovate the investment attraction system within 10 days.

## A million Kazakhstanis to master AI skills

**№** Kazinform

ASTANA: Kazakhstan continues to develop AI movement initiative, Kazinform News Agen-

"One million Kazakhstanis will master AI skills in the next five years. Programs such as TUMO, Tomorrow School, AI Sana, AI Olymp and Day of AI initiative will be launched for pupils and students," Kazakh Digital Development, Innovations and Aerospace Industry Zhaslan Madiyev told the Government meeting.

He reminded the AI Qyzmet program was developed for public servants, AI Corporate for  $quasi-sector, and online \ course \ and \ acceleration \ programs, including \ Tech \ Orda \ and \ Qazqoders$ and Yandex courses, for wider public.

Utmost attention is paid to the development of the International AI Center alem.ai designed to blend education, science, business and state technologies. The center will provide open spaces, courses for schoolchildren and students, startups and acceleration, scientific research and center for digital solutions in public administration. The center will open this October within the Digital Bridge. He also announced the AI Ministry will be developed at the ground of the Digital Development Ministry.

# Ethiopian Embassy Islamabad Celebrates 'Enkutatash' & GERD Inauguration in Grand Manner

Minister H. E. Dr. Abiy Ahmed

which stressed on synergizing all

force behind Ethiopia's political,

economic, social and legal reforms

since 2018, which have contrib-

uted to its economic growth," he

said while describing the inaugu-

This philosophy is the driving

resources

**Spokesman Report** 

The Embassy of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (FDRE) in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan has hosted a grand reception in the Federal Capital Islamabad to celebrate the Ethiopian New Year (Enkutatash) 2018, inauguration of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD), and Unity Day.

A large presence from Pakistan close to 500 including higher officials in the commemoration ceremony was a true reflection of the growing bilateral relations between the two countries. H. E. Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani,

Chairman of the Senate was the chief guest while H. E. Khawaja Muhammad Asif, Federal Minister for Defence and Aviation attended as the guest of honor.

Among the distinguished guests were H. E. Musadik Masood Malik, Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, H. E. Ms. Shaza Fatima Khawaja, Federal Minister for IT & Telecommunication, H. E. Aurangzeb Khan Khichi, Federal Minister for Culture and Heritage, H. E. Hamid Asghar Khan, Additional Secretary (Africa), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan, and H. E. Murtaza Solangi, Spokesperson for President.

Ambassadors, diplomatic corps members, government officials, Parliamentarians, media, think tanks' heads and members of the Ethiopian diaspora were also in attendance.

In his address, H. E. Dr. Jemal Beker Abdula, Ethiopia's Special Envoy and Ambassador to Pakistan, extended New Year greet-







unique calendar system, with 13 months.

"By attending today gathering, all of us in this room got seven years younger... because Ethiopia is celebrating the start of 2018 today," he added.

The Ambassador emphasized that Enkutatash symbolizes hope



ings, explaining about Ethiopia's and optimism. He also spoke on Ethiopia's rich

heritage as the origin of humankind and coffee, highlighting its history of religious harmony, diverse culture and tourism.

He also noted Ethiopia's role in pan-Africanism and regional integration. He further detailed the Medemer philosophy of Prime



ration of Grand Ethiopian Renais-

sance Dam as a powerful manifes-

The GERD is entirely financed

by Ethiopians, he said, adding

the dam would not significantly

harm any downstream countries,

underscoring Ethiopia's dedica-

tion to equitable and reasonable

tation of Medemer.

The Honorable Chairman Senate said that Pakistan and Ethiopia share centuries-old trade and cultural linkages, which are being reinvigorated under Pakistan's Look Africa Policy.

He further stated that both Pakistan and Ethiopia share the same objectives: ensuring peace, prosperity, and dignity for every citizen. Looking ahead, he expressed hope for closer partnerships in renewable energy, agricultural innovation, and parliamentary exchanges.

He paid tribute to Ethiopia's remarkable achievements and stressed that both countries can pave the way for prosperity by wisely utilizing their shared

"The Grand Ethiopian Renais-



water utilization for regional

energy connectivity. He reaffirmed the friendly relations between Ethiopia and Pakistan and noted growing cooperation in areas such as trade, investment, education, and cultural exchange, climate change, peace

sance Dam is not merely a structure of concrete and steel — it is a symbol of Ethiopia's determination, collective vision, and progress," he said while felicitating the Ethiopia on the GERD inau-

**Photos by Sultan Bashir** 

## **Bull & Bears** PSX 100-Share

' " Index Fluctuation				
Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index				
Current	Prev. Close			
156,563.52	156,087.30			
Day's High	Day's Low			
157,088.80	156,087.30			
Index Value	Change			
41,294,510,180	+476.22			
Percentage	Time			
+0.31%	9 Sept, 2025 4:30 pm			
Europe: FTS	E 100 Index			
Index Value	Change			
9,242.53	+21.09			
Percentage	Time			
+0.23%	9 Sept, 4:35 pm GMT+1			
USA: Dow Jones Industrial Averag				
Index Value	Change			
	<b>Change</b> +119.22			
Index Value	-			

+0.20%	GMT-4				
Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average					
Index Value	Change				
43,459.29	-184.52				
Percentage	Time				
+0.42%	9 Sept, 3:45 pm GMT+9				

Open Market Forex Rates				
Currency	Buying	Selling		
Australian Dollar	184	189		
Bahrain Dinar	747.40	749.90		
Canadian Dollar	204	209		
China Yuan	39.36	39.76		
Danish Krone	43.9	44.30		
Euro	329.70	331.50		
Hong Kong Dollar	36	36.35		
Indian Rupee	3.13	3.22		
Japanese Yen	1.8800	1.9800		
Kuwaiti Dinar	913	921		
Malaysian Ringgit	66.47	67.07		
NewZealand \$	164.35	166.35		
Norwegians Krone	27.97	28.27		
Omani Riyal	732	734.5		
Qatari Riyal	77.24	77.94		
Saudi Riyal	75.15	75.35		
Singapore Dollar	217.50	222.50		
Swedish Korona	29.71	30.01		
Swiss Franc	350.41	353.16		
Thai Bhat	8.62	8.77		
U.A.E Dirham	76.85	77.05		
UK Pound Sterling	380	382		

## Systems Limited's Čountry Model Bank now available on Temenos Exchange



## Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Systems Limited, a leading provider of Core transformation and Digital Banking services announced that its Country Model Bank is now available on the Temenos Exchange partner ecosystem of solution providers.

Monty Bhatia, EVP of Global Alliances and Partner Ecosystem, Temenos, said: "We are excited to welcome Systems Limited to Temenos Exchange, making their Country Model Bank solution readily available to banks running on our platform. Our Exchange partners deliver innovative complementary solutions, empowering Temenos customers to enhance their services while reducing development costs."

"Banks today face a growing challenge of keeping pace with evolving regulatory requirements while driving digital transformation. Our Country Model Bank's availability on Temenos Exchange addresses this need by offering a pre-configured solution that simplifies compliance and enhances operational agility. Being part of Temenos Exchange further extends our commitment to the banking community, allowing Temenos customers to seamlessly adopt our solution and maximize efficiency. We look forward to leveraging the power of the Temenos platform to help financial institutions achieve their business goals." said Ammara Masood, GM Global Industries BFS, Systems Limited

# PM directs FBR to reprimand tax evaders, facilitate taxpayers

### **Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday directed the Federal Board of Revenue to utilise its own workforce and engage private sector to identify tax-evading individuals and companies.

The prime minister, chairing a meeting to review reforms in FBR, asked the organisation to provide a business-friendly environment and all possible facilities to taxpayers.

Calling the regular taxpayers the backbone of the national economy, he instructed the FBR to swiftly complete the Income Tax and Sales Taxpayers' Directory to honor taxpayers.

Honoring taxpayers and reprimanding tax evaders will help expand the tax net, the prime minister said and directed hiring professional services to identify tax evaders and recover

He also called for launching a public awareness campaign on the government's measures against tax evasion.

The prime minister also instructed



emphasising a continuous third-party reviews to identify system flaws and further improve it.

During the briefing, the prime minister was apprised of the measures being taken to identify tax evaders, complete the Taxpayers' Directory, and actions taken through super auditors to increase revenue.

It was informed that work on completing the Taxpayers' Directory to honor income and sales taxpavers was progressing rapidly and a scientific auditing system had been developed for third-party reviews of mis-declaration and under-invoicing in customs clearance.

The meeting was informed that super auditors had been appointed to thoroughly review customs clearance and the risk management system to utilise its output to improve the risk management system.

The meeting was attended by federal ministers Azam Nazeer Tarar, Ahad Khan Cheema, Attaullah Tarar, Dr. Musadik Masood Malik, Muhammad Aurangzeb, Ali Pervez Malik, and

the FBR to select top international auditors for third-party reviews of mis-declaration and under-invoicing in customs clearance, also senior officials from relevant institutions.

## New Phase of economic cooperation

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's Commerce Minister Jam Kamal Khan and Türkiye's Minister of National Defense Yaşar Güler sign the Protocol of the 16th Türkiye-Pakistan Joint Economic Commission (JEC),



# CCP approves acquisition of shareholding in Heavy Electrical Complex

### Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) has granted approval for the acquisition of a certain shareholding in M/s. Heavy Electrical Complex (Private) Limited by M/s. DW Pakistan (Private) Limited from M/s. IMS Engineering (Private) Limited under a share purchase agreement.

The 'Acquirer' is engaged in investment and acquisition across various sectors. Currently, it is not operating in manufacturing, engineering, or energy concluded that the transmarkets. The 'Target' is engaged in the manufac- strengthen a dominant posituring and repair of power tion in the market of Power transformers, including large Transformers.

capacity units used in Pakistan's power transmission and distribution systems. While, the 'Seller' is involved in providing engineering, procurement, construction (EPC) and commissioning services. The CCP identified the

relevant product market as power 'Transformers'. The competition analysis further suggests that the transaction constitutes a conglomerate merger and does not eliminate any existing or potential competitor in the relevant market.

The Commission action would not create or

# SECP Convenes First Meeting of Sustainable Finance Advisory Group for Capital Markets

## Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD,: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) convened the inaugural meeting of the Sustainable Finance Advisory Group for Capital Markets.

The Advisory Group deliberated on strengthening ESG disclosure practices, enhancing cooperation to onboard companies onto the SECP's ESG Sustain Portal, and advancing capacity-building initiatives to help firms align their reporting with international sustainability standards. Members also expressed support for the forthcoming Women EquiSmart Policy, which aims to embed Group, including Mr. Farrukh Mr. Shauzab Ali, representa-



the SECP's regulated sectors.

gender-smart reforms across H. Sabzwari, CEO of the Pakistan Stock Exchange; Mr. Saif The session was convened Ullah, President of the Instiby Ms. Musarat Jabeen, Exectute of Chartered Accountants utive Director of the SECP, and of Pakistan; Mr. Assad Hameed attended by members of the Khan, Head of ACCA Pakistan;

tive from the Asian Development Bank (ADB); Ms. Naz Khan, representative from the International Finance Corporation (IFC); Ms. Fareeha Ummar, representative from UN Women; and Ms. Nazish Shekha, representative from the Pakistan Business Council. The Convener outlined the purpose and expectations of the Advisory Group while emphasizing the importance of setting clear and achievable targets.

The Advisory Group will serve as a high-level platform for continuous dialogue, meeting quarterly to review progress and co-develop solutions for advancing sustainable business practices in Pakistan. ping accessible, easy and Daraz Pakistan.

## **Daraz Pakistan** Turns 10! Join the Festive 9.9 Big **Anniversary Sale**

## Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Daraz Pakistan, the country's leading e-commerce platform, is turning 10 and celebrating a decade of transforming how Pakistan shops online. To mark this special milestone, Daraz is launching the 9.9 Big Anniversary Sale from September 9 to September 17, a nine-day shopping festival filled with jaw-dropping discounts, thrilling surprises, and deals that customers will not want to

"Daraz Pakistan was founded with the vision of making online shop-

enjoyable. Over the past decade, we have listened to our customers, understood their needs, and translated those insights into localised strategies that have shaped our journey. As we celebrate 10 years, we take pride in how far we have come and remain deeply grateful to our customers, sellers and partners who have been with us along the way. This anniversary is a celebration of their trust and support, and we look forward to continuing to grow together in the years ahead," said Asad Jawaid, Director Commercial at

# SECP chief racks up trips despite austerity

Fake claims threatening survival of \$3.5 trillion insurance industry

## 

(SECP), a key regulatory body tasked with enforcing transparency in the ity regime that restricts non-esregulator's refusal to disclose costs, purposes, or outcomes of these visits, despite repeated requests, raises serious concerns about its governance daily allowances, hotel bills, or author-

Internal travel records reviewed show that Executive Director lator's accountability and governance (Chairman Secretariat) Musarat standards. A Karachi-based busi-Jabeen undertook eight foreign trips nessman said that any foreign engagein one year, including to Canada, the ment should be tied to measurable

UK, Hong Kong, Qatar, and China. Chairman Akif Saeed travelled ISLAMABAD: The Securities and abroad multiple times, with visits Exchange Commission of Pakistan to Qatar, China, and Greece. Executive Director Asif Jalal Bhutti and an SECP Commissioner embarked corporate sector, has come under on a 12-day official tour of Spain and scrutiny. Despite a federal auster- Greece, extending their stay to nearly a month by combining it with annual sential travel, senior officials at the leave. Commissioners Mujataba SECP have taken more than a dozen Ahmed Lodhi and Zeeshan Khattak foreign trips over the past year. The each made about four to five trips Despite repeated requests, SECP

has not released records of airfares, ising notifications. This lack of transparency fuels concerns about the regu-



upgrades, or new listings. Another business leader noted agreements, market infrastructure

that entrepreneurs are facing delays in approvals and stricter on-site inspections, yet the regulator appears to have no shortage of travel budgets. He called for the quarterly publication of all foreign travel with costs and outputs.

The controversy comes as Pakistan remains under an IMF-supported stabilisation program that prioritises fiscal restraint. The actions of the regulator undermine credibility, erode trust across the board, and signal to businesses that compliance with austerity is optional. Taxpayers ultimately bear the cost through reduced trust in market oversight and the governance signals sent to investors. This could lead to a loss of investor confidence, which could negatively impact the economy and capital markets.

# Mohsin Naqvi unveils Asia Cup 2025 Trophy in Dubai

### **Sports Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Asian Cricket Council (ACC) President Mohsin Naqvi has unveiled the Asia Cup 2025 trophy at a ceremony in Dubai on Tuesday with captains of all eight participating teams, including Pakistan skipper Salman Ali Agha, posing for the traditional photographs with the glittering trophy. The event brought together cricket leaders from across the continent, Pakistan, India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Afghanistan, Oman, UAE, and Hong Kong, marking the start of what promises to be a fiercely contested competition.

Following the ceremonial trophy unveiling, all eight

session, sharing their ambitions captains attended a joint press and underlining the significance of the Asia Cup.

With the trophy now unveiled and the schedule locked in, all eyes turn to tonight as Asia's top teams start battling not only for regional glory but also to finetuning their preparations ahead of the T20 World Cup.

The 2025 Asia Cup, to be played in the T20 format, features Pakistan, India, Oman, UAE, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Afghanistan, and Hong Kong.

Before taking questions from the media, all captains shook hands with Asian Cricket Council President Mohsin Naqvi, who is also the PCB chairman.

Following the trophy unveiling captains participated in a media and meet-and-greet, all eight

conference where they expressed their desire to give their best to lift the continental title which begins with Afghanistan vs Hong Kong later today.

Talking to the newsmen, Salam Ali Agha said "Winning the tournament is a challenge as I think nobody is favourite in this format."

The Pakistan captain said he is happy with his team's recent performance as Pakistan won the tri-series in the UAE. He said the Pakistan team is ready for the big

Responding to the question about facing India, Salman Agha said, "Adopting an aggressive approach is the natural strength of fast bowlers. I will not have a

These conditions are not new to us, and we will try to give our

best," he added. Suryakumar Yadav acknowledged that it has been a while since the Indian team played together in the shortest format but hopes to gel together in the T20 format. "We have not played a game together since June, but as a team, we have to accept this challenge. We've been preparing

special message for this team. here for the last four days and are confident about adapting Kong quickly," he stated.

Suryakumar Yadav was asked about his hairstyle, leading to Kong a light-hearted moment. The India captain said his team has had a few training sessions since arriving in the UAE last week. He said playing against the best Asian teams will be challenging.

Asia Cup 2025 group stage

Sept 9: Afghanistan vs Hong Afghanistan

Sept 10: India vs UAE Sept 11: Bangladesh vs Hong istan

Sept 12: Pakistan vs Oman Sept 13: Bangladesh vs Sri

Sept 14: Pakistan vs India Sept 15: UAE vs Oman Sept 15: Sri Lanka vs Hong

Sept 16: Bangladesh vs

Sept 17: Pakistan vs UAE Sept 18: Sri Lanka vs Afghan-

Sept 19: India vs Oman

Super Four stage Sept 20: B1 vs B2 Sept 21: A1 vs A2 Sept 23: A2 vs B1 Sept 24: A1 vs B2

Sept 25: A2 vs B2 Sept 26: A1 vs B1 Final: Sept 28

# Mohsin Naqvi welcomes Asia Cup 2025 captains at Dubai International Stadium

## **₿** Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Asian Cricket Council (ACC) Chairman Mohsin Naqvi arrived at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium, where he held a special meeting with the captains of all teams participating in the Asia Cup 2025. In a cordial interaction, Naqvi personally greeted Pakistan's captain Salman Agha, India's skipper Suryakumar Yadav, Afghanistan's Rashid Khan, Bangladesh's Litton Das, and Hong Kong's Yasim Murtaza.

He also extended a warm welcome to Sri Lanka's Charith Asalanka, UAE's Mohammad Wasim, and Oman's Jatinder Singh.

Naqvi personally welcomed and extended his warm regards to the leaders of all competing nations.

Speaking on the occasion, Mohsin Naqvi said that the Asia Cup provides cricket fans with the opportunity not only to witness the traditional rivalry between Pakistan and India but also to enjoy thrilling contests among other

He lauded the Emirates Cricket Board ment, ensuring a world-class cricketing he said.



for collaborating with the ACC in making not just a sport but a beautiful means enthusiastic about the successful organ- Salman Naseer, and senior officials of excellent arrangements for the tourna- of uniting hearts and spreading love,"

ization of the 2025 edition. Pakistan Cricket Board's Chief Oper- on the occasion.

Naqvi further remarked, "Cricket is member boards, is fully committed and Super League's Chief Executive Officer other cricket boards were also present

# T20I Asia Cup: Afghanistan crush Hong Kong by 94 runs in opener



## **Sports Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Afghanistan clinched a thumping 94-run victory over Hong Kong in the opening clash of the T20I Asia Cup 2025 at the Sheikh Zayed Crick-

The emphatic win gave Afghanistan not only two crucial points but also a strong statement of intent that they are serious contenders for the regional crown. After winning the toss and electing to

bat first, Afghanistan posted an imposing total of 188 for four in their allotted 20

In reply, Hong Kong's batting lineup crumbled under relentless Afghan pres-

Only Babar Hayat offered resistance with a fighting 39, but he found no support from the other end as no other batsman managed to cross double figures.

Hong Kong limped to 94 for nine in

their 20 overs, falling well short of the

Afghanistan's bowlers shared the spoils, with Gulbadin Naib and Fazalhaq Farooqi picking up two wickets each.

Omarzai, Rashid Khan, and Noor Ahmad chipped in with one wicket apiece to complete a clinical team performance. After winning the toss and opting to

bat first, Afghanistan piled up 188 runs for the loss of just four wickets in their allotted 20 overs.

Opener Sediqullah Atal anchored the innings with a superb unbeaten knock of 73 runs from 52 balls. All-rounder Azmatullah Omarzai

supported him with a blistering innings of 53 runs off just 21 deliveries. Earlier, Afghanistan started cautiously

in the powerplay, but momentum shifted in the middle overs as the batters began

The partnership between Atal and

Omarzai proved decisive, as the pair Cup history. added 50 runs off just 25 balls for the fifth wicket, propelling the team to a challenging total.

 $Contributions\ also\ came\ from\ veteran$ Mohammad Nabi, who chipped in with

For Hong Kong, Ayush Shukla claimed two wickets but conceded 54 runs in his four overs, while Kinchit Shah and Ehsan Khan managed one wicket apiece.

after a defeat against Pakistan in the UAE T20I Tri-Series final on Sunday.

The team, under Rashid Khan, will aim to begin their campaign on a posi-

The Afghan Atalan have made one previous appearance in a T20I Asia Cup, coming in 2022, where they were eliminated in the Super Four stages, with two wins and three losses so far in their Asia

They will be ecstatic, going into this tournament, with Sediqullah Atal and Ibrahim Zadran having found form, lowering the reliance they have often had on Rahmanullah Gurbaz in this format, while their extreme spin quartet remains as dangerous as ever with AM Ghazanfar, Mohammad Nabi, Rashid Khan, Noor Ahmad, and Mujeeb Zadran.

## Hong Kong:

Just like Afghanistan, Hong Kong have Afghanistan come into the Asia Cup managed one previous appearance, which came in 2022, where they failed to get out of the group stage, having lost both their games.

A team that will be quietly confident about their chance, with Anshuman Rath their leading run-scorer this year and he has been in good form alongside Zeeshan Ali, while Ayush Shukla, Yasim Murtuza, and Anas Khan have been great with the ball.

## PMYP cricket trials in Jhelum and Sialkot draw massive participation

## ➢ Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Prime Minister Youth Program (PMYP) cricket trials, spearheaded by Lahore Qalandars, continued their successful journey with back-to-back stops in Sialkot and Jhelum, attracting thousands of enthusiastic young boys and girls eager to showcase their cricketing talent.



The trials, designed to provide aspiring cricketers with a pathway to professional opportunities, were met with overwhelming response. Both venues witnessed a sea of energetic youth, determined to prove their skills and seize the chance of

Adding prominence to the Jhelum trials, Federal Minister Bilal Kiyani personally hosted the proceedings, while the presence of US Chargé d'Affaires Natalie A. Baker on day one added international recognition and highlighted the global significance of the initiative. Their presence not only boosted the morale of the young cricketers but also reinforced the importance of investing in youth development through sports.

Lahore Qalandars CEO Atif Rana expressed heartfelt gratitude to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, PMYP Chairman Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan, and the Higher Education Commis sion (HEC) for their great support in making this program a resounding success. He also extended special thanks to the youth of Sialkot and Jhelum for their remarkable turnout.

"The passion and energy we witnessed in Sialkot and Jhelum were beyond expectations. I would especially like to thank the youth of these cities, who turned out in such large numbers and made these trials truly memorable. This platform is proof that dreams can come true if talent is given the right opportunity,"

Young participants also shared their gratitude towards the Prime Minister, the PMYP team, and Lahore Qalandars, acknowledging that such initiatives are helping turn their aspirations into achievable goals. Many described the trials as a "dream come true," offering them exposure and guidance under professional supervision.

With Lahore Qalandars providing expert coaching and professional evaluation, the trials are not only unearthing hidden gems of cricket but also instilling confidence, discipline, and hope among the country's youth. The overwhelming success in Sialkot and Jhelum has reaffirmed Punjab's rich cricketing culture and strengthened the program's mission to discover future stars for Pakistan.

## Karachi Green won the Defence day SepakTakraw Championship title in men's category while Karachi Blues won the women's title

## **₿** Sports Desk

KARACHI: Sindh Sepaktakraw Association Organized by Defence Day Sepaktakraw Championship with the collaboration of Pakistan SepakTakraw Federation and Sindh Olympic Associ-



ation was held at North Karachi Gymkhana. In which Karachi Green won the men's competition while Karachi Blues won the women's title. The chief guest of the closing ceremony was Ahmed Ali Rajput, Secretary Sindh Olympic Association, while Engn Syed Mahfooz-ul-Haq was the guest of honor. He presented trophies to the winning teams. Pakistan SepakTakraw Federation Secretary General Noushad Ahmed Khan, Sindh Sepaktakraw Association Chairman Dr. Muhammad Arif Hafeez, President Shabbir Ahmed, Vice President Dr. Dilip Kumar, Sindh Arm Wrestling Association Secretary Kashif Ahmed Farooqi and others were also present on this occasion.

Addressing the ceremony, Ahmed Ali Rajput, Secretary Sindh Olympic Association, said that Pakistan and Sindh Sepaktakraw Association have worked very hard to promote Sepaktakraw, especially Noushad Ahmed Khan, Shabbir Ahmed, Dr. Arif Hafeez and others. He added that here I congratulate the captains of the men's and women's teams of the Pakistan Sepaktakraw team, Muhammad Khalid and Deedar Rani, for winning the bronze medal in the King's Cup held in Thailand last month. Engineer Mahfooz-ul-Haq said that I am very happy that the Sindh Sepaktakraw Association organized the championship on the occasion of Defense Day. Mahfooz-ul-Haq also informed the players about valuable information regarding Defense Day in his address.

# The Spokesman wednesday, September 10, 2025



# Israel targets Hamas leadership in military strikes on Qatar

**Agencies** 

DOHA: Israel launched a strike targeting Hamas leaders in Qatar on Tuesday, marking expansion of its military campaign across the Middle East to include the Gulf state where the Palestinian movement has long had its politi-

The strike struck near Doha's Legtifya petrol station, sending black plumes of smoke into the sky as ambulances, police and government vehicles surrounded the area. Eyewitnesses described explosions reverberating through the Qatari capital, with nearby residential compounds placed under heavy guard by Qatar's Emiri Guard since the Gaza conflict began.

Qatari violation of international law" The country has served as a key with negotiations over a US darity with Qatar." mediator in ceasefire negotiations alongside Egypt, raising fears the assault could deliver a fatal blow to ongoing efforts to end the war in Gaza and secure



the release of hostages.

Israeli officials said the attack targeted senior Hamas figures, including Khalil al-Hayya, the group's exiled Gaza chief and proposal for a ceasefire, scheduled to be discussed in Doha.

condemnations

Qatar: Foreign Ministry

spokesman Majed al-Ansari called the strike a "cowardly Israeli attack" and a violation of all international norms.

United Arab Emirates: authorities lead negotiator. Two Hamas Described the attack as "blatant denounced the attack as sources confirmed that and cowardly," with Foreign "cowardly" and a "flagrant members of the delegation Minister Abdullah bin Zayed survived. The strike coincided Al Nahvan declaring "full soli-

Saudi Arabia: Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman Regional and global condemned a "criminal act" and expressed "full solidarity" with Doha.

"an unacceptable development" targeting mediation efforts.

Aoun called it part of "Israel's attempts to destabilise the

ccused Israel of "state terrorism" and undermining

violation of sovereignty.

Egypt: Branded the attack

Lebanon: President Joseph

Iraq: Denounced the

Yemen's Houthis: Blamed

both Israel and the US, calling the attack a "deliberate assassination attempt."

United Nations: Secretary-General Antonio Guterres condemned the strike, stressing the need to work for a permanent ceasefire "not destroying

The Vatican: Pope Leo XIV described the assault as "really serious," urging prayers and renewed diplomatic efforts.

Pakistan: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif called the attack "unlawful and heinous," expressing solidarity with

Qatar and Palestine. Arab League: tary-General Ahmed Abou Gheit said the strike violated

Qatar's sovereignty. United Kingdom: While calling Hamas a "vile terrorist organisation," Prime Minister Keir Starmer's office said Turkey: Foreign Ministry London had no forewarning and urged de-escalation

Spain: Barred two Israeli ministers from entry, formalised an arms embargo on "cowardly act" as a flagrant Israel, and prohibited ships carrying Israeli military fuel from Spanish ports.

## **Kazakh DPM calls** on President, vows commitment to deepen bilateral partnership

跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister (DPM/ FM) of Kazakhstan, Murat Nurtleu, called on President of Pakistan Asif Ali Zardari, here at Aiwan-e-Sadr and reaffirmed Kazakhstan's commitment to deepening its partnership with Pakistan.

Warmly welcoming DPM Nurtleu, the president underscored Pakistan's strong and friendly ties with Kazakhstan, rooted in trust, mutual respect, and shared perspectives on regional and international issues, a Presidency's news release said.

He expressed satisfaction over recent high-level engagements and institutional linkages, which are contributing to a positive trajectory in bilateral relations.

The President noted with apprepartnership.

ciation the growing trade between the two countries, while emphasising the need to further enhance cooperation in trade, investment, energy, agriculture, and connectivity. He welcomed Kazakhstan's participation in regional connectivity projects, including rail and road initiatives, and underlined the importance of direct air links to strengthen busi-

ness and people-to-people exchanges. Nurtleu informed the President that his visit is an important preparatory step ahead of the forthcoming State Visit of the President of Kazakhstan to Pakistan later this year.

President Zardari said Pakistan is looking forward to warmly receive the President of Kazakhstan and expressed the confidence that the visit would open new avenues of bilateral cooperation and economic

# Bahrain's interior minister arrives in Islamabad for threedays official visit



**Spokesman Report** 

ISLAMABAD: Bahrain's Interior Minister, Lieutenant General arrived in Islamabad on a three-day and offered prayers. visit at the invitation of his Paki-

haudhry welcomed the Bahraini Interior Minister upon his arrival enhance cooperation between the in Islamabad. Lieutenant General two countries in the areas of human Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa trafficking, counter-narcotics, secualso visited the Pakistan Monu- rity, and counter-terrorism.

A contingent of the Islamabad Police presented a guard of honour to the guest who later visited the Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, Martyrs' Monument, laid flowers,

During his visit, the Bahrain stani counterpart Mohsin Naqvi. interior minister would hold meet-State Minister for Interior Talal ings with Pakistan's top leadership.

The purpose of the visit is to

## President strongly condemns Israeli attack on Doha

## Pakistan condemns Israeli aggression against Qatar: FO

ISLAMABAD: President, Asif Ali Zardari on Tuesday strongly condemned the Israeli attack on Doha, terming it an unacceptable violation of Qatar's sover-

In a statement from the Presidency, the president said the assault caused fear, panic, and loss of innocent civilian lives. He stressed that such actions pose a grave threat to regional peace and stability.

"An attack of this nature on Qatar's sovereignty is unacceptable," the President remarked, adding that Pakistan stands firmly in solidarity with the leadership and people of Qatar during this difficult time

that Pakistan remains committed to supporting efforts for peace and security in the region.

Meanwhile, Pakistan on Tuesday condemned in the strongest terms the Office Spokesperson Ambassador governing interstate relations.



Qatar, calling it a grave violation of international law and a serious threat a blatant infringement of Qatar's soverto regional stability.

The President further underlined Israeli aggression against the State of Shafqat Ali Khan said the "highly provocative and reckless action" by Israel was eignty as well as international law, the In a statement issued here, Foreign UN Charter, and established norms

"Pakistan expresses its complete solidarity with the brotherly State of Qatar against this unprovoked and unlawful aggression," Ambassador Khan stated. He added that Israel's conduct was "yet another manifestation of its continued disregard for international peace and security, and its policy of destabilising

Reaffirming Pakistan's principled position, the Spokesperson said Islamabad stood firm in support of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Qatar. He urged the international community to hold Israel accountable for its actions and to ensure such impunity is not toler-

"Pakistan will continue to stand shoulder to shoulder with the brotherly people and leadership of Qatar in defence of their national sovereignty and security," the Foreign Office reaffirmed.

over the loss of lives and prop-

erty caused by recent floods

in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and

Punjab. She emphasized the

importance of addressing

these issues through integrated

water resources manage-

ment and improved land use

between federal and provin-

relevant agencies, is essential

# Federal govt plans electricity bill relief for flood victims

**Example 2** Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The federal government is reportedly planning to provide significant relief on electricity bills for flood-affected victims. An initial proposal aims to waive taxes on electricity bills in the worst-hit areas, while a separate farmers' package is being developed to compensate for crop and livestock losses.

According to insiders, the government is considering removing the general sales tax (GST), FC surcharge, and fixed charges from electricity

Proposals are also underway to

eliminate GST and excise duty on fuel price adjustments, as well as income tax and retail sales tax. While the federal government focuses on electricity bill relief, provincial governments are expected to waive land revenue charges.

Federal Minister for Industries and Production Rana Tanveer Hussain confirmed that all possible relief measures would be extended to flood victims.

He said surveys of affected areas would be completed within 7 to 10 days, after which the farmers' compensation package will be officially announced.

## Tragic accident on Hazara Motorway: Trailer crushes car, five of a family killed

**Sometimes** Correspondent

TAXILA: A tragic road accident occurred near the Shah Maqsood

Interchange on the Hazara Motorway in Haripur. In accident, a speeding trailer collided with a car, killing five members of the same family on the spot. The victims included two women.

According to initial reports, the car was traveling from Havelian to

Rawalpindi when it was struck by the trailer. The deceased have been shifted

to Havelian Hospital. The family is reported to be from Gilgit. The trailer driver fled the scene

following the accident. Authorities



have launched an investigation and efforts are underway to apprehend

# Federal Minister for Water Resources Met with World Bank Delegation

**Example 2** Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Minister for Water Resources, Mr. Muhammad Mueen Wattoo, held a meeting with a World Bank delegation led by Ms. Meskerem Brhane, Regional Director for 'Planet' in the Middle East, North Africa, Afghanistan, and Pakistan Region, to discuss challenges in the water sector and explore potential areas of collabora-



accompanied by senior officials of the Ministry of Water Resources. The World Bank delegation included Mr. Bekele Debele Negewo, Senior Water Resources Management Specialist; Mr. Fran- planning. She also stressed cois Onimus, Senior Water that effective coordination Resources Specialist; and Mr. Basharat Saeed, Senior Water cial governments, as well as

water security in Pakistan.

The Federal Minister was

Specialist. Ms. Brhane began by

a role MoWR is well posi-

tion between the Ministry of Water Resources (MoWR) and the World Bank to strengthen expressing her condolences tioned to lead. Published by: Almass Ayoub Sabir from Zero Point Printers Rawalpindi