



Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ
عائشہؓ نے بیان کیا کہ نبی کریم ﷺ نے فرمایا: (سے) «وہی کاراؤ کہ یاد رکھا کہ صفیہؓ اپنے خیمے کے دروازہ پر تجھ کو کھڑی ہیں کیونکہ وہ حاضر ہو گئی تھیں۔ نبی کریم ﷺ نے ان سے فرمایا: «عترتی ملتی» (یہ قریش کا مجاورہ ہے) اب تم میں رو کوئی! پھر دریا ت فرمایا کیا تم نے قریش کے دن طوافِ کعبہ کیا تھا؟ انہوں نے کہا کہ جی ہاں، فرمایا کہ پھر چلو۔ (بخاری: حدیث نمبر 6157)
Barkat Rice Mills (Pvt) Limited

Drug smugglers being dealt with iron hands, says Mohsin Naqvi

Interior Minister Syed Mohsin Naqvi said on Thursday that Pakistan was leading the war against narcotics and those associated with the business were being dealt with an iron hand. Speaking to the UAE's National Anti-Narcotics Authority Chairman Sheikh Zayed bin Hamad bin Hamdan Al-Nahyan, who called on him in Islamabad.



NDMA issues high alert for heavy rains and flash floods in Balochistan

The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) on Thursday issued a high alert for flash floods in Balochistan. According to the Pakistan Meteorological Department and NDMA, warnings were issued that southern and eastern districts of the province may face torrential rains over the next 24 to 48 hours.

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Meeting

DOHA: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif meets Amir of Qatar His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani on Thursday.



Photo: Online

PM assures Qatari leadership of Pakistan's full support

Spokesman Report

DOHA: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday assured the Qatari leadership of Pakistan's full solidarity and support in the face of unjustified provocation by Israel.

The prime minister, during his meeting with the Amir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, the prime minister conveyed Pakistan's strongest condemnation of the Israeli attack on Doha on September 9, terming

it a blatant and flagrant violation of Qatar's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

He also conveyed deep sympathies on the loss of precious lives in this dastardly and heinous attack by Israel and prayed for speedy recovery of the injured.

PM Shehbaz Sharif undertook an official visit to the State of Qatar to express solidarity with the people and the leadership of the State of Qatar in the wake of the recent Israeli attack on Doha. The prime minister said that

the leadership and people of Pakistan were deeply disturbed by this attack against the brotherly State of Qatar, that constituted a serious breach of international law.

While reaffirming the historic, fraternal bonds between Pakistan and Qatar, the prime minister stated that the two countries had proudly stood with each other through thick and thin.

PM Shehbaz Sharif said that at Qatar's request, Pakistan had requested for an emergency session of the UN Security Council

to discuss the recent developments in the Middle East.

He also welcomed Qatar's decision to host an Extraordinary Arab-Islamic Summit on September 15, and said Pakistan had indicated its willingness to the OIC to co-sponsor and co-convene this Summit.

The prime minister also thanked the Amir for Qatar's strong support for Pakistan during its stand-off with India earlier this year.

The Amir of Qatar thanked the

Prime Minister for his thoughtful gesture of visiting Doha to express his solidarity with Qatar at this time.

Both leaders agreed to maintain close coordination in promoting regional peace, upholding international law and supporting the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

This visit reaffirmed the deep-rooted brotherly ties between Pakistan and Qatar and their shared commitment to peace and stability in the region.

Security forces eliminate 19 Indian-backed terrorists in KP operations

Naveed Ahmad Khan



ISLAMABAD: Security forces killed 19 Indian-backed terrorists during a series of intelligence-based operations (IBOs) conducted in Mohmand, Bannu, and North Waziristan districts on the night of September 9 and 10, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said on Wednesday.

According to the military's media wing, the operations were launched following credible intelligence reports. In Mohmand's Goluno area, 14 terrorists were killed in a major encounter.

Another four militants were eliminated during an operation in the Datta Khel area of North Waziristan, while one terrorist was killed in a separate action in Bannu district. Weapons and explosives

were also recovered from the slain militants, who, according to ISPR, were involved in multiple acts of terrorism across the region. Security forces are continuing clearance operations to track down and eliminate the remaining networks.

Reaffirming Pakistan's resolve to root out terrorism, ISPR stated that operations would continue until the menace is completely eradicated. It added that militants working under Indian patronage would be decisively defeated.

President, PM commend security forces as 19 terrorists killed in KP operations

City Desk



ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday paid tribute to the security forces for eliminating 19 terrorists of Indian-backed Fitna al-Khawarij in recent successful operations in different areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Both the president and prime minister, in their separately issued statements, lauded the bravery and professionalism of the security forces for safeguarding the nation.

"Pakistan is determined to eliminate Indian-sponsored terrorism," President Zardari said and reaffirmed the nation's resolve to completely eradicate terrorism, also praying for the safety and success of the security forces.

Prime Minister Shehbaz

also commended the security forces for successful operations against Fitna al-Khawarij in Mohmand, North Waziristan, and Bannu, reiterating that the war against terrorism would continue until its complete elimination from the country.

"The officers and personnel of Pakistan Army are working tirelessly day and night to thwart the nefarious designs of Fitna al-Khawarij and Fitna al-Hindustan. The entire nation, including myself, stands shoulder to shoulder with Pakistan's armed forces in their unwavering resolve to defend the homeland," the prime minister reaffirmed.

Netanyahu approves E1 colonial expansion plan around occupied Jerusalem

Wafa

JERUSALEM: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Thursday evening signed off on the so-called E1 plan, a colonial expansion project aimed at enlarging settlements on occupied West Bank land surrounding Jerusalem.

The plan seeks to isolate occupied Jerusalem from its Palestinian surroundings, sever geographic and demographic continuity between the city and nearby Palestinian communities, and undermine the establishment of a Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital. It would also fragment the West Bank by separating its northern and southern regions into disconnected enclaves under Israeli control.

The project expands Jerusalem's municipal boundaries by annexing the Ma'ale Adumim colonial bloc, which would displace and uproot



Palestinian Bedouin communities from their lands while increasing the number of colonists at the expense of indigenous Palestinians. Entire Palestinian neighborhoods such as Kafri Aqab,

Anata, and Shu'fat face exclusion and isolation under the plan. Earlier in the day, the Palestinian Authority's Jerusalem Governorate warned of a parallel agreement between the occupation government and the Ma'ale Adumim settlement municipality, allocating about 3 billion shekels for infrastructure projects to pave the way for more than 7,600 colonial housing units, including 3,400 in the E1 area east of Jerusalem.

The agreement, signed in the presence of Netanyahu, far-right Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich, the so-called Ministry of Housing, Knesset members, and settler organizations, is intended to accelerate settlement expansion by linking Ma'ale Adumim with the Mishor Adumim industrial zone and other recently approved projects in E1.

Described as the largest such plan in the West Bank since a similar 2018 agreement worth 338 million shekels for Ma'ale Adumim, the E1 project covers 12,000 dunums of confiscated Palestinian land belonging to the towns of Issawiya, At-Tur, Anata, Al-Eizariya, and Abu Dis. It aims to create direct territorial continuity between Ma'ale Adumim and occupied Jerusalem, effectively cutting the city off from its Palestinian hinterland and severing the northern and southern West Bank.

Islamabad court annuls ban on 27 YouTube channels

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pronouncing a reserved verdict on the appeals filed by 11 YouTube users against a judicial magistrate's decision, a session court in Islamabad on Thursday declared the ban imposed on 27 YouTube channels in the country null and void. Additional District and Sessions Judge Muhammad Afzal Majoka accepted the appeals filed by Matuallah Jan, Asad Toor, Abdul Qadir and others.

During the hearing, the judge, while admonishing the CCIA prosecutor, asked under which law the channels could be banned.

"You want judges to do what you are supposed to do," he said, adding, "I will not let you defame judges."

Earlier, Judicial Magistrate Abbas Shah had directed the blocking of 27 YouTube channels on the request of the National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency.

Boat capsizes in Chenab River, several people die

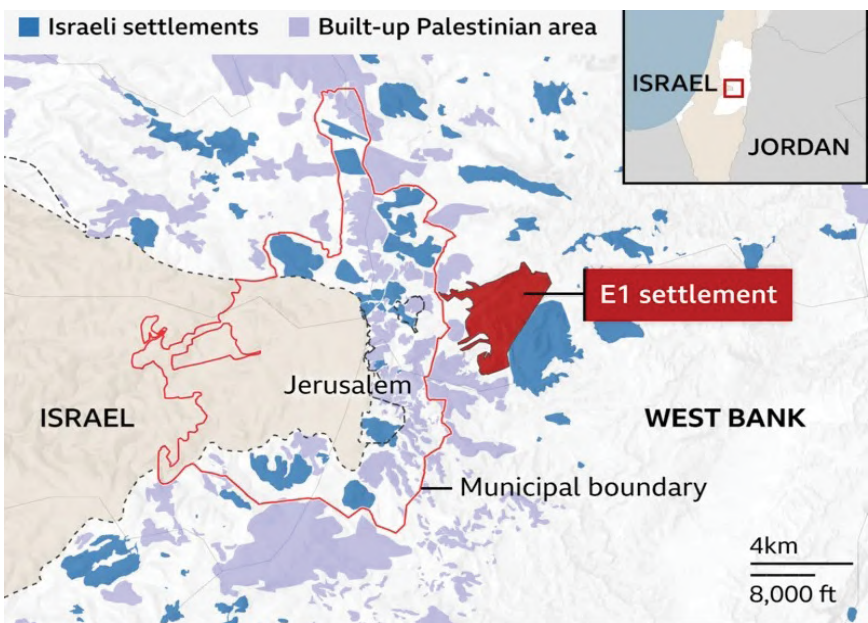
Asim Tanveer



JALALPUR PIRWALA: Punjab Government Official Said Last night, at midnight in the Chenab river area of Jalalpur Pirwala, near Millat School Basti Mohana Sandila, a boat carrying flood-affected people towards the safety dam of Jalalpur Pirwala could not maintain its balance due to the strong flow of the Chenab River and strong winds and sank in the deep flood waters of the Chenab River.

There were 24 people on board the boat. Nine people, including three women, died in the boat accident, including four siblings, while rescue teams rescued 15 people. Due to the darkness of the night, the Punjab Disaster Management Authority and

other relief and rescue teams, including Rescue 1122. Pakistan Central Muslim League divers pulled the dead from the flood waters of the Chenab River and handed them over to their families. The number of people who died during the recent floods in Punjab will be 81. Two days ago, 9 people drowned in floodwaters in a boat accident in the Indus River, while five days ago, 5 people, including 4 children and a woman, died in a boat accident during a rescue operation in the Chenab River near Jalalpur Pirwala.



CM Punjab Maryam visits Jalalpur Pirwala to Review Flood Relief Arrangements

Asim Tanveer

JALALPURPIRWALA: Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif visited Jalalpur Pirwala, Multan to express sympathy with the flood-affected communities. She visited flood relief camp set up at Government College Jalalpur Pirwala, and personally interacted with the flood victims and shared their grief. She consoled flood-affected women by extending heartfelt sympathies, embraced and assured them that their issues would be resolved at the earliest. She showed special affection for children, personally served them food and fed a young child spoonful of 'zarda' (sweet rice), expressing maternal care.

A special meal was arranged for the flood victims on the directions of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, who herself finalized the menu. She also distributed fruits among women and children and sat down with the women to share a meal. A deeply emotional moment occurred when an elderly woman began sobbing; Madam Chief



Minister hugged her and comforted her with kind words. In another touching

scene, an elderly citizen expressed his emotions by saying, "When you were in pain, we cried; now we are suffering and you stand by us. May you live long, you are like our own daughters."

Madam Chief Minister also handed over financial aid cheques to the families of those who lost their lives in floods. Food packages and relief goods from King Salman Aid and Relief Centre as well as from PDMA were also distributed among flood victims. Women in the relief camp expressed profound gratitude for President PML-N Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif for always standing by them in times of difficulty. In a show of empathy, Madam Chief Minister sat with a veiled elderly woman to inquire about her well-being and shared a meal with the flood-affected women.

Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif also oversaw distribution of food and essential supplies provided by King Salman Aid and Relief Centre and Punjab Disaster Management Authority (PDMA).

AJK Supreme Court golden jubilee

Mr. Justice Raja Saeed Akram Khan, Chief Justice, Azad Jammu & Kashmir, Mr. Justice Kh. Muhammad Nasim, Senior Judge and others cutting the cake on the inauguration ceremony of AJK Supreme Court golden jubilee celebrations

Chaudhry Anwar-ul-Haq says his government's resolve to advance development and institutional reforms

Bureau Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Chaudhry Anwar-ul-Haq, has reaffirmed his government's resolve to advance development and institutional reforms. He expressed these views while speaking to delegations from Union Council Kas Chanatar and Union Council Bharhang, who called on him here today. The delegations were comprised of prominent political and social figures. The Prime Minister stressed that while protecting people's rights is vital, equal emphasis on fulfilling responsibilities is essential for collective progress. He noted that over the past two years and four months, wide-ranging reforms have transformed governance in Azad Kashmir. He said that no one including the Prime Minister was above the law. Outlining key initiatives undertaken by his government, Chaudhry Anwar-ul-Haq said



that a comprehensive health package has been introduced, hospitals upgraded, and doctors appointed on merit through the Public Service Commission (PSC) to ensure access to healthcare at the community level. The Muzaffarabad Cardiac Hospital has been made operational, a Social Protection Fund

has been launched to support the underprivileged, and a biometric system has been implemented to prevent misuse of public funds", he added.

Pak-China joint ventures can unlock billions in trade, says Valimuhammad

Bureau Report

KARACHI: In a bid to deepen economic integration, Pakistan and China have been urged to expand bilateral trade through joint ventures and enhanced cooperation in the textile and chemical sectors. Speaking at the "2025 China-Pakistan Textile Chemical Technology and Investment Trade Forum," Salim Valimuhammad, Chairman of the Pakistan Chemicals & Dyes Merchants Association (PCDMA), emphasized the need for stronger link-



ages between the business communities and governments of both nations. The forum, held in Lahore and attended by over 100 delegates including government officials, industry leaders, and scholars, was hailed as a landmark moment for industrial collaboration. Sponsored by ShaOKing Haicheng Chemical Co., Ltd. and co-organized by CCPIT Ningbo Chemical Sub-council and the China Dyestuff Industry Association, the event spotlighted innovation, investment, and technology transfer.

Governor Kundi pays tribute to Quaid-e-Azam on his death anniversary

PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi paid rich tribute to the Father of the Nation for his unparalleled vision and struggle that led to the creation of an independent homeland for Muslims of the Subcontinent.

In his message on the death anniversary of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah here Thursday, the Governor said that at a time when Pakistan was facing political, economic, and social challenges, it was imperative to adopt Quaid-e-Azam's golden principles of unity, faith and sacrifice as guiding lights.

He emphasized that the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, along with the entire nation, must rise above hatred and divisions, safeguard constitutional rights, serve with sincerity, and strive for a strong, just and prosperous Pakistan the true vision of Quaid-e-Azam.

Governor Kundi further said that paying homage to Quaid-e-Azam is not only about remembering his contributions but also about renewing our collective pledge to uphold democratic values, promote tolerance, and work tirelessly for national progress and stability.

He added that the younger generation must study and follow Quaid's life, character, and leadership qualities in order to become responsible citizens who can steer the country towards development and prosperity.

PM AʼK paid glowing tribute to father of nation on his 77th death anniversary

Bureau Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Chaudhry Anwar-ul-Haq, has paid glowing tribute to Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah on his 77th death anniversary. Calling him a great leader of the subcontinent whose life was marked by relentless struggle, the Prime Minister said that Quaid-e-Azam united the Muslims of the subcontinent under the banner of the Muslim League. "The father of the nation not only resisted conspiracies of Hindus and the British, but also ensured the creation of Pakistan through his relentless constitutional struggle", the PM remarked. He noted Quaid-e-Azam's deep affection for the people of Jammu and Kashmir, recalling his visits to Srinagar and his close association with Kashmiri leaders. "It was during this time that his far-sighted vision led him to select K. H. Khurshid from Srinagar as his Private Secretary, who later became his trusted aide in the struggle for Pakistan", the PM said. He added that Mr. Jinnah's famous saying that "Kashmir is the jugular vein of Pakistan" remains a guiding principle. The prime minister Haq urged the youth to follow the Quaid's motto of "work, work and work". He reiterated that a strong and prosperous Pakistan was a guarantor for the success of Kashmiris' ongoing freedom movement.

Crackdown by AC Anza Abbasi, heavy fines imposed on shopkeepers and petrol agencies

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: Assistant Commissioner Attock, Anza Abbasi, launched an anti-profiteering crackdown and imposed heavy fines on petrol agencies, LPG filling outlets, and shopkeepers involved in overcharging. During the operation, she took strict action against those charging excessive rates, failing to display official price lists, and illegally filling LPG in vehicles.

As a result, fines amounting to hundreds of thousands of rupees were imposed on various shopkeepers and agency owners.

Details of fines imposed:

Abdul Waheed (mutton seller) – Rs. 5,000, Sher Zaman (Bota petrol agency) – Rs. 50,000, Zardad (illegal LPG filling in vehicles) – Rs. 20,000, Aamir Ali (beef seller, Bijli Ghar Mohalla) – Rs. 3,000, Yasir (vegetable seller) – Rs. 1,000, Imra Gul (petrol agency) – Rs. 25,000, Muhammad Sudhir (petrol agency, Saqqa Abad) – Rs. 50,000, Rehan Ahmed (vegetable seller) – Rs. 1,000, Qaiser (petrol agency) – Rs. 20,000, Habib (chicken seller) – Rs. 5,000, Muhammad Saeed (vegetable seller) – Rs. 1,000, Shahabuddin (vegetable seller) – Rs. 1,000, Total fines imposed: Approximately Rs. 182,000.

Assistant Commissioner Anza Abbasi stated that providing relief to the public is the top priority of the district administration. She emphasized that those involved in profiteering and illegal LPG filling deserve no leniency, and indiscriminate fines and legal actions will continue against them.

Geographical occurrence or India's petty tactic

Aafia Javed

The devastating 2025 floods—Pakistan, India, Nepal were affected majorly by flash floods, monsoon rains, glacial outbursts. Was Pakistan ready for this calamity? Or was it India using this tragedy as propaganda to fuel its decade old animosity? Who is really to blame?

Instead of solutions, officials offered excuses and shift blames. Over 900 recorded deaths, 1.8 million evacuees, 3.9 million people affected, 3,900+ villages submerged. A single day of rain was enough to paralyze Karachi—a city of millions with fragile infrastructure and some of the most vulnerable living conditions. Is Modi to blame or is it our government's fault for once? Our weak infrastructure? Our shortcomings as a nation? When will we learn to accept blames, acknowledge our weaknesses, and demand accountability from those meant to protect us.

Seventy-eight years of utter negligence and incompetence led me to question how a nation of 255 million is deprived of basic facilities like drainage, proper infrastructure or even early warning systems. The 11-13 trillion collected in taxes is spent on the elites while millions suffer, survive based on their own capacities. According to WWF Pakistan almost 11,000 hectares of forest are lost per year, our current forest cover remains critically low, at only 4–5% of Pakistan's land area forested, who is to be blamed?

The Indian media and Pakistani government are persistent that India is weaponizing floods, but the reality is that India had systems to redirect flood waters—flawed, yes, but functional. Pakistan in contrast stood helpless, lacking resources, preparedness and vision watching the very essence of survival that could sustain us wash away everything in its path. aafiajaved03@gmail.com

Saleem Memon, write an important letter to CM Sindh, Syed Murad Ali Shah

Commerce Desk

HYDERABAD: President of Hyderabad Chamber of Small Traders & Small Industry (HCSTSI) Muhammad Saleem Memon, has written an important letter to the Chief Minister of Sindh, Syed Murad Ali Shah, urging the Sindh Government to immediately conduct a modern GPS, GIS and topographical survey of the Indus River, its delta, tributaries, canals and storm water drains and officially notify their actual width, boundaries and natural flow routes.

President Saleem Memon stated that in recent years, Sindh's urban centers have repeatedly faced devastating destruction during monsoon rains. In past years, not only Karachi and Hyderabad but several other cities across Sindh suffered losses worth billions of rupees, primarily due to encroachments on drains and the blockage of natural water routes. He stressed that unless the government secures these natural water channels on a scientific basis, both urban and industrial areas will continue to face severe threats in the future.



Islamabad

30° – 38° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

| | |
|---------|----------|
| Fajr | 4:24 am |
| Zohr | 12:05 pm |
| Asr | 4:33 pm |
| Maghrib | 6:20 pm |
| Isha | 7:44 pm |

EMERGENCY

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

ENQUIRY

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

HOSPITALS

| | |
|---------------------|------------|
| CMH | 561111 |
| MH | 561116 |
| MH | 561116 |
| Cantt Hospital | 9270907-11 |
| DHO | 5556311-4 |
| RGH | 9290301-7 |
| Holy Family | 9290322-7 |
| PIMS | 9261170-79 |
| Polyclinic | 9218300-09 |
| Shifa International | 4603666 |

DEPARTMENTS

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

COMPLAINTS

| | |
|----------------------------|--------------|
| Water Tanker Service | |
| E-7, F-10 & F-11 | 9204654 |
| G-5, G-6, G-7, G-8 | 9203883 |
| G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, H-8 | 9266316 |
| Wapda Islamabad | 9217579-80 |
| Sui Gas Complaint | 119, 9272249 |

Wafi Energy Pakistan Donates 5,000 Liters of Fuel to NDMA for Flood Relief Efforts

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: As part of its ongoing support for NDMA's flood-relief efforts, Wafi Energy Pakistan Limited provided 5,000 liters of diesel and motor gasoline to NDMA. This contribution follows an earlier 1,000-liter fuel donation provided to NDMA by Wafi Energy last month.

His Excellency, Nawaf Bin Saeed Almaliki, Ambassador, Embassy of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, present at the occasion, stated that "It is heartening to see Wafi Energy, which reflects Saudi investment in Pakistan, being dedicated to serving the local communities in their hour of need."

Zubair Shaikh, CEO Wafi Energy said, "Wafi Energy remains committed to helping flood-affected communities and assist NDMA in its critical role at this time of crisis."

Acknowledging Wafi Energy's contribution, Brig. Qasim Mahmood, Chief of Staff/DG Coord. NDMA, said, "I would like to thank Wafi Energy Pakistan for their immediate and urgent support during this nationwide calamity. We are optimistic that the contribution will help us reach more flood victims to provide them with relief during these pressing times."

President visits Major Adnan Shaheed, Major Moiz Shaheed residences to express sorrow, respect for supreme sacrifice

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari on Thursday visited the residences of Major Adnan Aslam Shaheed and Major Syed Moiz Abbas Shah Shaheed to express deep sorrow and respect for their supreme sacrifices.

Major Adnan Aslam, aged 31, succumbed to his wounds after being critically injured during an attack by militants in Bannu, while Major Syed Moiz Abbas Shah, aged 37, embraced martyrdom in an intelligence-based operation in Sararogha, South Waziristan. Both officers laid down their lives while bravely fighting against Indian-backed militants of Fitna al Khwarij, a Presidency's news release said.

The President praised the officers' bravery, leadership and patriotism,

saying their valour reflects the highest traditions of service. He reaffirmed Pakistan's unshakeable resolve to root out terrorism in all its forms.

He prayed for the eternal peace of the departed souls and for strength and patience for their loved ones.

Meanwhile, Federal Parliamentary Secretary for Information and Broadcasting, Barrister Danyal Chaudhary said that as long as Pakistan has fearless and brave soldiers like Major Adnan Shaheed, no power can defeat Pakistan.

He said that the martyrs are a bright chapter of our history who sacrificed their lives to secure the beloved homeland. The courage and fortitude demonstrated by the martyr's family is a guiding light for the entire nation.

He expressed these views during his talk with the family of Major Adnan Aslam Shaheed on Thursday, where



he visited to offer condolence. Senior Pakistan Muslim League (N) leader

from Rawalpindi, Chaudhry Tanveer, the martyr's father Muhammad Aslam,

his brothers, and other family members were also present on the occasion.

Condolence

RAWALPINDI: At a solemn visit to the home of Shaheed Major Adnan Aslam on Thursday, Parliamentary Secretary for Information and Broadcasting Barrister Danyal Chaudhry, accompanied by his father former Senator Chaudhry Tanveer, expressed his deepest condolences to the martyr's family and paid tribute to his ultimate sacrifice for the nation.



Aga Khan University Launches Landmark Campus in Uganda

News Desk

KARACHI: The Aga Khan University (AKU) officially inaugurated its new campus in Kampala, Uganda, today, a historic moment that marks the University's first full-scale campus development outside of Pakistan since its founding.

The inauguration of the new academic facilities and student residences was presided over by AKU's Chancellor, His Highness the Aga Khan, and the President of Uganda, His Excellency Yoweri Kaguta Museveni. The event also marked the commencement of construction for the Aga Khan University Hospital, Kampala. Dignitaries present included Her Excellency the First Lady, Honourable Janet Museveni, along with AKU Pro-Chancellor Princess Zahra Aga Khan and Prince Aly Muhammad Aga Khan.



This new-site development is the most significant undertaking by AKU since its establishment in Pakistan in 1983. It is a direct fulfillment of the original Charter granted by

the Government of Pakistan, which designated AKU as an international university.

The land was generously provided by the Government of Uganda through Presi-

dent Museveni. Funding for construction was provided by the University's Chancellor, generous donors and the Government of Germany's BMZ and KfW.

Cantonment Board Peshawar completes seventh free medical camp under 'Sehat Aap Ki Dehleez Par' initiative

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: In a continued effort to provide essential healthcare services at the grassroots level, the Cantonment Board Peshawar (CBP), under the directives of the Director General, Military Lands and Cantonments, successfully organized its seventh free medical camp on September 11, 2025, at Khyber Super Market, Bara Road.

The camp was held under the supervision of the Cantonment General Hospital and remained operational from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. A total of 82 patients received free medical checkups, with several referred to the Cantonment General Hospital for further diagnosis and treatment.

Despite limited resources, the CBP ensured that all medical services were provided free of cost. Notably, the initiative extended beyond cantonment residents, allowing citizens from surrounding urban areas to avail the facility without restriction — a reflection of CBP's inclusive public health approach

CM launches rural cleanliness program in KP

PESHAWAR: Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ali Amin Khan Gandapur on Thursday formally launched the first-of-its-kind initiative to improve sanitation in rural areas of the province.

The flagship program, with an overall cost exceeding Rs. 11 billion, covers all 3,633 village councils (VCs) across the province. A total of 11,388 sanitation workers have been recruited that is four per VC in the plains areas 2,061 VCs and two per VC in the hilly areas 1,572 VCs.

The hiring process was conducted transparently through balloting, with 32,683 applications received and 29,822 candidates declared eligible. To support the effort, each VC has been provided with a loader rickshaw, uniforms, and sanitation kits.

Additionally, new vehicles and machinery worth Rs. 3.6 billion have been procured for Tehsil Municipal Administrations (TMAs), including 392 tractors and 315 mini dumpers, to ensure proper waste disposal. Oversight committees have also been established at the VC level under the Local Government Act to sustain the initiative.

Speaking at the launch ceremony, the chief minister said the program was a "true public service project, above politics and political affiliations." He emphasized that cleanliness is half of faith and lamented that rural areas had long been neglected in this regard. "This program reflects PTI founder's vision of equitable development for all regions," he noted. Gandapur added that transparency was ensured at every stage, with no political influence in the recruitment process.

"As Chief Minister, I did not interfere in a single hiring, and I am proud of that," he said. The CM underlined that machinery for TMAs was also distributed strictly on merit and data, ensuring fairness across all councils and administrations.

This project belongs to all of us, and together we must make it a success," he said, adding that a sustainable financial model had been devised for its continuation.

Provincial Minister for Local Government Arshad Ayub and senior officials of the department also addressed the event, shedding light on different aspects of the program. The ceremony was attended by provincial cabinet members, MNAs, MPAs, elected local representatives, senior government officials, and a large number of media personnel.



We are fortunate to be followers of the Holy Prophet – Asma Butt

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: In celebration of Eid Milad-un-Nabi, a special Qawwali Night was organized at the Rawalpindi Press Club by the Crime and Court Reporters Association in collaboration with Dolphin Styles.

Chief Executive of Dolphin Communication, Ms. Asma Butt, welcomed the guests and expressed her gratitude for their presence. She said, "The status and greatness of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) cannot be expressed in words. We are truly fortunate to be among his followers. Countless blessings on peace be upon him."

Among the attendees were CTO Rawalpindi Farhan Aslam, Rawalpindi Police spokesperson Sajjad, Traffic Police spokesperson Muhammad

Kashif, Raheel Yousafzai, Sain Ejaz Malik, Naeem Gul Pasha, Ms. Malik, President of the Pakistan Union of Journalists Afzal Butt, President of the Crime and Court Reporters Association Yasir Hakeem, Finance Secretary Hafeez Khan, Khalid Chaudhry, Shakeel Awan, Sultan Shah, as well as a large number of journalists and people from various walks of life.

Renowned Qawwal Rohan Abbas, known as "Chhoto Ustad," mesmerized the audience with his powerful performance, enchanting everyone with the magic of his voice. Guests thanked the organizers for holding such a memorable and well-executed event.

Multan Police and Civil Administration Save Lives Without Rest

Zain Khan Malghani

Multan—In Jalalpur's flood-hit

areas, particularly at Inayatpur Bund, relief and rescue operations are continuing tirelessly under the supervision of senior provincial ministers, Regional Police Officer (RPO) Multan, Deputy Commissioner Multan, and City Police Officer (CPO) Multan. Rescue boats and volunteers are working alongside officials to evacuate residents to safety.

CPO Multan highlighted that the operations have been ongoing round-the-clock for many days without pause, as officers and volunteers work selflessly to protect lives. He noted that food supplies are being delivered by drones to those stranded, reaffirming that "no life will be left unattended in this crisis."

The dedication of Multan Police and the civil bureaucracy has been widely praised. For days, they have worked continuously—without rest—to safe-

guard human lives, property, livestock, and valuables from the devastating floods. Their presence on the ground has provided confidence and relief to affected families, who are being swiftly relocated from threatened areas to safe shelters.

Senior administration and police officials remain in the field day and night, directly monitoring the situation to ensure effective rescue operations. Their relentless service stands as a remarkable example of duty, sacrifice, and humanity in the face of disaster.

CPO Multan concluded with determination: "The relief and rescue operation will not stop until the last affected citizen has been moved to safety."

No doubt our Multan administration "A Wall of Protection Against the Rising Waters".



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China, Pak MoU on sesame would be a win-win situation

In China, when people think of sesame, their first impression is rich oil or fragrant pastries. But in fact, this tiny seed could become a “chip” that leverage the upgrading of international industries.

“What many people don’t know is that sesame is one of China’s most imported crops, after soybeans. China imports 85 percent of our soybeans annually, as well as the proportion of sesame imports is similar. Currently, China’s total annual sesame demand is approximately 1.5 million tons, of which 300,000 tons are domestically produced, leaving the remaining 1.2 million tons imported. Not only that, consumption is increasing year by year. What do these statistics indicate? Seizing the Chinese market can bring endless opportunities,” after the signing of the China-Pakistan Memorandum of Understanding on sesame on September 5, Professor Yuan Guobao, Chairman of the Hubei Technical Market Association, introduced to China Economic Net in an interview.

The MoU is made between the University of Agriculture, Faisalabad (UAF), Oil Crop Research Institute-Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences, China (OCRI CAAS) and Hubei Province Lianfeng Overseas Agricultural Development Group Co., Ltd. (Hubei Lianfeng Group).

OCRI-CAAS, UAF and Hubei Lianfeng Group agree to jointly develop high-quality, stress-resistant sesame varieties, with key areas include the evaluation of sesame genetic resources and the discovery of high-quality materials, the identification of genes or quantitative trait loci (QTLs) related to sesame yield and stress resistance, and the training of related talents.

The steady demand for sesame in China, driven by its use in traditional food products and oil extraction, has created lucrative opportunities for Pakistani farmers and exporters. Recognizing this huge demand, Pakistan has actively promoted sesame exports to China. To further expand the market, closer industrial cooperation to bring about higher output and quality is also a necessary prerequisite. “After ten years of research, it goes without saying that if China’s excellent sesame varieties are able to take root on a large scale in Pakistan, it will undoubtedly bring a win-win situation for both countries. First, sesame is a very drought-tolerant crop, which is well suited to growing in Pakistan’s relatively water-scarce environment. Next, sesame has a relatively short growing period to match precious land resources in Pakistan. Crops with a short growing period make it convenient for them to plant other crops after harvest, further improving efficiency,” Yuan analyzed.

The reporter learned that Chinese researchers will soon bring some sesame varieties that have been bred locally and planted on a large scale to Pakistan for further screening to ensure the best germplasm.

“Although both are located in the Northern Hemisphere, Pakistan’s latitude is lower than China’s. Therefore, we need to adapt to local conditions and follow natural laws. We have selected some sesame varieties with good adaptability from southern China for trial planting,” Yuan added, “furthermore, local farmers sow sesame by hand, which makes it difficult to evenly distribute the seeds. We could promote the use of specialized sesame seeding machines to greatly improve sowing efficiency. Besides, our specialized sesame herbicides are going to reduce the labor intensity of local farmers.

Pakistan has emerged as a major player in the global sesame trade, with exports to China skyrocketing in recent years. Over the past five years, Pakistan’s sesame production has surged by an impressive 455%, reaching an annual output of 1.119 million tons, while exports have grown by 327% to 760,000 tons, generating \$1.073 billion in revenue.

Israel and the U. S. Moving to Erase Palestine

I write this with a heaviness that feels like stone in the chest, because the truth is no longer hiding in the fog of diplomacy. Israel and the United States are not inching toward a terrible conclusion; they are sprinting. What the world is watching, in slow horror and helpless disbelief, is the deliberate erasure of Palestine—Gaza first, the West Bank next—so thorough that by the time speeches are read and resolutions are drafted, there will be nothing left to save. This isn’t an accidental outcome of war or a tragic miscalculation. It is a program, a design, a road laid in concrete and driven at full speed, while the rest of us stand on the shoulder with our warnings and our tears.

Events in the Middle East are moving rapidly toward a point of no return. Israel, with the full political, military, and financial backing of the United States, is implementing a strategy aimed at eliminating Gaza as a political entity, dismantling the West Bank, and erasing the possibility of a Palestinian state. While the upcoming United Nations General Assembly session will debate resolutions and recognition of Palestine, facts on the ground are changing much faster than diplomacy can act. By the time the world gathers to discuss the issue, there may be little left to recognize.

Meanwhile, the situation in Gaza has reached catastrophic levels. More than 2.2 million residents of Gaza are trapped, with borders closed and no safe passage available. Food, water, fuel, and medical supplies are running out, subjecting the entire population to famine and disease on a scale the region has not seen in decades. Israel has ordered mass evacuations of northern Gaza, telling over two million people to leave their homes without providing anywhere for them to go, meaning by that all of them will be slaughtered mercilessly and ethnically cleansed.

The West Bank, beside heavy bombing

facing an additional threat. Israeli settlement expansion has accelerated at unprecedented speed, with thousands of new housing units being constructed with electric speed, in areas meant for a future Palestinian state. Roads, checkpoints, and security fences are dividing Palestinian communities into isolated pockets, making the possibility of a viable Palestinian state increasingly impossible. Palestinian residents face rising violence from heavily armed settlers, while the Israeli army often protects the settlers rather than the victims. This is an obvious annexation—land taken piece by piece, until there is nothing left to negotiate.

The United States’ role in this crisis is central. Washington has supplied Israel with over \$22 billion in additional military aid since the war began, including precision-guided bombs, artillery shells, and air defense systems. It has also repeatedly blocked international efforts to halt the conflict. At the UN Security Council, the U.S. has vetoed multiple resolutions calling for a permanent ceasefire, even when the proposals had overwhelming global support. Without U.S. protection, Israel would face international sanctions and accountability measures, but with Washington’s backing, it continues its operations with total impunity.

In Europe, there is growing frustration. Some countries, including France, Belgium, Ireland, Spain, and Australia, have announced their intention to formally recognize Palestine as a state during the upcoming UN General Assembly. These announcements are intended as a diplomatic signal to Israel, but their impact on the ground will be limited. Even if the General Assembly votes overwhelmingly to recognize Palestine, any meaningful enforcement will

require action by the Security Council, where the U.S. has already made clear it will use its veto to protect Israel. As a result, many observers believe these recognitions, while symbolic, will not prevent the ongoing military and territorial takeover.

Netanyahu has made his intentions increasingly clear in recent speeches. He has stated that Israel will target “any threat, anywhere,” and has warned neighboring countries that any group or leader perceived as hostile will face the same fate as Hamas leaders in Gaza or Qatar. His government has publicly rejected any proposals for a Palestinian state and continues to authorize policies that effectively dismantle the possibility of Palestinian self-determination. Recent statements by Israeli officials also confirm that permanent security control over both Gaza and the West Bank is part of their long-term strategy.

For Palestinians, this is an existential moment. Gaza lies in ruins, the West Bank is being fragmented, and Jerusalem faces growing pressures from settlement expansion and restricted access to religious sites. There is widespread fear that what is unfolding now is an irreversible process: the complete removal of Palestinians from their lands, either through forced displacement or by making life impossible where they are. Humanitarian organizations, including the UN, Amnesty International, and the Red Cross, have repeatedly warned of the potential for large-scale ethnic cleansing and the collapse of basic living conditions in Gaza and parts of the West Bank.

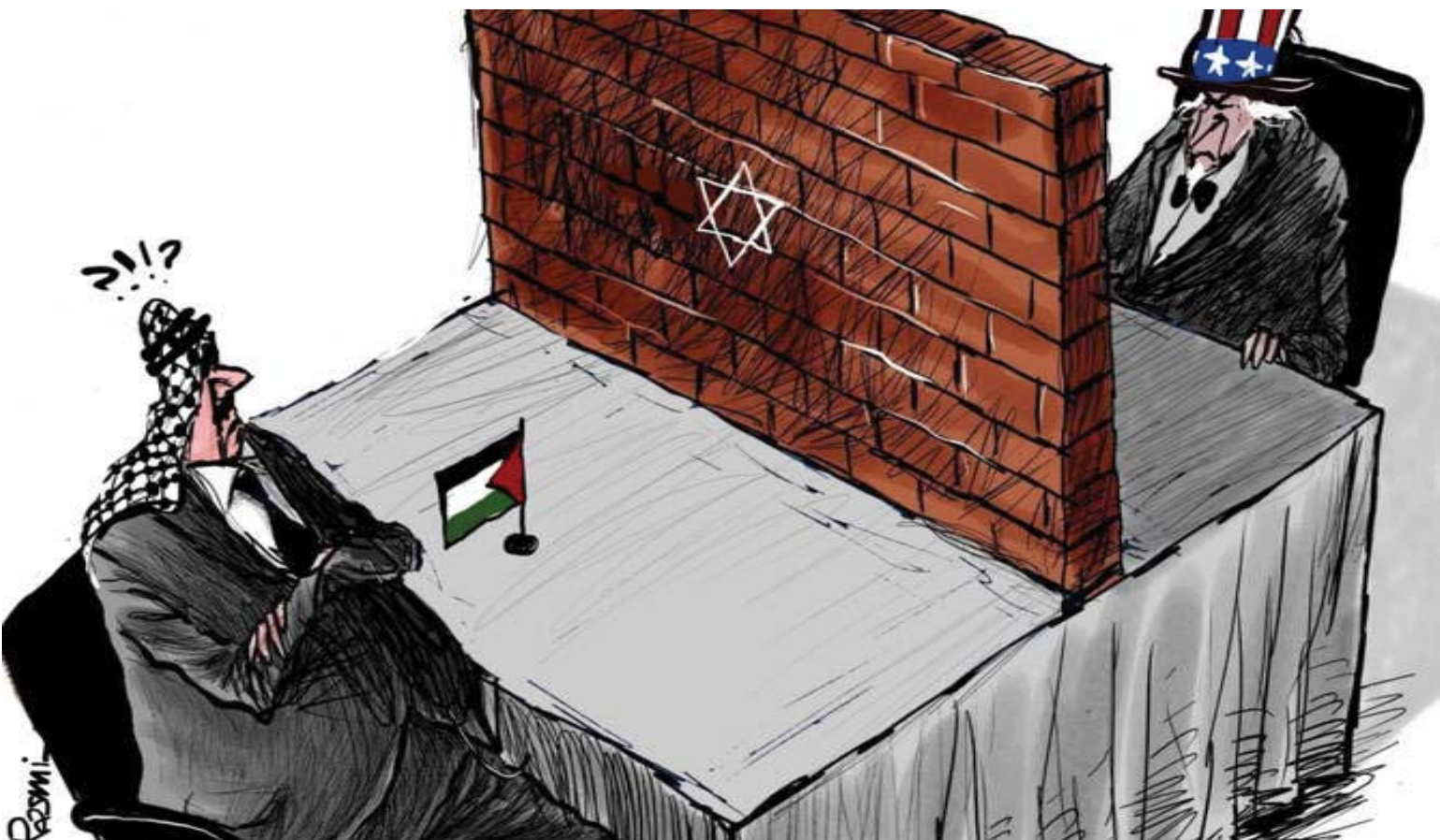
At the same time, the broader international response remains fragmented. China and Russia have criticized Israel’s actions but have taken no concrete

steps to intervene. The European Union remains divided, with some countries pushing for stronger sanctions while others continue trade and defense cooperation with Israel. In the Muslim world, statements of condemnation are widespread, but no coordinated military or economic response has been mounted. Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and other Gulf nations, despite deep frustration, remain constrained by U.S. influence and security arrangements. As a result, Palestinians find themselves largely alone, facing an alliance of military power and political protection that they cannot match.

The writing on the wall is becoming painfully clear. Unless there is a dramatic shift in U.S. policy, Israel’s campaign to seize control over Gaza and the West Bank will continue unhindered. Over two million Palestinians in Gaza face either displacement or death, while millions more in the West Bank risk losing their land and future to settlement expansion. What remains of the Palestinian territories may soon be fully absorbed under Israeli control, leaving no state to recognize, no borders to negotiate, and no meaningful autonomy to defend.

If this trajectory continues, the upcoming UN session will not be about saving Palestine but about mourning its disappearance. Resolutions, declarations, and diplomatic speeches will have little effect when military realities on the ground have already decided the outcome. For many across the region and the world, this moment represents a test of justice and accountability. If the world remains silent, history may record this period not just as a humanitarian tragedy, but as the deliberate destruction of a nation.

The writer is Press Secretary to the President (Retd), Former Press Minister, Embassy of Pakistan to France, Former Press Attache to Malaysia and Former MD, SRBC. He is living in Macomb, Michigan, USA



Cartoon by Amjad Rasmī. (Courtesy of Ashraf Al-Awsat)

Kalabagh Dam – A National Necessity and Political Disputes

Pakistan is an agricultural country whose economy heavily depends on water. The River Indus and its tributaries not only irrigate fields but also serve as the backbone for industries, energy production, and household needs. Unfortunately, Pakistan is facing a severe water crisis. According to international reports, Pakistan is among those countries that may face acute water scarcity in the near future. In such circumstances, the construction of large

Pakistan’s dependence on imported fuel.

In recent years, Pakistan has faced severe climate fluctuations. Sometimes, there are extraordinary rains and devastating floods, while at other times, the country suffers from drought and water shortages. Experts believe that due to climate change, glaciers are melting rapidly, which will cause serious imbalances in river flows in the future. Against this backdrop, projects like Kalabagh Dam would not only help in storing water but also play an important role in reducing the impacts of climatic extremes. This dam could provide water during drought and control torrential floods caused by heavy rains and glacier melting. Thus, the project is also a significant defensive barrier against climate change.

Although experts and many stakeholders agree on the benefits of Kalabagh Dam, its construction has always been entangled in political controversies. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa fears that the dam would submerge Nowshera and surrounding areas, forcing people to lose their homes and lands. In Sindh, there is a perception that the dam would reduce their share of water, diverting more of the Indus to upper Punjab and other areas. Balochistan complains that it has already been deprived of its fair share in existing water projects and therefore sees Kalabagh Dam as another source of neglect.

Water distribution has always been a sensitive issue in Pakistan. Despite the 1991 Water Accord, suspicions and mistrust among provinces have not ended. Some circles view Kalabagh Dam as a symbol of Punjab’s dominance, which is why the project faces strong political opposition. On the other hand, successive governments have always discussed it but

refrained from taking practical steps. The fear was that any government attempting to build Kalabagh Dam would face political backlash at the provincial level. As a result, despite being a national need, the project has remained buried in files and never took practical shape.

Pakistan today is among the weakest countries in the region in terms of per capita water availability. According to global institutions, if Pakistan does not immediately build large reservoirs, it will face extreme water shortages in the coming years. The energy crisis is already burdening the economy, and due to costly electricity, both industry and agriculture are suffering. Under such circumstances, the importance of Kalabagh Dam increases even further.

The biggest obstacle to Kalabagh Dam’s construction is the lack of political trust. If the provinces are taken into confidence, a transparent and effective water policy is developed, and the public is made aware of the real benefits of the project, then national consensus can be achieved. This project is not for any single province but for the future of the entire country. Therefore, what is needed is unity instead of division.

The story of Kalabagh Dam is a tragedy in Pakistan’s political history. A project that could save the country from energy shortages and water scarcity has been stalled only due to provincial disputes and political interests. If we do not resolve this issue wisely, putting national interest above all else, future generations will suffer from extreme water scarcity. The time has come for national leadership to rise above provincial and personal interests and make decisions for the future of Pakistan. Kalabagh Dam is not just a dam—it is a project of survival for Pakistan.

Writer is a senior Columnist and can be reached at Email. aahsan210@gmail.com

A Defender’s Reflection on Global Gender Equality in 2025

As a human rights defender, I was shocked yet not entirely surprised while reviewing the recent fact sheets shared by the Spotlight Initiative and the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development 2025. These reports, prepared jointly by UN Women, UNDP, UNFPA, ILO, OHCHR, and the European Union, provide a detailed update on Sustainable Development Goal 5: achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls. Despite decades of global efforts, legal reforms, and awareness campaigns, the facts remain painfully clear—women continue to be disproportionately vulnerable, under-represented, and unheard. The Spotlight Initiative, a major EU-UN partnership aimed at eliminating violence against women and girls, has shown important results. Conviction rates for gender-based violence have doubled in several countries, more than 540 laws and policies have been signed or strengthened, and millions of women and girls have gained access to essential protection services. Significant resources have been directed to grassroots organizations, enabling thousands of civil society groups to strengthen their work. Youth engagement in gender equality programs has also expanded, and many countries have reinforced their national action plans against violence.

Beyond leadership, women still face heavy burdens in their daily lives. They spend more than twice the amount of time on unpaid domestic and care work compared to men, with the disparity even greater in certain regions. Child marriage continues to affect millions, with nearly one in five girls married before the age of eighteen. Harmful practices

such as female genital mutilation persist, and in many countries, women lack legal protections in inheritance, land rights, and family law. Less than half of women worldwide own or control property, and in many unions, women cannot make independent decisions about their own health and bodies. Digital inequality has emerged as another frontier of disempowerment. While mobile phone ownership has grown globally, women remain behind men, with millions still excluded from basic digital tools for education, communication, and safety. Among the 200 million

people worldwide without mobile phones, the majority are women, making it harder for them to access opportunities in an increasingly digital society. I am personally associated with initiatives on women’s digital connectivity, and I have had the opportunity to engage in Zoom meetings at the United Nations and in Paris, where global defenders and policymakers are working to bridge this critical gap. Reading these reports was both painful and powerful. They confirm what defenders have long known—that true gender equality is still far from being realized. Laws without enforcement are hollow, programs without grassroots engagement are superficial, and progress without inclusion of marginalized women is unjust. Achieving SDG 5 requires more than policies; it requires commitment, accountability, and urgent action.

As we reflect on these realities in 2025, we must continue raising our voices and demanding change. For every woman still waiting to be seen, heard, and protected, the fight goes on.

The Writer is Defender and international researcher on human Rights

Pakistan, Azerbaijan explore new avenues of economic, trade cooperation

 Spokesman Report

BAKU: Pakistan's Ambassador to Azerbaijan, Mr. Qasim Moinuddin, said that the friendship between Pakistan and Azerbaijan must now be transformed into strong economic cooperation. He stated that Azerbaijan, with its modern infrastructure and railway links, can play an important role in promoting Pakistani businesses. He urged Pakistani companies to participate in exhibitions, trade fairs, and government tenders so they can establish their presence in the Azerbaijani market.

He expressed these views while speaking to a delegation of the Azerbaijan-Pakistan Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (APJCCI), led by its Patron-in-Chief, Mr. Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari. During the meeting, opportunities for promoting bilateral trade and investment cooperation were discussed.

Mr. Bakhtawari thanked the Ambassador for hosting a dinner in honor of the delegation, adding that the purpose of APJCCI's visit was to understand the Azerbaijani market and explore new avenues for trade and invest-



ment. The delegation included representatives from various sectors such as pharmaceuticals, beauty care products, construction, education, aircraft maintenance, textiles and garments, IT, and livestock. He mentioned that the delegation had several productive meetings with both public and private sector institutions in Baku, and positive outcomes are expected.

He further said that Azerbaijan is an

attractive country for investment and can serve as a gateway for exporting Pakistani products to regional markets. Describing Azerbaijan as an emerging economy full of opportunities, he said APJCCI will ensure more exchanges of business delegations in the future.

Ambassador Qasim Moinuddin highlighted the special investment opportunities in the liberated Karabakh region, where the Azerbaijani govern-

ment is establishing new industrial zones, including the Aghdam Industrial Park and the Araz Valley Economic Zone Industrial Park. These projects offer attractive incentives for foreign investors, including tax exemptions, customs facilities, and ready infrastructure. He added that Karabakh also offers excellent prospects for agriculture and the food processing industry, where rice and meat processing plants can be established. He noted that Pakistani rice, especially Sella rice, is already well recognized in Azerbaijan, and further investment in this sector could be highly profitable.

The Ambassador also emphasized the importance of branding and building a strong market identity. He suggested that Pakistani food brands should open restaurants and food outlets in Azerbaijan to further strengthen cultural and trade relations.

During the meeting, Mr. Babak Huseynli, Coordinator of Azerbaijan-Pakistan Trade Facilitation, highlighted opportunities in meat exports and farming projects in Azerbaijan. He assured full support in connecting businesses from both countries for mutually beneficial ventures.

PIDE Seminar Calls for Urgent Transformation of Pakistan's Governance System

 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) organized a seminar on "Pakistan Governance Roadmap 2025: Civil Service Reform, Now or Never", moderated by Dr. Faheem Jehangir (Dean Policy, PIDE & PD RASTA) and led by Dr. Adnan Rafiq, Member (Governance) at the Planning Commission of Pakistan. The event brought together policymakers, academics, and students to discuss the urgent need for transforming Pakistan's governance system.

In his keynote, Dr. Rafiq declared that civil service reform is no longer optional but a survival imperative. Repeated reform efforts since the 1950s have stalled due to political resistance, bureaucratic inertia, and lack of continuity. Influenced by colonial-era practices and rapidly changing socio-economic requirements, technological penetration, and global disruptions, Pakistan's bureaucracy needs an urgent upgradation. Led by the Federal Minister of Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives, Prof. Ahsan Iqbal, and the Member (Governance) at the Planning Commission of Pakistan, the speaker presented 47 recommendations for improving the institutional structure and practices of the civil service to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of public service delivery.

He presented a comprehensive Pakistan Governance Roadmap 2025, which envisions a SMART civil service that is Specialized, Meritocratic, Accountable, Responsive, and Trusted. This shift would replace process compliance with measurable outcomes, domain expertise, and citizen-centric governance. The transformation is structured across five pillars: specialized recruitment exams focusing on critical thinking rather than rote memorization; competitive and advanced training linked to promotions; the creation of a National Executive Service (NES) for senior leadership positions with mandatory lateral entry from the private sector; performance management systems that tie individual goals to ministerial outcomes through KPI-based evaluations and multi-source feedback; and merit-linked compensation, promotions, and contributory pensions.

The roadmap also emphasizes institutional strengthening, including modernization of the Federal Public Service Commission through digital platforms and regional outreach, creation of specialized service groups in law, economics, energy, engineering, and planning, and professionalization of ministries through Human Resource Coordinators and Senior Executive Scales. It further highlights the importance of stronger federal-provincial coordination through revitalized forums and the empowerment of local governments with devolved authority, revenue mobilization, and inclusive elections to strengthen grassroots democracy.

Adopting STAR principles—Stable, Transparent, Agile, and Responsible governance—the roadmap also introduces sectoral reforms powered by digital transformation. Initiatives such as the Open PSDP portal, the National Job Portal, and climate-resilient recovery frameworks are designed to enhance transparency, inclusivity, and accountability, while promoting economic growth.

Dr. Rafiq argued for separate specialized functions of policy, regulations, and execution within the governance framework, and cautioned that adoption and implementation of SMART framework may face challenges, including deep-seated cultural resistance within bureaucracy and outdated financial and regulatory practices. He stressed that sustained political will and stakeholder consensus would be critical to ensuring continuity and success.

The Netherlands to ban import of products made in Israeli colonies

 WAFA

AMSTERDAM: The Netherlands announced that it will impose a ban on imports of products from colonies as soon as possible.

During a session in the Dutch House of Representatives, Foreign Minister David van Wier said that the ban on imports of products from colonies will be implemented as soon as possible.

On the other hand, Van Wier noted that the law aimed at banning trade with colonies, which is demanded by a majority in parliament, will take a long time to come into effect.

He explained that the ban could be implemented more quickly through existing sanctions legislation, and that he had already begun preparations to issue a "general administrative decision" in this regard.

A "general administrative decision" in the Dutch legal system is an administrative regulation issued by the government pursuant to the law.

On Wednesday, the Netherlands banned the entry of Israeli extremist National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir and Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich to 29 European countries after they were placed on a list of "persona non grata."

Red Stars Given to Korean Children

In the DPRK kindergarten teachers award red stars to the children for their hard study and good deeds. This inspires great delight and pride among the children.



ISSI launches Ambassador Zamir Akram's "Commentary on Western Assessments of the India-Pakistan Crisis of May 2025"

 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Arms Control and Disarmament Centre (ACDC) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organized the launch of its latest Islamabad Paper, titled: "Commentary on Western Assessments of the India-Pakistan Crisis of May 2025," authored by Ambassador Zamir Akram. Dr. Naeem Ahmad Salik, Executive Director, SVI; and Dr. Asma Shakir Khawaja, Executive Director, CISS AJK, were among the discussants. The launch was attended by prominent academics, policymakers, and practitioners.

In his welcome remarks, Director General ISSI Ambassador Sohail Mahmood noted that the May 2024 India-Pakistan conflict was one of the most consequential events of the

recent past for the two countries, the region, and possibly internationally. While the two protagonists — India and Pakistan — had advanced their respective narratives, the third-party analyses were also part of the equation in shaping global perceptions. For obvious reasons, it was critical that Pakistan's point of view should come out clearly regarding the actual conflict, its strategic consequences, and the future trajectory. Amb. Zamir Akram's Islamabad Paper was a valuable contribution, in which he had focused on four distinct threads — including terrorism, military engagements, restraint, and India's so-called 'new normal'.

Earlier, Malik Qasim Mustafa, Director ACDC summarized Amb. Akram's Islamabad Paper, which has attempted to analyze the assessment of



some of the leading Western analysts and think tanks from four common key themes—terrorism, military engage-

ments, the issue of restraint, and India's so-called 'new normal.' These assessments were based on the May 2025

conflict, where South Asia witnessed 87 hours of fighting between India and Pakistan that almost brought the region to the brink of an all-out war.

In his remarks, Dr. Naeem Ahmad Salik lauded ISSI and Amb. Zamir Akram for bringing out the publication which dissected select Western think-tank reports and highlighted their subjective nature. He largely attributed the Western tilt towards India as a function of India's significant investment in building a network of academics and analysts favorably disposed towards its narrative.

Dr. Asma Shakir Khawaja's overview of Amb. Zamir's work highlighted the urgent need to 'decolonize' Western-centric narratives, particularly those concerning terrorism that have been instrumentalized against Pakistan. To counter this, she suggested,

Pakistan should advocate for forensic transparency through platforms like the United Nations.

Amb. Zamir Akram highlighted significant challenges for Pakistani analysts due to the lack of opportunity to project their views and publish in Western academic and policy circles. He argued that the few Pakistani scholars who did get published often adopted a pro-Western stance, which was arguably more detrimental than the narratives presented by Western scholars themselves.

Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman BoG ISSI, gave his vote of thanks and said that the Islamabad Paper dealt with a subject that was vital for Pakistan's security. The war of narratives was one of many challenges that Pakistan faced today and must succeed in it through concerted efforts.

Founding Father of DPRK

After waging a 15-year anti-Japanese armed struggle, General Kim Il Sung finally got Korea free from Japan's military occupation on August 15, 1945, and returned home triumphantly.

Addressing a rally of Pyongyang citizens welcoming him on October 14, 1945, he said that it was time to join efforts to build a new democratic Korea and that the people of all strata should turn out to build a new Korea by

displaying their patriotic zeal. And he called on those with strength to dedicate their strength, those with knowledge to devote their knowledge and those with money to donate their money. All those who love their country and democracy should make united efforts to build a democratic, independent and sovereign state—this was his idea on building a new Korea.

People responded in unison to his call on whoever love the country, be they workers, peasants, intellectuals, businessmen or believers, to turn out as one to

build a new Korea. Since then the history of a new Korea bringing about epoch-making changes by dint of unity started.

The Pothong River improvement project in May 1946 demonstrated how great the Korean people's united efforts to build a new democratic Korea were.

During the Japanese military occupation of the country, trees in the upper reaches of the Pothong River had been indiscriminately cut down, often causing landslide. Once it rained, the riverside was

flooded and the residents suffered damage.

Kim Il Sung proposed starting the grand nature-harnessing endeavour for building a prosperous, democratic, independent and sovereign state by the country's own effort with the project for the improvement of the Pothong River, and mobilized Pyongyang citizens for the patriotic labour campaign. And he visited the construction site to dig the first spadeful of earth.

Under his leadership, Pyongyang citizens finished the project

in a matter of 55 days.

Thanks to these united efforts, the political, economic and cultural foundations for building a new Korea came to be firmly laid and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea was eventually founded on September 9, 1948.

Later on, under the leadership of Kim Il Sung, the Korean people banded together in every period and at every stage of the revolution, including postwar reconstruction and socialist revolution and construction, in order to establish a people-cen-



Monument to the Pothong River Improvement Project

tered socialist state that is independent in politics, self-sufficient in the economy and self-reliant in national defence.

Bull & Bears

PSX 100-Share Index Fluctuation

| Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Current | Prev. Close |
| 156,141.24 | 157,020.79 |
| Day's High | Day's Low |
| 157,816.76 | 156,103.81 |
| Index Value | Change |
| 29,119,347,852 | −879.55 |
| Percentage | Time |
| −0.56% | 11 Sept, 2025 4:30 pm |
| Europe: FTSE 100 Index | |
| Index Value | Change |
| 9,297.58 | +72.19 |
| Percentage | Time |
| +0.78% | 11 Sept, 4:35 pm GMT +1 |
| USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average | |
| Index Value | Change |
| 46,098.60 | +607.68 |
| Percentage | Time |
| +1.34% | 11 Sept, 1:49 pm GMT-4 |
| Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average | |
| Index Value | Change |
| 44,372.50 | +534.83 |
| Percentage | Time |
| +1.22% | 11 Sept, 3:45 pm GMT+9 |
| Open Market Forex Rates | |

Zong Unveils OZGPT, a Smarter Digital Companion for Everyone

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Zong, Pakistan's leading technology innovation company, has launched OZGPT, a next-generation conversational AI service designed to make intelligence accessible to all. With OZGPT, Zong users can experience the power of AI across multiple platforms including SMS, USSD, IVR, Web and the OZGPT Application. What sets OZGPT apart is its unprecedented reach: it operates seamlessly across SMS, USSD, IVR, web, and the OZGPT application, ensuring that both smartphone and non-smartphone users can benefit. By removing the language barrier and reliance on internet connectivity, OZGPT makes artificial intelligence available to the wider population, democratizing technology in Pakistan.

Speaking on the launch, Sajid Munir, Head of Marketing, said: "As AI reshapes industries and societies at scale, Zong is proud to be driving this transformation in Pakistan. The launch of OZGPT reflects our strategic direction of going beyond connectivity to deliver intelligent, future-ready digital solutions. It reaffirms our commitment to doing work that matters, positioning Zong at the forefront of the country's digital evolution."

Federal Minister holds high-level meeting with CEO FFC on fertilizer pricing

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for National Food Security & Research, Rana Tanveer Hussain, chaired a high-level meeting with Chief Executive Officer of Fauji Fertilizer Company (FFC), Mr. Jahangir Piracha, to deliberate on fertilizer pricing, availability, and broader challenges facing the agriculture sector.

The Minister underscored that even if international market prices are increasing, this should not affect the cost of fertilizers produced locally. He warned that passing on unnecessary price hikes to farmers is unacceptable, especially when they are already struggling with multiple challenges, including heavy losses caused by recent floods, depressed wheat prices, and rising costs of cultivation. He stressed that the government is determined to shield farmers from additional financial pressures, as their well-being is directly linked with the nation's food security and economic stability.

Rana Tanveer Hussain further highlighted that agriculture is the backbone of Pakistan's economy and the prosperity of millions of households depends on it. The government, therefore, has taken a firm policy decision to bring down the cost of inputs, particularly fertilizers, pesticides, and seeds, so that farmers' profits may increase and agricultural productivity can be enhanced. He reiterated that ensuring affordable fertilizers is not only a matter of economic policy but also a matter of social justice.

The Minister assured the FFC CEO of uninterrupted gas supply for fertilizer production and affirmed that any issues on the side of the government would be resolved promptly to facilitate smooth supply. At the same time, he made it clear that fertilizer companies also have a responsibility to cooperate with the government in this critical time by refraining from unjustified price increases, maintaining adequate stocks, and ensuring timely distribution across the country.

He stressed that the government will closely monitor the fertilizer supply chain to curb hoarding, black marketing, or artificial shortages. "The farmers of Pakistan must not be exploited," the Minister remarked, adding that strict action will be taken against elements attempting to manipulate the market at the



cost of farmers' interests.

The Minister also emphasized that Pakistan's food security strategy is based on three pillars: lowering input costs, improving crop yields, and protecting the rights of farmers. He noted that affordable fertilizers will play a decisive role in boosting productivity in upcoming sowing seasons, especially for wheat and rice, which are vital to ensuring food self-sufficiency.

Mr. Jahangir Piracha, CEO of FFC, appreciated the government's proactive approach and assured the Minister of his company's full cooperation in maintaining steady supply and stabilizing fertilizer prices. He welcomed the government's commitment to addressing issues on its side and reaffirmed FFC's resolve to stand with the government in these testing times.

The meeting concluded with a joint understanding that both the government and fertilizer industry must work together to safeguard the interests of farmers, ensure sustainable agricultural growth, and strengthen Pakistan's food security framework. The Minister reaffirmed that the prosperity of farmers remains at the heart of the government's agricultural reforms, and every possible measure will be taken to ensure relief for cultivators and stability for the agriculture sector.

Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, chairing second meeting of the Steering Committee for Assessment of Inflationary Trends at the Finance Division, on Thursday.



Photo: PID

Yamaha announces closure of motorcycle manufacturing in Pakistan after decades

Web Desk

ISLAMABAD: Renowned Japanese motorcycle manufacturer Yamaha has announced it will cease production operations in Pakistan, ending a decades-long presence in the local market.

In an official notification, Yamaha Motor Pakistan said the decision was made in line with its internal policy.

The company expressed gratitude to Pakistani riders who made Yamaha a part of their lives, while assuring that after-sales services and spare parts availability will continue.

Yamaha first entered Pakistan in 1976, with models like the YB100 becoming household names.

In 2015, the company established a direct manufacturing facility, introducing popular models such as the YBR125, YBR125G, and YB125Z, which gained strong popularity among young riders and biking enthusiasts.

Known for its quality and comfort, Yamaha motorcycles have long been considered a reliable choice for long routes and difficult terrains.

On social media, many riders recalled their experiences, saying Yamaha stood out as a trusted option in challenging conditions.

Consumers, however, have expressed concerns that Yamaha's exit will weaken competition in Pakistan's motorcycle market, raising questions about whether after-sales services will remain at the same level.

Gas & Oil Pakistan and Samba Bank Sign MOU to Expand ATM Access at Fuel Stations

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: Gas & Oil Pakistan Limited (GO) and Samba Bank Limited have formalized a partnership to provide convenient ATM services across Gas & Oil Pakistan's nationwide network of fuel stations, reinforcing their shared commitment to financial inclusion and customer convenience.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Ammar Talaat highlighted GO's focus on creating value beyond fuelling "This agreement reflects our strategy of turning fuel stations into multi-purpose service hubs," said Mr. Ammar Talaat, Chief Strategy Officer of Gas & Oil Pakistan Limited. "By partnering with Samba Bank to offer secure, 24/7 ATM access, we're broadening the value we deliver to customers and strengthening our role in enabling financial inclusion across Pakistan."

Mr. Ali Raza Syed, Group Head – Corporate Banking at Samba Bank, added



"Our alliance with Gas & Oil Pakistan will extend banking touchpoints to more people and help drive financial inclusion in both urban and rural markets."

With this agreement, the two companies aim to begin installations within the coming months, creating a robust, customer-centric network of ATMs across

Pakistan.

Mr. Ali Raza Syed, Group Head – Corporate Banking at Samba Bank, added "Our alliance with Gas & Oil Pakistan will extend banking touchpoints to more people and help drive financial inclusion in both urban and rural markets."

CTO Rawalpindi Farhan Aslam Visits RCCI



Commerce Desk

RAWALPINDI: Chief Traffic Officer (CTO) Rawalpindi, Farhan Aslam, visited the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) and attended a meeting with members of the business community. The session was chaired by RCCI President Usman Shaukat and was attended by Senior Vice President Khalid Farooq Qazi, former presidents, executive

members, representatives of city-wide traders' associations, and a large number of RCCI members.

Speaking on the occasion, CTO Farhan Aslam assured traders that all possible measures would be taken to improve traffic flow in Rawalpindi.

He emphasized that suggestions put forward by RCCI regarding traffic management would be considered and implemented where feasible.

Telenor Pakistan Celebrates AI Day to Drive Innovation and Future-Ready Skills

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Telenor Pakistan marked AI Day with a series of interactive session, awards, discussion and Expo showcasing the transformative potential of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in reshaping industries, redefining skills, and influencing society. The initiative was designed to raise awareness, encourage dialogue, and provide practical insights into how AI can be

responsibly applied across diverse sectors.

Speaking at the occasion, Fridtjof Rusten, CEO of Telenor Pakistan, highlighted the broader vision: "AI is no longer a distant concept—it is here, reshaping industries, redefining skills, and transforming the way we live and work. For Pakistan, this is a tremendous opportunity to leapfrog into a digital-first future and unlock new pathways for progress. We are committed to

harnessing AI not just to drive innovation, but to empower people, strengthen businesses, and accelerate inclusive economic growth—so its benefits extend to every corner of society."

Awaits Vohra, Chief Technology Officer at Telenor Pakistan said, "AI is a paradigm shift as it moves beyond a specialised tool to general purpose technology which has far reaching impact across various industries and society. For our industry,

Telecommunications, AI is a powerful enabler to help in planning and operating smart & efficient networks delivering personalised services.

With initiatives like AI Day, Telenor Pakistan continues to strengthen its role as a leader in digital transformation, fostering collaboration between industry and talent, and preparing Pakistan's workforce to embrace the opportunities of an AI-driven future.



Team of Pakistani women mountaineers scales 5,400 meters high Brila Peak

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's women mountaineers scaled the 5,400 meters high Brila Peak on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee of the Alpine Club of Pakistan.

Women from all four provinces and Gilgit-Baltistan participated in the expedition. Journalist Mona Khan from Kashmir, Maria Bangash from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Zeba Batool from Gilgit-Baltistan, Bisma Hassan from Punjab, Laraib Batool from Balochistan and Madiha Syed from Sindh joined the expedition. Bibi Afzon and Shahreen Khan from Islamabad led the expedition.

Women's step towards the mountains is a sign of empowerment, says the Alpine Club Pakistan. The adventure of female mountaineers began on September 7 from Skardu. The expedition included a four-day stay at Deosai Top. The first two days were spent on hiking exercises to prepare women for the summit.

Women generally do not get opportunities for extracurricular activities therefore such expeditions will be held in future as well, said Alpine Club Secretary Ayaz Shugri. He said the club is proud to bring together a new generation of female mountaineers from every region of Pakistan.



The guides of the expedition included

renowned mountaineers Sajid Sadpara, Ashraf Sadpara, Fida Shugri and Sharif Sadpara. "We are very happy about this success of the women. Proud that we were also a part of this team," said Sajid

Sadpara.

"All the women have shown great courage. We hope that the Alpine Club will organize more such events," said Ashraf Sadpara.

Punjab Stadium is being upgraded as per international standard: Malik Faisal

Tahir Amin Malik.

ISLAMABAD: Provincial Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs Malik Faisal Ayub Khokhar said that Punjab Stadium is being upgraded as per international standard and besides this, a beautiful food street will also be built adjacent to Punjab Stadium.

He shared this information while addressing an important meeting regarding Development Sports Schemes at the National Hockey Stadium.

The meeting was attended by Vice Chairman Sports Board Punjab Suleman Malik, Sports Coordinator Malik Anoosh Khokhar, Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Muzaffar Khan Sial and Director General



Sports Punjab Khizar Afzaal Chaudhry.

Several issues including land availability were

discussed during the meeting. A detailed briefing was also given in the meeting in which it was revealed that work is

in progress on as many as 96 schemes including 88 new sports schemes. A briefing was also given on the upgradation

of Punjab Stadium.

Addressing the meeting, Provincial Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs Malik Faisal Ayub Khokhar directed the officers concerned that the construction of development projects should be accelerated. "Any complacency will not be tolerated in the completion of sports development projects".

Provincial Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs Malik Faisal Ayub Khokhar said that a meeting on development sports schemes will be held every week. "The construction of the International Squash Complex is about to be completed while a hotel and hostel will also be constructed at Nishtar Park Sports Complex," he added.

Chelsea face 74 charges over alleged breaches of agent rules

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Chelsea were charged by the Football Association on Thursday with 74 alleged breaches of rules related to payments to agents between 2009 and 2022.

The FA said the charges primarily relate to the period between the 2010/11 and 2015/16 seasons. The Premier League club has until September 19 to respond.

Russian oligarch Roman Abramovich transformed Chelsea's fortunes after buying the west London club in 2003.

He sold the Blues in May 2022 to a consortium led by American investor Todd Boehly and private equity firm Clearlake Capital.

Chelsea issued a statement saying the club were "pleased to confirm that its engagement with the FA concerning matters that were self-reported by the club is now reaching a conclusion".

"The club's ownership group completed its purchase of the club on May 30, 2022,"



the statement said.

"During a thorough due diligence process prior to completion of the purchase, the ownership group became aware of potentially incomplete financial reporting concerning historical transactions and other potential breaches of FA rules.

"Immediately upon the completion of the purchase, the club self-reported these matters to all relevant regulators, including the FA."

Chelsea said they had "demonstrated unprecedented transparency" and would continue working with the FA.

In July 2023, Chelsea agreed a resolu-

tion with European football's governing body to hand over 10 million euros (\$11.7 million, £8.6 million) after owning up to "incomplete financial reporting" under the Abramovich regime.

UEFA said it had been "proactively" approached with the information by Chelsea's new ownership group.

Abramovich was sanctioned by the British government in March 2022 following Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

He was described by ministers as part of Russian President Vladimir Putin's inner circle but has denied financial ties to the Kremlin.

In June this year the British government threatened the former Chelsea owner with legal action over the frozen £2.5 billion generated from the sale of the club.

Ministers want the funds to be directed towards humanitarian purposes in Ukraine, but the oligarch insists they be used for all victims of the conflict, including in Russia.

Muzaffar Khan Sial approves six development sports schemes

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Muzaffar Khan Sial has approved six development sports schemes during an important meeting held at Punjab stadium on Thursday.

Director General Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Khizar Afzaal Chaudhry, Additional Secretary Mian Usman Ali, and Project Director PMU Qaiser Raza attended the meeting. Overall, eight new schemes were presented in the meeting for approval.

Addressing the meeting, Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Muzaffar Khan Sial said that a Mini Sports Complex will be constructed in Sadiqabad, Rahim Yar Khan while sports grounds will be constructed in southern Punjab. "Shops will be constructed at Quaid-e-Azam Stadium, Vehari. Besides this, sports ground will also be built in Raiwind City".

Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Muzaffar Khan Sial said that the best sports infrastructure is being constructed across the Punjab province. "Talented athletes will get plenty of playing opportunities after the completion of these sports schemes," he added.

PFF names team for SAFF U17 Championship

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Football Federation (PFF) has announced the squad for the upcoming SAFF U-17 Championship 2025, scheduled to be held in Sri Lanka from September 15 to 27.



The squad was finalized by Head Coach Syed Nasir Ismail, said a press release.

The squad includes Goalkeepers: Samar Razzaq, Khalil Jibran and Adil Ali Khan; Defenders: Nadeem Hussain, Muhammad Alam, Muhammad Masood, Muhammad Zubair, Shahid Anjum, Aabiss Raza and Azizullah; Midfielders: Mustafa Israr, Abdul Samad, Ibrahim Asif, Muhammad Talha, Haroon Rasheed, Muhammad Essa and Saad Tiwana; Forwards: Muhammad Abdullah, Mansoor Ahmed, Hasnain Wali Raza, Muhammad Owais, Hamza Yasir and Syed Shahram.

Pakistan has been placed in Group B alongside India, Maldives, and Bhutan. The national side will begin its campaign against Bhutan on September 16, face Maldives on September 19, and conclude the group stage with a match against India on September 22.

Litton guides Bangladesh to win over Hong Kong in Asia Cup T20



Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Skipper Litton Das top-scored with 59 as Bangladesh beat a spirited Hong Kong by seven wickets in their first match of the Asia Cup on Thursday.

Hong Kong posted 143-7 after Nizakat Khan made 42 in the T20 meeting in Abu Dhabi where the minnows were invited to bat first.

Bangladesh lost two early wickets in their chase to raise Hong Kong hopes of an upset but Litton put on a stand of 95 with Towhid Hridoy, who made an unbeaten 35, to reach 144-3 in 17.4 overs.

Litton reached his 50 in 33 balls but fell to medium-pace bowler Ateeq Iqbal before Towhid hit the winning run.

It was Hong Kong's second straight defeat in Group B, which includes Afghanistan and Sri Lanka. Afghanistan beat Hong Kong by 94 runs in the tournament opener.

Hong Kong lost two early wickets before Nizakat paired up with Zeeshan Ali, who made 30, in a third-wicket stand of 41.

Nizakat then got into another partnership of 46 with skipper Yasim Murtaza, who hit 28 off 19 balls, as the two counter-attacked.

Murtaza was run out and leg-spinner Rishad Hossain struck twice in the next over, including taking Nizakat's key wicket, as the Hong Kong batting line-up stuttered towards the end.

Pace bowler Tanzim Hasan Sakib stood out with figures of 2-21 from his four overs. Taskin Ahmed and Rishad also took two wickets each.

In reply, Bangladesh slipped to 47-2 before Litton and Towhid rebuilt the innings and then bossed the opposition bowling.

Pakistan will open their campaign on Friday against Oman in Dubai.

Along with regional bragging rights, the Twenty20 competition will serve as a build-up towards the T20 World Cup in February-March in India and Sri Lanka.

Pakistan must 'focus on job' in highly charged India clash: coach

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Coach Mike Hesson has told his Pakistan team to "focus on the job" in Sunday's highly charged Asia Cup clash with arch-rivals India.

The match in Dubai is the first time that the neighbours will have met in cricket since a brief but deadly border conflict in May and emotions will be running high.

The New Zealander Hesson said Thursday: "I guess, from my perspective, just like any time you enter a match, whether it be a final of a world event or whatever, it's about keeping everybody focused on the job at hand and that'll be no different on the weekend."

The eight-nation Twenty20 tournament began on Tuesday with Afghanistan beating Hong Kong by 94 runs.

India crushed hosts the United Arab Emirates by nine wickets on Wednesday.

Pakistan begin their campaign against Oman on Friday, but all the talk is already of world champions India two days later.

"We know that India are obviously hugely confident and rightfully so in terms of how well they've played," Hesson said of the Asia Cup holders, who skittled UAE for just 57 in 13.1 overs.

India cruised to victory in just 4.3 overs.

Since winning the World Cup last year they have won 18 of their 21 T20Is.

Hesson is excited to be part of a blockbuster, which will be watched by a packed stadium in Dubai and hundreds of millions of television viewers.

"Look, I've certainly watched many

games from afar, so certainly being on the other side of the fence, I guess, being right and amongst such a highly charged event is going to be exciting," he added.

Pakistan enter the Asia Cup with a tri-series win in the UAE also involving Afghanistan and UAE, and confidence is growing.

"We're very much focused on improving as a team, sort of day by day, and not getting too far ahead of ourselves," said Hesson.

India, Pakistan, Oman and UAE are in Group A while Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, Hong Kong and Bangladesh form Group B.

The top two teams from each Group will qualify for the Super Four stage. The top two teams will then play the September 28 final in Dubai.



Called on

ISLAMABAD: Lieutenant General Staff Pilot Mohanad Ghalib Mohammed Radi Al-Asadi, Commander of the Iraqi Air Force, called on Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force at Air Headquarters, on Thursday.



Commander Iraqi Air Force Calls On Air Chief

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: A high-level defence delegation led by Lieutenant General Staff Pilot Mohanad Ghalib Mohammed Radi Al-Asadi, Commander of the Iraqi Air Force, called on Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force at Air Headquarters, Islamabad. The meeting covered various prospects of mutual cooperation between the two brotherly nations, placing special emphasis on joint training, capacity building and advancements in the aviation industry.

Upon his arrival, a smartly turned-out contingent of Pakistan Air Force presented Guard

of Honour to Lieutenant General Staff Pilot Mohanad Ghalib Mohammed Radi Al-Asadi.

During the meeting Chief of the Air Staff highlighted the deep-rooted religious and historic bonds between Pakistan and Iraq, describing them as the foundation of the enduring relationship between the Air Forces of the two countries. He reaffirmed Pakistan Air Force's commitment in extending unwavering support to the Iraqi Air Force in the training domain. The Air Chief also reassured the visiting dignitary that PAF would continue to support Iraqi Air Force in its capacity building endeavors. Both

Commanders concurred on conducting joint exercises and training initiatives aimed at bolstering interoperability and forging stronger operational synergy between the two Air Forces.

The Commander of the Iraqi Air Force conveyed his sincere appreciation for the warm reception and generous hospitality accorded to his delegation.

He commended the visionary leadership of PAF and acknowledged its transformation into a modern, professional and technologically advanced Air Force of the region. The visiting dignitary conveyed the Iraqi Air Force's strong desire to restructure its

entire training system spanning from basic to advanced tactical and operational levels. Acknowledging PAF's world-class training excellence, he also sought support in building a modernized training paradigm for the Iraqi Air Force. The Iraqi Commander highlighted the aspiration of his force to benefit from exchange postings of PAF pilots, underscoring the immense value Iraqi aviators attach to learning directly from PAF's combat-proven professionals. Deeply impressed by the innovative initiatives, indigenous capabilities and forward-looking vision showcased by PAF at the National Aerospace Science & Technology Park, he remarked

that the Iraqi Air Force aspires to establish a similar ecosystem in Iraq, drawing inspiration from PAF's model of integrating academia, industry and military needs under one umbrella. Later, the dignitary visited National ISR & Integrated Air Operations Centre and PAF Cyber Command, where he was briefed on the operational capabilities and technological initiatives of PAF. The visit of this high level defence delegation from Iraq to Air Headquarters, Islamabad signifies a resolute commitment of both countries to reinforce their military partnership, fostering collaboration and promoting robust relations.

PM directs 300-day climate action plan, says Minister Musadik

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination Senator Musadik Malik said on Thursday that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had directed the ministry to prepare a comprehensive 300-day implementation plan within the next 15 days to confront the escalating impacts of climate change, including risks from monsoon rains and glacial melting.

Addressing a press conference, Malik said the action plan would be finalized in



coordination with federal ministries, provincial governments, armed forces, NGOs,

and welfare organizations. "We must act within our own resources, with the

support of our civil administration, welfare institutions, and armed forces to safeguard

our children and communities," he stressed.

Flanked by Chairman NDMA Lieutenant General Inam Haider Malik, the minister noted that Prime Minister Sharif, during a cabinet meeting, declared both a national climate emergency and an agricultural emergency.

Malik explained the measures were preventive, aimed at reducing losses from next year's monsoon season and glacial melt. "This is not unique to Pakistan. The entire world is changing, and all nations must wake up to this reality," he said.

Israeli occupation forces round up dozens of Palestinians in mass detention campaign in Tulkarm

WAFA

TULKARM: Israeli occupation forces carried out a large-scale detention campaign on Thursday evening, detaining dozens of Palestinians in the

city of Tulkarm in the northern West Bank.

WAFA correspondent said soldiers stormed shops and cafés in the city center, detaining everyone inside as well as people in their vehi-

cles, and forced them to march in long lines toward the road leading to the Khadouri military checkpoint to the west.

The occupation army brought in additional mili-

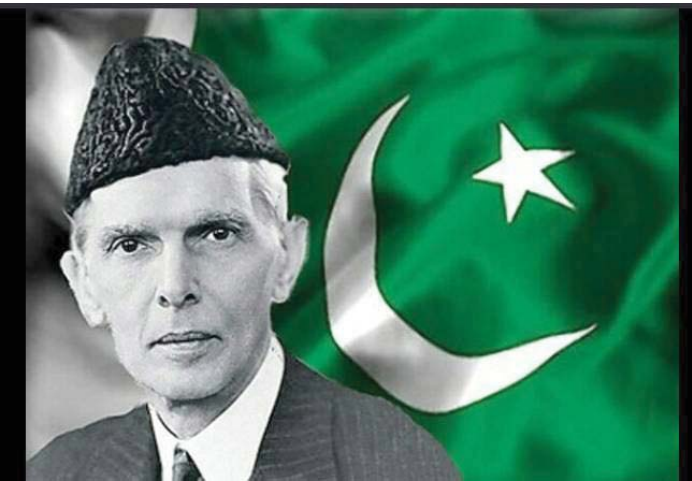
tary vehicles, including a heavy bulldozer, raided homes and businesses, and forced owners to close them. Soldiers also seized several surveillance cameras and restricted the movement of

residents in the area.

Forces simultaneously raided the Irtah neighborhood and the city's southern district, searching homes, interrogating residents, and detaining two young men.



Quaid-e-Azam's 77th death anniversary observed



Tooba Khan

ISLAMABAD: The 77th death anniversary of the Father of the Nation, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah was observed on Thursday with the pledge to follow his golden principles of unity, faith and discipline, reported 24NewsHD TV channel.

The day dawned with special prayers in mosques for eternal peace of his soul and peace and prosperity of the country.

Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah was a pivotal leader of the Muslims of the Subcontinent and got them united under the umbrella of All-India Muslim League.

He passed away on this day in 1948.

President, PM pay rich tribute President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz

Sharif have rich tribute to the Father of the Nation Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah's unparalleled leadership and selfless struggle for the creation of Pakistan.

In their separate messages on the death anniversary of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, they urged Pakistanis to draw inspiration from his vision of justice, equality, tolerance, and democracy.

The President said Quaid-e-Azam created a homeland for the Muslims of the subcontinent and also gave them dignity, identity, and self-respect.

The Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif said the entire nation salutes Quaid-e-Azam's political vision and statesmanship, which led to the establishment of an independent homeland for the Muslims of the subcontinent despite immense challenges.

NA speaker pays heartfelt tribute to Major Raja Aziz Bhatti

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq paid homage to national hero Major Raja Aziz Bhatti Shaheed (Nishan-e-Haider), stating that his unparalleled courage and ultimate sacrifice will forever serve as a beacon of inspiration for the nation. He further stated that during the 1965 War, Major Aziz Bhatti Shaheed stood as a formidable shield in defense of the motherland and by laying down his life, set an timeless example that will remain inscribed in the annals of history. He added that the conferment of Nishan-e-Haider is a befitting recognition of his unmatched bravery and devotion, a distinction that is a matter of immense pride for the entire nation.

Deputy Speaker National Assembly, Syed Ghulam Mustafa



Shah, in his message, also paid rich tribute to Major Raja Aziz Bhatti Shaheed. He stated that the unforgettable role he played in safeguarding the motherland till his last breath is a source of great pride for the entire nation. He stated that the martyrs of Pakistan are the true heroes of the nation, whose sacrifices will always be remembered with deep respect and gratitude.

Interior Ministry to buy 20 Vigo vehicles for Islamabad police, admin

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Interior Ministry has decided to purchase 20 Vigo vehicles for the Islamabad police and administration. According to sources, 10 vehicles will be given to the police and 10 to the administration.

The Vigo vehicles will be handed over to all eight Assistant Commissioners of Islamabad and SPs posted in the Operation Division, while the Additional Deputy Commissioner

General, SSP Operations, SSP Investigation, SSP Security and CTO will also use these vehicles while SP Dolphin will also be provided with Vigo vehicles.

The spokesperson of the Interior Ministry said that the officers were facing difficulties during operations in the cars, so the purpose of providing them with Vigo vehicles is to facilitate them in operations, which will be handed over to them by next month.

PM Shehbaz returns after Qatar visit

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday returned to Islamabad after concluding a one-day official visit to Qatar, underscoring Pakistan's unwavering solidarity with the Qatari leadership and people in the wake of recent Israeli aggression.

During his meeting with the Amir of Qatar, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, the prime minister strongly condemned the unlawful Israeli attack on Doha, terming it a blatant violation of international law. He assured the Amir that Pakistan stands firmly with Qatar during this difficult time, a Prime Minister's Office news release said.

Prime Minister Shehbaz emphasized that Pakistan has always supported Qatar in times of trial and



will continue to do so.

Both leaders held consultations on the broader regional situation, including Israel's ongoing unjustified strikes across the Middle East, and reiterated their commitment to collective efforts for peace and stability in the region, he added.