**Barkat Rice Mills** 



#### Nawaz Sharif departs for London on routine medical check-up

Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) chief, who recently underwent an MRI at the Punjab Institute of Neurosciences in Lahore due to complaints of neck and muscle pain, is expected to spend around two weeks in the United Kingdom.



Dengue cases rise across Punjab as authorities issue alert

Health authorities confirmed that 23 new cases were reported in the last 24 hours, including five from Lahore. Doctors say the surge is linked to stagnant water left behind by recent floods,

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

PM Shehbaz arrives

DOHA: Pakistan Prime attempts to occupy Gaza,

ians.

in Doha to attend

emergency Arab-Islamic Summit

**Spokesman Report** 

Minister Shehbaz Sharif

arrived in Doha on Monday

to participate in the Emergen-

Qatar's Minister of Culture,

Sheikh Abdulrahman bin

cy Arab-Islamic Summit.

Rabiul Awwal 22, Tuesday, September 16, 2025



www.dailyspokesman.net



(a) @daily spokesman



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the escalating developments in Palestine, following Israeli

expand settlement activities in

the occupied West Bank and

forcibly displace the Palestin-

Deputy Prime Minister and

Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar,

#### Welcome

DOHA: Qatar's Minister of Culture H.E. Sheikh Abdulrahman bin Hamad bin Jassim bin Hamad A1 Thani welcomes Prime Minister



## 31 Indian-sponsored terrorists killed in two KP operations: ISPR

#### Maveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: The security forces have killed 31 terrorists associated with the Indian-backed Fitna Al Khwarii in two separate oper-Marwat and Bannu districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

vices Public Relations (ISPR) sored khwarij were sent to hell," statement on Sunday, the operations were carried out between September 13 and 14, following Bannu district, security forces stan are determined to wipe out

presence of militants in the region. In Lakki Marwat, a targeted intelligence-based operation (IBO) was launched after reports of militant activity.

"During the conduct of operations conducted across Lakki ation, own troops effectively engaged the khwarij location, and after an intense fire According to an Inter-Ser- exchange, fourteen Indian sponsaid the statement.

In a second operation in the intelligence reports about the killed 17 more terrorists from the menace of Indian Sponsored

the same group after another exchange of heavy gunfire.

The ISPR stated that the terrorists' hideouts were effectively targeted in both locations.

Clearance operations were underway to eliminate any remaining threats, the ISPR said. The military reiterated its resolve to completely eradicate Indian-backed terrorism from

Pakistani soil. "The security forces of PakiTerrorism from the country," said

Meanwhile, Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi has lauded the professionalism and bravery of Pakistan's security forces following successful operations against Indian-sponsored terrorists in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Naqvi praised the forces for sending 31 Indian-sponsored timely actions thwarted the militants' "malicious designs" against

"I pay tribute to the courageous personnel who brought these terrorists to an exemplary end," the interior minister said, adding that the entire nation stands united with the security forces in

their fight against terrorism. Naqvi vowed that Pakistan In a statement on Monday, would not allow "India-backed miscreants" to find shelter on its soil, reaffirming the governterrorists to hell" and said their ment's commitment to eradicating terrorism and safeguarding national security.

#### Hamad bin Jassim bin Hamad Defence Minister Khawaja Al Thani, received Prime Muhammad Asif, Infor-Minister Shehbaz Sharif and mation and Broadcasting the Pakistani delegation upon Minister Attaullah Tarar, his arrival at Doha airport. Special Assistant to the Prime The Summit, co-spon-Minister Syed Tariq Fatemi, sored by Pakistan, has been and senior officials are part convened in the wake of Isra- of the prime minister's deleel's airstrikes on Doha and

#### Dar, Turkiye's foreign minister condemn Israel's unjustified strike on Qatar



Spokesman Report

DOHA: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Senator Ishaq Dar, on Monday, met with the Foreign Minister of Türkiye, Hakan Fidan, and discussed matters relating to regional development.

tified strikes on Qatar and other nations in the region, amidst the ongoing aggression in Palestine.

They reaffirmed unwavering support for the Palestinian cause, underlined the importance of the OIC and the Arab League in mobilising collective During the meeting, the two action of the Muslim Ummah, leaders strongly condemned and welcomed the convening Israel's unprovoked and unjus- of the Arab-Islamic Summit.

## Maqbool Gondal sworn in as new Auditor General of Pakistan

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

ISLAMABAD: Maqbool Ahmad serving as the Controller General Gondal sworn in on Monday as of Accounts. the new Auditor General of Pakistan (AGP). The Chief Justice of Pakistan, Justice Yahya Afridi ceremony in Islamabad today.

Prior to his current assign-

is a BS-22 officer of the Pakistan for Punjab and Sindh. Prime Minister Shehbaz Audit and Accounts Group was

His previous roles also include managing director of the Public Procurement Regulatory administered him the oath at a Authority from November 2021 the new AGP.

to April 2024, deputy auditor

general for federal audit oper-

Sharif had moved the summary, which included senior officials of the Pakistan Audit and Accounts Group, and the president appointed Mr Gondal as

Mr Gondal is a public finance



and public procurement. As Controller General of

executive with over three Accounts, he is credited with ment, Maqbool Ahmad Gondal ations, and accountant general decades of leadership experience leading initiatives that included ment.

in financial governance, audit, the digitisation of public financial management and the recovery of more than Rs460 billion through audit enforce-

#### Imaan Mazari files complaint against IHC Chief Justice Sarfaraz Dogar in Supreme Judicial Council

#### Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Human rights lawyer and activist Imaan Zainab Mazari-Hazir has filed a complaint cil (SJC) against Islamabad High Court (IHC) Chief Justice Sardar Muhammad Sarfaraz Dogar, citing his "disparaging observations" made in open court during a recent hearing. According to the

day, Mazari requested the council to take action against Justice Dogar for remarks she described as unbecoming of a judge.

Earlier, she filed a separate before the Supreme Judicial Coun- application with the IHC registrar, seeking access to CCTV footage from Courtroom No. 1 between 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. on September 11, when she said an "unfortunate incident" had taken place. A USB drive was submitted



The complaint follows a heated exchange last Thursday during the hearing of a petition seeking the removal of Baloch Yakjehti application, submitted on Satural along with her request to facilitate Committee (BYC) leader Dr

Mahrang Baloch's name from the a programme saying a dictator is Exit Control List (ECL). Mazari, representing the petitioner, clashed with the IHC chief justice after he accused her of calling him a "dictator."

"You should keep your mouth shut and stay within the limits of respect," Justice Dogar told Mazari during the proceedings. He further remarked that if he issued any order in the case, she would "go downstairs and hold

sitting in court."

Mazari denied making such comments in court and insisted her personal opinions did not affect her professional role. "I was there on behalf of my client, not as activist Imaan Mazari," she later posted on social media, adding that she had conducted herself according to "professional etiquette."

Continued on Page 7

#### Floods in Punjab leave 104 dead, millions affected, says PDMA report



跨 Bureau Report

LAHORE: The Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) Punjab has released its report on flood damages caused by overflowing rivers Ravi, Sutlej, and Chenab, revealing a grim toll across the province.

According to the report, 104 people have died in various flood-related accidents, while more than 4,700 villages have been affected.

The floods have impacted 4.72 million people, though no fresh casualties were reported in the past 24 hours.

Relief Commissioner Nabeel Javed said that 2.56 million people have been shifted to safer locations from inundated

To support relief efforts, authorities have set up 372 relief camps, 454 medical camps, and 385 veterinary camps across the affected districts. More than 2.07 million livestock have also been moved to safe places. Meanwhile, dam water levels

remain a concern. Mangla Dam is 94% full, Tarbela Dam has reached full capacity, while India's Bhakra Dam is at 88%, Pong Dam at 94%, and Thein Dam at 88%, according to the Relief Commissioner.

The PDMA said that emergency measures remain in place, with authorities continuing rescue, relief, and medical assistance operations in flood-hit areas.

## CM Punjab Maryam visited flood affected area of Tehsil Alipur

**Asim Tanveer** 

ALIPUR/MUZAFFARGARH: Chief Minister Punjab Marium Nawaz Sharif Reached Alipur Tehsil of District Muzaffargarh CM Punjab visited the flood relief camp set School Alipur

Presented relief checks to talked to the flood victims, Sharif herself prepared curry from the pot and served it to the flood victims, to

Little of a young Chief Minister of Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif reached Alipur tehsil of Muzaffargarh. Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif visited the flood-affected Alipur city. Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif also visited the flood relief camp set up at Government High School Alipur. Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif presented relief checks to the families of those who died during the flood. Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif interacted with the flood victims and mingled with them.

Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif sat with the flood-affected women and ate the food. The little hair and praised the girl for her hit. Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif Hussain Khan Were Present



Maryam Nawaz Sharif played cricket at the request of a young girl in the flood relief camp. Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif combed her

girls hugged and loved Chief Minister Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif Maryam Nawaz Sharif. Chief Minister chatted with the children in a lighthearted manner in the temporary classroom of the flood relief camp. Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif asked the children about their studies.

inquired about the facilities available in the flood relief camps from the flood victims. Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif also presented gifts to the flood affected families. Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif specially thanked the Pakistan Navy for its assistance in relief activities. Deputy Commissioner Muzaffargarh and DG PDMA briefed Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif. It was informed in the briefing that 147 villages of Muzaffargarh district, with a population of more than 394,000, were affected by the flood. 26 villages of Alipur tehsil, which was the most affected by the flood, were submerged.

37 flood relief camps and 8 tent cities have been established for the flood victims. Food, medicine and other facilities are being provided to the victims in the flood relief camps. During Chief Minister Punjab Marium Nawaz Sharif Vist at Alipur Commissioner Dera Ghazi Khan Ishfaq Ahmed Chaudhry and Regional Police Officer Dera Ghazi Khan Captain (Rtd) Sajjad

# istice, Building a Stronger Tomorro

MUZAFFARABAD: Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Pakistan, Mr. Justice Yahya Afridi, presenting a shield to Chief Justice of the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Supreme Court, Raja Saeed Akram, at the conclusion of the Golden Jubilee.

#### Hyderabad's Mayor meets Sindh Chief Secretary and Asian Development Bank representative



#### B Qayoom Sarohi

KARACHI: Mayor of Hyderabad Kashif Ali Shoro held an important meeting with Sindh Chief Secretary Syed Asif Haider Shah and Asian Development Bank representative Shafique Shoukat.

Mayor of Sukkur, Barrister Arsalan Ahmed Shaikh, was also present at the meeting.

The meeting included detailed discussions on proposals for development projects in Hyderabad. These projects will be launched with the mutual cooperation of the Sindh government and the Asian Development Bank to improve the city's infrastructure and public facilities.

The Mayor of Hyderabad paid tribute to Pakistan Peoples Party  $Chairman\ Bilawal\ Bhutto\ Zardari\ and\ Sindh\ Chief\ Minister\ Syed\ Murad$ Ali Shah, acknowledging their efforts. He said that due to the special interest and vision of these leaders, development projects in Hyderabad and various districts of Sindh are progressing rapidly.

Mayor Kashif Ali Shoro stated that under the guidance of the PPP leadership and the practical measures of the Sindh government, Hyderabad will be transformed into a modern and developed city, while the projects supported by the Asian Development Bank will directly provide facilities to the public.

#### Vaccination against cervical cancer starts in Toba Tek Singh **District**

#### 👺 Zafar Chishti

TOBA TEK SINGH: A vaccination campaign to protect girls aged 9 to 14 against cervical cancer has formally been launched in the district. The drive was inaugurated at City Hospital by Additional Deputy Commissioner General Zeeshan Labbha Masih, accompanied by Chief Executive Officer (Health) Dr. Kashif Nadeem and District Health Officer (DHO) Dr. Faizan Arshad Briefing on the occasion, Dr Faizan Arshad said the campaign will run from September 15 to 27, 2025, with a target to vaccinate 174,760 girls across the district. To achieve this, 122 outreach teams and 14 fixed teams have been constituted, while vaccination facilities are being provided in 2,359 public and private schools. ADC Zeeshan Labbha Masih said the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine is globally recognized as safe and effective, endorsed by the World Health Organization (WHO), UNICEF, national health institutions and the Punjab Health Department. He added that scientific evidence shows that administering the vaccine to girls aged 9 to 14 provides long-term immunity and effective protection against cervical cancer. He urged parents to ensure their daughters are vaccinated and not to believe in rumors or social media  $propaganda. \\ ``It\ is\ our\ collective\ responsibility\ to\ protect\ the\ next\ generation and all the propaganda.$ ation from such a dangerous disease," he said.

#### RPO holds open court at Toba Tek Singh Saddar police station



Zafar Chishti

of records should be ensured.

TOBATEK SINGH: Regional Police Officer Faisalabad Zeeshan Asghar held on Tuesday an open court at Saddar police station for the immediate provision of justice to the public. DPO Toba Tek Singh Ibadat Nisar was also present. RPO listened to the problems of the citizens and issued orders on the spot for their solution. He said all possible steps are being taken to immediately redress the complaints of the citizens and improve the quality of service delivery. He checked the cleanliness of the Special Initiative Police Station, Saddar Toba Police Station, building, front desk, took details of the arrested suspects. He checked the police station registers. Later, RPO inspected the DPO Office. On this occasion, he checked the records and reviewed various administrative and office matters in detail. The RPO also took a briefing from the concerned officers and issued instructions to further improve the performance of the police. He said that solving public problems and providing justice in a timely manner is the top priority of the police. For this purpose, working on modern lines and ensuring correct and transparent maintenance

#### Walima ceremony

ISLAMABAD: Naveed Ahmad Khan President Tourism Association of Pakistan, Nusrat Kiani, Rashid Mehmood, Mushtaq Ahmed Abbasi posing in a group photo at the Walima ceremony of Afreez Abbasi.



#### British Diplomat Attaur Rehman Chishti visits Kashmir Institute of Management, calls it "Regional Hub" for leadership training

👺 Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: Kashmir Institute of Management (KIM) was honoured to receive a visit from Barrister Atta-ur-Rehman Chishti, a prominent Kashmiri-origin British politician and diplomat.

Barrister Chishti, who hails from District Muzaffarabad, Azad Jammu and Kashmir, has served as Assistant Secretary for Foreign Affairs and has a vast professional experience, which includes: Strategic Advisor, Visiting Professor at American and British Universities, Former Member of the British Parliament, UK Prime Minister's Special Envoy for International Reli-



gious Freedom, Prime Minister's Trade Envoy, and is a Barrister by profession.

During the visit, Barrister Chishti was warmly welcomed by Director General Kashmir Institute of Management, Dr. Muqeem-ul-Islam, along with senior faculty members and staff of the institution. He acknowledged that the institution can play a significant role as a regional hub for academic and professional development.

At the end of the visit, Barrister Chishti toured various departments and facilities of the institution and met with the staff of the institution. On this occasion, Director General KIM Dr. Mugeemul Islam presented a commemorative shield of KIM to commemorate

#### Shabir Ahmed Shah: The "Prisoner of Conscience" and Kashmir's Voice of Defiance

跨 Ghulamullah Kiyani

habir Ahmed Shah—often described by Amnesty International as a "Prisoner of Conscience"—has spent more than 37 years of his life behind bars, making him one of the world's longest-detained political prisoners. Today, at the age of 70+, he languishes in New Delhi's Tihar Jail, where he has been held since July 2017 under cases widely criticized as politically motivated.

#### **Early Life & Political Awakening**

- Born in 1953 in South Kashmir's Islamabad (Anantnag), Shah entered politics at a very young age
- He co-founded the Young Men's League in the late 1960s and later joined the Jammu and Kashmir People's
- His leadership role in protests against the 1975 Indira-Abdullah Accord and the 1982 Quit Kashmir Movement made him a target of

**Cycle of Arrests & Mass Resistance** 



- By the early 1980s, Shah had already faced dozens of arrests.
- During an international cricket match in Srinagar in October 1983, he led demonstrations against Indian rule, again resulting in jail time.
- The rigged 1987 J&K elections, widely documented by scholars and international observers, pushed the Valley into turmoil. Shah's uncompro-

- mising stance made him a central figure
- Recognition & Popular Support
- Amnesty International and global human rights groups acknowledged him as a "Prisoner of Conscience"—jailed not for crimes but for political beliefs.
- In 1994, following his release, Shah received a heroic reception; former RAW chief A. S. Dulat even admitted that people followed him "like a Pied
- His politics were rooted in dialogue, unity, and the right to self-determination—not violence. He rejected offers of political power, economic perks, and even refused to accept an Indian passport, underscoring his principles.
- **Continuous Persecution** • Between 1990 and 2017, Shah was
- arrested or detained over 30 times. · His properties were confiscated, and he faced constant raids and harassment. • During the 2008, 2010, and 2016
- mass uprisings, he was either jailed or under house detention. • In 2017, he was arrested in a 2005 case from which an Indian court had

already acquitted him. Since then, he has been in Tihar Jail, denied bail despite the National Investigation Agency (NIA) failing to provide substantive evidence. **Symbol of Unyielding Defiance** 

- · Shabir Shah is often hailed as "Kashmir's Nelson Mandela."
- · His life reflects an unwavering belief that no solution within the Indian Constitution can substitute the Kashmiri people's right to self-determination, a right guaranteed under UN Security Council resolutions (1948, 1949).
- Even in captivity, Shah remains a symbol of moral courage, sacrifice, and resilience-a leader who placed collective cause above personal gain.

  The Bigger Picture

Shah's silencing is not about one man-it is part of a broader Indian state strategy to: Crush dissent.

- Neutralize indigenous leadership,
- Erase Kashmiris' political identity. Yet, his story continues to inspire new generations, reaffirming that the spirit of

resistance in Kashmir cannot be jailed.





## **Namaz Timings**

#### **EMERGENCY**

Rescue (Police)	15
Bomb Disposal	15
Fire Services Rawalpindi	i/
Islamabad	1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance.	1122 &
& Rescue Services	4451122
Motorway Police	9266044
Motorway Police9	270601-20

#### **Women Police**

Statio	NS
Islamabad	9222590
Rawalpindi	9270601-20

#### **FNOURY**

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

#### HOSPITALS

CMH	5611111
MH	561116
MH	561116
Cantt Hospital	9270907-11
DHQ	5556311-4
RGH	9290301-7
Holy Family	9290322-7

Rickshaw driver arrested for harassing schoolgirls in Attock

#### **Example 2** Correspondent

ATTOCK:, Attock: Police in Pindigheb have arrested a rickshaw driver accused of harassing schoolgirls on their way to school. According to police, a woman, identified as H. Bibi, submitted a written complaint to Pindigheb police stating that her two young daughters, both students, were repeatedly stopped and harassed by a rickshaw driver who also issued threats.

Acting on the complaint, police registered a case and launched an immediate operation. The suspect, identified as Muhammad Ijaz, son of Ghulam Rasool and resident of Mohallah Shah Wala Kunwan, Pindigheb, was arrested.

Police officials said the investigation is underway and assured that strict action will be taken in accordance with the law.

## Bridging Ideas and Policy: PIDE Opens Doors to New Scholars

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) celebrated Orientation Day 2025 at its campus in Islamabad, warmly welcoming a new cohort of MPhil and PhD scholars embarking on their academic journey. The event featured orientation sessions, book stalls showcasing PIDE's extensive research output,

documentary screenings, and interactive engagements to familiarize students with academic rules and regulations.

Delivering the keynote address, Federal Minister for Planning, Development & Special Initiatives and Chancellor PIDE. Prof. Ahsan Iqbal Chaudhary (NI), welcomed the new scholars and emphasized that joining PIDE is not merely the start of an academic journey but an opportunity to shape Pakistan's future through research, innovation, and policy engage-

Prof. Ahsan Iqbal expressed pride in having contributed to PIDE's expansion,

PAKISTAN INSTITUTE OF DEVELOPMENT **ECONOMICS** 

envisioning it as a hub that nurtures a new generation of economists capable of strengthening the foundations of Pakistan's progress. Drawing lessons from history, he observed that Pakistan had once been ahead of regional peers through development plans like Vision 2010 and Vision 2025 but faltered due to political instability and inconsistent policies. While countries such as China, Vietnam, and Bangladesh advanced steadily, Pakistan missed key opportunities, resulting in slower industrial growth, stagnant exports, and developmental setbacks. He stressed that Pakistan now stands at research hub in Pakistan.

a "fourth flight" in its development journey, where success depends on policy stability, continuity, and collective national effort.

The program concluded with refreshments, offering students, faculty, and guests an opportunity to interact informally. With this orientation. PIDE reaffirmed its mission to nurture thought leaders, foster innovation, and provide evidence-based solutions to Pakistan's pressing socio-eco-

nomic challenges. Earlier, in his welcome address, Vice Chancellor Dr. Nadeem Javaid (SI) congratulated the newly admitted scholars for securing admission through a highly competitive process, noting that more than 600 applications were received, and after rigorous screening, 110 candidates were selected for the PhD and MPhil programs.

Dr. Karim Khan, Dean Academics, in his introductory remarks shared PIDE's institutional journey and emphasized the institute's role as a premier think tank and

#### Welfare aid for flood affected people

ISLAMABAD: Volunteers are busy packing the welfare aid for flood affected people at Masjid Rehmatlil Alameen F-8/4, Islamabad before departure to the different parts of the Punjab, from the Federal Capital.

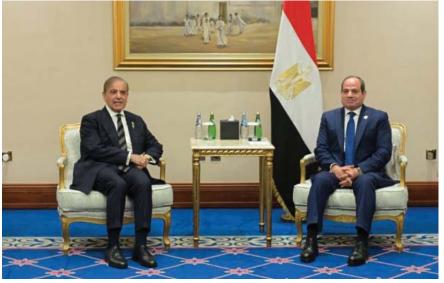


Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

#### PM meets Egypt president; says Arab Summit vital step to show Muslim world unity

DOHA: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday met with President of Egypt Abdel Fattah El Sisi wherein he called the Doha Arab-Islamic Summit as an important step to demonstrate unity within the ranks of the Muslim world against Israel which must be held accountable for its behavior.

In the meeting, held on the sidelines of the Emergency Arab-Islamic Summit convened here following Israel's recent attack on Qatar, the prime minister conveyed Pakistan's strongest condemnation of Israeli aggression against Qatar on September 9 and also appreciated Egypt's proactive diplomacy at this difficult juncture.



and Foreign Minister Senator Field Marshal Syed Asim were also present in the

Deputy Prime Minister Muhammad Ishaq Dar and Munir, Chief of Army Staff

Both leaders expressed their solidarity with Qatar and termed the violation of its sovereignty and territorial integrity by Israel as reckless and a blatant violation of international law.

Recalling his meeting with the Egyptian President last December at the D-8 Summit in Cairo, as well as their telephone conversations on the occasion of Eid earlier this year, the prime minister reaffirmed Pakistan's desire to enhance its bilateral relations with Egypt, particularly in the areas of trade, investment and health.

The two leaders agreed to continue to remain in close contact, particularly in view of the regional situation.

#### We condemn Israeli aggression on Doha: Chaudhry Inaam Zafar

👺 City Desk

RAWALPINDI: Political and social leader Chaudhry Inaam Zafar stated that he strongly condemns the Israeli action targeting Hamas leaders in Doha, the capital of Qatar. He emphasized that Pakistan must take a firm stance at the Arab-Islamic Summit Conference. If it fails to do so, other Muslim countries may also face similar acts of aggression in the future.

In a significant statement, he said that after Palestine and Iran, the Israeli attack on Doha is deeply concerning. The assault on members of a negotiation delegation and the martyrdom of security personnel is highly condemnable. He welcomed



the fact that Arab nations have shown

a positive response to this attack. Chaudhry Inaam Zafar added that Pakistan's participation in the emergency summit of OIC member states' leaders, convened in light of the Israeli airstrikes on Doha and the escalating Palestinian conflict, is commendable. He stressed the need for Pakistan to adopt a well-considered and clear position in view of the current situ-

He further said that the Awaam-e-Pakistan Party strongly condemns the targeting of Hamas leaders in Doha and urges international organizations to take this matter seriously and play a constructive role in addressing it.

#### Govt workers in Attock to receive accelerated medical coverage following idc lab agreement

👺 Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK:, Deputy Commissioner Attock, Rao Atif Raza, has said that the district administration is committed to the welfare of government employees in Attock. He expressed these views on the occasion of signing an MoU with Islamabad Diagnostic Lab Attock.

On this occasion, Additional Deputy Commissioner General Attock, Anil Saeed, Additional Deputy Commissioner Finance and Planning, Nosheen Israr, Regional Supervisor IDC Lab Attock, Hammad Raheem, and officers from various government departments were also present.

While giving a briefing, Regional Supervisor IDC Lab Attock, Hammad Raheem, informed that Islamabad Diagnostic Lab will provide special services across Pakistan to government employees of district Attock and their families. Special discounts will be given on all blood tests, MRI, CT scans, and X-rays. In addition, adequate coverage will also be provided in case of accidents.

The DC Attock termed this MoU as a very welcome step and expressed hope that the district administration and IDC Lab will continue to take initiatives together for public welfare.

#### Global experts convene at LUMS for an academic and policy conference on development economics

跨 Bureau Report

KARACHI,: Leading economists, policy-makers, and development practitioners from around the world convened at LUMS this week for the three-day G\*LM|LIC/Path2Dev/BREAD Academic & Policy Conference on Development Economics, which highlighted cuttingedge research on the world's most pressing development issues, with

Organized jointly by the Gender, Growth and Labour Markets in Low-Income Countries (G\*LM|LIC) programme, the Bureau for Research and Economic Analysis of Development (BREAD), IZA Institute of Labor Economics, together with the Chaudhry Nazar Muhammad Department of Economics at the Mushtaq Ahmad Gurmani School of Humanities and Social Sciences and the Mahbub ul Haq Research Centre at LUMS, the Institute of Development Studies at the University of Sussex (IDS), the Institute of Development and Economic Alternatives (IDEAS), the International Growth Centre (IGC), the Consortium for Development Policy Research (CDPR), and the Centre for Economic Research in Pakistan (CERP), the conference set out to bridge rigorous research and practical policy solutions.

The conference also featured a mentorship program, which brought junior researchers, particularly from South Asia, into dialogue with senior scholars. Panel discussions brought academics in conversation with policymakers, including Hamed Ateeq Sarwar (Member, IRS), Umme Laila Azhar (Chairperson, NCSW), Ahmed Khan (CEO, PSDF), among others, to find actionable pathways toward development.

Maroof A. Syed, President and CEO of CERP, Dr. Imran Rasul, Professor, University College London, Dr. Sheheryar Banuri, Associate Professor, University of East Anglia also speck on the occasion.

#### SMEDA to help raise export of hunting & sporting swords up to USD100 ML



Commerce Desk

LAHORE: The Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority (SMEDA) will facilitate the hunting and sporting swords and accessories manufacturers for enhancing export of the sector from USD 13.5 million to USD 100 million under the leadership of PM and the SAPM. It was assured by Mr. Socrat Aman Rana, Chief Executive Officer of SMEDA while addressing a delegation of the Hunting and Sporting Knives, Swords and Accessories Association of Pakistan in a meeting held at SMEDA head office today. The delegation was led by Mr. Nadeem Ahmed Warraich, Chairman of the Association. Senior officials of SMEDA also accompanied CEO SMEDA on this occasion.

CEO SMEDA said that promoting exports and employments through SME development is the prime agenda of present government and the Prime Minister of Pakistan. SMEDA is striving hard to achieve the goals set by the government in this regard, he said and assured to overcome the barriers hindering export promotion in the Hunting and Sporting Knives and Swords manufacturing sector.

Mr. Rana informed that SMEDA had developed a number of initiatives including E-Support Program and Export Readiness Program to enable SME sector for making more contribution in the national

#### PMD issues high-risk dengue alert amid flooding and monsoon conditions

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) has warned of an unprecedentedly high risk of a severe dengue outbreak in the country this season, particularly from September 20 to early Decem-

ber, due to favorable weather conditions and widespread flooding. According to PMD's Dengue Alert-I, dengue fever has become a persistent public health threat over the past decade, with major outbreaks typically reported during the post-monsoon season.

Scientific analysis shows that dengue risk intensifies when temperatures remain between 26–29 C for 3–5 weeks, relative humidity exceeds 60%, and rainfall surpasses 27 mm with a lag effect of up to three weeks. Dengue mosquitoes are most active two hours after sunrise and two hours before sunset, while their breeding slows only when tempera-

tures fall below 16 C. This year, prolonged heavy rains, river overflows, and water releases from reservoirs have inundated large parts of Punjab and Sindh, including urban centers. Villages remain submerged, millions are

displaced, and shelters are overcrowded. The resulting stagnant water and poor drainage have created highly conducive conditions for mosquito breeding and dengue transmission. PMD cautioned that the combined impact of favorable weather

for dengue onset from September 20, 2025. The risk is particularly high in Karachi, Lahore, Islamabad, Faisalabad, Sialkot, Rawalpindi, Peshawar, Sukkur, Hyderabad, and Multan, as well as across flood-affected areas nationwide.

thresholds and flood-related waterlogging has made conditions ripe

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#### Pakistan stands in complete solidarity with govt, people of **Qatar**

eputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Muhammad Ishaq Dar Sunday said Pakistan stood in complete solidarity with the government and people of Qatar and fully supported their inalienable right to take all necessary measures, in accordance with the UN Charter to defend their sovereignty, territorial integrity and the safety of all persons within their territory.

In a statement made at the Preparatory Ministerial Meeting of the Emergency Arab-Islamic Summit here, he said, "Pakistan condemns, in the strongest possible terms, the illegal and unprovoked Israeli aggression against the brotherly State of Qatar."

"This reckless and provocative attack constitutes a flagrant violation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Qatar, contrary to the fundamental principles of international law including the UN Charter, in particular its article 2(4) prohibiting the threat or use of force," he explained.

He said, "As the Prime Minister of Pakistan has stated, this act of aggression by Israel is unjustified, and constitutes a most dangerous provocation that could imperil regional peace and stability.'

"The Israeli strike against a sovereign state that has been actively partaking in the ongoing mediation efforts along with the US and Egypt, to reach a ceasefire in the Occupied Palestinian Territories is unwarranted, unjustified, and appalling," he said adding, "It also exposes Israel's rogue mindset that disregards every tenet of global law and norms. Israel's actions reek of an unabashed aggressor that is hell bent on achieving its heinous objectives and is unbothered if that pursuit topples the entire edifice of international order."

"No state is safe from such an unhinged entity that defies all precepts of civilized behaviour," he remarked.

The Deputy Prime Minister said, "Israel's unspeakable atrocities against the Palestinians over the last almost two years are another testament to the limits it can breach in implementing its evil designs."

"Israel has become a persistent irritant and a danger to world peace and security," he noted.

"No measure of global outcry, scrutiny, protest or accountability could be enough to rein in the Israeli barbarity in Gaza. Israel's increasing illegal incursions in the regional countries without any remorse or fear of liability have set a dangerous trend which must be put to a decisive stop. The Arab-Islamic world must hold hands in thrusting a united front to the brazen Israeli hostility in the region," he continued.

"Pakistan remains steadfast in its commitment to the cause of global peace. As an elected member of the UN Security Council, Pakistan will continue to work with the OIC and Arab partners to mobilize global support towards this end," he concluded.

#### Pakistan's Voice of Conscience at the UN

**Qamar Bashir** 

endless speeches, moments arise that define not only the speaker but the nation behind him. Such a moment recently came when Pakistan's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Asim Iftikhar, stood before the world and dismantled Israel's attempt to misuse Pakistan's sacrifices in the fight against terrorism to justify its indiscriminate assault on Gaza. His intervention not only forced an unprecedented apology from Israel's ambassador, Danny Danon, but also reaffirmed Pakistan's moral authority as the voice of conscience for the Muslim world and for oppressed people everywhere.

For me, this triumph was not just a matter of national pride but also personal reflection. Two years ago, while waiting for an audience with President Arif Alvi in Islamabad, I met Ambassador Asim Iftikhar as he prepared to assume his responsibilities as Pakistan's envoy to France. In those quiet minutes, I found him to be articulate, deeply thoughtful, and radiating professionalism. There was in his demeanor a rare blend of intellectual precision and quiet confidence, qualities that I felt would take him far in representing Pakistan. That impression, formed in the corridors of the presidency, has since been vindicated in the most remarkable way, culminating in his recent performance at the United Nations where he shone not only as Pakistan's voice but as the spokesperson of the Muslim world.

The confrontation that revealed his strength of character unfolded when the Israeli ambassador attempted to draw an analogy between Israel's bombardment of Gaza and the U.S. operation in Abbottabad, Pakistan, which killed Osama bin Laden. It was a deliberate distortion, intended to cloak genocide in the language of counterterrorism, and it invoked Pakistan's history in a way

world that Pakistan had been a frontline state in the global fight against terrorism. losing more than seventy thousand men, women, and children, dismantling terror networks, and rendering sacrifices unmatched by any other nation. "Pakistan's record," he declared, "is bright, recognized worldwide, and written in the blood of its martyrs." He then turned the analogy on its head, pointing out with

clarity that invoking Pakistan's sacrifices to justify the mass killing of innocents in Gaza was "outrageous, incoherent, and morally indefensible," for what Israel was doing was not counterterrorism but genocide, ethnic cleansing, and the conversion of Gaza into a slaughterhouse.

The chamber fell silent. Rarely does rhetoric give way to truth so powerfully, and rarely is propaganda so effectively exposed. The weight of his words left Israel's representative cornered, and in a rare act of contrition, Danny Danon publicly apologized to Pakistan, admitting that invoking its name had been inappropriate. It was more than a diplomatic win; it was a narrative triumph, a moment where Pakistan's honor was defended, its sacrifices acknowledged, and Israel's distortion dismantled. For Pakistan, it was a reminder of the power of words when spoken with conviction, and for the Muslim world, it was proof that a principled voice could still rise above the noise of power politics.

This intervention was not an isolated act but part of a larger continuum of Ambassador Iftikhar's work. Again and again at the United Nations, he has projected the suffering of Gaza and the West Bank with unflinching clarity. In June this year, he declared before that was both misleading and offensive. the General Assembly that "the situ-

sand lives have been lost, including eighteen thousand children and twenty-eight thousand women. Infrastructure has been razed-homes, hospitals, schools, cultural heritage, places of worship. Famine looms. Humanitarian workers and UN personnel are being attacked with impunity. This is not just a humanitarian catastrophe; it is a collapse of humanity." These were not the

words of a man speaking only for Pakistan. They were the words of a diplomat mobilizing the conscience of the world, urging not only the Muslim community but all of civilization to act, to recognize that without justice there can be no peace. He has

repeatedly called for the only viable solution: the realization of a two-state solution on pre-1967 borders, with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as the capital of a sovereign, independent, and contiguous State of

By vividly describing demolished schools, destroyed hospitals, displaced families, starving children, and the blockade of humanitarian aid, he has carried the Palestinian tragedy from the rubble of Gaza to the chambers of the United Nations, where it cannot be ignored. He has mobilized not just the Muslim world but also neutral states, civil society, and even hesitant Western capitals to rethink their silence. His interventions have contributed to the momentum behind resolutions in the General Assembly, including Pakistan's pivotal role in the historic vote affirming the two-state solution, a success story of multilateral diplomacy where Pakistan President (Rtd), Former Press Minister, once again played a leading role.

His diplomacy is marked by dignity. In confronting Israel, he did not descend into anger or hyperbole. Instead, he

n the crowded halls of diplomacy, Ambassador Iftikhar rose with words ation in Gaza is a stain on our collec- marshaled facts, invoked moral clarity, where words often drown in that pierced the façade. He reminded the tive conscience. Over fifty-five thou- and exposed propaganda with surgical precision. He reminded the world that the fight against terrorism cannot be equated with the slaughter of innocent civilians, and in doing so, he not only defended Pakistan's honor but also gave voice to the millions of Palestinians trapped under bombardment and occupation. His words carried the weight of truth, and truth compelled even Israel, often shielded by its allies, to apologize.

> This was Pakistan at its finest-firm, dignified, principled. It was not just defending its own history but championing the cause of justice for Palestine, exposing tyranny, and mobilizing the conscience of the world. For me, watching this unfold brought back that first impression I had of him in Islamabad, a man destined to leave his mark. He has not only fulfilled that promise but exceeded it, standing tall as a diplomat whose words moved nations and whose voice gave hope to the oppressed.

The United Nations may often be a theater of speeches with little consequence, but sometimes, words alter the moral landscape. Through Ambassador Asim Iftikhar, Pakistan has shown that truth, when spoken with conviction, can silence distortion, compel apologies, and remind the world that dignity and justice still matter. In that chamber, Pakistan's voice was heard and respected. It was the voice of a nation that has suffered and sacrificed, yet continues to stand for justice—not only for itself but for all oppressed peoples. And in that moment, Pakistan reminded the world that diplomacy, at its best, is not about power but about conscience, and that conscience. when articulated with courage, can still shake the foundations of injustice.

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#### Recent Floods in Punjab and the Relief Activities of Private Welfare Organizations

areas of Punjab have been severely hit by devastating floods. Thousands of villages along the banks of the Sutlej, Ravi, and Chenab rivers were submerged, millions of people were displaced, and vast agricultural lands were destroyed. These floods not only affected human lives children, "child-friendly spaces" were created and property but also shook the economy where they could play and participate in recreand social structure. At such a time, when

government institutions were struggling to cope with the crisis, private welfare organizations and NGOs stepped forward, playing a crucial role in supporting the lives of the victims.

When the floodwaters suddenly entered different regions of Punjab, thousands of families lost their homes.

Many were forced to take shelter under the open sky, and the immediate need arose for food, clean water, medicines, and clothing. At that critical juncture, government machinery alone could not handle the scale of the crisis, so private welfare organizations-initiated relief activities.

**Muhammad Asif** 

The floods also disrupted children's education. Many schools were washed away or turned into shelters for displaced families. To fill this gap, welfare organizations established temporary learning centers where children were given basic education. Some organizations also distributed books, notebooks, and stationery

to help children continue their studies. Flood victims, especially children and women, were deeply traumatized. The loss of homes and loved ones created fear and uncertainty in their lives. Recognizing this, several

regain hope and encouraged them to move forward with a positive outlook.

Women and children were among the most vulnerable groups. Private organizations established secure tents for women, where their unique needs were addressed separately. For ational activities to reduce their trauma.

Private welfare organizations did not restrict their efforts to local resources alone; they also collaborated with international bodies. Overseas Pakistanis and global donors contributed financial aid and relief goods, which were delivered to the victims. This cooperation significantly enhanced the effectiveness of relief oper-

Another noteworthy aspect was that many organizations ensured transparency in their funding and relief efforts. Daily reports, social media updates, and videos were shared to show how donations were being used. This openness increased public trust and encouraged more

It is also important to mention that in many cases, the government cooperated with private organizations. In some districts, local administration and NGOs jointly ran relief camps. However, in certain places, a lack of coordination created difficulties. For the future, it is essential that the government and welfare organizations establish an integrated system to ensure a rapid and effective response to natural

To tackle disasters like floods, temporary welfare organizations included psychologists in relief efforts alone are not enough; long-term their teams to provide mental health support. planning is essential. Private organizations, in

n recent days, various districts and rural Group sessions and counseling helped victims collaboration with the government, can launch awareness campaigns to educate people about risks and preventive measures. Moreover, there is a pressing need to build stronger infrastructure, dams, protective embankments, and adopt modern agricultural methods in flood-prone areas to reduce damages in the future.

Locals participated enthusiastically in this campaign, especially when Dr. Tahir-ul-Qadri, founder of a religious organization, Minhajul-Quran, announced to celebrate the joys of Milad-un-Nabi (PBUH) through service to humanity. Then, under a revolutionary spirit of service, people worked day and night to help their brothers in distress, contributing as much as they could.

The government should also take such steps that are on a permanent basis. Dams and embankments should be built to prevent floods so that millions of people are not affected every year. This should be given first priority. Because this is also a defense, without it, our atomic bomb is meaningless. Is this less harmful than an atomic attack? The authorities should think so that if India commits any kind of water aggression, we are ready.

The recent floods in Punjab have once again proven that during natural disasters, it is not only government institutions but also private welfare organizations that stand as a shield for the people. These organizations supported victims in every sector, from food, medicine, shelter, education, and livestock recovery to psychological assistance. Their efforts not only saved lives but also set a powerful example of social harmony and cooperation. If, in the future, the government and welfare organizations work together under a well-coordinated strategy, the impact of such disasters can be significantly minimized.

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#### 'Ruins of Reflection and the Fall of Power: History's Eternal Lesson'

Khan Singhanvi

Greece, Andalusia, the Abbasids, the Ottomans, the Mughals, and later the Soviet Union and Britain displayed power, art, knowledge, and administrative brilliance at the height of their glory. Yet, it was their inner flaws that ultimately laid the foundation of their downfall. This is no historical coincidence; the Qur'an declares: "Such days We alternate among the people" (Āl-i-ʿImrān 3:140)

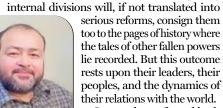
meaning that the turns of fortune alter the condition of nations, and these shifts are more often born of internal disease than of external invaders. Images, videos, and testimonies of the

oppressed reach every corner of the world within moments, carrying an impact far more enduring than military might or economic sanctions. Thus, swift reactions to tyranny and the isolation of unjust systems serve as alarm bells for any regime that chooses oppression over reform. Environmental crisis adds yet another perilous

dimension that can accelerate the downfall of even the mightiest powers. Ancient civilizations such as the Maya and the Indus Valley collapsed due to ecological mismanagement, famine, and the inequitable distribution of resources. Today, climate change, water scarcity, deforestation, and ocean pollution present the same looming threat. The Qur'an warns: "Corruption has appeared on land and sea because of what men's hands have wrought" (al-Rūm 30:41), reminding us that human deeds directly scar nature and become the very cause of a nation's destruction.

Nations that embrace justice, transparency, social welfare, and intellectual vision endure; those intoxicated with power who trample

his is a place of reflection, not of human rights, ignore internal decay, and disrespectacle the ruins of history are gard environmental balance march inevitably not merely remnants of the past, toward ruin. In the cases of the United States but solemn warnings for the future. and Israel, rising global opposition, criticism The world's grand empires Rome, from human rights institutions, and deepening



One truth, confirmed both in the Qur'an and in tradition, is that thrones cannot be sustained by injustice: "A kingdom may endure with

disbelief, but it cannot endure with oppression." The lesson is clear the survival of nations depends not only on military or economic might but also on justice, human dignity, and collective welfare. If today's global powers fail to absorb this lesson, tomorrow's ruins will simply add another chapter to history's relentless cycle.

The future will be shaped by multiple factors: geopolitical multipolarity, rising economic challengers, the power of global public opinion, environmental pressures, and the transparency wrought by technology. All these suggest that the lifespan of power grows ever shorter unless grounded in moral and social foundations. In the end, the Qur'anic guidance resounds: "Indeed, Allah does not change the condition of a people until they change what is within themselves" (al-Ra'd 13:11). Nations alter their destiny by altering themselves. That is the message the ruins of the past proclaim, take heed, establish justice, safeguard humanity and the environment, or else history will remember you too but only as

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a cautionary tale.

## Pakistan joins 150 countries to protect 13 million girls from cervical cancer with WHOprequalified vaccine

**Spokesman Report** 

Organization (WHO) joined today the Government of Pakistan's Federal Directorate of Immunization (FDI) Alliance, and UNICEF. Pakistan now our girls," said the federal minister. joins more than 150 countries that have included this WHO-prequalified vaccine in their immunization in a campaign that targets girls aged schedules, safeguarding the health of future generations.

forward in strengthening women's health and advancing Pakistan's at least 90% of 13 million eligible girls commitment with the World Health Assembly's goal to eliminate cervical the vaccine into routine immunizacancer as a public health problem by tion for 9-year-old girls in subsequent

Mustafa Kamal presided over the ISLAMABAD: The World Health launching ceremony as the chief guest. "This vaccination drive for girls aged 9 to 14 years is an important step towards safeguarding their to launch the country's first-ever future health. I urge all parents to Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vacci- ensure their daughters and sisters are nation campaign to protect 13 million vaccinated. Do not fall prey to negaadolescent girls from cervical cancer tive campaigns. This vaccine is safe, in partnership with Gavi, the Vaccine effective, and essential for protecting

Over 49,000 health workers trained by WHO will be mobilized 9-14 years across Punjab, Sindh, Pakistan-administered Kashmir, The campaign marks a major leap and Islamabad Capital Territory in its first phase. The goal is to vaccinate during this campaign and integrate years. The phased introduction of the

Federal Health Minister Syed HPV vaccine will pave the way for its will be conducted at fixed centers, eventual rollout in other provinces and areas (including Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in 2026, and Balochistan and Gilgit-Baltistan in 2027).

"In Pakistan, we lose 8 women every day due to cervical cancer. WHO is proud to work with Pakistan, and partners like Gavi and UNICEF, to protect 13 million of girls from cervical cancer by introducing the human papillomavirus vaccine this September, and to protect over 17 million by 2027. The HPV vaccine, prequalified by WHO, is a safe, science-based and effective protection against cervical cancer, with a long history of saving lives in over 150 countries, including Muslim countries. Providing this vaccine is investing in a healthier future for every girl, for their future families, and for the entire nation," said WHO Representative in Pakistan Dr. Dapeng Luo.

The HPV Vaccination Campaign

outreach sites and schools, and through mobile/special vaccination teams. Outreach vaccination sites will be established in distant areas and special vaccination teams will be deployed to reach high-risk and underserved populations. The HPV vaccine will be available for free for all eligible girls.

"A single dose of the HPV vaccine can prevent most cases of cervical cancer. Yet every two minutes, a woman loses her life to this disease, including thousands in Pakistan each year," said Thabani Maphosa, Chief Country Delivery Officer at Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance. "Thanks to the leadership of the Government of Pakistan and the commitment of our partners, we now have the chance to reshape the future of women's health in the country, giving millions of girls the power to protect their lives and pursue



their dreams.

"Today marks a historic step for Pakistan's girls and young women. The HPV vaccine can protect millions of women of tomorrow from a preventable and life-threatening disease by vaccinating the girls of today and giving them the chance to grow, learn, stan to build a future where no woman and thrive without the fear of cervical

cancer. UNICEF is proud to work with the Government of Pakistan alongside our partners WHO and Gavi for the health of future generations," said Pernille Ironside, UNICEF Representative in Pakistan.

WHO stands side by side with Pakihas to suffer from cervical cancer.

Indonesian govt pushes four strategies to boost higher education

**₿** BelTA

JAKARTA,: The Indonesian government has outlined four strategies to strengthen universities' role in national development, stressing that higher education must deliver tangible bene-

Deputy Minister for Higher Education, Science, and Technology Fauzan said that the strategies include improving governance, leadership, and talent development; advancing academic transformation and curriculum digitalization; sustaining innovation and research ecosystems; and expanding collaboration among government, academia, industry, the public, and the media.

He emphasized that research should not stop at the prototype stage but must be developed into real solutions that people can use.

He also referred to President Prabowo Subianto's eight national missions, or Asta Cita, which position science and talent as the foundation for self-suffi-



are ready to meet global challenges.

To achieve this, the ministry has intro-

on solving real-world problems.

ciency. Fauzan said higher education is duced policies to make higher education interinstitutional collaboration to build by 2045.

that can drive national progress and help Fauzan expressed hope for stronger realize the vision of a Golden Indonesia

#### Uzbekistan unveils new investment vision for Khorezm region

**Kazinform** 

TASHKENT: Over the past eight years, Uzbekistan has attracted \$2 billion in investment, opened more than 25,000 industrial enterprises, and increased industrial production in the Khorezm region by 2.2 times, Trend reports.

These achievements were highlighted to President Shavkat Mirziyoyev during a included the installation of 4,751 New projects, proposed by local presentation on the effectiveness of regional reforms and future development plans for Khorezm.

During this period, 660 apartment buildings were constructed, providing new housing for 21,000 families.



kilometers of water networks and 206 kilometers of sewage systems, ensuring, for the first drinking water for 580,000

To further advance these Infrastructure improvements headquarters was established. company has expressed read-the internal reserves of the

entrepreneurs, were also high-

lighted during the presentation. Among them, a project for time, access to centralized electricity generation through waste incineration in Urgench district is planned with \$100 million in investment from initiatives, a regional reform South Korea. An Australian at \$86 million funded through

iness to invest \$820 million in the construction of a plant in Tuprakkala district, which will produce 600,000 tons of eco-friendly aviation fuel and 50,000 tons of "green diesel." The project also includes the installation of solar panels with a total capacity of 5 gigawatts over 5,500 hectares to supply the plant with energy.

Additionally, a Slovak company intends to invest \$170 million in rapeseed cultivation on 5,000 hectares and the construction of a biofuel production plant in the same district. In total, new projects worth \$2.4 billion have been prepared for Khorezm, alongside additional initiatives valued

region's cities and districts.

President instructed authorities to create all necessary conditions for investors and to accelerate the implementation of these projects. He emphasized that the region's industrial zones remain underutilized and stressed the need to resolve infrastructure and land allocation challenges to launch over

100 new projects. Given Khorezm's strategic geographic location, the President of Uzbekistan highlighted the importance of careful planning of industrial directions and mobilizing the region's internal potential. Discussions also focused on promoting entrepreneurship and reducing the shadow economy.

#### Nadeem Abbas Loonay Wala's O2 Indigo Show Cancelled Amid Chaos - Fans Demand Refunds

**B** Chaudhry Tabraiz Aurah

LONDON: The highly anticipated Pakistani music concert at London's O2 Indigo, featuring renowned singer Nadeem Abbas Loonay Wala and legendary artist Azra Jehan, was abruptly cancelled, leaving hundreds of fans shocked and disap-

According to eyewitnesses, a clash erupted between members of the audience and security staff during the performance, creating panic inside the venue. As the situation escalated, the event management decided to call off the show midway.

Angry fans have demanded immediate refunds from the promoter, Shoaib Alam, warning that if ticket money is not returned voluntarily, they reserve the right to pursue civil legal action.

A video circulating on social media shows a security guard claiming, "The promoter told us to remove you." The footage has fueled further criticism and frustration among attendees.

Efforts were made to contact promoter Shoaib Alam for his response, but he could not be reached by the time of publication.

Observers note that event insurance is mandatory in the UK to safeguard organizers and companies against financial losses in such unforeseen circumstances. Fans, however, insist that transparency and proper management are essential in overseas Pakistani shows to restore public confidence.

#### S. Korean food firm Geltech selected as official supplier to **WFP**

**№** Yonhap

SEOUL: South Korean food company Geltech has been selected as an official supplier of fortified rice kernels (FRK) by the World Food Programme (WFP), the Seoul government said Monday.



This marks the first time

a South Korean agro-food company has officially entered the United Nations' food procurement market, according to the Public Procure-

FRKs are processed rice granules made by blending rice flour with a premix of essential vitamins and minerals, and shaping them into rice-like grains.

Geltech will supply 201 tons of FRK to the WFP, the agency said, adding that they will be mixed with 20,064 tons of rice bound for Bangladesh next month for distribution to refugees.

"This is more than just an act of food aid but the first official case of a South Korean agro-food company entering the procurement market of an international organization," said Lee Hung-sik, an official at the PPS.

#### PAEC Chairman Stresses Pakistan's Climate Vulnerability and Contributions at 69th IAEA General Conference

**Spokesman Report** 

VIENNA: Chairman Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC), Dr. Raja Ali Raza Anwar, delivered Pakistan's National Statement at the Plenary Session of the 69th General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Vienna.

At the outset, Dr. Anwar congratulated the newly elected officers of the General Conference and welcomed the Republic of Maldives on joining the Agency.

Referring to the global climate challenge, he underlined that Pakistan, despite being among the lowest carbon emitters, is highly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change. He committed to international efforts for reducing climate-related risks and is making significant contributions through the vulnerable to climate change.

peaceful uses of nuclear tech-

The Chairman informed the Conference that Pakistan has six nuclear power plants in operation with a total capacity of 3,530 MW. In the past year, nuclear power accounted for 18.3% of the country's electricity mix and represented 34% of low-carbon energy production, helping avoid nearly 15 million tonnes of CO emissions annually. He added that a new 1200 MW nuclear power plant (C-5) is under construction and expected to be operational by 2030.

Highlighting Pakistan's 108 reactor-years of safe, secure, and fully safeguarded nuclear power operations, Dr. Anwar emphastressed that Pakistan remains sized the importance of unrestricted collaboration and fair access to civil nuclear technologies, particularly for nations most

support for the IAEA's initiatives, including Atom for Net Zero, Rays of Hope, Atoms for Food, ZODIAC, and NUTEC Plastics, acknowledging their impact on sustainable development. He further elaborated on

Pakistan's achievements in the peaceful uses of nuclear technology. In the health sector, PAEC operates a network of 20 cancer hospitals which together perform over one million diagnostic and therapeutic procedures every year, serving more than 80% of the country's cancer patients. NORI, as an IAEA Anchor Center, has also trained a batch of international fellows under the Rays of Hope initiative. In agriculture, PAEC's four research institutes have developed over 150 high-yield and disease-resistant crop varieties through nuclear techniques. The

He reaffirmed Pakistan's strong Nuclear Institute for Agriculture and Biology (NIAB), an IAEA Collaborating Center, has made notable progress in cotton, wheat, rice, and chickpea research. Pakistan has also been selected among the first countries to benefit from the joint IAEA-FAO Atoms for Food initiative.

Turning to water security, Dr. Anwar noted that Pakistan has applied isotope hydrology to improve groundwater mapping and ensure sustainable resource management. PINSTECH, which has been designated as an IAEA Collaborating Center, contributes actively to the Agency's GloWAL network in this field. In education and training, he highlighted the role of PIEAS, another IAEA Collaborating Center, which continues to strengthen nuclear education by offering 20 fully funded international scholarships in nuclear science and technology,



ships under the IAEA's Marie Curie Fellowship Programme for 2025-26.

On nuclear safety and security, Dr. Anwar reaffirmed that tion license for C-5. Pakistan adheres strictly to the

Nuclear Regulatory Authority (PNRA) functions as an independent national regulator and has recently granted the construc-

He further informed that Pakihighest standards consistent with stan conducted its first National change.

Radiation Emergency Exercise in 2024, hosted the IAEA's ConvEx-2c, and actively participated in ConvEx-3 in 2025. The Pakistan Centre of Excellence in Nuclear Security (PCENS), under a Practical Arrangement with the IAEA, continues to play a vital role in national and international capacity building. He added that Pakistan will host the IAEA International Physical Protection Advisory Services (IPPAS) Mission and the IAEA Nuclear Security Support Centre (NSSC) meeting in 2026.

Concluding his statement, Dr. Anwar reaffirmed that Pakistan stands ready to further strengthen its partnership with the IAEA and Member States in advancing the peaceful uses of nuclear technology to promote sustainable development and address the challenges of climate

Tuesday, September 16, 2025



Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index		
Current	Prev. Close	
155,384.50	154,439.68	
Day's High	Day's Low	
155,602.29	154,486.21	
Index Value	Change	
20,312,530,257	+944.82	
Percentage	Time	
+0.61%	15 Sept, 2025 4:30 pm	
Europe: FTSE 100 Index		
Index Value	Change	

Index Value	Change
9,277.03	-6.26
Percentage	Time
-0.067%	15 Sept, 4:35 pm GMT+1
HOA. Dam James Industrial Assessment	

USA: Dow Jones I	ndustrial Average
Index Value	Change
45,868.30	+34.08
Percentage	Time
+0.074%	15 Sept, 12:37 pm GMT-4

ISIA PACITIC: NIKKEI STOCKS AVERAGE		
Index Value	Change	
44,768.12	+395.62	
Percentage	Time	
i crociitage	Tille	

#### Open Market Forex Rates

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	187	192
Bahrain Dinar	749.30	756.80
Canadian Dollar	203	208
China Yuan	39.36	39.76
Danish Krone	43.9	44.30
Euro	332.50	336.50
Hong Kong Dollar	36	36.35
Indian Rupee	3.13	3.22
Japanese Yen	1.8950	1.9950
Kuwaiti Dinar	916.90	925.90
Malaysian Ringgit	66.47	67.07
NewZealand \$	164.35	166.35
Norwegians Krone	27.97	28.27
Omani Riyal	733.90	741.40
Qatari Riyal	77.24	77.94
Saudi Riyal	75.40	76.40
Singapore Dollar	218.50	223.50
Swedish Korona	29.71	30.01
Swiss Franc	350.41	353.16
Thai Bhat	8.62	8.77
U.A.E Dirham	77.15	78.15
UK Pound Sterling	384.50	389.50
US Dollar	282.35	282.55

Chairman PEC **Announces** Reforms for Engineering Graduates at *UAJK* 



Commerce Desk

MUZAFFARABAD: Chairman Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) Engineer Waseem Nazir announced major reforms for engineering students and graduates during his visit to the University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (UAJK) on Monday.

He said PEC will soon launch an Engineering Graduates Placement Program and establish Pathway to Practice Desks at universities in Muzaffarabad, Rawalakot, and Mirpur. He also announced that Engineering Cards will be issued to students on their graduation day.

The Chairman disclosed that 1,000 Pakistani engineers will be sent to China for exposure and training. He said these initiatives are part of PEC's efforts to support graduates and strengthen the engineering profession.

Addressing students, Engineer Waseem Nazir stressed that education is not only a source of employment but also a way to become better human beings. He said technology has created equal opportunities for students worldwide but values and ethics must guide the use of knowledge.

Earlier, Registrar UAJK and Dean Faculty of Engineering welcomed the Chairman and gave an overview of the engineering programs offered at the university. Engineer Muhammad Sohail, in his presentation, briefed the audience about PEC's statutory framework, the national engineering landscape, industry insights, and pathways to practice.

#### ICCI, FPCCI Leadership Determined to Promote Pro-Business **Environment: Sardar Tahir Mehmood**

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: President Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) Atif Ikram Sheikh visited the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) on Monday to felicitate Sardar Tahir Mehmood, President ICCI, Tahir Ayub, Senior Vice President, and Mohammad Irfan Chaudhry, Vice President, on their unopposed election and assumption of offices. He extended warm congratulations to the newly elected leadership of ICCI and expressed his best wishes for their successful tenure.

Earlier, ICCI President Sardar Tahir Mehmood, along with Senior Vice President Tahir Ayub and Vice President Mohammad Irfan Chaudhry, paid a goodwill visit to FPCCI, presented a bouquet to the FPCCI President as a gesture of fraternity and solidarity between the two premier chambers.

The leadership of FPCCI and ICCI agreed hurdles, high cost of doing business, and chambers is essential to tackle regulatory



that close collaboration between the two other impediments that are hampering ated his commitment to strengthen mutual former SVP Khalid Chaudhry and others

FPCCI President Atif Ikram Shaikh reitercooperation and advocacy with the govern- were also present.

ment for pro-business policies that can boost investment, encourage industrial expansion, and enhance Pakistan's role in regional and global markets.

ICCI President Sardar Tahir Mehmood underscored the need for policy consistency, investment-friendly reforms, and improved ease of doing business to ensure sustainable development and competitiveness of Pakistan's economy.

He added that most of the issues of the business community of Islamabad are related to the Capital Development Authority (CDA) and that both the FPCCI and the ICCI will jointly work to overcome them to make the capital city an investment friendly place in real sense for the national as well international investors.

On this occasion former Vice President FPCCI Mohammad Ejaz Abbasi, Chairman Capital Office Karim Aziz Malik, Chairman Coordination Malik Sohail Hussain, ICCI executive Board member Zulgurnain Abbasi.

#### MoU Signing Ceremony

SHANGHAI, China: President Asif Ali Zardari, First Lady Bibi Aseefa Bhutto Zardari, and Chairman PPP Bilawal Bhutto Zardari witnessing the signing of an MoU between MFTC Coal Gasification & Manufacturing (Pvt) Ltd, represented by CEO Mr. Shahid Tawawalla, and Sino Sindh Resources



#### Dubai Islamic Bank Wins Shaukat Khanum Social Responsibility Award 2024

**Example 2** Commerce Desk

KARACHI,: Dubai Islamic Bank Pakistan (DIB), one of the leading Islamic banks in the country, has been honored with the Shaukat Khanum Social Responsibility Award 2024 by Shaukat Khanum Memorial Trust (SKMT) at a ceremony held in Karachi.

The award recognizes DIB's continued commitment to social responsibility and its dedicated support towards Shaukat Khanum Memorial Cancer Hospital and Research Centre (SKMCH&RC). Dubai Islamic Bank has played a pivotal role in supporting SKMT's initiatives, particularly its third and largest hospital in Karachi, which is set to open in 2026.

The Shaukat Khanum Social Responsibility Awards 2024 acknowledged the contributions of 49 esteemed organizations from diverse industries, highlighting their collective efforts towards creating a meaningful impact in society. Speaking on the occasion, Ms. Fariya

Zaeem, Head of Marketing, Dubai

Shaukat Khanum

progress is defined not only by financial success but by the positive difference we create in society.

Dr. Faisal Sultan, CEO of SKMT, society."

Islamic Bank Pakistan, said: "At Dubai expressed gratitude for the unwa-Islamic Bank, we believe that true vering commitment of donors, stating, "Helping the underprivileged, especially those you may never meet, reflects a beautiful, compassionate aspect of our

## **Policy Rate** Stance may derail government's growth plans, says SITE Chief

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: SITE Association of Industry (SAI) has strongly criticized the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) for maintaining the policy rate at 11%, warning that the decision could derail the government's efforts to stimulate economic activity and deter investment.

In a statement, President of the SITE Association of Industry, Ahmad Azeem Alvi, expressed deep concern over the central bank's decision, reiterating the business community's long standing demand to bring the policy rate down to single digits.



"Despite a consistent decline in inflation in recent months, the SBP has opted not to ease its monetary policy. This decision is disappointing and counterproductive, especially when the government is striving to revive economic momentum," said Alvi.

## ICCD Unveils 2nd



Commerce Desk

KARACHI: The Best of Entrepreneurship Series in Asia (BOE Asia) is set to propel the entrepreneurial landscape once again with its much-anticipated 2nd edition, scheduled for September 24, 2025, at Karachi Expo Centre, on the sidelines of the 26th ITCN

Building on the success of the inaugural edition "Agritech: Feeding the Future", which united 350 participants from 14 countries and featured 20 influential edition will focus on "Tech- areas of technology.

preneurship: Strategy, Innovation & Leadership", aiming to explore how technology is transforming entrepreneurship and fueling economic growth in Asia.

This event promises to gather the brightest minds in the tech industry, fostering collaboration and innovation across Asia. Participants will experience a comprehensive journey, including fruitful networking opportunities, enriching panel discussions as well as engaging workshops, with valuable insights into how technology can act as a catalyst for economic regional speakers, the 2nd renaissance, particularly in

## Australian High Commissioner visits Dawlance's First-Ever Female-Led Service Centre in Pakistan

**Example 2** Commerce Desk

MULTAN: Dawlance, Pakistan's leading home appliances brand and a subsidiary of Arcelik, welcomed the Australian High Commissioner to its female-led service center in Multan today.

The service centre holds a historic significance as Pakistan's first female-led franchise, successfully run by two inspiring entrepreneurs, Ms. Rimsha Yaqoob and Ms. Aliza Rukhsana. The initiative reflects ally male-dominated fields. Dawlance's strong commitment to women empowerment and breaking barriers in technical and tradition-



During the visit, High Commissioner Neil Hawkins was briefed on to lead from the front in the service the operations of the service centre,

its customer-centric approach, and how Dawlance is equipping women and technical industry

Australian High Commissioner appreciated the role of Dawlance in fostering inclusivity, innovation, and sustainability in Pakistan's business

landscape. He acknowledged that initiatives like these pave the way for stronger socio-economic development and gender inclusivity in

Speaking on the occasion, Dawlance Director HR Muhammad Ahmad said, "We take immense pride in launching Pakistan's first female-led service franchise. This milestone is not only about providing world-class after-sales service to our customers in Multan but also about creating opportunities for women to take leadership roles in fields where they are underrepresented.

## PCB threatens to boycott Asia Cup if match referee Pycroft not removed

**Sports Desk** 

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has warned that it will not play any further matches in the ongoing Asia Cup 2025 if match referee Andy Pycroft is not removed from the tour-

According to sources, the PCB has conveyed its stance to the International Cricket Council (ICC), citing serious concerns over Pycroft's conduct, which it said violated the ICC Code of Conduct and was against the spirit of the game.

The sources said the PCB made it clear to the ICC that it will not play any further matches in the Asia Cup if Andy Pycroft, who was the match referee in the clash against India, is not removed immediately.

In its letter to the ICC, the PCB demanded the removal of Pycroft and tournament director Andrew Russell. **Complaint filed: Nagyi** 

In an official statement, PCB Chairman Mohsin Naqvi confirmed that a formal complaint has been filed with the ICC, urging the immediate removal of Andy Pycroft.

"The match referee took actions contrary to the spirit of cricket," Naqvi stated, adding that Pycroft had failed to uphold his responsibilities as a neutral



PCB sources said that Andy Pycroft acted in a biased manner in support of the Indian team and even told Pakistan captain Salman Ali Agha not to shake hands with the opposing skipper at the toss — an instruction that is a direct violation of the spirit of cricket and MCC laws.

In its letter, the PCB drew the attention of the ICC and the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) to the misconduct of the match referee and the Indian team's behaviour.

**Violation of ICC code** 

The PCB maintained that Andy

Pycroft's actions not only breached ICC and MCC codes but also undermined the neutrality expected from match officials in high-stakes international tour-

The letter emphasised that the referee's conduct was incompatible with the principles of fairness and sportsman-

The PCB considered the matter a serious breach and demanded that Pycroft be removed from the Asia Cup to preserve the tournament's integrity. **Indian instructions** 

According to sources, during the toss before the match, match referee

Andy Pycroft told Pakistan captain Salman Ali Agha not to shake hands with the opposing skipper at the toss an instruction that was both unprecedented and against the spirit of the

Pycroft also allegedly instructed Pakistan's media manager not to record any part of the incident.

Following the match, Pakistan team manager Naveed Akram Cheema expressed his reservations to Tournament Director Andrew Russell, who said, "We have received instructions from the Indian board," and later added, "Actually, these are directives from the Indian government."

Later, as a sign of protest, Pakistan captain Salman Ali Agha boycotted the post-match ceremony, citing Indian misconduct and the handling of the match proceedings.

#### Politicised Remarks by Indian captain

Indian captain Suryakumar Yadav created further controversy when he made politically charged comments during the post-match presentation, dedicating the victory to the "Pahalgam incident".

Yadav reportedly stated, "Today's win is dedicated to the Pahalgam incident. This victory against Pakistan is a gift to our Indian Army."

#### Khelta Punjab Pink Games trials will be held in all divisions in the first week of November: DG Sports

**Sports Desk** 

ISLAMABAD: Director General Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Khizar Afzaal Chaudhry said that the trials of Khelta Punjab Pink Games will be held in all divisions of the province in mega event of Pink Games, the biggest explode into action in the second week of November.

Affairs Punjab Khizar Afzaal Chaudhry shared this information while presiding over an important meeting at the National Hockey Stadium on Monday.

Anjum, Director Admin Abid Shaukat,

Deputy Directors Chand Parveen, Yasmeen Akhtar and all administrators of Nishtar park Sports Complex attended the important meeting which was convened to review preparations for Khelta Punjab Pink Games.

Addressing the meeting, Director the first week of November while the General Sports and Youth Affairs Puniah Khizar Afzaal Chaudhry said sports event of women in Punjab, will that administrative committees are being constituted for the successful organization of Khelta Punjab Pink Director General Sports and Youth Games. "More than 3,000 female players from all divisions will be participating in the Khelta Punjab Pink Games".

further said that the holding of Pink



Games is important for the develop- the patronization of Punjab Minister of Director General Sports and Youth ment of sports culture among women Sports and Youth Affairs Malik Faisal Director Sports Rana Nadeem Affairs Punjab Khizar Afzaal Chaudhry of the province. "The Khelta Punjab Ayub Khokhar and in accordance with Pink Games will be organized under the vision of Punjab Chief Minister".

#### Pakistan, South Africa Women's captains share hopes ahead of ODI series

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: As Pakistan and South Africa prepare to lock horns in a much-anticipated women's ODI series in Sri Lanka, the captains of both sides expressed confidence and optimism during their pre-series press conferences at Ghaddafi Stadium, Lahore, on

Pakistan skipper Fatima Sana said her team is determined to play competitive cricket and take advantage of the home conditions.

"We will try to play good cricket. Sri Lankan conditions are quite similar to Pakistan's, and we are preparing ourselves accordingly," she noted.

Fatima added that while the team does not rely on specialized power-hitting training, all players are working hard in regular practice sessions.



performance during their previous tour, lessons and would look to adapt quickly

Reflecting on South Africa's strong she said Pakistan had gained valuable

Meanwhile, South Africa's captain,

Laura Wolvaardt, praised Pakistan's preparation and acknowledged the importance of the series for both teams in the build-up to the Women's World

"Pakistan's team is well-prepared. This series is very important for us before the World Cup."

She hailed Pakistan spinners as a real challenge ahead of their ODI series opener.

She further lauded Pakistan's blend of talent, saying, "Pakistan has good batters and bowlers. The conditions in Sri Lanka will also benefit both sides."

Wolvaardt added that her squad is enjoying Pakistan's hospitality and stressed that success in the series would boost South Africa's morale heading into the World Cup.

## Rameez Ibrahim creates history as first Pakistani elected GPBI Asian Secretary

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Renowned Pakistani athlete Rameez Ibrahim Khan has created history by being unanimously elected Secretary of the Asian Global Powerlifting and Bodybuilding International (GPBI). This landmark achievement makes him the first Pakistani to secure such a prestigious position, a moment of immense pride for the country.

The announcement was made following the GPBI General Council meeting, where Rameez Ibra-



him's name was endorsed with full

He now holds dual responsibilities as both the President of GPBI Pakistan and the newly appointed Secretary of the international body.

Rameez Ibrahim is no stranger to accolades, having earned global recognition as a Mr. Universe and World Champion in his class.

His elevation to the high-ranking role reflects not only his personal achievements but also Pakistan's growing footprint in international bodybuilding and powerlifting circles.

#### PCB Director International Cricket 'suspended'

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has suspended Director International Cricket Usman Wahla after ICC rules violations during Pakistan-India Asia Cup match in Dubai. The director was removed for not taking timely action against match referee Andy Pycroft.

The PCB also lodged a complaint on Monday with cricket's governing

body about the match referee in their Asia Cup clash with India. Tensions simmered after the match as India's players left the field without shaking hands.

Pakistan blamed the India side and also allege match referee Andy Pycroft of Zimbabwe told captain Salman Agha not to shake the hand of India skipper Suryakumar Yadav before the game. There was no handshake between the captains.

The PCB has lodged a complaint with the ICC regarding violations by the match referee of the ICC code of conduct and the MCC laws pertaining to the spirit of cricket," Pakistan Cricket

Board (PCB) chairman Mohsin Naqvi wrote on social media. The PCB demanded the immediate removal of Pycroft from the remainder of the regional T20 tournament.

#### U14 basketball squad shortlisted for Samaranch Cup in China



Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Basketball Federation (PBBF) has shortlisted the national Under 14 boys' basketball squad for the upcoming 2025 Samaranch Cup Asian Basketball Masters Invitational Tournament in China. The two-day trials, held at the Pakistan Sports Complex, saw participation from more than 50 young players from across the country.

After rigorous evaluation, 16 players were shortlisted for the national training camp, said a press release.

A four-member selection committee, chaired by Khalid Bashir, Secretary General PBBF, and comprising Riaz Malik, Col (r) Shujaat Ali Rana, and Imran Afzal, supervised the trials.

Parents turned out in large numbers to cheer on their children, creating an encouraging and enthusiastic atmosphere.

Officials described the overwhelming response as a positive sign of the sport's growing popularity in Pakistan.

This is a milestone for Pakistan basketball. International participation at such a young age will boost the players' confidence and experience, and help raise the overall standard of the game in the country," said Khalid Bashir, who also expressed gratitude to DG Pakistan Sports Board Yasir Ahmed Pirzada.

The shortlisted players will now attend a training camp, after which the final squad for the China tour will be announced.

#### Asia Cup 2025: Sri Lanka survive scare to beat Hong

DUBAI: Wanindu Hasaranga helped Sri Lanka secure a nervy four-wicket win over Hong Kong in the eighth fixture of the ACC Men's Asia Cup 2025 here at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium (DICS) on Monday.

Set a 150-run target, Sri Lanka's lower-order held their nerve as Wanindu Hasaranga starred with a brisk cameo, scoring 20 from just nine balls.

Eventually, the Islanders reached the target in 18.5 overs, losing six wickets in the process.

Sri Lanka lost their opening wicket in the form of Kusal Mendis, who made 11 from 14. As the scorecard read 26-1 in 4 overs, Kamil Mishara joined Pathum Nissanka and steadied the team's total. The pair added 36 for the second wicket, not before Mishara's removal, who added 19 to the total.

Meanwhile, Nissanka held firm and forged a crucial stand with Kusal Perera (20 off 16), which kept Hong Kong bowlers at bay in the middle overs. Yet, Hong Kong struck, and it was the match's 15th and 16th over which made things interesting. First, it was Yasim Murtaza's 15th over, which yielded two

wickets on successive deliveries to halt Sri Lanka's progress. Perera was the first to go, followed by skipper Charith Asalanka, who could only manage to score two. Then, in the very next over, another wicket fell, which reduced

them to 127-6 in 17.1 overs. Kamindu Mendis did not trouble the scorers much as he was caught long on after making five.

Nonetheless, Hasranga arrived at the crease, capitalising on the no-ball to hit six four to leave the equation nine required from 12 balls. In the second last over, he sneaked two doubles on third and fourth ball before cracking two consecutive fours to seal an emphatic win.

Patthum Nissanka was awarded Player of the Match for his 68 off 44 balls, an innings laced with half a dozen boundaries and two maximums.

For Hong Kong, Yasim Murtaza picked up two wickets. Earlier, Nizakat Khan's composed half-century helped Hong Kong set a competitive total.

Earlier, after being put into bat first, Hong Kong chalked up

149 runs for the loss of four wickets in their allocated 20 overs. They made a strong start as they raced to 41 in 4.5 overs, before losing core aggressor Zeeshan Ali.

#### **Imaan Mazari files** complaint...

#### Continued from Page 1

During the proceedings, Justice Dogar also warned Mazari of possible contempt of court proceedings. Turning to her husband and fellow lawyer, advocate Hadi Ali Chatha, he remarked: "Hadi sahib, explain it to her... if I catch her someday..."

The tense courtroom exchange came against the backdrop of broader controversies involving Mazari. Earlier this week, an additional district and sessions court in Islamabad granted interim bail to

Mazari and Chatha in a case registered by the National Cybercrime Investigation Agency, accusing them of spreading alleged anti-state content on social media. Mazari, who has long been a

vocal critic of state authorities, was also among those calling for an inquiry into allegations of intelligence interference raised by six IHC judges earlier this year. In June, she was awarded the World Expression Forum's Young Inspiration Award 2025 for her advocacy on rule of law and justice in Pakistan.

## The Spokesman

#### Briefing

SHANGHAI, China: President Asif Ali Zardari, accompanied by First Lady Bibi Aseefa Bhutto Zardari, Chairman PPP Bilaw-



## Zardari witnesses signing of MoU on Thar Coal Gasification

#### **Spokesman Report**

SHANGHAI: President Asif Ali Zardari Monday met Mr Pakistan's energy needs, Wu Lei, Chairman of Shanghai Electric, and later visited the company's facilities in Shanghai. He was accompanied by First Lady Bibi Aseefa Bhutto Zardari, Chairman Paki-Bhutto Zardari, and Senator Saleem Mandviwalla.

including its work in Thar coal, distribution network. nuclear energy, and coal-fired power plants.

him for the contribution of Shanghai Electric in meeting generating employment and expressed gratitude to the supporting socio-economic development.

The President underlined the importance Pakistan attaches to the development of stan Peoples Party Mr Bilawal the Thar coal project, including Pakistan's commitment to the potential of coal-gasification. He invited Shanghai Elec-The Chairman of Shanghai tric to explore further invest-Electric gave a briefing on the ment in the modernisation of company's projects in Pakistan, Pakistan's transmission and

> President Zardari a Shanghai Electric that any and achievements. Founded (Private) Ltd/Shanghai Elec- also present on the occasion.

The President thanked outstanding issues would be in 1902, the company is now spirit of mutual cooperation.

The company's CEO

Government of Pakistan for the security arrangements provided to their employees working in Pakistan. President Zardari further reaffirmed enhancing security measures to ensure a safe and conducive environment for Chinese workers in the country.

resolved amicably and in a one of China's leading equipment manufacturers, known globally for its innovations in energy, power, and industrial

systems. The President witnessed the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the establishment of a Coal Gasification Plant in Thar, Sindh.

The MoU was signed between MFTC Coal Gasification & Manufacturing During the visit, the Pres- (Pvt) Ltd, represented by its Pakistan Mr. Jiang Zaidong ident was also briefed on CEO Mr Shahid Tawawalla, and Pakistan's Ambassador to Shanghai Electric's history and Sino Sindh Resources

tric, represented by its CEO  ${\rm Mr}$ Lin Jigen.

This is the first coal gasification and fertiliser project based on Thar coal, which will not only contribute to meeting the country's energy needs but also play a vital role in supporting the agriculture sector.

Mr. Sharjeel Memon, Minister for Information & Transport, Govt. of Sindh, and Syed Nasir Shah, Minister for P&D and Energy, Govt. of Sindh, China's Ambassador to China Mr. Khalil Hashmi wer

#### PM Shehbaz, Prince Mohammed bin Salman discuss regional situation



**Spokesman Report** 

DOHA: Prime Minister of Pakistan, Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Monday met with His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Crown Prince and Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, on the sidelines of the Emergency Arab-Islamic Summit as well as regional and global issues. convened in Doha, in the wake of Israel's recent attack on Qatar.

The Prime Minister conveyed his deep appreciation for HRH Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's bold and sagacious leadership in unifying the Ummah at this critical time.

In this regard, the Prime Minister assured the Saudi Crown Prince of Pakistan's all out diplomatic support,

currently a non-permanent member, as well as at all other diplomatic multilateral foras, including the OIC.

HRH the Crown Prince said that he looking forward to PM's upcoming State Visit to Riyadh later this week, that would provide both sides an important opportunity for a comprehensive exchange of views on bilateral

The Prime Minister conveyed his warm respects and regards for The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, His Majesty King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud.

His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed bin Salman, expressed his appreciation for the Prime Minister's leadership and for Pakistan's active diplomatic efforts, including particularly at the United Nations at the UNSC and OIC to express soli-Security Council, where Pakistan is darity with Qatar at this critical time.

#### Islamabad-Rawalpindi high-speed rail to cut travel time to 20 minutes



#### **E** City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The federal government has approved a modern highspeed rail project that will connect Islamabad and Rawalpindi, reducing travel time between the twin cities to just 20 minutes.

A decision to this effect was made during a high-level meeting on Monday, chaired by Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi and Railways Minister Hanif Abbasi.

The initiative is expected to save time and fuel, ease traffic congestion, and provide residents with a fast and affordable transportation option.

the completion of the rail link from Inspector General, and Frontier Margalla Station in Islamabad to Corps representatives.

State Bank keeps

interest rate unchanged

at 11% amid inflation

Saddar Station in Rawalpindi.

The framework agreement for the project will be finalised and signed next week.

Under the plan, the Ministry of Railways will provide the track infrastructure while the CDA will manage

The government also decided to import state-of-the-art trains to ensure modern, comfortable, and efficient operations. The meeting was also attended by Minister of State for Interior Talal Chaudhry, the interior secretary, the secretary of railways, the Capital Development Authority (CDA) chairman, the Rawalpindi The meeting agreed to expedite commissioner, the Islamabad Police

#### CM Punjab Maryam dispatches 100 tonnes of food aid for Gaza

#### 👺 Bureau Report

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz visited Lahore Airport on beat with the Palestinians." Monday to oversee the she said. dispatch of a major relief consignment for the people cent Muslims in Gaza has of Gaza, sending a clear message of solidarity from Pakistan.

aid The shipment, weighing 100 tonnes, includes 32 food items being sent to support Palestinians enduring severe hardships amid the ongoing conflict.

the people of Pakistan stand shoulder to shoulder with the people of Gaza.

"The hearts of Pakistanis

"The oppression of innoshaken every sensitive soul. This aid is a message of love from the people of Pakistan to the people of Gaza."

The CM added that Pakistan's relief effort reflects both compassion and commitment to easing the suffering of Gazans, who Speaking on the occasion, continue to face shortages Maryam Nawaz said that of food and basic necessities.



#### Cabinet Division releases six-month record of Toshakhana gifts

#### 

ISLAMABAD: The cabinet division on Monday released the record of the gifts received by senior military and government officials from January 1, 2025 to June 30, 2025. The record showed that those who received gifts were Field Marshal Asim Munir, the air chief, the naval chief, President Asif Ali Zardari, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar, Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz and Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi.

The record also showed that Chief of General Staff Syed Amir Raza, Vice Admiral Raja Rab Nawaz, NAB Chairman Lt General (r) Nazir Ahmad, the minister for commerce, secretary commerce, Zain Asim, Usman Bajwa, Tariq Fatemi, Wahab Riaz, Khawaja Imran Nazir, Malik Ahmad Khan, Muhammad Ali Rand-

hawa and Riffat Mukhtar Raja. Most of items were gifted by senior (FBR) Chairman Rashid Langrial also



foreign government officials. Besides that, the chief justice of Pakistan gifted a shield to the prime

minister, Federal Board of Revenue

gifted a shield to the prime minister. The things and objects gifted were decoration pieces, watches, electric cars, ready-made carpets, bed sheets, prayer mats, table cloths, coffee sets, the cost of the gifts received.

tea sets and ties. All these gifts were deposited in the Toshakhana.

The Cabinet Division is estimating

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The decision was made during the economy. second meeting

ISLAMABAD: The State Bank of

Pakistan (SBP) on Monday decid-

ed to keep the benchmark interest

rate unchanged at 11% for the next

concerns

**Example 2** Commerce Desk

of the Mone-Policy tarv Committee (MPC), held on Monday under the chairmanship of SBP Governor Jameel Ahmad

The committee reviewed both

domestic and global economic conditions before reaching its decision.

According to economic experts, recent floods have caused widespread damage to the agricultural sector, destroying major crops.

to import essential commodities to check.

meet domestic demand — a move that could widen the import bill and trigger further inflation.

Given these challenges, the SBP opted to maintain the current interest rate to help stabilise the



This marks the third consecutive time the central bank has held the policy rate at 11%.

The SBP noted that maintaining the rate will provide necessary support to the economy while As a result, Pakistan may be forced keeping inflationary pressures in