Barkat Rice Mills (Pvt) Limited



Iconic towers and landmarks across major Saudi cities were illuminated with the national flags of Saudi Arabia and Pakistan on Wednesday evening, celebrating the signing of the historic Pakistan-Saudi Arabia Strategic Mutual Defense Agreement.



Trump says he disagrees with UK on recognising Palestinian state

US President Donald Trump said he disagreed with British Prime

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Rabiul Awwal 25, Friday, September 19, 2025



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New era begins

RIYADH: The Crown Prince and Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia H.R.H. Muhammad bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saudi and Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif exchange the documents of the Strategic Mutual Defense Agreement (SMDA) on



Pakistan-Saudi Arabia defence pact set to redraw Gulf security map

Spokesman Report

RIYADH: A new era in the Gulf security has begun with the signing of a strategic mutual defence agreement between Saudi Arabia and Pakistan.

The agreement, signed during Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's visit to Saudi Arabia, states that an attack on either country will be considered an attack on both. and that both nations will jointly

respond to any threat. The agreement followed a

and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, which focused on strengthening bilateral ties and reviewing key regional and international issues.

"This agreement, which reflects the shared commitment of both nations to enhance their security and to achieve security and peace in the region and the world, aims to develop aspects of defence cooperation between the two countries and strengthen joint deterrence against any

meeting between PM Shehbaz aggression. The agreement Khalid bin Salman issued all forms of aggression. states that any aggression against either country shall be considered an aggression against both," a joint statement shared by the

PM Office Media Wing said. Under the agreement, Pakistan is now a partner in the protection of the Two Holy

Its primary aim is to strengthen defence cooperation

Mosques (Haramain Sharifain).

and ensure collective protection against any form of aggression. Saudi Defence Minister

a statement following the signing of the defence agreement between Saudi Arabia and Pakistan.

In a post on the social media platform X (formerly Twitter), the Saudi defence minister said that Saudi Arabia and Pakistan will remain united forever

against any aggressor. He wrote that both brotherly nations are committed to the establishment of peace and security and will jointly confront

The defence agreement also drew a sharp response from India, which said it will study the pact's implications for India's national security.

India's ministry of external affairs spokesman, Randhir Jaiswal said in a post on social media website X on Thursday that India was aware of the development, adding it would study its implications for New Delhi's security and for regional

Pakistan's security forces eliminate four India-backed terrorists



B City Desk

RAWALPINDI: On 17 September 2025, security forces conducted an intelligence based operation in Khuzdar District of Balochistan, on reported presence of terrorists belonging to Indian proxy, Fitna al Hindustan.

During the conduct of operation, own forces effectively engaged the terrorists' location, and after an intense fire exchange, four Indian sponsored terrorists were sent to

Weapons, ammunition and explosives were also recovered from the terrorists, who remained actively involved in numerous terrorist activities in the area

Sanitization operation is being conducted to eliminate any other terrrorist found in the area, as the security forces of Pakistan are determined to wipeout the menace of Indian sponsored terrorism from the country, and reaffirm the nation's unwavering resolve to bring the perpetrators of terrorism to justice.

PM hails security forces' successful Khuzdar operation against Fitna-ul-Hindustan

LONDON: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif Thursday hailed security forces for successful operation against Fitna-ul-Hindustan in Khuzdar Balochistan

The Prime Minister praised the professional skills of the officers and personnel of the security forces for killing four Fitna-ul-Hindustan terrorists

during the operation a Prime Minister's Office news release

PM Shehbaz vowed that the fight against the menace of terrorism would continue until it was completely eradicated from the country. "The entire nation, including

me, stands by the armed forces of Pakistan in its unwavering resolve to protect the homeland," the prime minister said.

PM Shehbaz departs for London after concluding visit to Saudi Arabia

Spokesman Report

RIYADH: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif departed for London on Thursday after concluding his state visit to Saudi Arabia. Deputy Governor of Rivadh, Prince Muhammad bin Abdulrahman bin Abdulaziz, saw him off at Riyadh Airport.

The prime minister visited the kingdom at the invitation of Crown Prince and Prime Minister of Saudi Arabia, Mohammed bin

During the visit, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and



Crown Prince Mohammed bin against both. Salman signed the Strategic Mutual Defence Agreement between the two countries.

This agreement, which reflects the shared commitment of both nations to enhance their security and to achieving security and peace in the region and the world, aims to develop aspects of defence cooperation between the two countries and strengthen joint deterrence against any aggression.

The agreement states that any aggression against either country shall be considered an aggression

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday said that he was "deeply touched" by the heart-warming welcome accorded to him by Saudi Crown Prince and Prime Minister Mohammed bin Salman on his visit to Riyadh.

"Deeply touched by the heartwarming welcome accorded to me by my dear brother HRH Prince Mohammed bin Salman, Crown Prince and Prime Minister of Saudi Arabia, on my visit to Riyadh," the prime minister wrote on his X timeline.

Engineer Muhammad Ali Mirza transferred to Adiala Jail



News Desk

ISLAMABAD: A well-known but controversial Islamic scholar, Engineer Muhammad Ali Mirza, has been shifted to Adiala Jail under strict security following his arrest in a blasphemy case registered at Jhelum

City Police Station on Thursday. According to the 24NewsHD TV channel, Engineer Mirza was initially detained on August 25, 2025, under Section 3 of the

Maintenance of Public Order (MPO) on the orders of the Jhelum Deputy Commissioner. His Qur'an-o-Sunnat Research Academy in Jhelum was also sealed to prevent gatherings.

The situation escalated on September 9, when the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) sought custody of Mirza. A Rawalpindi court, presided over by Senior Civil Judge Waqar Hussain Gondal, granted a seven-day physical remand, directing FIA investigators to complete their probe and present Mirza again on September 19. The case accuses Mirza of posting a YouTube video containing blasphemous remarks about the Holy Prophet (PBUH) and misinterpretations

Situation in Gaza is deteriorating hourly: UN

NEW YORK: The United Nations displacement orders does not absolve the parties to the conflict of their responlight of the ongoing attacks launched by the occupying power, Israel, on Gaza.

The UN Office for the Coordination of providing health services to patients

Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) reported that the Palestinian Ministry of Health in Gaza announced that Al-Rantisi Chilwarned that the situation in Gaza is dren's Hospital in Gaza was damaged deteriorating by the hour and renewed after being hit by multiple airstrikes its call for immediate protection for two days ago, forcing half of the patients civilians. It emphasized that issuing and their caregivers to flee under the bombardment in search of safety.

Meanwhile, UN humanitarian partsibilities to protect civilians, especially in ners confirmed that since the ceasefire collapsed in March, 80 medical facilities and primary healthcare centers



have been damaged, with 65 of them

out of service. In a related development, the Palestinian Telecommunications Company reported that Wednesday night, there was a complete internet outage throughout Gaza and the north, preventing residents and humanitarian workers from accessing vital informa-

threat to national security: Pak envoy

跨 Spokesman Report

UNITED NATION: Pakistan's Permanent Representative at the United Nations Asim Iftikhar Ahmad has said that terrorism emanating from Afghanistan is the biggest threat to Pakistan's national security

During a briefing at the United Nations Security Council on the situation in Afghanistan, Asim Iftikhar pointed out that more than 60 camps of terrorist groups, including the banned

Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), are Pakistan from Afghan safe havens. active in Afghanistan, posing a grave security threat.

Terrorism from Afghanistan poses grave

Asim Iftikhar said that the Taliban authorities must fulfil their international obligations related to counter-terrorism.

He stated that Pakistan and China have requested sanctions against banned organisations like the Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) and the Majeed Brigade, noting that terrorists were involved in attacks on

The Pakistani envoy added that

of Surah al-Nisa.

the evidence submitted included joint training, illegal arms trafficking, harbouring terrorists, and coordinated attacks aimed at targeting civilians and law enforcement in Pakistan, as well as disrupting and sabotaging infrastructure and development projects.

Ambassador Asim Iftikhar emphasised that the Taliban authorities must fulfil their international responsibilities and eliminate terrorist sanctuaries.

Friday, September 19, 2025

AJK Assembly hails Pakistan-Saudi Defense Pact as historic milestone for Muslim nations



Spokesman Report

MUZAFFARABAD: The Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) Legislative Assembly on Thursday appreciated the signing of a historic defense agreement between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, terming the agreement a significant milestone in the history of relationship between the two brotherly countries.

The session, chaired by Speaker Chaudhry Latif Akbar, warmly welcomed the recent visit of Prime Minister of Pakistan Mian Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif, Chief of Army Staff

Field Marshal Sved Asim Munir, and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar to Saudi

The house unanimously passed a resolution presented by Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq. Terming the agreement a significant milestone in the history of relationship between the two brotherly countries, the resolution expressed the optimism that the recently signed defense pact would not only usher in a new era of bilateral cooperation but also have far-reaching effects on the security of the Islamic

It described the historic pact as a guarantor of peace, stability, and mutual defense among Muslim countries. The Assembly also paid tribute to Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman for his role in concluding the agreement, and lauded COAS Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir for his fearless and wise leadership, which, according to the resolution, had strengthened Pakistan's military prestige and global standing.

The resolution underscored the historic, religious, cultural, and fraternal ties between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia,

noting that both countries have consistently supported each other's sovereignty, security, and stability. It expressed gratitude to the Kingdom for standing by Pakistan in difficult times

The legislative assembly expressed serious concern over Israeli aggression in Palestine, Lebanon, Syria, Yemen, Iran, and more recently Qatar, which the Assembly viewed as evidence of Tel Aviv's expansionist ambitions. The resolution further stated that the Pakistan-Saudi defense pact would serve as a deterrent against both Israel and

Sardar Attique expresses grief over the demise of Prof. Abdul Ghani Bhat



Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: President of Muslim Conference and former Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir, Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan, has expressed deep sorrow over the passing of Prof. Abdul Ghani Bhat, a prominent leader of the Kashmir freedom movement, President of All Jammu & Kashmir Muslim Conference Occupied Kashmir, and former Chairman of the Hurriyat Conference.

He paid rich tribute to the late leader's lifelong services for the Kashmir cause, noting that Prof. Bhat was a visionary thinker, intellectual, and an unwavering advocate of Kashmir's accession to Pakistan. He highlighted that Prof. Bhat revived the Muslim Conference in Indian-occupied Jammu & Kashmir in the late 1980s and worked closely with Mujahid-e-Awwal Sardar Muhammad Abdul Qayyum Khan, dedicating his life to the slogan "Kashmir will become Pakistan."

Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan said the vacuum created by his demise can never be filled. He extended heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family, colleagues, and the people of occupied Kashmir, praying for eternal peace of the departed soul and strength for the Kashmiri nation to bear this irreparable loss.

Funeral prayer of the Abdul Ghani Butt, will be offered today

Abdul Majeed Tahir

freedom movement.

ISLAMABAD: The funeral prayer of the late senior Hurriyat leader and former Chairman of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference, Professor Abdul Ghani Butt, will be offered in absentia under the auspices of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference Azad Jammu and Kashmir and Pakistan branch.

This funeral prayer will be offered tomorrow, Friday, after Friday prayers, at 2 pm in the park located in front of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference office. I/8-4 Street No. 85, Islamabad.

All you respected gentlemen are politely requested to attend in full $\,$ to pay homage to the deceased and this great leader of the Kashmir





 $KOTLI: For his outstanding services in the promotion of Global \, Health \,$ Security and outstanding performance in the field of infection prevention, Dr. Nasrullah Sadiq, Medical Superintendent of District Headquarters (DHQ) Hospital Kotli, was awarded a shield of honor by Dr. Ayesha Aisani, Director General, Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination, and Dr. Amna Khan, Country Director, JHPEGO Pakistan. The ceremony was held at the conference room of DHQ Kotli.

This honor reflects the tireless work of DHQ Kotli, especially in the field of Infection Prevention and Control, to adopt global standards and protect public health. On this occasion, Dr. Ayesha Aisani said in her address that "The team of DHQ Kotli has played an exemplary role in raising the standards of health security in the region. Their efforts are an important milestone in strengthening the Global Health Security agenda."

Dr. Amna Khan said, "DHQ Kotli's progress in partnership with JHP Pakistan is an exemplary example. Their success will inspire

This award is a historic achievement not only for Dr. Nasrullah Sadiq and his team but also for the entire Azad Jammu and Kashmir Health Department, which is a testament to the collective efforts to improve the quality of health services in the region. The ceremony was attended by Deputy Director General of Health, District Health Officers, and a large number of hospital staff.

Condolences

ISLAMABAD: Chief Justice of AJK Justice Raja Saeed Akram Khan visited the residence of former Senate Chairman Sadiq



Minister Naqvi Commits Full Government Support for NGO Initiatives in Muzaffarabad Division

👺 Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: A meeting of NGOs belonging to Muzaffarabad Division was held under the chairmanship of Minister for Social Welfare and Women Development Sved Bazil Ali Naqvi. The meeting was attended by the Director Social Welfare, Social Welfare Officers of Muzaffarabad Division and representatives of NGOs. Minister for Social Welfare Syed Bazil Ali Naqvi, while appreciating the valuable services of NGOs, assured all kinds of departmental cooperation. He also instructed the departmental officers to make coordination with NGOs more effective. NGOs are playing an important role for social development and

The government will maintain close ties with NGOs and provide all possible support to their positive initigoals can be achieved. He said that the department should have complete details of all projects running in the in the meeting.



NGO sector so that the scope of welfare atives so that sustainable development activities can be expanded to more areas. International and local NGOs shared their progress and suggestions

Officer Jhelum Valley Zaheer Uzair, Saghir Bukhari, Raja Afaq and others.

The meeting was attended by Social Welfare Officer Neelam Iftikhar Director Social Welfare Abdul Wahid, Gilani, Zeeshan Maqbool of Islamic Social Welfare Officer Muzaffarabad Relief, Helping Hand Adnan Anwar, Mukhtar Ahmed Awan, Social Welfare Hamza Development Sheikh Mushtaq,

AJK Assembly honors Minister Mazhar Saeed Shah for humanitarian aid to Gaza via Samood Flotilla

跨 Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: In the session of the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Minister for Information Muhammad Mazhar Saeed Shah was paid tribute for carrying medicines and food to the oppressed people of Gaza with the international peace convoy "Samood Flotilla". In this regard, the resolutions presented by Minister for Law and Parliamentary Affairs Mian Abdul Waheed and Minister for Power Development Organization Chaudhry Muhammad Rashid were unanimously approved. The resolution presented by Minister for Law, Justice, Parliamentary Affairs and Human Rights Mian Abdul

Waheed stated that this session of honorable member of the Legisthe Legislative Assembly expresses serious concern regarding the safety and purpose of the international Samood Flotilla", which is a peaceful effort of citizens from all over the world to provide humanitarian aid to the oppressed people of Gaza and stop the ongoing war there. This House welcomes the fact that the Foreign Ministers of Pakistan, Bangladesh, Brazil, Colombia, Indonesia, Ireland, Libya, Malaysia, Maldives, Mexico, Oman, Qatar, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain and Turkey, together with the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, have jointly announced their support for the flotilla in accordance with interna-

tional law and human rights. This House pays tribute to the

lative Assembly, Mr. Muhammad Mazhar Saeed Shah, for carrying medicines and food to the oppressed people of Gaza with the international peace convoy "Samoud Flotilla". The resolution moved by the Minister for Power Development Organization, Chaudhry Muhammad Rashid, states that this session of the Legislative Assembly expresses serious concern regarding the safety and purpose of the international "Samoud Flotilla", which is a peaceful effort by citizens from all over the world to provide humanitarian aid to the oppressed people of Gaza and to stop the ongoing war there. This House appreciates that the Foreign Ministers of Pakistan,

Indonesia, Ireland, Libya, Malaysia, Maldives, Mexico, Oman, Qatar, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain and Turkey, including Pakistan, have jointly announced their support for the flotilla, in accordance with international law and human

This House pays tribute to the honorable Member of the Legislative Assembly, Muhammad Mazhar Saeed Shah, for carrying medicines and food to the oppressed people of Gaza with the international peace convoy "Samood Flotilla". We pray for the success of this convov.

Participating in the discussion on the resolutions, Minister for Law and Parliamentary Affairs Mian

Bangladesh, Brazil, Colombia, Abdul Waheed said that it is a matter of pride that the representation of Azad Kashmir and the Government of Azad Kashmir is in the Samood Flotilla convoy, in the form of Pir Muhammad Mazhar Saeed Shah. We pray for his wellbeing and safe return. Minister for Power Development Organization Chaudhry Muhammad Rashid said that the presence of Pir Muhammad Mazhar Saeed Shah in this convoy is a matter of pride for the entire nation. He said that we are proud of the skills of our Pakistani forces. After the Battle of Haq, it has become clear that our forces will protect Muslims all over the world. Minister for Ali Khan Chughtai said that the Pir Muhammad Mazhar Saeed pride for us.



Education and Schools Dewan presence of Information Minister Shah in this convoy is a source of





Namaz Timings Maghrib

EMERGENCY

Rescue (Police) 15
Bomb Disposal 15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/
Islamabad1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance 1122 8
& Rescue Services 4451122
Motorway Police9266044
Motorway Police9270601-20
FNOLLIDY

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WASA Rawalpindi	5555489
CAA	9281092

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MH	561116
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Over 27,000 students fail in HSSC exam, pass percentage stands at 63.5

MULTAN: The Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (BISE) Multan announced on Thursday the results of the Intermediate Annual Examination 2025, with more than 27,000 candidates failing to qualify. According to official statistics, the overall pass percentage stood at 63.54 pc.

Statistical data shows a total of 75,322 candidates appeared in the examination, of whom 47,858

In the pre-medical group, 23,227 students took the exam, with 19,150 passing, marking a success rate of 82.45 percent. Among them 6 069 secured grades, 475 obtained A grades, and 4,724 earned B

In the Pre-Engineering group, 3,944 candidates appeared and 3,102 passed, achieving a pass rate of 78.65%. This included 732 A+, 827 A, and 884 B grades.

In the General Science group, 21,636 students appeared and 13,439 passed, with a success rate of 62.11%. Of these, 396 secured A+, 2,709 received A, and 4,592 earned B grades.

The Commerce group saw 2,224 students sit the exam, of which 1,257 passed, reflecting a pass rate of 55.97%. Among them, 100 candidates secured A+, 219 A, and 367 B grades.

The Arts group had the largest number of participants, with 24,247 students, but only 10,899 passed, yielding the lowest success rate at 44.92%. In this category, 417 students obtained A+, 1,058 received A, and 3,756 earned B grades.

CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif inaugurates Pakistan's first-ever Co. **Ablation Machine**

LAHORE: Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif expressed immense satisfaction at the commencement of cancer treatment through the modern Co-Ablation technology. Speaking at the inauguration ceremony of Pakistan's first Co-Ablation Center at Mayo Hospital, she reaffirmed her commitment to provide free and timely medical treatment to cancer patients across the country.

Madam Chief Minister stated that she first came across the Co-Ablation machine during her recent visit to China. She said," Impressed by the latest technology and its potential to revolutionize cancer treatment, I immediately signed an MoU with the manufacturing company to introduce this technology in Punjab". She added, "Health sector was declared Punjab government's fore-

I received a detailed briefing on Co-Ablation treatment from Chinese officials, including a video demonstration."

Highlighting groundbreaking nature of the splendid initiative, she stated, "No hospital in the region including India, currently has a Co-Ablation machine. If we cannot spend money on the treatment of helpless cancer patients, then what else should we spend it on?" Madam Chief Minister announced that cancer patients from other provinces would also be treated at the center and reaffirmed that cancer treatment would be 100% free. She said,"The idea of bringing this machine to Punjab was struck when I saw it in China. Having witnessed my own mother suffering from cancer ailment, I personally understand pain and fear which a whole family experiences when one member is diagnosed with cancer."

Madam Chief Minister informed that tion as a revolutionary advancement in

most priority during my visit to China. the Co-Ablation Center at Mayo Hospital is currently treating breast, liver and lung cancers with kidney cancer treatment soon to follow. Plans are underway to expand services to include gallbladder, bone marrow and soft tissue cancers. The Chief Minister shared success stories of the first five patients treated by using this $new\,metho\bar{d}, calling\,it\,a\,promising\,start.$ One such patient, Muhammad Asghar, underwent a successful 60-minute procedure for a complex liver cancer case.

She extended gratitude to the dedicated team including Secretary Azmat Mehmood, Dr. Mahmood and Dr. Shehzad Kareem Bhatti for their hard work in establishing the centre. "We will ensure availability of all necessary facilities and resources for cancer treatment along with imparting training to doctors and paramedical staff in this new technology," she added. Describing Co-Abla-



medical science, Madam Chief Minister nity to serve the people of Pakistan, espeemphasized that Co- ablation centre is open not only for patients from Punjab but from all over Pakistan. "The opportusole mission."

cially Punjab, is a blessing." She vowed, "Serving the distressed humanity is my

Celebration

ISLAMABAD: A stunning view of the PM Secretariat illuminated with green color in context of Glorious Symbol of Pakistan-Saudi Arabia Friendship as the streets and intersections of the City have been adorned with branding of Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, reflecting the deep bond of trust, brotherhood, and strong relations between the two nations following the historic defence agreement.



HPV Vaccination Awareness Seminar

👺 Zafar Chishti

TOBA TEK SINGH: According to details, an awareness seminar was organized for parents at Government Girls Higher Secondary School, Madina-abad Kamalia.

On this occasion, Dr. Mian Adeel Arif (MS Tehsil Headquarters Hospital Kamalia) gave a special lecture in which he addressed the concerns and reservations of parents about the HPV vaccine.

The questions raised by the parents were also answered and they were informed about the efficacy of this vaccine and the health of the

Dr. Adeel Arif said that this vaccine plays an important vaccinate their children with and safe. Parents described in society and help elimito the school girls.



from dangerous diseases in time so that the next gener- saying that such awareness the end of the seminar, HPV the future, so parents should ation can be made healthy programs raise awareness vaccination was also provided

role in protecting women this preventive vaccine on the seminar as a positive step, nate misunderstandings. At

9,000 ration bags sent to Muzaffargarh flood victims in record time

RAWALPINDI: Under the leadership of Dr. Hassan Tariq, Additional Deputy Commissioner General, and Zahid Bakhtawari, President of the Central Organization of Traders, Rawalpindi Division (Registered), the dispatch of 9,000 ration bags containing essential food items and 3,000 bags of flour to the flood victims in Muzaffargarh with the help of the local administration — all within a very short period — is undoubtedly nothing short of a miracle. This effort is a testament to administration and the trader community, who have proven that the spirit of serving the country and nation can

make the impossible possible. On this occasion, Zahid Bakhtawari, President of the Central Organization of Traders, Rawalpindi Division, while



the collaboration between the district speaking to media representatives, said that the efforts of the Rawalpindi district administration set an exemplary precedent for other districts in the province. He emphasized that the trader community and district administrations of other districts should also work together to provide substantial

aid to the flood victims.

He paid tribute to Dr. Hassan Tariq, Additional Deputy Commissioner General, for his efforts in assisting the flood victims, calling it a high example of service. On this occasion, Zahid Bakhtawari, on behalf of the trader community, and Chaudhry Imran possible.

Rasheed, Chairman of the Pakistan Chemists and Druggists Association, Rawalpindi, on behalf of the chemist community, presented sizable donation checks to ADCG Dr. Hassan Tariq to ensure that more aid could be delivered to the flood victims as soon as

Punjab Management cell hosts Multan stakeholder seminar on plastic management

Kiran Asim

MULTAN: A stakeholder consultation seminar on the topic of "Plastic Management Strategy and Implementation of Single-Use Plastic Regulations" was organized by the Punjab Management Cell (EP&CCD) at the Multan Chamber of Commerce and Industry in which a large number of participants including Vice President of Multan Chamber of Commerce and Industry Muhammad Azhar Baloch, Consultant Punjab Management Cell Saira Alamgir, Nida Zafar, Fariha Ashfaq, Khawaja Farooq, Aurangzeb Alamgir, business figures of the relevant sector and people from different walks of life participated. Speaking, Vice President of Multan Chamber of Commerce and Industry Muhammad Azhar Baloch said that this session is of great importance because through it, stakeholders have got an opportunity to sit together on a platform and discuss practical steps to ensure effective implementation of Plastic Management Strategy and Single-Use Plastic Regulations. Fariha Ashfaq said in her address that the government is implementing a comprehensive strategy for the effective elimination of plastic waste and the use of single-use plastic is being banned in a phased manner, along with this, promoting eco-friendly products is also among the top priorities of the government. In conclusion, Fariha Ashfaq said that a clean and green Pakistan is our collective responsibility and for this purpose, the government, industrialists and the public all have to play a role together.

Millions of flood victims are suffering on the streets without even a roof over their heads

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Chief Organizer Pakistan Seraiki Party Ahmed Nawaz Soomro has said that the floods have wreaked havoc everywhere in Seraiki Wasib, which is due to the poor strategy of the Lahore throne. Today, millions of flood victims are suffering on the streets, without even a roof over their heads. The silence of the federal government is a separate question. How are these rulers? The floods have destroyed crops on millions of acres of agriculture and destroyed millions of houses, but our Prime Minister's foreign visits are not ending and the President of Pakistan has also gone to China on a long visit. He said that in



a country where such a huge disaster has occurred and the rulers are $\,$ careless, the country has suffered a loss of billions of rupees, the country's economy has been destroyed and due to this destruction, a food crisis will come in the country. Now the rulers will have to think about the country and the devastated people. Now, measures will have to be taken on an emergency basis for the settlement of the people and farmers will have to be given relief in the prices of fertilizers, seeds, sprays, electricity and diesel and on convenient terms. Interest-free loans will have to be issued and the houses that have been destroyed will have to be rebuilt and given to them. He demanded that the flood-affected areas be declared disaster areas. If no strategy is made yet, the economic situation will worsen further.

Suthra Punjab officials agree with university of Kamalia to fix a container in varsity to pick it's garbage



TOBA TEK SINGH: According to details, Senior Operations Manager of Project Suthra Punjab kamalia Syed Uzair Shah Bukhari and Project Manager Chaudhry Mudassar Ehsan meet with Registrar of University of Kamalia Anees Ashraf and HR Manager Ali Raza. In this meeting, the Registrar and HR Manager demanded a container from Suthra Punjab to collect the garbage of Kamalia University. Suthra Punjab accepted their demand and provided the container to the University of Kamalia. On this occasion, University Registrar Anees Ashraf and HR Manager Ali Raza thanked Syed Uzair Shah Bukhari, Senior Operations Manager of Suthra Punjab and Project Manager Chaudhry Mudassar Ehsan for their cooperation.

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Al to boost trade by nearly 40% by 2040

he 2025 edition of the World Trade Report has revealed that, with the right enabling policies, artificial intelligence (AI) could boost the value of cross-border flows of goods and services by nearly 40% by 2040 thanks to productivity gains and lower trade costs. However, the flagship publication by the WTO Secretariat notes that for AI and trade to contribute to inclusive growth — with benefits shared widely — policies need to be in place to bridge the digital divide, invest in workforce skills, and maintain an open and predictable trading environment.

According to the report, AI could lead to significant increases in trade and GDP by 2040, with global trade projected to rise by 34-37% across different scenarios based on different degrees of policy and technological catch-up between low-, middle- and high-income economies.

Global GDP could meanwhile see a 12-13% increase across different scenarios. Trade, in turn, can be a powerful enabler of inclusive AI -supported growth by helping economies access AI-enabling goods, such as raw materials, semiconductors and intermediate inputs. The WTO report estimates that global trade in these goods totalled USD 2.3 trillion in 2023.

"AI has vast potential to lower trade costs and boost productivity. However, access to AI technologies and the capacity to participate in digital trade remains highly uneven," WTO Director-General Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala says in her foreword to the

"With the right mix of trade, investment and complementary policies, AI can create new growth opportunities in all economies. With the right frameworks, trade can play a central role in making AI work for all. The WTO is committed to supporting this effort," DG Okonjo-Iweala said.

In a scenario in which low- and middle-income economies narrow their digital infrastructure gap with high-income economies by 50% and adopt AI more widely, these economies are projected to see incomes rising by 15% and 14% respectively.

The report also points to the need for open and predictable trade policies, noting that the number of quantitative restrictions applied to AI-related goods has climbed sharply over time, from 130 in 2012 to nearly 500 in 2024, driven by high- and upper middle-income economies. Access to AI-enabling goods remains uneven, with bound tariffs reaching up to 45% in some low-income economies

Investing in education and training and deploying appropriate labour market policies can help avoid a widening of inequality within economies, the report adds.

The report emphasises the role of the WTO in helping to deliver inclusive access to AI and its benefits. The organisation provides a forum for WTO members to discuss AI-related trade measures, the report notes, highlighting that 80 specific trade concerns raised at the WTO have focused on AI. Dedicated discussions on AI and inclusive trade have also taken place in the context of the Work Programme on E-Commerce.

Additional commitments from members, such as through broader participation in the WTO's Information Technology Agreement and updated commitments under the General Agreement on Trade in Services, could make AI more inclusive and affordable, the report adds.

Saudi-Pakistan Defence Wall **Against Tyranny**

its greatest weakness. What was meant to be another ritual of solidarity for Gaza instead exposed the Ummah's impotence in the face of systematic slaughter. The massacre of Palestinians, the destruction of homes, schools, and hospitals, and the displacement of millions have become recurring tragedies. From Bosnia to Burma, from Kashmir to Gaza, the blood of Muslims has been shed while their states, though wealthy and numerous, stood helpless. Doha stripped away excuses: the Muslim world possesses extraordinary resources, yet it has failed to transform them into a shield.

That is why the defence agreement signed between Saudi Arabia and Pakistan is a turning point. More than a symbolic pact, it represents a union of wealth and capability — the Gulf's immense financial muscle combined with Pakistan's proven strategic and military strength. For the first time, a major Muslim monarchy and the only declared nuclear state in the Islamic world have pledged to stand together against threats. The presence of the Saudi Crown Prince, Pakistan's prime minister, and the army chief at the signing sent a signal that this was not a ceremonial gesture but a strategic compact with teeth.

This dual mandate — defence and rescue — is not adventurism but moral duty. Islam commands believers to protect the oppressed. The Qur'an tells us that saving a single life is as if saving all of humanity. The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) likened the Ummah to a single body: if one part suffers, the entire body responds. Islamic history itself

he Doha summit forced the rulers defended non-Muslim communi-Muslim world to confront ties from tyranny, offering sanctuary and protection. That moral foundation makes it incumbent on the Ummah to act not just for Muslims but for any oppressed people — Christian, Jewish, Hindu, or otherwise. The legitimacy of such a force rests on its universality and humanitarian mission.

> But to achieve this, the Ummah must first break its chains of dependency. For decades, Muslim nations have hosted foreign bases justified as protective umbrellas. In practice, these installations often served other strategic purposes.

When Gaza was bombarded and when sovereign airspace was violated, these bases stood silent. Worse, they sometimes enabled aggression rather than preventing it. No collective Muslim force can rise while strategic autonomy is compromised by dependency on external patrons. The Saudi-Pakistan pact challenges that old paradigm, but it must be followed by broader moves to reduce foreign military footprints and replace them with joint Muslim institutions.

Modern warfare also demands forward-looking investment. AI-guided drones, cyber capabilities, autonomous vehicles, and satellite surveillance now define the battlefield. If Muslim states pooled even a fraction of their estimated \$3.5 trillion in sovereign wealth funds into defence innovation, they could leapfrog into the cutting edge of military technology. Pakistan's research base, Turkey's industrial ecosystem, and Gulf financing is filled with examples where Muslim could together establish drone factories, population of two billion is intolerable.

monitoring systems. This would not only strengthen deterrence but also reduce dependence on foreign suppliers, who often impose restrictions or cut supplies at critical moments

The structure of such a force must be carefully designed. It should begin with

an Ummah Defence Council to draft doctrine and oversee pooled financing. Within two years, a rapid deployment brigade could be fielded for humanitarian rescue and deterrence missions. Within five years, joint industrial hubs could begin

producing interoperable drones, missiles, and electronic warfare systems. Within a decade, a fully integrated command structure, backed by advanced intelligence and space-based assets, could serve as the core of a formidable, autonomous Ummah

Yet power without legitimacy can be as dangerous as weakness. This force must and Islamabad have begun the remedy. be accountable to peoples, not just rulers. Democracies should involve parliamentary oversight; monarchies should seek consultative legitimacy through representative bodies. Rules of engagement must prioritise civilian protection and humanitarian rescue. Without such safeguards, the project risks becoming another tool of oppression rather than a shield against it.

humiliation of watching Israel, a state of fewer than ten million, impose its will on 57 Muslim nations with a combined

AI defence labs, and secure space-based The continued slaughter of Palestinians, the ethnic cleansing of Rohingya, the marginalisation of Indian Muslims, and the insecurity of Muslim minorities worldwide are not just tragedies but indictments of Muslim leadership. If leaders fail to act, history will remember their silence more harshly than their speeches. Wealth will be seen as squandered opportunity, and populations will inherit only shame.

But if leaders seize this moment — if the Saudi-Pakistan pact becomes the nucleus of a wider force, if Turkey's technology is scaled with Gulf capital, if manpower is organised into disciplined, accountable units — then the Ummah could finally reclaim its dignity. More than a shield, it could be a beacon: a force that defends the Middle East, deters aggressors, and rescues the oppressed anywhere in the world, fulfilling the Qur'anic injunction to stand with the weak and the Prophet's teaching to protect victims of tyranny. That vision, if realised, would transform helplessness into strength, lament into action, and humiliation into dignity.

Doha revealed the weakness. Riyadh The rest of the Ummah must now decide: will this be another moment of rhetoric, or the beginning of a historic transformation? The answer will determine whether Muslims remain spectators of their own tragedies or become agents of their own security and defenders of universal human

The writer is Press Secretary to the The stakes could not be higher. The *President (Rtd), Former Press Minister*, Embassy of Pakistan to France, Former Press Attache to Malaysia and Former MD, SRBC. He is living in Macomb, Michigan, USA



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

No Permanent Friends or Foes: The Resurgence of Realpolitik

Qudsia Imran

"International politics, like all politics, is a struggle for power. Whatever the ultimate aims of international polityics, power is always the

he past six months have made one thing painfully clear: economic coercion can remake strategic maps faster than decades of diplomacy. What began as simmering bilateral irritants between Washington and New Delhi boiled over into punitive U.S. tariffs that were doubled to as much as 50 per cent on a range of Indian exports; textiles, gems, footwear and more, on grounds including India's continuing purchases of Russian oil. The tariffs stunned exporters, rattled markets and sent an unmistakable signal that, under the current U. S. administration, trade policy will be used as a blunt instrument to recalibrate strategic relationships. (Reuters)

Meanwhile, India's immediate response was neither capitulation nor confrontation but strategic recalibration. New Delhi moved to insulate itself, accelerating domestic economic measures to blunt the tariff shock, reopening diplomatic channels with Moscow and Beijing, and signaling a renewed emphasis on what Indian strategists call "strategic autonomy." Far from a sudden pivot born of emotion, this reorientation rests on long-running calculations: access to discounted Russian energy, the commercial logic of China's markets, and institutional alternatives such as BRICS and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization. The Modi government's high-profile engagements in Tianjin-where he met Xi Jinping on the sidelines of the SCO

realignment. (Reuters, Al Jazeera)

Scholars of power transition offer a useful lens here. Paul Kennedy's work on overstretches, John Mearsheimer's account of great-power competition, and Morgenthau's realism together explain why rising states prefer practical instruments—banks, corridors, trade arrangements, over ideological blocs. Joseph Nye's concept of soft power adds another dimension: material capability alone does not guarantee influence; credibility, institutional reliability and norms of behavior matter. When an established power substitutes coercion for attractive governance, rivals and potential partners alike will seek alternatives that preserve their policy space.

Moreover, the regional ripple effects are striking. Historical patterns suggest that when China and India ease bilateral tensions, India-Pakistan hostilities often cool as well, a dynamic visible after Rajiv Gandhi's 1988 Beijing visit and Vajpayee's 2003 trip, both followed by reductions in India-Pakistan violence. If a tactical Sino-Indian thaw endures, Beijing's ability to act as a cautious stabilizer, balancing its Pakistan ties with the pragmatic benefits of calmer ties with New Delhi, could reduce the risk of two-front instability in South Asia. Yet this is not a panacea: unresolved border claims, water disputes and domestic nationalist politics in all three capitals will limit how deep any

détente can become. (The Diplomat, Al Jazeera) What should policymakers do? For Washington, the first lesson is to stop mistaking transactional pressure for strategic advantage. Respecting India's insistence on strategic autonomy, offering narrowly tailored trade and investment packages, and accelerating reform in multilateral finance institutions would blunt the appeal of rival architectures. summit, were read across capitals as a delibThe U. S. should also calibrate coercive measerate hedging move rather than an ideological ures so they never eclipse long-term partner-

ship goals; predictable, rules-based engagement remains the best bulwark against hedging. For New Delhi, preserving autonomy requires a dual track: diversify economic partners and institutions while deepening selective defense and technology ties with democracies that share long-term strategic interests. (Brookings, Council on Foreign Relations)

Realpolitik does not foreclose cooperation. Climate change, pandemic preparedness, critical-mineral supply chains and cyber norms are domains where convergent interests remain strong. The challenge is institutional: to create forums where cooperation is insulated from episodic trade coercion and where incentives align for both established and rising powers. Absent such mechanisms, power will re-order itself through ad-hoc coalitions and transactional bargaining, an outcome that increases instability and reduces the space for collective problem-solving on global public goods. (Financial Times)

Nonetheless, we are living through an era in which "no permanent friends or foes" is no longer aphorism but policy reality. That is not necessarily catastrophic; it can be the raw material of a more plural global order, if it is managed with patience, prudence and the willingness to rebuild credibility. If Washington and New Delhi can learn that strategic partnerships require predictability as much as pressure, the emerging multipolar architecture could become a platform for managed competition rather than perpetual drift. If they fail, the vacuum will be filled by transactional blocs and financial experiments that rewire the architecture of influence for decades to come. (Reuters, Finan-

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Doha's Milestone: Diplomacy, Resistance, & the Global Balance

convened in Doha was far more international standards. than a ceremonial gathering; it political and military landscape of the Middle East. The directives of the Gulf Cooperation Council's Supreme Council, the stern declarations of member states, and the collective humanitarian aid and ceasefire facilitation so condemnation of Israeli actions mark a mile- the international community recognizes that stone for the region whose impact will extend Arab and Muslim states prioritize peace and beyond the current confrontation to shape future human welfare, not conflict.

strategic policies. The Palestinian issue has remained the most intractable and persistent crisis of international politics for more than seven decades. With the establishment of Israel in 1948, the dispossession and displacement of the Palestinian people began. In the 1967 war Israel seized East Jerusalem, the West

Dr. Muhammad Tayyab
Khan Singhanvi Bank, and Gaza, deepening the

crisis. United Nations Resolutions 242 and 338 articulated the principle of "land for peace," yet Israel's policies and the steady expansion of settlements largely rendered those resolutions a paper promise.

Consequently, Arab and Muslim states have alternative routes available:

• Secure an effective majority in the General Assembly under the "Uniting for Peace" reso-

· Lodge formal cases before the International Criminal Court (ICC) and the International

Court of Justice (ICJ). · Coordinate and intensify economic and

diplomatic boycott measures.

These steps may have limited immediate effect, but through legal pressure and global public opinion they can place Israel on the

he emergency Arab Islamic summit ment Israeli attacks and violations according to

2. Coordinating diplomatic pressure to portray inaugurated a new chapter in the Israel as the party on the defensive in forums such as the General Assembly and the European Union.

3. Implementing practical measures for

4. Utilizing public diplomacy and media narratives to expose double standards and sustain global awareness.

> Pakistan's role: For Pakistan, this situation demands a delicate balancing act. On one hand, there are deep religious and historical ties with Qatar and other Arab nations; on the other, Pakistan main-

tains substantial economic and strategic relations with the United States, China, and Gulf states. Pakistan should:

• Conduct active diplomacy within the United Nations and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC).

· Advocate humanitarian assistance and push

for an immediate ceasefire. · Avoid precipitous military engagement and

prioritize diplomacy.

Such a stance would not only uphold Pakistan's moral standing within the Muslim world but also reinforce its image as a responsible actor in the international community.

History has repeatedly demonstrated that the Palestinian question is not only a Middle Eastern problem but also a test of global justice, human rights, and international law. What is required now is insight, restraint, and coordinated strategy, otherwise, this milestone will be 1. Establishing a legal commission to docuremembered as another missed opportunity.

Bridging the Gap: CASS Roundtable Highlights Peaceful Potential of Nuclear

Technology'

Spokesman Report

LAHORE: The Centre for Aerospace and Security Studies (CASS) Lahore hosted a roundtable titled by academics, students, intellectuals, ments in the peaceful application of pendent think tank that continues to nuclear governance, he reaffirmed and practitioners interested in national security in its wider context..

Authority, emphasised that resistgap. He further debunked the false its people. perception regarding nuclear technology by stating that radiation risks Asim Suleiman (Retd), President tions and international compliance.

in medical treatment and agriculture. He credited institutions such as the "Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Technol- Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission ogy". The event was widely attended (PAEC) for spearheading advanceand domain experts. CASS is an inde-nuclear technology. Discussing global arrange academic events for scholars Pakistan's constructive engagement in international dialogue, clarifying its positions on treaties such as the The speaker, Dr Ansar Pervaiz, CTBT and NPT. He added that Paki-Advisor to the National Command stan advocates an equitable, non-discriminatory framework that safeance to nuclear energy does not stem guards its legitimate security concerns from its inherent dangers but from while enabling the peaceful use of a long-standing communication nuclear technology for the benefit of

In his closing remarks, Air Marshal

are scientifically manageable. While CASS Lahore, highlighted that highlighting the tangible benefits of nuclear science must be seen not nuclear technology, he noted its role only through the lens of deterrence but also as a force for human progress. He emphasised its role in health, agriculture, and industry, providing clean energy and advancing sustainable development. Stressing knowledge, innovation, and responsible governance as the foundations of trust, he urged Pakistan to expand its national conversation on the peaceful uses of nuclear technology and embrace its immense socio-economic dividends for future generations.

During the interactive session, the audience actively explored the physics and mechanics of nuclear technology, its peaceful applications, and the framework of nuclear safeguards, with particular emphasis on global obliga-



Idonesian Ambassador Highlights 78% Growth Target and Expanding Trade Ties with Pakistan at Faisalabad Chamber Event

👺 Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: Indonesia is the world's fourth largest country in terms of population and is striving for 7-8% growth through industry, infrastructure, energy security, workforce and new economic zones.

This was stated by the Indonesian Ambassador to Pakistan, Mr. Chandra War Sentosukotjo, while addressing a meeting of the business community at the Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry

population of 270 million and a GDP of 1.4 trillion, while new targets have been set for development.

He described Pakistan as his close partner in South Asia and appreciated its growing market. He said that the Commerce and Industry President Indonesian investors should invest



trade between the two countries is Rehan Naseem Bharara welcomed He said that his country has a already in billions of dollars, which the Indonesian ambassador and his Member Farooq Yousuf presented the has the potential to increase further team members and said that Faisalthrough renewable energy, digitalization, processed food and sustain-

able industries. Earlier, Faisalabad Chamber of

abad is a major hub of industry and trade with huge investment potential.

He added that currently the trade balance is in favor of Indonesia, which

here to improve. He said that Pakistan's exports to Indonesia were \$156 million in 2022, which increased to \$505 million in 2024, while imports increased from \$3.36 billion to \$4.7

He also stressed on increasing contacts between the chambers of the two countries and exchanging trade delegations so that full benefit can be taken of the bilateral trade potential between the two countries. Senior Vice President Qaiser Shams Gachha thanked the guests.

Finally, Executive Committee Chamber's shield to the Indonesian Ambassador, Mr. Chandra Sokotjo, while President Rehan Naseem Bharara presented the Faisalabad Chamber's Golden Jubilee pin to the Indonesian Ambassador.

Haseena Jatoi condoles with Manzar Nagvi on brother's demise

KARACHI: Haseena Jatoi, Chief Editor of Daily Momal Karachi, paid a visit to the office of The Financial Daily to express her condolences to Executive Editor, Manzar Naqvi, on the recent passing of his elder brother, Muna-



During the meeting, Haseena Jatoi conveyed her deepest sympathies and shared in the grief of the bereaved family. She acknowledged the personal loss of Mr. Naqvi and highlighted that the death of an elder family member is always a difficult void to fill, as such individuals are often regarded as guiding figures and pillars of strength within the family.

She offered prayers for the departed soul, beseeching Almighty Allah to grant eternal rest to the late Munawar Naqvi and to shower His infinite mercy upon him. She also prayed for the family's strength and courage in bearing this irreparable loss with fortitude and patience.

The staff of The Financial Daily also joined in offering their respects and gratitude for Haseena Jatoi's kind visit, acknowledging the gesture as a reflection of professional solidarity and longstanding journalistic fraternity between both newspapers.

Study in Malaysia Education Fair 2025 to Strengthen Malaysia–Pakistan Educational Cooperation

Hundreds of students attend Rawalpindi expo; new chapter of academic collaboration begins

ber 2025, drawing a large turnout roadmap for studying in Malaysia. of students, parents, and academic

RAWALPINDI: Education Malaysia ment opportunities. Representa- such initiatives will further enhance as a key partner in building educa-Global Services (EMGS) successfully tives provided detailed guidance bilateral cooperation in education, tional bridges between the two hosted the Study in Malaysia Educa- on admissions, visa procedures, tion Fair 2025 at Pearl Continental campus life, and future career pros-Hotel, Rawalpindi, on 18th Septem- pects, giving students a complete

The Expo was inaugurated by the professionals from across Pakistan. High Commissioner of Malaysia to The event showcased 12 leading Pakistan, who praised the deep-Malaysian universities offering rooted cultural and educational relaworld-class degree programs, schol- tions between Malaysia and Paki- committed to supporting internaarships, and professional develop- stan and expressed confidence that tional students and sees Pakistan

research, and innovation.

Throughout the day, students actively engaged with university officials, explored scholarship options, and many even confirmed their admissions on the spot, marking the event as a major success.

They added that Malaysia remains

countries. The Study in Malaysia Education Fair 2025 in Rawalpindi concluded on a highly positive note, with participants appreciating the event as a friendly and future-focused initiative that will further enhance people-to-people and educational links between Malaysia and Paki-



'Skardu Travelogue: In the Heart of Gilgit Baltistan'



llah is Beautiful and He loves beauty. and Gilgit-Baltistan is one of the most striking proofs of that. Often called Pakistan's Switzerland, this breath taking land feels like a divine call from the mountains. When I finally answered that call and my flight landed here on 25th August 2025, I knew this journey would be unforgettable.

Gilgit-Baltistan is a masterpiece of natural wonders. From the endless plains of Deosai to the silent stretches of the Sarfaranga Cold Desert, every sight feels like a painting. The shimmering green and blueish water of Upper and Lower Kachura Lakes, Blind abad Waterfall, and the peaceful Shangri-La Resort, Sukoon Resort, all reflect the region's untouched charm. Even the trek to Marsur Rock in Hussainabad

tourists. Here, one can literally echo their voice and even their pain into the vastness of the mountains, a relief that only nature can give.

The land is equally rich in its orchards, heavy with apples, apricots and cherries, filling the trees around every home. People live a simple, self-sufficient life, growing their own vegetables and fruits. While prosperity is visible, the real potential lies in exploring modern ways of trade and tourism that could uplift the local economy even further. What makes the region stand out is the dignity in labour. Unlike many other parts of the country, one cannot find beggars on the streets. People here prefer hard work, no matter how small the task, over begging. Their self-respect is truly inspiring.

Civility also defines their culture. Greetings are warm and hospitality is unmatched. In the Balti language, the word "Ju" is often added at the end of sentences, much like saying "Jee" in Urdu to show respect. Another common expression, "Yeri Shazday", conveys appreciation and gratitude. Guests are always offered water or tea, and Lake, the refreshing Hussain- hosts take pride in ensuring visitors' comfort, a reflection of deeprooted courtesy, respect, and community values.

Faith holds a central place in their lives. Their attachment to relihas become a major attraction for gion is strong and sincere, some-



times making them highly sensitive to matters of faith. Yet this deep devotion also brings discipline in following traditions and rules, reflecting the intensity with which they live their beliefs.

Local cuisine is another highlight. Traditional dishes such as Prapoo, a boiled mixture of dough with a paste made from dry fruits offer a unique taste that is both hearty and healthy. Another dish, Aazuk, along with Kulcha, reflects the simplicity of their cooking. While the food is wholesome and filling, hygiene still needs improvement as flies are often noticed around the food, and a considerable amount is sometimes wasted.



The resilience of the people is most evident in the women of Gilgit-Baltistan. While men are often called the "Men of the North," the women deserve equal recognition. They are the backbone of households, managing families, raising children, preparing meals and supporting their communities. Despite the arrival of 4G internet, schools and other institutions, opportunities for their

personal growth remain limited. Their strength is undeniable, but they deserve greater empowerment and platforms to realize their dreams.

I also saw the wedding traditions of Gilgit-Baltistan. The celebrations were very grand, with thousands of guests, showing the strong customs of the region. They were colourful and lively, but inviting so many people and serving large amounts of food often leads to extra expenses and food wastage. Making such events more simple and sustainable can remain in healthcare, women's in Theology from GCU, Lahore, help keep the culture alive without

wasting resources.



talent reminded me of the rich

cultural heritage and arts hidden

in these valleys. The government of Gilgit-Baltistan has been working on infrastructure, education, and tourism. While progress is visible, challenges empowerment, and sustainable development. Yet with continued At one such wedding, I met effort, the administration has the gmail.com



potential to make the region more prosperous and inclusive.

Gilgit-Baltistan is not just a of Pakistan's culture, resilience, and hospitality. Yet the journey is incomplete without recognizing the importance of empowering its women and channelling its economic potential. If nurtured wisely, Gilgit-Baltistan can shine as a model for the nation, a place where beauty meets strength, and simplicity reflects dignity.

The writer is Gold Medalist currently pursuing MS in ITC. She can be reached at iamsdf07@

Bull & Bears PSX 100-Share

Index Fluctuation			
Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index			
Current	Prev. Close		
157,953.46	156,177.81		
Day's High	Day's Low		
158,082.55	156,978.85		
Index Value	Change		
31,348,989,340	+1775.65		
Percentage	Time		
+1.14%	18 Sept, 2025 4:30 pm		
Europe: FTSE 100 Index			
Index Value	Change		
9,228.11	+19.74		
Percentage	Time		
+0.21%	18 Sept, 4:35 pn GMT+1		

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average			
Index Value	Change		
46,223.69	+205.37		
Percentage	Time		
+0.45%	18 Sept, 12:40 pm GMT-4		

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average		
Index Value	Change	
45,303.43	+513.05	
Percentage	Time	
+1.15%	18 Sept, 3:45 pm GMT+9	

Open Market Forex Rates

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	187.2	192.2
Bahrain Dinar	749.4	756.9
Canadian Dollar	203.1	208.1
China Yuan	39.46	39.86
Danish Krone	44	44.4
Euro	332.60	337.60
Hong Kong Dollar	36.1	36.45
Indian Rupee	3.13	3.22
Japanese Yen	1.8950	1.9950
Kuwaiti Dinar	917	926
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	77.25	78.25
UK Pound Sterling	384.50	389.50
US Dollar	282.55	282.75

PMIC Launches First Commercial Paper to Boost Liquidity and Climate Resilience

Example 2 Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Pakistan Microfinance Investment Company Limited (PMIC) has successfully issued its first rated, unsecured PKR 2.5 billion Privately Placed Commercial Paper (CP), with Askari Bank Limited acting as Mandated Lead Advisor and Arranger.

This landmark issuance marks PMIC's entry into the domestic capital markets and represents a strategic step to reinforce liquidity while building resilience against climate and economic shocks. By channelling investments from mutual funds, PMIC is unlocking new avenues of capital to support the microfinance sector's growth and financial Inclusion and climate adaptation, rehabilitation, and resilience initiatives-particularly benefiting vulnerable communities and women borrowers who are disproportionately affected by climate change.

The transaction was supported by leading capital market stakeholders, including Pak Brunei Investment Company Limited as Issue and Paying Agent, Haidermota & Company (HMCO) as Legal Counsel, and VIS Credit Rating Company Limited as the Instrument Rating Agency. Prominent investors included MCB Investment Management Limited, Alfalah Asset Management Limited, JS Investments Limited, National Investment Trust Limited, NBP Fund Management Limited, and Pak China Investment Company Limited. This issuance also reflects the enabling role of the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) in developing Pakistan's capital markets by providing a robust regulatory framework for instruments such as Commercial Papers. thereby facilitating greater participation of institutional investors in impact-driven and microfinance-focused financing.

Issued under the tagline "Financing Climate Resilience, Empowering Women", the Commercial Paper reflects PMIC's dual mission of advancing financial inclusion and enabling climate resilience. "This milestone marks the next phase for PMIC in introducing the microfinance sector to capital market investors," said Yasir Ashfaq, CEO of PMIC.

Delegation of Islamabad Chamber leaders visits Kyrgyz Embassy to congratulate new ambassador

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: A high-level delegation from the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) and United Business Group (UBG) visited the Embassy of the Kyrgyz Republic in Islamabad to extend congratulations to H. E. Kylychbek Sultan on his appointment as the new Ambassador of Kyrgyzstan to Pakistan.

The delegation included Sardar Tahir Mehmood, President ICCI; Zafar Bakhtawari, Secretary General UBG, Former President ICCI, and Chairman D. Watson Group, Mr irfan Choudhary vise president icci, Khalid Iqbal Malik, Former President ICCI;; and Waqar Zafar Bakhtawari, Executive Member FPCCI and Former President Chakwal Chamber of Commerce.

During the meeting, Ambassador Kylychbek Sultan emphasized the importance of enhancing bilateral business and economic relations on a reciprocal basis. He also showcased Kyrgyzstan's traditional hospitality and scenic beauty, and vast tourism potential. The practical proposals to strengthen cooperation



highlighted the country's favorable weather, Ambassador encouraged the development of between the two nations.

Sardar Tahir Mehmood assured the Ambas-

sador of ICCI's full support in fostering stronger Kyrgyz-Pakistani relations. He underscored that trade must be mutually beneficial and called for practical steps to facilitate business delegations between the two countries.

Zafar Bakhtawari stressed the need for improved trade connectivity, visa facilitation, and promotion of cultural ties, highlighting that stronger people-to-people linkages would help strengthen bilateral relations.

Khalid Iqbal Malik pointed out Pakistan's strong export potential in mangoes, rice, and other products that could find markets in Kyrgyzstan. He proposed holding joint trade exhibitions and marketing initiatives to boost bilateral commerce.

Waqar Zafar Bakhtawari suggested establishing direct trade connections with Bishkek, the capital of Kyrgyzstan, to enhance business-to-business cooperation.

The meeting concluded with both sides reaffirming their commitment to promoting trade, cultural exchanges, and economic cooperation, with the Ambassador inviting concrete proposals for practical implementation.

ISLAMABAD: H.E. Mr. Raimundas Karoblis, the newly appointed Ambassador of the Union to Pakistan, called on the Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, at



Punjab rolls out HighTech Tourism Drive to attract investors and visitors

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: Secretary Tourism, Archaeology and Museum Department Punjab Dr. Ehsan Bhutta has emphasized that by leveraging technology and promoting tourism, Punjab will poise to become a vibrant hub soon, attracting investors and tour-

He chaired a meeting to review initiatives with the authorities of Punjab Information Technology Board (PITB) including enhancing tourism in the region, automating Department of Tourist Services (DTS), licensing processes to improve efficiency and transparency, developing a Punjab Tourism App with a proposed chatbot and user-friendly tools for realtime support, and enhancing the Tourism Helpline 1421 with refresher training



dashboard integration. Dr. Ehsan Bhutta seamless user experience for tourists, high-tary Zahid Akhtar Zaman.

for agents, escalation protocols and live lighting the government's commitment to preserving and showcasing the region's further told that these initiatives aim historical landmarks as directed by Chief to boost the local economy and provide Minister Maryam Nawaz and Chief Secre-

How to make the most of Spotify's free experience



Sommerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: With more Pakistanis than ever streaming for their daily dose of music, Spotify's Free experience remains a simple and

More control: Freedom to play, search, and share Because most users in Pakistan start their Spotify journey on the Free experience, Spotify makes it as easy as possible to enjoy fun way to listen, connect music, while helping you and share music for free. discover new music or listen From searching and playing to an artist you love. From any track or jumping right hitting play on the Spotify into something your friend app, you can pick and play just shared, the Spotify Free any song you want, or type experience gives listeners in your favorite track and across Pakistan the freedom start listening instantly, and to soundtrack their everyday share your favorite tracks with friends.

IPAK Group reports 12 times increase in EPS to Rs1.72 for FY 2025!

E Commerce Desk

KARACHI: IPAK group has recorded net profit of Rs. 664 million against loss of Rs 571 million last year, driven by enhanced efficiencies and cost control. Consolidated sales grew by 51% to Rs 34 billion resulted in higher capacity utilisation impacting profitability positively.

The Board of Directors has recommended a cash dividend of Rs.0.60 per share (equivalent to 6 %), alongside the issuance of 5% bonus shares. This combined pay-out underscores the Board's confidence in the Company's earnings resilience, healthy cash flows, and strong balance sheet.

Profit attributable to IPAK shareholders at Rs 1,202 million VS Rs 91 million in previous year. The group's consolidated net profit at Rs 664 million was significantly impacted by a non cash deferred charge of Rs 458 million. The accounting adjustment elevated the effective tax burden far above the average corporate tax rate. Excluding this effect, consolidated profit after tax would have been PKR 1,122 million, while profit attributable to IPAK shareholders would have reached PKR 1,575 million. The deferred tax charge will rationalize over time, reflecting the underlying earnings strength of operations.

Steps must be taken to mitigate flood losses and ensure industrial survival: Tahir Rasheed

E Commerce Desk

continuity, currency stability, and industrial survival. He stated that trade and industry. recurring floods are destroying the agricultural sector and infrastruc- Standing Committee meeting ture, disrupting supply chains, and included Senator Mian Atiq, Vice damaging industrial production. He warned that these shocks further fuel inflationary pressures and place additional strain on Pakistan's frag-

ile currency stability.

Shah Haider said that resilient logistics systems, financial support and ISLAMABAD: Chairman of insurance schemes for exporters, FPCCI's Central Committee on and stronger coordination between Import & Export Trade, Tahir the government, financial institu-Rasheed, has said that steps must tions, and the private sector are be taken to mitigate the impacts of indispensable. He also stressed the flood damages by ensuring trade need for investment in climate-resilient infrastructure to safeguard

Participants of the FPCCI President Tariq Jadoon, Coordination Chairman Malik Sohail, Usman Shah, Rana Farrukh, Naveed-ul-Hasan, Ehsanullah, Ms. Lubna Ali, Ms. Samia Rashid, Zeeshan Haider,



Deputy Convener Syed Zulfiqar Mian Saeed, Qadeer Abbas, Imran Shakir, Faisal Dar, Kashif Bashir, Waheed Ashraf, Muzammil Zaman, and others.

Ambassador of Türkiye visits PBSF Training Camp, assures full support

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of the Republic of Türkiye to Pakistan, Dr. İrfan Neziroğlu, visited the ongoing national goalball training camp organized by the Pakistan Blind Sports Federation (PBSF) at Liaquat Gymnasium, Pakistan Sports Complex.

PBSF President Muhammad Waqas, Col. Akram Malik, Chief Editor Pasban Aziz-ur-Rehman Mujahid, Irfan Tabassum, Tahseen Javed Chaudhry, and Vice President Shehzad Javed welcomed the distinguished guest. National team player Ms. Hira Kanwal presented a bouquet to the Ambassador as a gesture of hospitality.

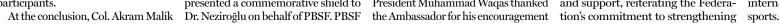
In his address, Dr. Neziroğlu said that Pakistan and Türkiye are century-old friends who have always stood by each other in times of natural disasters such as earthquakes and floods. "Though two separate nations, we have always remained side by side and will continue to do so," he added. He termed Pakistan's hosting of the Asia Pacific Goalball Championship 2025 as a great honor for the country and PBSF. He further remarked that he was not visiting merely as an ambassador but as "Uncle Irfan" of the blind athletes, encouraging the players to call him by

that affectionate title. The Ambassador appreciated the dedication of the male and female teams and expressed his wish to see a bilateral series between the blind teams of Pakistan and Türkiye in the near future. He assured full support for the promotion and development of blind sports in Pakistan and vowed to continue engaging with PBSF leadership and athletes in the future.

The event featured exhibition matches by the male and female national goalball teams, showcasing their skills and preparation for upcoming international events. A special musical performance by singer participants. Fawad Alam also entertained the







presented a commemorative shield to President Muhammad Waqas thanked and support, reiterating the Federa- international cooperation in blind



Asia Cup 2025: Sri Lanka, Bangladesh through as Afghanistan crash out

ABU DHABI: Kusal Mendis' gutsy half-century propelled Sri Lanka, alongside Bangladesh, into the ACC Me Asia Cup 2025 Super Fours as Afghan-

Set 170, Sri Lanka cruised to a victory in 18.4 overs, losing just four wickets in

Mendis anchored the innings with 74* off 52 balls, striking 10 fours, while Kamindu Mendis chipped in with 26 off 13 with the aid of two sixes.

The chase started on a shaky note as Sri Lanka lost their inform opener Pathum Nissanka (6) in the second over. Despite the wicket, the Islanders continued on to score briskly.

Afghanistan got their second breakthrough in the last over of the powerplay in the form of Kamil Mishara, who departed after scoring four from 10 balls.

At this stage, Sri Lanka were 47-2 in 5.2 overs. Meanwhile, Mendis held one end firm and forged two crucial stands. for a 45-run partnership and then with skipper Charith Asalanka for a brief 27-run partnership.

Perera and Charith made 28 and 17 runs respectively, which powered them into a strong position.

For Afghanistan, Mohammad Nabi, Azmatullah Omarzai, Mujeeb Ur Rahman, and Noor Ahmad picked up one wicket each.

Earlier, Mohammad Nabi's counterattacking half-century lifted his side to to put Sri Lanka in the driving seat. Atal a respectable total.



Opting to bat first, Afghanistan racked up 169-8 in the 11th fixture of the ACC Men's Asia Cup 2025 here at the Zayed Cricket Stadium on Thursday.

Afghanistan's openers were off to a First, he partnered with Kusal Perera flyer, posting 26 runs on the board in 2.1 overs. However, Thushara had other plans, who ripped through the top order with excellent bowling.

He first removed Rahmanullah Gurbaz, who made 14 from eight, and then Karim Janat (1) in a span of five balls to rock Afghanistan.

As a result, Afghanistan were reduced to 32-2 in three overs.

Thushara continued on, and in the fourth over, he removed Sedigullah Atal was castled after making 18 from 14 with

the aid of two fours and a six.

Sri Lanka continued to mount pressure with excellent bowling and regular wickets, which left Afghanistan reeling at one stage for 114-7 in 17.1 overs.

However, it was Nabi's blinder - 60 from just 22 balls, which powered them to an above-par score. First, Sri Lanka pacer Dushmanta Chameera came in Nabi's way, whom he belted for three consecutive fours, an over yielding 17

32-run last over was cheery on top for Afghanistan as the veteran batter belted five gigantic sixes off Dunith Wellalage's bowling, making it a 32-run over. For Sri Lanka, Nuwan Thushara remained the pick of the bowlers, picking up a fourwicket haul for 19 in his four overs.

Javelin Throw Final

Walcott Strikes Gold Medal.Arshad Nadeem and Neeraj Chopra Lose the Final Game

Asim Tanveer

TOKYO: Trinidad and Tobago's Keshorn Walcott claimed gold in the men's javelin throw at the World Athletics Championships with a massive throw of 88.16 metr Grenada's Anderson Peters secured silver with 87.38m, while the United States' Curtis Thompson bagged bronze at 86.67m.

Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem and India's Neeraj Chopra, both considered strong contenders, failed to impress in the final. Nadeem managed 82.73m and 82.75m on his two valid attempts, with one foul in between, bowing out of medal contention after his third throw. Chopra recorded 83.65m and 84.03m before a foul on his third attempt.

India's Sachin Yadav produced strong throws of 86.27m and 85m, outperforming both Nadeem and Chopra, but still missed the podium. Nadeem had earlier qualified for the final with an 85.28m throw after struggling in his first two attempts.

The Pakistani star has a historic record to his name, winning silver at the 2023 World Championships in Hungary and gold at the 2024 Paris Olympics with a record-breaking throw of 92.97m.

This time, however, the spotlight also fell on the frosty relations between Nadeem and Chopra, Once known for applauding each other's throws, the two kept their distance amid strained ties between Pakistan and India. Chopra recently stated that their bond was never a close friendship, only "mutual

For Walcott, 32, this gold marks his first World Championships title, adding to his illustrious career that includes Olympic gold at London 2012

Sports schemes worth billions of rupees being built: Secretary Sports

Sports Desk

LAHORE: Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Muzaffar Khan Sial further said that new sports schemes worth billions of rupees are being constructed across

He shared this information while presiding over a meeting at the Punjab Stadium on Thursday. The meeting was attended

by DG Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Khizar Afzaal Chaudhry,

Additional Secretary Mian Usman Ali and Director Admin Abid $Shaukat. \, Several \, significant \, decisions \, were \, made \, about \, new \, sports$ development schemes during the meeting.

Addressing the meeting, Muzaffar Sial said that 55 sports schemes have been approved out of 88 new sports schemes so far. He directed the officers concerned to remove all the obstacles in the way of unapproved sports development schemes.

Pakistan Cricket team manager pays visit to injured Sri Lankan umpire

Sports Desk

LAHORE: PCT manager Naveed Akram Cheema Thursday paid a visit to Sri Lankan umpire Ruchira Palliyaguruge in the hospital who had gotten injured in the match between Pakistan and the United Arab Emirates yesterday, reported 24NewsHDTV channel.

Naveed Akram Cheema, inquiring about the health, presented Ruchira with a bouquet on behalf of PCB Chairman and ACC President Mohsin Naqvi and the Pakistan Cricket team.

Cheema wished for the Umpire, Ruchira's speedy recovery and said that the PCB Chairman has sent best wishes for him.

The umpire, thanking him, said that he has always received love from the Pakistan team and people.

Al-Shifa Trust treats over 15,000 flood victims

Conjunctivitis, viral infections surge in flood-hit areas

Spokesman Report

RAWALPINDI: Al-Shifa Trust Eye Hospital has treated more than fifteen thousand flood victims across Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa this month, bringing crucial medical assistance to families struggling in the aftermath of Pakistan's worst floods of 2025.

Rawalpindi-based charity organised eight emergency medical camps in Swat, at risk. Buner, Swabi, Sambrial, Sialkot, Narowal, Wazirabad, and Kasur, where patients lined up for eye checkups, general consultations, and urgent treatment. For many, these camps provided the first medical help since rising waters swept away homes, livestock and

doctors or medicines.

The floods have tragically claimed 900 lives, including 255 innocent children, and disrupted the lives of more than five million people. Families displaced from their homes are spending nights in makeshift shelters, struggling with food shortages and unsafe drinking water. Elderly citizens with chronic diseases and children with infections remain most

In such dire conditions, President Al-Shifa Trust Maj. Gen. (Retd.) Rehmat Khan decided on an immediate intervention that offered a lifeline to people who cannot afford private medical expenses. Dr Najam, General Manager of Al-Shifa Centre for

communities stranded without (ACCO), said the most frequently observed eye diseases in flood-affected areas include allergic conjunctivitis, viral eye infections, keratitis, and various bacterial infections that often result from exposure to contaminated water and poor hygiene practices. He added that more serious

conditions, such as acanthamoeba keratitis and leptospirosis, both potentially linked to water tainted with animal urine, have also been reported. He informed that the trust has distributed over provided eye drops and ointments for various eye infections, and screened over 3,000 patients for diabetes and hypertension. It offered 2,500 food packets and 3,500 water purifihealth facilities, leaving entire Community Ophthalmology cation tablets. In KPK, more than



three camps, while five locations in Punjab served close to 9,800

With its nationwide eve hospital network in Rawalpindi, Chakwal, Kohat, Gilgit, and Muzaffarabad, Al-Shifa

expertise to reach communities cut off from specialised care. The trust has plans to scale up mobile clinics, equipped with ophthalmic equipment, medi-



weeks. The initiative under- are instrumental in dissemiscores the crucial role that private nating educational materials sector healthcare networks can play in providing timely support

in disaster zones. In addition to medical aid, Al-Shifa Trust is collaborating with local community aims not only to heal but also leaders to raise awareness about cines, and trained staff, in more preventing waterborne diseases rebuilding their health and resilaffected areas in the coming and eve infections. These leaders ience after the disaster.

on hygiene and safety, which have been distributed alongside medical supplies to help reduce the outbreak of illnesses. This comprehensive approach to empower communities in

The Spokesman



President Zardari meets **Communist Party Secretary** of Xinjiang

Agencies

URUMQI: President Asif Ali Zardari on Thursday met recent visit of Prime Minister Communist Party Secretary of the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, Chen Xiaoijang here who was flanked by Governor of the Xinjiang CPEC's second phase was Uyghur Autonomous Region, Erkin Tuniyaz.

the President and recalled his earlier visit to Urumqi in 2011 to attend an Expo. He

Presidency's news release said.

He further highlighted the Shehbaz Sharif to China for 80th Anniversary of Victory over Fascism, during which had recently visited Xinjiang. technologies. He expressed fast-tracked with agreements and other sectors.

Xi Jinping and witnessed the GDP surpassing 5.6 trillion Pakistan's foreign policy. signing of several cross-sec- yuan. He said the region is

livestock while addressing the root causes of extremism and terrorism. He also pointed out that the Governor of the SCO Summit and the Balochistan and the Chief Minister of Gilgit-Baltistan

President Zardari, in his remarks, said he was delighted worth billions of dollars in to be visiting Xinjiang again Chen warmly welcomed industry, agriculture, mining and deeply appreciated the unity of the Chinese people The Party Secretary and the region's impressive underlined that Xinjiang progress. He reaffirmed that also noted the President's visit has now become a hub of Pakistan-China friendship to Beijing in February this prosperity, social stability is unique, time-tested and year, where he met President and lasting peace, with its remains the cornerstone of pivotal role in CPEC, the and the Chinese Ambassador

President encouraged greater The president said Paki- industrial and agricultural meeting.

toral agreements and MoUs, a advancing in agriculture and stan will continue to work collaboration, noting the with China in countering potential of Special Economic Zones in Gilgit-Baltistan. He terrorism and extremism, while expanding coopinvited people from Xinjiang to visit Pakistan's northern eration in agriculture, manufacturing, livestock, regions and underlined that industry, mining and new Pakistan will always remain China's most reliable partner hope that growing linkages and trusted friend. between Xinjiang and Paki-

stan's northern areas would

further strengthen cultural

and economic bonds, adding

that he looks forward to the

day when both countries can

Highlighting Xinjiang's

be easily accessed by road.

The meeting was followed by a dinner hosted by Chen Xiaojiang in honour of the president and his delegation.

Senator Saleem Mandviwalla, Sindh Energy Minister Nasir Shah, Pakistan's Ambassador to China, to Pakistan also attended the

Ambassador of Syria calls on Finance Minister Senator Aurangzeb

Example 2 Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Dr. Ramez Alraee, Ambassador of the Syrian Arab Republic to Pakistan on Thursday called on Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, at the Finance Division.

During the meeting, both sides discussed matters of mutual interest, with a focus on further strengthening the longstanding fraternal ties between Pakistan and Syria and exploring avenues for enhanced bilateral cooperation, said a release.

Welcoming the Ambassador, the Finance Minister appreciated the improving situation in Syria and the gradual return to normalcy.

He expressed the hope that the removal of sanctions by the United States would help Syria reintegrate into



the international system and open up opportunities for investment and bilat-

He assured the Ambassador of Pakistan's full support to Syria in every possible way, noting that the people of both countries share deep bonds of affection and empathy.

Ambassador Alraee said that having served in Pakistan for almost three years, he considered Pakistan his second home and saw himself as not only Syria's Ambassador to Pakistan but also as a well-wisher of Pakistan, always striving to promote the historic brotherly ties between the two nations.

He thanked the Government of Pakistan, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, and the country's political leadership for extending full political and diplomatic support to Syria following the recent Israeli aggression.

'Forget people's rights, judges aren't getting rights in Pakistan,' says Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani

👺 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani said while hearing a case on Thursday that all powers should be transferred from the Capital Development Authority (CDA) to the Metropolitan Corporation Islamabad (MCI) under the law.

He said whatever the CDA board was doing; it was supposed to be done by the local government body. He said it was the local government's right to use every penny. According to the constitution, he said, people's elected representatives should exercise their authority. He said the government did not allow local government elections in Islamabad despite Supreme Court and high



court orders.

pleading the case to name any institu-Justice Kayani asked the lawyers tion in Pakistan that was doing its job. not getting their rights.

has run out. Does anyone realize how 250 million people are living? There are serious governance issues. The courts are doing the work that was supposed to be done by public representatives. "If it suits someone, they say the

He asked, "Have you seen the condition

of the subordinate courts? No institu-

tion is capable of doing its job. Our spirit

system should continue. If the law does not suit someone, the law is set aside. Now because it does not suit someone, local government elections have not been allowed for five years. Don't the people of Islamabad have the right to have their elected representatives who can make decisions? Leave aside people's fundamental rights; judges are

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Gilani invites Russian **Speaker to International Speakers Conference**



ISLAMABAD: Acting President Yousuf Raza Gilani held a telephonic conversation with Russian Federation Council Speaker Valentina Matvienko on Thursday, inviting her to participate in the upcoming International Speakers Conference

During the conversation, Gilani lauded Matvienko's role in strength-Pakistan and Russia. He emphasised conference.

that the ISC aims to promote parliamentary diplomacy while fostering global peace, harmony, and pros-

The Acting President added that Russia's participation would make the conference more meaningful and contribute to advancing the shared goals of peace and sustainable development.

In response, Matvienko assured Gilani that Russia would be repreening parliamentary ties between sented at the highest level in the

Balochistan: Blast near Pakistan-Afghanistan border in Chaman kills five



QUETTA: A blast at a taxi stand ment agencies reached the site. near the Pakistan-Afghanistan and injured two others, officials

The Balochistan government has and motives of the blast. ordered an inquiry into the incident. Following the explosion, security were shifted to the hospital.

forces cordoned off the area, while the Levies and other law enforce

According to the provincial home border in Chaman killed five people department, evidence is being collected and investigations are underway to determine the nature

All the bodies and the injured

Ambassador Qureshi, EU official discuss bilateral ties

Spokesman Report

BRUSSELS: Pakistan's ambassador to European Union, Belgium and Luxembourg Rahim Hayat Qureshi Thursday met with Vivian Loonela, Head of Cabinet to High Representative and Vice President of the European Commission Kaja Kallas and discussed the positive trajectory of relations of Pakistan and European Union and ongoing engagements.

They also exchanged views on the cooperation under the Strategic Engagement Plan (SEP).



ECC approves \$390 million financing to lay 1,350 km track for mineral exports

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Economic Coordination Committee (ECC), chaired by Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb, has finalised the key agreements on the Reko Diq project, including a rail development agreement between the Ministry of Railways and the Reko Diq

Mining Company. The committee approved the financing of \$390-million bridge that will be used to lay a 1,350-kilometre-long railway track. The rail project has been termed vital for exporting Reko Diq minerals from Balochistan.

It also directed the Ministry of uplift," he said.

Railways to share the agreements' documents with the Ministry of Finance and instructed both ministries to present a detailed report on the project by March next year.

Finance Minister Aurangzeb said the Reko Diq project would transform the economic outlook of Balochistan, create employment opportunities, improve infrastructure and bring long-term social and economic benefits to the region.

"The Reko Diq project will not only unlock one of the world's largest undeveloped copper-gold deposits but also catalyse job creation, infrastructure development, and long-term socio-economic