**Barkat Rice Mills** 

connected by road, rail, and air

to both Asia and Europe, with

It is linked with Sost port in

its own international airport.

Gilgit-Baltistan, just 400 kilo-

metres away, and with Gwadar

port at a distance of 2,000 kilometres. The zone handles both

imports and exports through

The President also visited

stalls and kiosks representing

various countries, including

Central Asian states, Euro-

pean countries, South Korea,

Officials further briefed the

President on the digital trade

centre established in 2024,

now home to more than 5,400

companies, and the cross-

border e-commerce exhibition

centre showcasing duty-free

products from across Central

these routes.

and Japan.

Nadeem Afzal Chan pays tribute to Shaheed Mir Murtaza Bhutto on his death anniversary

Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Central Secretary Information, Nadeem Afzal Chan, Highlighting the sacrifices of the Bhutto family, Chan stated that Mir Murtaza Bhutto's martyrdom serves as a reminder that the Bhuttos never stepped back from the fight for democracy.



FBR to take action against those who flaunt wealth on social media

The FBR has prepared data of individuals flaunt

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

**President Asif** 

Kashgar free

trade zone

Spokesman Report

KASHGAR: President Asif Ali

Zardari visited the Kashgar Free

Trade Zone, the only facility of

its kind in southern Xinjiang

and an important hub for trade

and logistics in the region. The President was received by Mr

Yao Ning, CPC Party Secretary

of Kashgar, and was briefed

on the zone's growth since its establishment in 2015. Spread

over 3.56 square kilometres, the

zone brings together bonded

warehousing, logistics, process-

ing, customs clearance, and air

It has trade links with

118 countries, with exports

ranging from electric vehicles

and batteries to solar cells, high-

President Zardari was

Five lawyers,

informed that the zone is Asia, Europe, and beyond.

among 50 booked,

for storming PFA office in Lahore

tech goods, and auto parts.

👺 Bureau Report

LAHORE: Police in Lahore on Saturday lodged an FIR against 50 unidentified persons, including five lawyers.

for attacking Punjab Food Authority (PFA) team and

storming the department's

office. Sections related to inter-

ference in official duty, beat-

ing up the Authority officers.

harassing them and attempt-

ing to kill them, storming the

Ali Zardari visits

Rabiul Awwal 27, Sunday, September 21, 2025





Daily Spokesman Vol: 19, Issue: 156 Price Rs. 25.00 Pages 8

# Group Photo KASHGAR, XINJIANG, China: President Asif Ali Zardari in a group photograph with Pakistani students at Kashgar University. 证什大分

**B** Data breach alert

# Personal information of Pakistani citizens discovered on dark web

B Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of the Pakistan Telecommication Authority (PTA) Major General (R) Hafeez-ur-Rehman confirmed that personal data of Pakistani citizens has been discovered on the dark web

Announcement came during a meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Information Technology and Telecommunication, led by Senator Palwasha Mohammad Zai Khan, which addressed recent media reports telecom sector. of a significant data breach in the



"A report surfaced three week citizens' data had appeared on the

dark web. Upon verification we that even information from indifound that personal data of Pakistani citizens was indeed available there", the PTA Chairman stated.

The leaked information reportedly includes copies of national identity cards (CNICs), travel histories and mobile SIM details. He explained that mobile SIM data is not stored centrally but is kept separately by each telecom

Expressing alarm over the breach, he noted, "What's alarming is how this scattered data ended up collectively on the dark web". He also mentioned

viduals who applied for Hajj has been compromised and is now

"We are currently analysing the leaked information to determine whether it is old data or part of a more recent breach", he added confirming that the National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency (NCCIA) is actively investigating the situation.

Additionally, the PTA Chairman revealed that a complete data profile of an individual can be purchased on the dark web for as little as Rs500.

#### Authority's office and tearing building and thrashed its staff. ATC Judge Misbahuddin removed from his post

#### Maria Abdul Ghafoor Sarohi

NAUSHAHRO: Additional Chief Secretary of the Sindh Home Department removed Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) Naushahro Feroze Judge Misbahuddin Phulpoto from his post. The Home Department handed over the services of Misbahuddin Phulpoto to the Sindh High Court.

The Chief Justice of the Sindh High Court had appointed District and Sessions Judge High Court.



inserted in the FIR, which was

registered on the complaint of

Food Safety Officer Muham-

mad Shakil at Muslim Town

Dozens of people, including

lawyers, had stormed the PFA's

police station of the city.

Sessions Judge Zahid Hussain Metlo has been appointed District and Sessions Judge Dadu. Sessions Judge Dadu Muhammad Yasin has Misbahuddin Phulpoto as been transferred to the Sindh

#### Pakistani airports safe from cyberattacks; flight operations remain normal: PAA

#### Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Airports Authority (PAA) confirmed on Saturday that all airports across the country are secure from cyberattacks and uing as normal.

According to the PAA, all software and electronic systems, including immigration and airline operations, are fully functional, with no reports of technical glitches or security threats.

after major airports in Europe and the UK were hit by a largescale cyberattack that crippled check-in and other electronic systems at London Heathrow, Brussels, and Berlin, leading that flight operations are contin- to hours-long delays and flight cancellations.

The clarification came a day

The PAA assured travellers that Pakistan's airports remain unaffected and that monitoring mechanisms are in place to respond swiftly to any potential cyber threats.

# Karachi female doctor still missing after jumping into drain six days ago

😂 Bureau Report

KARACHI: Dr Mishal Karim, committed suicide by jumping into a drain six days ago was still missing. The family and

The residents of the area also participated in the search opera resident of Gulshan-e-Igbal ation on self-help basis. One town of Karachi, who allegedly resident even broke down his wall to make it easier for the volunteers.

Dr Mishal's uncle said that Edhi volunteers are continu- on September 16, informaing to search day and night in tion was received that Mishal and drowned, but no help was the garbage and bushes along had jumped into the drain provided by the government.



ago indicating that some Pakistani

According to the Edhi volun- anyone could do anything, Dr heavy garbage and bushes in difficulties in the search

An eyewitness claimed that he saw Dr Mishal running bareshouting, 'Catch her' but before continuously working.

teer, the main obstacle is the Mishal jumped into the drain. Dr Mishal's neighbour said

the drain which are creating that she was a very sophisticated woman and they were all shocked by her move.

Despite the passage of six he was sitting on his cabin when days, the search for Dr Mishal is ongoing. The family, local resifoot. A woman behind him was dents and Edhi volunteers are

# Khadija Shah challenges sentence in May 9 case

👺 Bureau Report

an appeal in the Lahore High an anti-terrorism court (ATC) in the Jinnah House attack case.

court and the plaintiff. She stat- jail. There were 51 accused nomi-LAHORE: Khadija Shah filed ed in her appeal that she has nated in the case. no connection with the Jinnah Court (LHC) challenging the House attack case, terming the proclaimed offenders over their jail sentence awarded to her by case baseless and politically

motivated. She said that her trial, The appeal was filed against along with other accused, was

the judge of the anti-terrorism conducted inside Kot Lakhpat Twelve accused were declared

continued absence from the hearing, and 18 were awarded sentences.

Later, the court awarded



her five-year jail terms and of ATC, which was announced Rs100,000 fine. He prayed to on September 9, 2025, as null the court to declare the verdict and void.

# Pakistan Zindabad Convention to be held in Bagh on Sept 22: Sardar Attique

#### 👺 Bureau Report

BAGH/MUZAFFARABAD: President of All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference and former Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan has said that the Pakistan Zindabad Convention to be held in Bagh on September 22 will be a grand demonstration of the Kashmiri people's great love and attachment to Pakistan. He said that the slogan of the Kashmiri people has always been Pakistan Zindabad and this convention will not only thwart the enemy's intentions but also highlight Kashmir's invincible relationship with Pakistan to the world.

was addressing an all-party consul- of PML-N and other political, social tative meeting in Bagh regarding and religious leaders. the Pakistan Zindabad Convention. The meeting was addressed by meeting, former Prime Minister abad Convention on September 22 referendum against the enemies of Azad Kashmir government minister



Sardar Mir Akbar Khan, Muslim that this convention will not only be a Conference leaders Sardar Abdul Rashid Chughtai Advocate Major (retd) Sardar Nasrullah Khan, Sardar Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan Mushtaq Nayyar, Raja Saeed Inqilabi

Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan said and make it a historic gathering. He Kashmir he added.

source of strengthening the Kashmir freedom movement but will also provide an opportunity to the young generation to reaffirm their love and commitment to Pakistan. He appealed to the workers of all political parties to Addressing the consultative participate fully in the Pakistan Zind-

said that the purpose of the Pakistan Zindabad Convention is to express solidarity with the people of occupied Jammu and Kashmir, to reiterate Pakistan's resolve that Kashmir will become a free Kashmir, and to highlight its unwavering commitment to Pakistan And there will be a public

#### Awareness campaign

KARACHI: Traffic Police has launched an awareness campaign among citizens and drivers about the faceless e-ticketing system, in Provincial Capital.



# Kashmir delegation protests against India's occupation and human rights violations

#### **Spokesman Report**

GENEVA: The Kashmiri delegation staged a strong protest demonstration outside the United Nations office in Geneva against India's illegal occupation and the serious systematic human rights violations being committed by Indian forces in occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

Along with the members of the delegation, people from different walks of life also participated in the protest and addressed the protesters. The speakers highlighted the grave political and human rights situation in occupied Kashmir and appealed to the United Nations Human Rights Council for immediate intervention to



prevent further bloodshed and protect the rights of citizens.

The speakers demanded the imme-

Muslim-majority identity. Those who addressed the demon-

India to end its authoritarian poli-

cies, including attempts to change

the population ratio to erase the state's

stration included All Parties Hurriyat Conference Convener Ghulam Muhammad Safi, former Azad Kashmir Minister Chaudhry Pervez Ashraf, Kashmir Institute of International Relations (KIIR) Chairman Altaf Hussain Wani, Executive Director Sardar Amjad Yousaf, Advocate Pervez Shah, Dr. Raja Sajjad, Ms. Shamim Shawal, Dr. Muzammil Ayub Thakur, Chaudhry Naeem, Dr. Shagufta Ashraf, Mirza Asif Jaral, Ali Raza Syed and Chaudhry Ajmal, among others.

# Pakistan advancing towards economic growth: Rana Sanaullah

#### 👺 Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: The political, defense and economic successes achieved by the collaboration of political and military leadership have enabled Pakistan to decide its own future, while during the tenure of the current government, the nation and the country have heard new good news, as well as a clear improvement in Pakistan's image at the glob-

This was said by the Prime Minister's Advisor on Political and Public Affairs, Federal Minister for Inter-Provincial Coordination Senator Rana Sanaullah Khan while addressing a representative meeting of the business community at the Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry



Khawaja Salman Rafique regarding the establishment of a cancer hospital in Faisalabad. Earlier, while welcoming Senator Rana Sanaullah Khan and today. He assured to discuss with the other guests, Faisalabad Chamber of

Rehan Naseem Bharara congratulated the Prime Minister, his entire team and the Field Marshal on the defense agreement between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia and demanded that Chief Minister and Health Minister Commerce and Industry President an Expo Center and a new airport

diate release of all illegally detained

leaders and activists and said that

the United Nations should pressure

basis, while cargo handling should be allowed in the existing airport. Finally, Mian Javed Iqbal thanked the guests and presented the honorary shield of the Faisalabad Chamber to Senator Rana Sanaullah along with the President of the Chamber Rehan Naseem Bharara. He also recorded his impressions in the guest book of the Faisalabad Chamber. Prime Minister's Coordinator Rana Ehsan Afzal Khan, Mian Abdul Manan, Sheikh Ijaz Ahmed, Senior Vice President Qaiser Shams Gachha, Engineer Asim Munir, Sadaqat Lodhi, Bilal Jamil, Chaudhry Talat Mahmood, Ayub Aslam Manj, Nabil Yousaf, Yousaf Moti, Ashraf Mughal, Haji Muhammad Attaullah, Naveed Gulzar, Bao Akram and other business leaders were also present on the occasion.

#### Governor lauds Pakistan-Saudi defense agreement



LAHORE: Punjab Governor Sardar Saleem Haider Khan on Saturday described the defense agreement signed between Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Saudi Crown Prince Muhammad bin Salman as a milestone at the global level, crediting Chief of Army Staff Field Marshal Asim Munir for his pivotal role in the accord.

He expressed these views while addressing a ceremony held here to mark the 95th National Day of Saudi Arabia at the invitation of Saudi Ambassador Nawaf bin Abdul Maliki.

The governor congratulated the Saudi people on their National Day, joined the Saudi envoy in the traditional national dance, and highlighted the growing strength of Pakistan-Saudi relations

"Saudi Arabia has always stood with Pakistan in difficult times, whether during floods, earthquakes, or other natural calamities," he

Sardar Saleem Haider said the defense pact ensured that aggression against either country would be treated as aggression against both. He added that Pakistan was proud of its role in safeguarding the Haramain Sharifain.

He said the recent visit of President Asif Ali Zardari to China would yield significant benefits, as past engagements with Beijing had strengthened bilateral ties. He recalled China's steadfast support for Pakistan during the Indo-Pak war, describing the country as a time-tested friend.

The governor also praised Pakistan People's Party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's efforts on the diplomatic front, stating that his leadership at international forums, including in Saudi Arabia, helped enhance Pakistan's global image and restore the value of the green passport.

### Agreement for protection of Haramain Al-Sharifain honor for us: Sardar Usman

#### **Bureau Report**

RAWALPINDI/MUZAFFARABAD: Young political and social leader, former candidate for Legislative Assembly from Valley Four Rawalpindi, Sardar Muhammad Usman Hayat Khan Abbasi Advocate has said that the recent agreements and long-standing brotherly relations between Pakistan and



Saudi Arabia are a source of pride for the people of both countries. The agreement for the protection of Haramain Al-Sharifeen for the Pakistan Army under the leadership of Field Marshal General Hafiz Syed Asim Munir is an honor for us. He said that the foundation of these relations is based on Islamic brotherhood, mutual trust and defense cooperation, which has been further strengthened with the passage of time. He said that the cooperation of the Pakistani Armed Forces with Saudi Arabia is of historical importance.

#### PPP says there will be no celebrations on Bilawal's birthday

#### Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD/MUZAFFARABAD: Pakistan People's Party Azad Kashmir has announced that it will not hold any kind of ceremony or cake cutting ceremony on the occasion of Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's 37th birthday on September 21, like the four provinces, as per the instructions. It has been decided not to hold any kind of celebration or congratulatory ceremony on the occasion of Chairman Bilawal Bhutto's 37th birthday. In this regard, the party's President Chaudhry Muhammad



Yasin, Speaker Chaudhry Latif Akbar, Secretary General Raja Faisal Rathore have issued orders to the party and its subsidiary organizations to ensure implementation by keeping in mind the party policy. Yesterday, the party's Central Deputy Secretary for Information, Ticket Holder Constituency Seven, Leepa Valley, Shaukat Javed Mir, while briefing the media, said that

The country is currently facing a severe flood situation and the people are surrounded by difficulties and suffering.

# Pakistan Army, providing relief and rehabilitation to flood victims in Chiniot district

#### 👺 Bureau Report

CHINIOT: The Pakistan Army is also at the forefront of providing relief and rehabilitation to flood victims in Chiniot district. Pak Army medical camps have been established at 5 locations in the district. Medical examinations were conducted at the camps in Burj Omar, Mauza Haral, Mohammadi Sharif, Kiki and Diwan Khas. Pak Army doctors provided medical examinations and medicines to about 2,000 flood victims. The Pakistan Army is also taking steps alongside the administration for the rehabilitation of flood victims.

## Poonch is the land of martyrs and ghazis: Shah Ghulam Qadir

#### Spokesman Report

RAWALAKOT: President of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (AJK) Shah Ghulam Qadir has said that if there is a state, there will be politics. The time has come for the ideological people of Poonch to come out of their homes on September 21 to protect the state and participate in the rally in full. Poonch is the land of martyrs and ghazis. The people here sacrificed their lives for the freedom of this region.

No one gave us the current system on a plate. Our ancestors sacrificed for it, but today there is chaos everywhere. A class has emerged in whose hands no one's honor is safe. He expressed these views while addressing the Muslim League office bearers and workers at a consultative meeting called in Rawalakot regarding the September

.. 6:07 pm



# **Namaz Timings**

#### ....7:31 pm EMEDGENCY

Maghrib

EMIERGENCI	
Rescue (Police) 1	5
Bomb Disposal 1	5
Fire Services Rawalpindi/	
Islamabad1122 & 1	6
Emergency Ambulance 1122	8
& Rescue Services 445112	2
Motorway Police926604	4
Motorway Police9270601-2	0

#### **Women Police**

Islamabad . 9270601-20

#### **ENOUIDV**

LITY	/IR I
Edhi Ambulance	
PIA Flight Info	
PIA Cargo	9280979
Railway Inquiry	117
Railway Exchange	9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi	5555489
CAA	9281092

#### HOSPITALS

110361	ALJ
CMH	5611111
MH	561116
MH	561116
Cantt Hospital	9270907-11
DHQ	5556311-4
RGH	9290301-7
Holy Family	9290322-7
PIMS	
Polyclinic	9218300-09
Shifa International	

#### **DEPARTMENTS**

CDA	. 9221334-43
CDA	9208301-04
Met Office	. 9250360-6
RDA	5555864
TMA	5770886
Cantonment Board	9270151-3
Islamabad Metropolit	an
Corporation	9209224

Admissions in progress in university of Kamalia: Vice Chancellor Dr. *Yasir* 

#### 👺 Zafar Chishti

TOBATEK SINGH: According to the Details, Vice Chancellor University of Kamalia, Professor Dr. Yasir Nawab, Talking to our Correspondent said that admissions are ongoing in various programs at University of Kamalia. These include Business Administration, Accounting and Finance, E-Commerce and Digital Market ing, Physics, Chemistry, English, Textile and Fashion Design, Medical Laboratory Technology, Psychology, Islamic Banking and Finance, and Biochemistry. He further said that the aim of the university is not only to award degrees but also to provide practical skills along with education to the students as per the requirements of the modern era so that no student is unemployed. He said that special attention is being paid to training along with education here. So that our students are not only experts in their fields but also can play a positive role in society as good citizens. Professor Dr. Yasir Nawab said that our dream is that every youth coming out of Kamalia should be a pioneer of Pakistan's devel-

# IAEA praises Pakistan's partnership and progress in peaceful nuclear programme

#### **Spokesman Report**

VIENNA / ISLAMABAD: The peaceful nuclear programme of Pakistan received recognition from the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Mr. Rafael Mariano Grossi, who acknowledged the country's steady progress and close cooperation with the

his meeting with the Chairman, Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC), Dr. Raja Ali Raza Anwar, on the sidelines of the 69th IAEA General Conference in Vienna, Mr. Grossi highlighted Pakistan's achievements in expanding its civil nuclear energy capacity.

He observed that Pakistan's nuclear power programme is advancing "at a good pace," particularly with the ongoing construction of Chashma Nuclear Power Plant Unit-5 (C-5).

The DG recalled witnessing the first concrete pouring at the site in February 2025, which he described as a major milestone in Pakistan's efforts to strengthen energy security through clean and sustainable nuclear power.

During the meeting, the IAEA Director General and PAEC Chairman reviewed areas of cooperation under various Agency initiatives. These included Atoms is being shared with other Member States.

4Food, which applies nuclear technology to improve crop yields, food safety, and pest control, and Rays of Hope, which aims to expand access to nuclear medicine and radiotherapy for cancer care across the Asia-Pacific region.

Mr. Grossi appreciated Pakistan's active engagement with the Agency, especially in capacity-building, training, and the application of nuclear knowledge for socio-eco-In a social media message following nomic development. He noted that Pakistan continues to serve as an important partner in the peaceful uses of nuclear science and technology.

The PAEC Chairman reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to the peaceful applications of nuclear technology, in line with national development priorities and IAEA frameworks. He underlined that Pakistan's nuclear power plants operate under the highest safety standards and contribute significantly to the energy mix by providing reliable, low-carbon electricity. He added that PAEC's activities are closely aligned with the IAEA's vision of promoting nuclear technology for peace, health, and prosperity.

The meeting also provided an opportunity to discuss Pakistan's contributions to regional initiatives under the IAEA, particularly in the Asia-Pacific, where Pakistani expertise in nuclear applications



continue working with the IAEA and unclear cooperation, sustainable devel-

Pakistan reiterated its resolve to Member States in advancing peaceful opment, and improved quality of life for

#### A View of Capital

ISLAMABAD: A stunning view of the newly installed illuminated model of the moon by local administration for the beauty of the Federal Capital



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

# Joint Public Action Committee holds emergency meeting

#### 👺 Bureau Report

ISLAMABAD/MUZAF-FARABAD: The Jammu and Kashmir Joint Public Action Committee (JKJAAC) issued a statement after its emergency meeting, announcing a complete lockdown and strike across the state for an indefinite period from September team and demanded to start political parties, for which the

for essential food items.

the past few days, the Pakitalks to the Public Action government sabotaged the 29 and directing citizens to meaningful talks through a entire responsibility lies with

However, no serious step The statement said that in was taken by the Pakistani government and in the meanstan government had offered time, the Azad Kashmir Committee and asked it to talks process by making baseform a delegation, on which less and baseless allegations of the committee immediately Indian funding through the formed its own negotiation assembly floor and various

the rulers who had initially

The statement expressed grave concern over the activities of suspicious persons dressed in civilian clothes in different parts of the state and said that if such an act is repeated, the responsibility for its consequences will fall on the ruling classes and the local administration.

# Trust of the people is our greatest strength: Shahid Khaqan

#### 跨 City Desk

opment.

ISLAMABAD: Syed Waseem Gilani, the Sajjada Nasheen (custodian) of Darbar Aalia Ghausia Azizia Qadriya Sarwariya, along with his disciples and local community members. announced his formal joining of the Awaam-e-Pakistan Party, expressing full confidence in the party. A collective prayer was held for Pakistan and the party's success, peace, and prosperity.

Yesterday, former Prime Minister of Pakistan and Central Convener of the Awaam-e-Pakistan Party, Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, visited the Darbar Aalia Ghausia Azizia Qadriya Sawariya, accompanied by political and social leader Chaudhry Inam Zafar, Usman Abbasi and City Organizer Nazir Ahmed Kashmiri. There, they were warmly welcomed by Syed Waseem Gilani, Syed Nadeem Gilani, Syed Naheed Gilani, and Syed Ahmed Gilani, who, along with their disciples and locals, announced their decision to enforce the law and play a pivotal to join the Awaam-e-Pakistan Party. They expressed their complete trust in the party's leadership, including



Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, Miftah Ismail, Chaudhry Inaam Zafar, and other. They emphasized that in the current situation, Pakistan urgently needs bold, selfless, and honest leadership, who capable of taking practical steps role in steering the country out of its

Responding to this, Shahid Khaqan

Abbasi said: "The trust of the people is our greatest strength, and we will preserve it at all costs. The role that religious scholars have played in the stability of Pakistan is impossible to erase from the pages of history. Islam is our foundation. You all hold great respect in my eyes, and I am deeply thankful for your trust. Without the support of religious scholars, the

Awaam-e-Pakistan Party is incom-

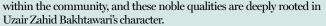
Chaudhry Inaam Zafar stated that The Awaam-e-Pakistan Party was founded with the goal of a brighter, prosperous, and progressive future for Pakistan. Together, we must strengthen Pakistan from the platform of this party. If Pakistan stands,

#### Uzair Zahid Bakhtawari Appointed, Additional Chief Warden

#### 跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Commissioner and Controller Civil Defence Rawalpindi, Hassan Waqar Cheema, has issued a notification appointing Uzair Zahid Bakhtawari as the Additional Chief Warden of the Civil Defence Organization Rawalpindi.

Uzair Zahid Bakhtawari hails from a respected and esteemed family of Pakistan. He completed his higher education abroad and is known as a young man dedicated to serving humanity. His family continues to play a vital role in addressing social issues within the community, and these noble qualities are deeply rooted in



In recognition of his services to humanity and his family's admirable legacy, Deputy Commissioner and Controller Civil Defence Rawalpindi, Hassan Waqar Cheema, decided to appoint him to this key role and formally issued the appointment notification.

On this occasion, speaking to media representatives, Uzair Zahid Bakhtawari said that I am deeply thankful to Deputy Commissioner and Controller Civil Defence Rawalpindi Hassan Waqar Cheema, ADCG Dr. Hassan Tariq, Director General Civil Defence Punjab Zaigham Nawaz, Assistant Director Sanjeeda Khanum, and District Officer Civil Defence Ghulam Mustafa for the trust and confidence they have shown in me I will do my utmost to fulfill their expectations using all my abilities."

#### Attock Police recovered full 9.5 million rupees and returned to applicant

#### 👺 Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: During the daily open court of District Police Officer Attock, Sardar Moarhan Khan, a resident of Karachi named Muhammad Shoaib appeared and stated that a man from District Attock had defrauded him of 9.5 million rupees and was refusing to return the money.

On the orders of DPO Attock, the police immediately traced the fraudster and recovered the amount, returning the full 9.5 million rupees to

After receiving his money, the citizen once again met DPO Attock Sardar Moarhan Khan and expressed his gratitude.

#### CM launches green tractor program phase-II



LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif on Saturday launched Phase-II of the Green Tractor Program by announcing the results of a ballot for 9,500 high-power tractors to be distributed among farmers across the province.

At the ceremony, the first tractor went to Raja Rafat Abbas, the second to Nuzhat Parveen, and the third to Mian Naseer. The CM congratulated the successful applicants and personally called Muhammad Ashiq, a farmer from Kasur, to extend her felicitations. "I have called you to congratulate you on your success in the draw to win a tractor," she told him.

Briefing the chief minister, Secretary Agriculture said that under the program, owners of seven acres or more land are eligible to obtain tractors ranging from 75 to 125 horsepower. The Punjab government is offering a subsidy of Rs1 million on high-power tractors and Rs500,000 on medium-power tractors (50-65 horsepower). Overall, 20,000 tractors will be provided with subsidies under Phase-II, including 9,500 high-power tractors and 10,000 medium-power

The chief minister was informed that 734,000 farmers applied under Phase-II of the scheme. Of them, 282,000 were declared eligible for the draw, while 9,500 applicants emerged successful in the ballot. Officials added that 98 percent of farmers applied for locally manufactured tractors, while two percent applied for imported large and modern tractors. In response to this demand, foreign companies have established dealerships and business offices in Punjab.

Sunday, September 21, 2025

Group Chairman/Chief Editor: Almass Ayoub Sabir Vice Chairman:

Editor:

Head Editorial Advisory Board: Amjad Mehmood

Bureau Chief Karachi:

Bureau Chief Lahore:

Syed Afraz Ali Nazish (afrazalishah@gmail.com) AIMS Building, Street No. 4, H-8/1, Islamabad. Head Office:

spokesmanislamabad@gmail.com Phone: +92 51 2227123, WhatsApp +92 346 5008408

Karachi office: A111, Block C, Gulsha-e-Jamal, PRECHS, Karachi Phone:021-33399390

Email: spokesmankarachi@gmail.com

Asim Nazir Ahmad

Khurram Jaffrani (jaffrani@adpluse.pk

Naveed Ahmad Khan

Lahore Office: 7-E, Samanberg, Johar Town.

spokesmanlahore@gmail.com

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#### Working group set up to tackle e-waste issue in Pakistan

he Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination (MoCC&EC) has constituted a working group to address the country's growing challenge of electronic waste (e-waste).

According to an official notification available with Wealth Pakistan, the working group has been tasked with deliberating on and providing technical input for the development of a national e-waste management system. It will also contribute to the formulation of a national e-waste management policy framework, identify regulatory gaps, and propose effective implementation mechanisms.

The working group will be chaired by MoCC&EC Secretary Aisha Humera Chaudhry. Other members include the Secretary of the Ministry of Information Technology, a representative of the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA), the Secretary or representative of the Ministry of Industries and Production, a representative of the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), the Secretary or representative of the Ministry of Commerce, Director Generals of Provincial Environmental Protection Agencies (Pak-EPAs), a representative of the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA), the Executive Director of the Higher Education Commission (HEC), a representative from the National Radio and Telecommunication Corporation (NRTC), among others.

The Pakistan Environmental Protection Agency (Pak-EPA) in Islamabad will serve as the secretariat for the working group, facilitating its meetings, communications, and reporting.

As per its Terms of Reference (ToRs), the working group will focus on improving e-waste collection, transportation, recycling, and disposal practices. It will also review existing environmental laws, import/export regulations, and international obligations relating to e-waste, while identifying policy, institutional, and enforcement gaps.

Furthermore, the group will recommend a comprehensive national framework, including a roadmap for the development of a national e-waste management policy or regulations. It will define the roles of federal and provincial governments, regulators, the private sector, and informal recyclers in e-waste management.

The group will also suggest appropriate standards, technology options, certification systems, and capacity-building initiatives aligned with global best practices.

A senior official at MoCC&EC told Wealth Pakistan that e-waste has become an overwhelming issue in the country, posing serious environmental and public health risks due to unsafe disposal and informal recycling practices. He added that the ministry, in collaboration with relevant provincial departments, is making all-out efforts to address the issue, while work is also underway to conduct a baseline study to map the scale and nature of e-waste in Pakistan.

# **Co-ablation Cancer Centre: Precision** of Ice, the Warmth of Compassion

**Qudrat Ullah** 

t Lahore's historic Mayo Hospital, a quiet revolution has begun. In a sterile chamber, a tumor is frozen to -198°C before being subjected to searing heat at 83°C. What sounds like a futuristic experiment is, in fact, the reality of co-ablation therapy—a cutting-edge cancer treatment that combines cryoablation and thermal ablation. For the first time in Pakistan's public healthcare system, this medical technology is now available free of cost to patients who could never have dreamed of affording it otherwise.

The establishment of the country's first public-sector Co-ablation Cancer Centre, inaugurated by Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, represents more than the acquisition of advanced machinery. It marks a profound shift in healthcare philosophy: that science must not only heal but also restore dignity; that innovation must not be a luxury but a right accessible to all. Pakistan is the first country in South Asia to introduce co-ablation technology in a government hospital. The significance of this step cannot be overstated. Co-ablation is minimally invasive, highly precise, and remarkably patientfriendly. Traditional surgeries often involve weeks of painful recovery, high costs, and the risk of damaging healthy tissue. In contrast, co-ablation takes just over an hour, with patients often resuming normal activity within a day. For patients like Rana Muhammad Asghar, suffering from liver cancer, or Muhammad Akram, battling a lung tumor, this new therapy is more than medical science—it is hope restored. Their stories transform this technological advancement into a human triumph.

equally compelling political story. Chief monitoring, diagnostic facilities, and funding, maintenance of equipment, and Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif's deci- emergency services, aiming to close the sion is rooted not only in governance but also in deeply personal experience. Having witnessed her mother Kulsoom Nawaz battle cancer, she has translated private pain into public resolve.

While Mayo Hospital's co-ablation unit is a historic first, it cannot, by itself, shoulder the burden of Pakistan's cancer crisis. Recognizing this, the Punjab government has pledged to establish five more such centres across the province, including in the new Nawaz Sharif Cancer Hospitals. But

hardware alone will not win this war; the real battle lies in building human capacity. The directive to train a pool of master trainers—doctors, bioengineers, and technicians—is perhaps the most important part of this initiative. By cultivating local expertise, Punjab is laying the groundwork for self-reliance, ensuring this is not a one-off spectacle but the seed of a sustainable healthcare revolution.

The co-ablation centre is the spearhead of a much broader healthcare transformation unfolding under the Punjab government. Several initiatives demonstrate that the Punjab government is not simply reacting to crises but reimagining the healthcare landscape. By expanding telemedicine, rural populations are linked to urban specialists, making medical advice accessible even in remote villages. Patients who once had to travel for hours for a basic consultation can now receive expert guidance from their homes. Rural health units

yawning gap between urban and rural healthcare delivery. Under the provincial health insurance scheme, millions of families are now entitled to cashless medical treatment at both public and private hospitals, easing financial burdens

and normalizing the concept of universal health coverage. New purpose-built mother and childcare hospitals are being developed to address maternal and infant health. Alongside this, the government is digitizing patient data to ensure better moni-

toring, reduce duplication, and increase transparency, providing a digital backbone that strengthens every reform initi-

The symbolism of Mayo Hospital's co-ablation centre should not be underestimated. For decades, public hospitals have been synonymous with long queues, inadequate facilities, and underpaid staff. The launch of a world-class cancer treatment in such a setting is a powerful statement that the entrenched narrative of despair can be overturned. Moreover, this initiative strikes at the heart of inequality. It bridges the chasm between the healthcare available to elites in private hospitals and the limited options for the poor. When a rickshaw driver's wife and a corporate executive's child can access the same advanced treatment, society takes a definitive step towards equity.

Yet, there are challenges that must be confronted with honesty. Sustaining

Behind the medical marvel lies an have been upgraded with better staff such high-tech services requires consistent uninterrupted supply chains for consumables like liquid nitrogen. Retaining trained professionals, who are often lured by lucrative offers abroad, is another hurdle. The provincial government's commitment to performance audits and transparent monitoring will be key to preventing this initiative from sliding into neglect. Similarly, the fight against cancer cannot be waged through treatment alone. Public awareness about prevention—healthy diets, early screenings, and lifestyle changes-must form an equally important pillar of strategy. Without this, the burden of disease will continue to outpace even the most advanced technologies.

The co-ablation centre at Mayo Hospital is, at its core, a story of hope. It shows what is possible when technology is fused with empathy, and when political resolve aligns with human need. It challenges Pakistanis to imagine a healthcare system where innovation is not the preserve of the privileged but the inheritance of all. For patients facing the terrifying word "cancer," it offers a gentler path to recovery. For families, it provides financial relief in moments of despair. For the country, it signals that progress is not an abstract promise but a lived reality. The road ahead will be long, and the struggle against cancer relentless. But with this bold fusion of precision medicine and compassionate governance, Punjab has taken a decisive step forward. The lesson is clear: when compassion becomes policy, miracles cease to be rare—they become

(The writer is a Lahore-based public policy analyst who can be reached at qudratu@gmail.com)



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

# Pakistan and Saudi Arabia's Historic Strategic Defense Agreement

n September 17, 2025, Paki- tise, and regional influence. stan and Saudi Arabia signed a historic defense agreement in Rivadh. In the presence of Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, this pact marked the beginning of a new era in bilateral relations. The core clause of the agreement states that any attack on one country will be considered an attack on the other, and both nations will jointly respond to it. This accord, the treaty does not explicitly mention nuclear

institutionalizes and formalizes the longstanding defense cooperation between the two allies.

The relationship between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia has always been characterized by closeness and trust. For decades, Pakistani military officers and experts have contributed to the training and advisory roles of Saudi armed forces. Histor-

ically, Pakistan has prioritized Saudi security, especially in relation to the protection of the holy sites. Under the new agreement, Pakistan has now become an official partner in the protection of the Haramain Sharifain, adding a deeper spiritual dimension to bilateral ties.

The background of this pact lies in the growing uncertainty across the Middle East and South Asia. Recent Israeli strikes in the Gulf region, Iran's advancing nuclear program, conflicts in Yemen and Syria, and shifting power balances in the region have compelled both Saudi Arabia and Pakistan to strengthen their defense ties. Traditionally, Saudi Arabia viewed the United States as its primary security guarantor. However, changing global politics have pushed Riyadh to seek alternative arrangements and regional alliances. In this context, Pakistan became a natural choice due to its nuclear capability, military exper-

According to the provisions of the agreement, both countries are committed to deploying all possible defense resources. This means not only conventional military cooperation but also intelligence sharing, joint exercises, and potentially extending to a nuclear deterrence umbrella. The most critical point is that both nations will defend each other—if one is attacked, the other will consider it a responsibility to retaliate. While named the Strategic Mutual Defense Agreement, weapons, international media and analysts

suggest that an element of "nuclear deterrence" is tacitly embedded in the agreement. This subtle aspect is what gives the pact significant weight at the

The agreement has sparked new debates in the region. India promptly reacted by stating that it would carefully evaluate the **Ahsan Ansari** implications of this development. For Iran and Israel, the agreement is trou-

bling as it directly affects their strategic interests. The United States and Western countries are also cautious, interpreting it as a sign of Saudi Arabia's growing strategic autonomy. The accord conveys the impression that Gulf states are no longer solely dependent on Western powers for security but are also seeking guarantees within the region.

For Pakistan, this is a major diplomatic and defense achievement, though not without challenges, Should Saudi Arabia face an attack, Pakistan would bear the responsibility of deploying its military forces. This could have deep repercussions on Pakistan's economy, military capacity, and domestic politics. Already engaged in counterterrorism campaigns and managing tensions on its eastern border, Pakistan's assumption of added responsibility in the Gulf would be a

serious test, However, in return, Islamabad is likely to gain substantial benefits in the form of Saudi investment, energy cooperation, and diplomatic support.

For Saudi Arabia, the agreement carries immense importance as well. In the past, during crises, Riyadh turned to the U.S. or Western allies. Now, however, it is making a nuclear-armed country its defense guarantor. This not only strengthens its own position but also sends a strong message to other regional players that Saudi Arabia is exploring new avenues for ensuring its security. At the same time, the Saudi leadership will need to balance its ties with countries like India to ensure that the pact does not negatively affect trade or diplomatic relations.

Many experts are likening this agreement to NATO's Article Five, which declares that an attack on one member is an attack on all. For Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, this treaty is based on the same principle. However, practical implementation will require further measures. Joint military exercises, integration of command-and-control systems, and development of defense infrastructure will be necessary to ensure swift and effective responses in line with the spirit of the agreement.

The Strategic Defense Agreement between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia is a landmark geopolitical development. It has brought the two nations closer and shifted the regional balance of power. The accord sends a strong message to adversaries that any aggression will now be met with a collective response. Most importantly, Pakistan is now an official partner in the protection of the Haramain Sharifain, and both countries stand as guarantors of each other's defense. Yet, its true success will depend on how effectively both nations fulfill its practical requirements and adapt their strategies to the region's ever-changing landscape.

(The writer can be reached at Email. aahsan210@gmail.com)

#### Child Marriage: A Human Tragedy & Violation of Girls' Rights

tices still prevailing in many parts of the world. In Pakistan, especommunities, it continues to destroy the lives of before they are physically, mentally, or emotioncustom; it is a violation of human rights that robs girls of their childhood, their health, their educaexpected to take on the full responsibilities of a recorded on marriage documents, legal loopholes

wife and, soon after, of a mother. Their books and classrooms are replaced with domestic chores and early pregnancies.

The health risks associated with child marriage are equally alarming. The bodies of adolescent girls are often unprepared for pregnancy and childbirth, making them more vulner-

Nazia Naz able to complications such as maternal mortality, premature births, and tions, and potential. Schools, communities, and infant deaths. International health organizations, including the World Health Organization, have repeatedly highlighted that early pregnancy is among the leading causes of death for girls aged 15 to 19. These deaths are preventable, yet they persist as long as child marriage remains

Equally damaging are the psychological scars that early marriage inflicts. A child forced into the role of a wife is rarely given a voice in her new household. The pressures of marital obligations, coupled with the common experience of domestic violence, create a toxic environment where fear, anxiety, and depression become a part of daily life. Such trauma not only damages the girl's mental health but also hinders her ability to build a stable

hild marriage is one of the most and fulfilling future. The problem is compounded persistent and destructive prac- by economic dependency. Girls who marry young are rarely equipped with the education or skills necessary to earn a living. This dependcially in rural and underprivileged ency often leaves them vulnerable to exploitation, with little or no ability to make decisions young girls who are forced into marriage long about their own lives. They are left at the mercy of their husbands or in-laws, unable to claim the ally ready. This is not merely a cultural or social rights and freedoms that should be guaranteed to them as human beings. Pakistan has enacted laws to address this issue, such as the Sindh tion, and their dignity. One of the gravest consequences of child marriage is the abrupt end to a prohibits marriage under the age of eighteen. Yet, girl's education. Once married, young girls are enforcement remains weak. False ages are often

> are exploited, and families find ways to bypass the system. Until the law is strictly applied, and institutions are held accountable, these protections remain ineffective.

> The way forward must be a collective effort. Parents need to recognize that daughters are not burdens to be married off but individuals with rights, aspira-

religious leaders must play their role in raising awareness about the harmful consequences of child marriage. The state must ensure proper implementation of laws, and civil society must continue to advocate for the rights of girls.

Child marriage is not simply an unfortunate cultural practice; it is a crime against humanity. Every girl deserves the right to a childhood filled with education, safety, and opportunities for growth. Until society unites to end this practice, countless lives will continue to be sacrificed to outdated traditions. Protecting girls from child marriage is not only a legal duty but also a moral responsibility that defines our humanity.

(The writer is Defender & International Researcher on Human Rights)

# Tajikistan, Pakistan key players in region for promoting regional economic integration: Ambassador Sharifzoda

#### 跨 Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Tajikistan to Pakistan, H. E. Yusuf Sharifzoda has said that Tajikistan and States (CARs).

The Ambassador reaffirmed its expanding cooperation in diverse fields, particularly trade and invest-

the visit of H. E. Yusuf Sharifzoda, Ambassador of Tajikistan to Pakistan, to the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), said a release issued here on Friday.

felicitate Sardar Tahir Mehmood on will gesture. his unopposed election as President of the Chamber.

Pakistan is a land of opportunities with its most intelligent and loving people known for their hospitality.

economic, trade, and tourism potential and extended an invitation to the tion of CASA-1000. ICCI President in particular and the ICCI members in general to attend Pakistan are key player in region for the forthcoming Dushanbe Internapromoting the regional economic and  $\;$  tional Investment Forum-2025 to trade integration with Central Asian be held on October 14-16, 2025 by expressing confidence that Pakistani business community's participation commitment to further strengthen in this Forum will not only enable it the long-standing brotherly ties by to showcase Pakistani products but will further develop bilateral relations also.

He mentioned that medical equip-This resolve was expressed during ment, leather products, pharmaceuticals and Pakistani skilled workers especially in handicraft have vast scope in Tajikistan.

Welcoming the Ambassador, ICCI President Sardar Tahir Mehmood The Ambassador visited ICCI to thanked him for his visit and good-

He said Pakistan and Tajikistan are bound by centuries-old cultural and Ambassador Sharifzoda said that social ties and stressed the need to transform these relations into robust trade and economic partnerships.

He said that bilateral cooperation people contacts.

He highlighted Tajikistan's between the two countries will be further promoted with the comple-

He underlined the need for the regulatory facilitations for the promotion of trade between the two countries and that Pakistani businessmen by using Tajikistan as a base can have easy access to other central Asian states for the promotion of businesses.

Sardar Tahir reaffirmed ICCI's determination to strengthen chamber-to-chamber relations through B2B networking with friendly nations, with a special focus on Tajik-

ICCI Senior Vice President Tahir Ayub lauded the deep-rooted friendship between the two countries and reiterated that ICCI is committed to enhancing bilateral trade and economic ties with Taiikistan for shared prosperity.

In his vote of thanks ICCI Vice President Mohammad Irfan Chaudhry underscored the need that Tajik investors must also frequently visit Pakistan for the promotion of people to



ICCI Executive members Zulqur- Mohsin Khalid Malik, Rohail Anwar Fatima Azim were also present on nain Abbasi, Waseem Chaudhry, Butt, Khayyam Abbasi and Ms. the occasion alongside others.

# ISSI launches Book 'Pakistan and China: Connecting at People's Level'

#### **Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: The China-Pakistan Study Centre (CPSC) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organised the launch of its latest book titled Pakistan and China: Connecting at People's Level. The event featured remarks by Ambassador Masood Khalid, Pakistan's former Ambassador to China; Ambassador Moin-ul-Haque, Pakistan's former Ambassador Pakistan to China; Dr. Hassan Daud Butt, Senior Associate Professor at Bahria University; Dr. Sundus Mustaqeem, Assistant Professor at NUST; and Ms. Aiza Azam, Lecturer at Air University. Mr. Xu Hangtian, Minister-Counsellor at the

sador Sohail Mahmood, in his all-weather strategic cooper- Mahmood emphasized that the tionship for the future genera-

mutual respect, strategic mutual Embassy of the People's Republic trust, and mutual support on factor for peace, stability and of China was the guest of honour, each other's issues of core inter-Director General ISSI Ambas- ests. He highlighted that this beyond. Ambassador Soahil welcome remarks, termed Paki- ative partnership has endured

in inter-state relations, based on more than seven decades, and continues to serve as a positive development in the region and launch of this book is both timely tions. He pointed out that the stan-China relations as unique regional and global changes for and significant. He stressed that book makes a valuable contribu- urged Pakistan to strengthen exchanges, with sister-city link- tant domain.

while CPEC and the Belt and Road Initiative have reinforced economic and physical connectivity, the human and cultural connectivity will secure the rela-

tion by shedding light on public its film and digital media presages growing from 8 to 19 in diplomacy, cultural exchanges, ence. Ms. Aiza Azam highlighted the last decade and Pakistani academic linkages, tourism, and that people-to-people connecsoft power, areas that need to be systematically strengthened.

Ambassador Moin-ul-Haq underlined that Pakistan-China relations remain the cornerstone of Pakistan's foreign policy. He highlighted the deep warmth and respect the Chinese people hold for Pakistan. He identified five priority areas for strengthening people-to-people ties: civilizational connections, cultural exchanges, economic partnerships, technological collaboration, and tourism.

that the book coincides with the second phase of CPEC, characterized by deeper institutional and societal linkages.

stressed that education, culture, disasters, highlighting the resil- a timely and well-researched media, and tourism are vital for ience of the friendship. He noted publication that makes a valudeeper people-to-people ties and

tions span business, cuisine, nearly doubling. education, and the arts. She emphasized the value of structured exchanges and academic dialogue in shaping a shared

Ambassador Masood Khalid praised the inclusion of themes such as maritime tourism and the blue economy, noting that Pakistan could generate up to and cultural empathy can sustain USD 1.5 billion annually from tourism with China's collabora-

Dr. Hassan Daud Butt noted President Xi Jinping's words, highlighted the significance emphasized that people are the foundation of history and the future. He cited examples of solidarity between the two nations work of public diplomacy. He Dr. Sundus Mustageem during COVID-19 and natural commended CPSC for producing rising cultural and educational

student enrollment in China

Earlier, Dr. Talat Shabbir observed that the book highlights the often-overlooked people-to-people dimension of Pakistan–China relations. By focusing on education, tourism, cultural exchanges, media cooperation, and soft power, it shows how shared human experiences the partnership beyond strategic projects like CPEC.

In his concluding remarks, Mr. Xu Hangtian, echoing Ambassador Khalid Mahmood of people-to-people contacts in advancing Pakistan-China relations within the frameable contribution in this impor-

#### **British Council hosts Sustainable Fashion and Textile Symposium**

#### 👺 Bureau Report

LAHORE: The British Council brought together designers, makers, policymakers, and sustainability experts for the Sustainable Fashion and Textile Symposium held from 19-21 September at Alhamra Arts Centre, Lahore. The threeday gathering highlighted how Pakistan's fashion and textile industry — one of the largest in the world to the climate crisis by embracing sustainability, innovation, and community-driven solutions.

James Hampson, ations." Country Director, British Council Pakistan, said:

connects people, fuels economic opportunity, sustainable, regenera- the sector. By convening build a circular economy.



protected for future gener-

can help lead the response and strengthens Pakistan's tive, equitable, and transcreative industries, while parent creative economy. ensuring that cultural It builds on the publicaheritage is preserved and tion of a comprehensive country report mapping Pakistan's sustainable This symposium is part fashion ecosystem and the

voices from across industries and regions, the symposium provided a platform to share knowledge, strengthen policy and practice, and showcase ideas that can reduce the impact of climate change on Pakistan's most diverse and

at-risk communities. Sessions explored a wide range of urgent issues, from labour rights, textile waste, and eco-design, to storytelling around cotton and the ethics of making. Workshops led by master artisans and international experts gave participants hands-on opportunities to learn traditional practices like block printing and of the British Council's awarding of five innova- weaving while considering "We believe creativity ongoing work in Paki- tion grants to projects that how heritage and innovastan to support a more advance sustainability in tion can work together to

# British HC Jane Marriott visited, Faisalabad Agriculture University

#### 👺 Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: British High Commissioner to Pakistan Jane Marriott visited the University of Agriculture Faisalabad and met with Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Zulfigar Ali, Deans and Directors and discussed matters of mutual interest. Various topics including bilateral cooperation, climate change, academic and research collaboration, food security, soil fertility, agriculture and livestock development were discussed in the meeting. The British High Commissioner expressed his commitment to further strengthen agricultural and educational relations between the UK and Pakistan. Vice Chancel-



lor of the University of Agriculture Faisalabad Prof. Dr. Zulfiqar Ali said that 15 Pakistan Scholarship. He challenges. He said that the research projects are under-said that projects are underway in the university with the support of the UK which and highly effective sustain- is ranked 34th in the field will give concrete results to able cooling solutions with of agriculture and forestry address various challenges. UK funding. He added that He further informed that joint work on climate change ings.

430 female students have and soil fertility is the need benefited from the Scotland way on water, entomology

of the hour to face various university has good relations around the world and according to the QS rank-

## Saudi Arabia's 95th National Day

#### **Sahibzada Maulana Zahid** the country and under the leader- tant to highlight Saudi Arabia's Mehmood Qasmi

great importance in the history of Saudi Arabia. It was on this very day in 1932 that King Abdul Aziz (may Allah have mercy on him) united various tribes under one flag and laid the foundation of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The seed he planted has today grown into a flourishing tree, providing shade to the Muslim Ummah. In the past 95 years, Saudi Arabia has the fields of economy, culture, education, technology and sports progress that is admired by the entire world. After King Abdul Aziz, his sons worked with dedication and sincerity to strengthen National Day, it is also impor-

ship of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin eptember 23 holds Abdul Aziz and Crown Prince Muhammed bin Salman. Saudi Arabia has achieved new milestones of progress through Vision

Saudi Arabia has not only provided its citizens with excellent education and facilities but has also granted scholarships and educational opportunities to students worldwide including those from Pakistan. The services of Saudi Arabia to the Islamic world are unforgettable. Whether made remarkable progress in it is the issue of Masjid Al-Aqsa or the support of the Palestinian people, Saudi Arabia has always played a leading role on the global

On the occasion of the Saudi

invaluable services to Islam and the Muslim Ummah. In particular, Saudi Arabia has taken a leading role in awakening the Muslim world as well as the international community for the cause of Masjid Al-Aqsa and Gaza supporting their restoration efforts and even ensuring that European countries vote in favor of Palestinians at the United Nations. Saudi leadership has utilized its God-given abilities to play a key role at the global level. The self-determination of the Palestinian people and the establishment of their state is essential for lasting peace in the Be it natural disasters or

difficult times, Saudi Arabia has always stood by Pakistan. of modern technologies and From helping flood and earth-

arrangements Saudi Arabia has set an example everywhere. During the recent Hajj season, modern technology and excellent facilities ensured ease and safety for pilgrims.

Saudi Arabia's King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Center sent relief goods for flood victims, which were handed over to the Government of Pakistan by Saudi Ambassador Nawaf bin Saeed Al-Malki. The Merkazi Ulema Council of Pakistan pays tribute to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz and Crown Prince Muhammed bin Salman for their support of flood victims.

Hajj 2025 saw the use of advanced technology. The use services played a significant

quake victims to managing Hajj role in creating a peaceful environment where pilgrims could perform their rituals safely and comfortably. Through the "Road to Makkah" project, the customs and immigration process for Pakistani pilgrims is completed in Pakistan itself and giving them exemption from customs and immigration procedures upon arrival in Saudi Arabia.

All sectors of Saudi Arabia attach great importance to digital technology for the future. The Digital Forum can prove to be a major breakthrough for the economy. There is a strong need Pakistan and Saudi Arabia in the field of technology. The Government of Pakistan has announced that Saudi investors should take advantage of investment opportunities in Pakistan and a friendly

#### environment will be provided for Mosque Ghulam Muhammad Saudi businessmen to trade in Abad in Faisalabad. The Merkazi Pakistan. The alliance between Ulema Council of Pakistan

the two nations can open new congratulates the Saudi leadhorizons for their defense and ership and the people of Saudi economic relations. In 1979, Pakistan renamed to enhance cooperation between its city Lyallpur to Faisalabad that Allah Almighty grants Saudi in honor of Saudi King Faisal.

Arabia on the joyous occasion of the 95th National Day and prays Arabia continued progress, peace In April 1976, the Imam of the and prosperity and strengthens Kaaba, Sheikh Abdullah bin the friendship between Pakistan Subail (may Allah have mercy on and Saudi Arabia even further. him), laid the foundation stone

Author is Chairman, Merkazi of the historic merkazi Jamia Ulema Council Pakistan.

Sunday, September 21, 2025



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		
9,216.67	-11.44		
Percentage	Time		
-0.12%	19 Sept, 4:35 pm GMT+1		
USA: Dow Jones	Industrial Average		
Index Value	Change		
46,305.17	+162.75		
Percentage	10 Sept 1:57 pm		
+0.35%			
Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average			
Index Value	Change		

	GIVIT + 3
Open Market	Forex Rates

-257.62

Time

19 Sept. 3:45 pm

CMTIO

45,045.81

**Percentage** 

-0.57%

Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	187.3	192.3
Bahrain Dinar	749.5	757
Canadian Dollar	203.2	208.2
China Yuan	39.47	39.87
Danish Krone	44.15	44.75
Euro	332.60	337.60
Hong Kong Dollar	36.12	36.47
Indian Rupee	3.12	3.21
Japanese Yen	1.8950	1.9950
Kuwaiti Dinar	917.1	926.1
Malaysian Ringgit	67	67.60
NewZealand \$	164.7	166.70
Norwegians Krone	28.37	28.67
Omani Riyal	733.90	741.40
Qatari Riyal	77.22	77.92
Saudi Riyal	75.40	76.40
Singapore Dollar	219.13	221.13
Swedish Korona	29.99	30.29
Swiss Franc	355.02	357.77
Thai Bhat	8.73	8.88
U.A.E Dirham	77.25	78.25
UK Pound Sterling	384.50	389.50
US Dollar	282.55	282.75

#### Punjab Govt, Hong Kong TDC sign cooperation agreement

**Example 2** Commerce Desk

LAHORE: Punjab Department of Industries and Commerce and Hong Kong Trade Development Council have signed a cooperation agreement to promote investment in Punjab.

Provincial Minister for Industries and Commerce Chaudhry Shafay Hussain and Hong Kong Country Head Wahab Tariq Butt signed the agreement here at PSIC House on Saturday Under the agreement, both sides will facilitate investment promotion in Punjab, exchange trade delegations, organize business seminars, and strengthen relations among investors from Hong Kong, China, and other regions. Wahab Tariq Butt has been appointed as coordinator for enhancing regional investment ties.

Speaking on the occasion, Provincial Minister Chaudhry Shafay Hussain said that accelerating industrialization in Punjab and attracting new investment is his mission. Punjab offers a highly conducive environment for investment, which has made it the first choice of investment for both domestic and foreign investors.

# Gold, silver prices rise in local market

ISLAMABAD: The price of 24-karat gold per tola rose by Rs2,800 on Saturday, reaching Rs390,300 compared to Rs387,500 the previous day, according to the All Pakistan Sarafa Gems and Jewellers Association (APSGJA).

Similarly, the rate of 10 grams of 24-karat gold increased by Rs1,458, now priced at Rs334,619, against Rs333,161 a day earlier. The price of 10 grams of 22-karat gold also moved up by Rs1,337, reaching Rs306,745, compared to Rs305,408 yesterday.

In the international bullion market, gold prices rose by \$17 per ounce to settle at

\$3,685, up from \$3,668 recorded a day ago. Silver prices also experienced an upward trend. The price of 24-karat silver per tola increased by Rs114, reaching Rs4,532 compared to Rs4,418 on Friday. Likewise, 10 grams of silver rose by Rs98, now available at Rs3,885, up from Rs3,787.

# CM meets German delegation to enhance pediatric cancer care

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif met with a high-level delegaand neuro-oncologist Dr. Stefan Michael, to discuss enhanced cooperation in pediatric cancer treatment.

During the meeting, the CM said Punjab has become the first province in the region to introduce ablation cancer treatment. She informed the delegation that the Nawaz Sharif Cancer Hospital in Lahore, set to be the largest and most modern facility in Pakistan, is nearing completion. She also gave in-principle approval to seek the support of German institutions for strengthening children's cancer care in the province.

Dr. Stefan Michael praised Punjab's initiatives, describing the high standard of pedition of Germany's Hope Children's Cancer atric cancer treatment with limited resources Center, led by renowned pediatric oncologist at the Children's Hospital and Cancer Hospital as a remarkable achievement. He highlighted that Hope Children's Cancer Center is already collaborating with the Aga Khan University in Pakistan and expressed optimism that training and knowledge exchange between German and Pakistani institutions will yield further positive results.

Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz welcomed the offer of support, particularly in introducing advanced German technology for pediatric oncology and facilitating joint training programs. She said such cooperation would significantly strengthen Puniab's cancer treat-



ment capacity.

Wurzner, thanked the Chief Minister for her hospitality, calling the cooperation between Leader of Heidelberg City Council Wasim Butt Children's Cancer Center (KiTZ).

said the collaboration was also aimed at deep-Heidelberg's Lord Mayor, Prof. Dr. Eckhart ening educational and cultural ties between Lahore and Heidelberg.

The delegation included senior experts from Heidelberg and Punjab "a new chapter" in the Heidelberg University Hospital, the German partnership of the two cities. Parliamentary Cancer Research Center (DKFZ), and Hope

#### Memorandum of Understanding

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Azerbaijan-Pakistan Joint Chamber of Commerce & Industry (APJCCI) Zafar Bakhtawari and prominent Azerbaijani businessman Babak Hussaini in a group photo after signing the Memorandum of Understanding, along with APJCCI Senior Vice President Naima Ansari, Turkish businessman Murat Gelpish, President of Islamabad Women Chamber of Commerce Samina Fazal, Malik Nadeem Kakazai, and other participants.



跨 Abdul Majid

Chamber of Commerce and Industry President Rehan Naseem Bharara welcomed the strategic defense agreement between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, calling it an important milestone in the direction of cooperation between the two countries in the defense field as well as in the economic field.

FAISALABAD: Faisalabad

Rehan Bharara

welcomed the strategic

defense agreement between Pakistan and

He said that the warm welcome in which Prime Minister of Pakistan Mian Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif and Field Marshal Hafiz Asim Munir were received in Riyadh is a manifestation of the strong and brotherly relations between the two countries.

He also paid great tribute ment.



to the efforts of the Field Marshal in this agreement. He said that this will strengthen the efforts to establish peace in the Arab and South Asia and will also prevent the possibility of any kind of aggression from the neighboring countries of Pakistan and Saudi Arabia. He has specially congratulated the heads of both countries on this historic agree-

## **Pearl-Continental Hospitality Partners** with Q-Links Property Management

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: Pearl-Continental Hospitality, the hospitality division of Hashoo Group, has signed a management agreement with Q-Links Property Management (Pvt.) Ltd, to operate Hotel One Orchard Mall in Bahria Orchard on Main Raiwind Road, Lahore. The signing ceremony took place at Shalimar, Pearl-Continental Hotel, Lahore, and was attended by senior executives of Pearl Continental Hospitality, Hashoo Group, and Q-Links, as well as notable personalities from the city.

Strategically set within Orchard Mall. one of Bahria Orchard's key destinations, the new Hotel One location strengthens the brand's presence in Lahore and brings dependable, value-led stays to a high-growth corridor. Hotel One stands for comfort, reliability, and great value, supported by Pearl-Continental Hospitality's proven operating standards and service culture tailored for today's trav-

The upcoming property will feature 50 well-appointed guest rooms, a restaurant serving local and international cuisine, and a meeting hall for corporate and social gatherings. Guests will also enjoy highspeed Wi-Fi, 24-hour front desk support, flexible check-in and check-out options, a fitness centre, and ample parking facil- one of Lahore's most dynamic commercial Pearl-Continental Hospitality."



ities for a seamless experience.

Hotel One Orchard Mall will join the brand's existing Lahore portfolio in Mall Road, Gulberg, Tower Gulberg, and Garden Town, further expanding accessibility and choice for guests across the city.

Speaking on the occasion, Muhammad Anjum Wattoo, Director Operations, Q-Links Property Management (Pvt.) Ltd., said: "Through this management agreement, we are delighted to partner with Hashoo Group's Hotel One brand to bring a trusted hospitality experience to

hubs. Guests can look forward to a property that blends comfort, convenience, and quality service at affordable rates." Bastien Blanc, Chief Executive Officer, Hospitality Division, Hashoo Group,

"This agreement for Hotel One Orchard Mall reinforces our commitment to making quality hospitality more accessible across Pakistan. By partnering with Q-Links, we are growing in high-potential urban locations while upholding the values that define both Hotel One and

# HBL-P@SHA ICT Awards 2025 **Recognizes Diversity**



LAHORE: Pakistan's IT Industry Association (P@ SHA) hosted its premier industry event, the HBL-P@ SHA ICT Awards 2025, to celebrate country's brightest minds in the field of technology. The Awards, supported by the HBL, Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP), Contour Software, Systems Limited, and Tech-Destination Pakistan, highlighted Pakistan's most innovative startups, digital solutions, and IT companies that are shaping the future of the country's digital economy and earning recognition on the global stage.

Addressing the gathering

Iqbal, Federal for Planning, Development & Special Initiatives, praised the role of Pakistan's young innovators in driving progress; He said: "The digital economy is no longer a choice, it is the future. What we are witnessing here tonight is proof that Pakistan has the talent, creativity, and determination to lead in this space. Our young entrepreneurs and developers are building solutions not just for Pakistan, but for the world. The government is committed to supporting this ecosystem, so that our innovators can thrive, compete internationally, and contribute to a stronger, the Chief Guest, Mr. Ahsan knowledge-based economy."

# DC Islamabad & ICCI President Partners to Promote **Business-Friendly Environment**

**Example 2** Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Commissioner Islamabad, Irfan Nawaz Memon, urged immediate preventive action, praised the Islamabad Chamber of especially removal of stagnant water, Commerce & Industry (ICCI) for and commended ICCI's initiative in its proactive partnership in creat- alerting and mobilizing the business ing a business-friendly climate and community. He assured full adminaddressing civic issues that matter to the community.

Visiting ICCI to congratulate Sardar Tahir Mehmood on his tackling encroachments, waste

that October and November are critical months for dengue outbreaks. He istrative support to curb dengue and safeguard public health.

Memon further committed to unopposed election as President, the management, and street beggary, sustain economic growth.

Deputy Commissioner highlighted alongside strict price controls on daily essentials, to ensure a clean, secure, and investment-friendly environment.

Senior Vice President Tahir Ayub, Vice President Muhammad Irfan Chaudhry, Executive Member Waseem Chaudhry, and former Senior Vice President Khalid Chaudhry also underlined the need for strong public-private cooperation to address civic challenges and



# Dr. Tariq Fazal Ch. praises Pakistan's achievements, cites unity, leadership

**Sports Desk** 

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Dr. Tariq Fazal Chaudhry on Saturday expressed his admiration for Pakistan's progress, recognition, and success, attributing it to the unity of the nation, effective leadership, and divine support.

Speaking at the second Rawalpindi Islamabad Sports Journalists Association (RISJA) Inter-Media Cricket Tournament, Dr. Tariq Fazal highlighted Pakistan's achievements despite facing numerous challenges.

He mentioned that Pakistan's annual defence budget is around \$8-9 billion, significantly less than India's \$80 billion. Despite this disparity, Pakistan has demonstrated remarkable resilience and strength.

He lauded the government's recent achievements, and praised the swift and decisive response of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir during Operation Bunyan Al Marsoos, describing it as a demonstration of Pakistan's strong defence capa-

Dr. Tariq Fazal emphasized the importance of national unity in overcoming challenges and achieving progress. He praised the country's armed forces, polit-



ical leadership, and citizens for their collective efforts.

The minister commended efforts to promote sports in Islamabad, including the development of sports facilities by the Capital Development Authority (CDA). He also announced a cash prize of Rs 20,000 each for teams of Samaa, ARY, 92 and Public News teams who were playing their matches in the cricket tournament on Saturday.

should be free from politics, emphasizing the importance of sportsmanship and fair play. He criticized India's behaviour during the Asia Cup group match (where their team did not handshake with the Pakistani players), saying that their actions reflected poorly on their nation and leadership.

The RISJA Inter-Media Cricket Tournament features ten teams divided into in Islamabad.

Dr. Tariq Fazal stressed that sports two groups. Group A comprises Geo TV, Dunya News, CDA, 92 News, and Public TV, while Group B includes ARY News, Hum News, Samaa News, RISJA, and Dawn News. Each team will play four matches in the group stage, with fixtures consisting of 15 overs per side.

The knockout stage and final will be played over 20 overs, with the championship match scheduled for October 1

# Shujaat Hussain dismisses rumors of becoming Bodybuilding Federation chairman

**Sports Desk** 

ISLAMABAD: Reports claiming that senior politician and former Prime Minister Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain has been appointed chairman of the Pakistan Bodybuilding Federation have been categorically dismissed as unfounded.

Federation officials clarified that the body has no such position as chairman, nor has Chaudhry Shujaat accepted any official role within the organization.

A delegation of the Pakistan Bodybuilding Federation, led by President Tariq Hassan and Secretary Sohail Anwar, recently met Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain and briefed him on the federation's activities and achievements.

The officials specifically apprised haudhry Shujaat Hussain of the feder ation's financial matters and formally requested his patronage to help promote and sustain the sport across the country.



In a significant gesture of support, Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain congratuand community service.

ning bodybuilders to a dinner.

The meeting also served to quash circulating rumors regarding Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain's role within the organ-

lated the federation and its athletes on their recent success of winning five gold

medals in an international competition.

personally invited the gold medal-win-

To celebrate this achievement, he

It was explicitly clarified that reports of him becoming the chairman of the Body-

building Federation are entirely baseless and without merit. The federation stated that no such chairman position exists within its struc-

ture, and Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain has not accepted any formal post. The former Prime Minister has a long istory of supporting sports and aiding athletes without holding any official titles, continuing his tradition of public

## Pakistan cricket captain cancels pre-match presser ahead of India clash



Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan cricket team has cancelled a pre-match news conference in Dubai today ahead of Sunday's high-voltage Super Four round clash with India, quoting sources

The national team captain was scheduled to address a press conference at 6:00 pm in Dubai on Saturday evening but it was now cancelled.

There had also been no news talk before Pakistan's last match of the first round against the hosts UAE.

The Pakistan was also due to take part in a two-hour optional training session in Dubai today.

#### Sidra Ameen makes consecutive centuries against South Africa



**Sports Desk** 

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's opening batter Sidra Ameen etched her name in the history books by becoming the first Pakistani woman cricketer to score centuries in consecutive one-day internationals.

The remarkable feat came during the second ODI against South Africa, where Ameen continued her outstanding form with the bat. After reaching three figures in the opening match, she followed

it up with another century in the second game, solidifying her status as Pakistan's most prolific female batter.

The right-handed opener achieved her hundred from just 97 balls, displaying a perfect blend of patience, timing, and aggressive stroke play against a strong South African bowling attack.

With this achievement, Ameen not only became the first Pakistani woman to record back-to-back centuries in ODIs but also secured another milestone by becoming the first female cricketer from Pakistan to score six centuries in her career.

# IOC to again allow Russians under neutral flag at 2026 Winter Olympics

ISLAMABAD: The International Olympic Committee on Friday announced that athletes from Russia will once more be allowed to compete a neutral banner if they meet strict conditions.

"The Executive Board will take the exact same approach that was done in Paris," said IOC president Kirsty Coventry, referring to last year's Olympics where Russian athletes could only take part under a neutral flag and in individual events.

did not actively support the war in Ukraine or have any links with the

They will not be allowed to take and Belarusians in the French capital

Milan-Cortina Games, which will be held from February 6-22, nor will their achievements be recognised in the medals table. The sanctions were introduced

at the 2026 Winter Olympics under in response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022. The same measures also still apply to athletes from Belarus, an ally of Moscow. The decision at a meeting in Milan

on Friday to stick with the same policy was expected. Coventry had played a part in the adoption of last year's solution for the Paris Olympics. "I believe that it's best for our

Those athletes were also required movement to ensure that we have to undergo checks to prove they all athletes represented," Coventry said in March when she was elected head of the IOC.

The limited presence of Russians

together athletes from around the world while avoiding a boycott by Ukraine and its closest allies.

Only 15 Russians and 17 Belarusians competed in Paris, winning a combined five medals.

The size of the neutral delegation now depends on the international sports federations, which are responsible for the qualification process and some of which continue to ban Russians and Belarusians from their

competitions. Russia's chequered past at Olym-

Sporting powerhouse Russia has been deprived of its colours in the Olympic arena since 2016, initially due to the state-orchestrated doping

Its athletes competed under the

part in the opening ceremony for the satisfied the Olympic body: bringing Olympic flag in 2018 and then that of the Russian Olympic Committee at the Covid-delayed Tokyo Olympics in 2021 and the Winter Games in Beijing the following year.

Russian forces invaded Ukraine days after the 2022 Olympics, triggering sanctions from the IOC.

Russia and Belarus have since been banned from hosting international competitions on their soil, and their flags, anthems and officials have been banned from world sport.

As for the athletes, they were initially excluded "for their own protection", according to the IOC, before being gradually reinstated from March 2023 onwards.

It remains to be seen how winter sports federations will respond to the IOC's decision Friday.

Some have maintained a total ban



national Ski Federation (FIS), whose quotas, compliance with anti-doping disciplines account for more than half regulations and fairness" in the event of the podium places at the Winter Olympics.

survey among its athletes revealing no entries in relays or team events.

on Russians. These include the Inter- "their concerns about safety, Olympic of a Russian return.

The organisation governing The International Biathlon Union skating, the ISU has opened a (IBU) is taking the same line, as is the narrow path to Olympic qualification, International Luge Federation (FIL), allowing one competitor from each of which conducted an anonymous the two nations in each category, but

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Bangladesh competitive total of 168 for began their Asia Cup Super Four campaign on a high note, edging but Bangladesh held their nerve past Sri Lanka by four wickets in a thrilling contest played in Dubai on Saturday, 24NewsHD  $TV\ reported.$ 

After winning the toss, Bangladesh captain Liton Das chose in to bat.

The islanders posted a seven in their allotted 20 overs, to chase down the target with just one ball to spare, finishing on 169 for six.

Sri Lanka's innings was powered by captain Dasun Shanaka, who played a blazing to field first, sending Sri Lanka knock of 64 not out off 37 deliv-

eries, including three fours and

Kusal Mendis chipped in with 34 runs and Pathum Nissanka added 22, but the rest of the batting order struggled to make significant contributions against a disciplined Bangladeshi attack.

Mustafizur Rahman was the standout bowler for Bangladesh, returning figures of three for 20 in his four overs, while Mehidy Hasan claimed two wickets and Taskin Ahmed took one.

Chasing 169, Bangladesh made a strong start with aggres-

Opener Saeem Hassan top-scored with a fluent 61 off 45 balls, laced with two fours and

Captain Liton Das added a

quickfire 23 from 16 deliveries, crucial role with a 37-ball 58 that included four boundaries and

two sixes. Shamim Hossain kept his composure in the final stages, remaining unbeaten on 14 from 12 balls, with Nasum Ahmed contributing a single off the penultimate delivery to seal the

Jaker Ali scored nine from four balls before being dismissed, while Mehidy Hasan was out without scoring.

Sri Lanka's bowlers fought hard to keep the contest alive.

Wanindu Hasaranga was the most effective, claiming two wickets for 22 runs in his four

Bangladesh edge Sri Lanka past by four wickets in Asia Cup Super Four thriller Captain Shanaka backed up while Towhid Hridoy played a his batting heroics with the ball, taking two wickets for 21 in 2.5 overs. Dushmantha Chameera and Nuwan Thushara picked up one wicket each, though they proved expensive in the death

> The tightly fought encounter kept fans on edge until the final overs, as both sides battled hard to secure early momentum in the decisive stage of the tournament.

Bangladesh captain Liton Das won the toss and elected to field first against Sri Lanka in the opening match of the Asia Cup Super Four stage.

Explaining his decision, Das noted that in an earlier match at the same venue, the team batting sizing their strong performances second had emerged victorious.

He admitted to being slightly uncertain about the wicket's behavior but expressed confidence in his side's ability to perform well. "We are all very excited, and

every player is giving their best changes in our playing XI," he Sri Lanka's skipper Charith

Asalanka remarked that he, too, would have opted to bowl first Ahmed, 11 Mustafizur Rahman had he won the toss.

ence to us that we are batting

first," he stated. Asalanka praised the younger players in his squad, emphaand contributions to the team.

with an unchanged playing XI, maintaining the same combination from their previous matches. Playing XIs

Sri Lanka entered the contest

Bangladesh: 1 Tanzid Hasan, performance. We have made two 2 Saif Hassan, 3 Litton Das (capt, wk), 4 Towhid Hridoy, 5 Jaker Ali, 6 Shamim Hossain, 7 Nasum Ahmed, 8 Shoriful Islam, 9 Mahedi Hasan, 10 Taskin

Sri Lanka: 1 Pathum "The pitch is dry and worn, Nissanka, 2 Kusal Mendis (wk), but it doesn't make much differ- 3 Kamil Mishara, 4 Kusal Perera, 5 Charith Asalanka (capt), 6 Kamindu Mendis, 7 Dasun Shanaka, 8 Wanindu Hasaranga, 9 Dunith Wellalage, 10 Dushmantha Chameera, 11 Nuwan Thushara

# The Spokesman

# Addressed MULTAN: Acting President Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani addressing a gathering as Chief Guest at the distribution ceremony of essential relief packages to 300 flood-affected households, organized by the Farmers Development Organization (FDO) in collaboration with the Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF) at Union Council Sher Shah on Saturday.

# NA speaker stresses peace as vital to global prosperity, welfare

👺 City Desk

ISLAMABAD,: National Assembly, Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq on Saturday stated that global unity, tolerance, and dialogue are essential for the establishment of lasting peace.

He said that peace is indispensable for the progress and well-being of humanity and stressed the importance of resolving conflicts through peaceful means.

auspices of the United Nations. The theme for this year, "Act



on the eve of the Interna- taining peace, Speaker NA through violence; it can only Now for a Peaceful World," he be sustained through mutual said, is both timely and signif- respect, cooperation, and a peaceful world. commitment to justice," he said.

Highlighting the pivotal Speaker NA underscored that He expressed these views role of diplomacy in main- peace is more than the absence of war, adding that it is founded tional Day of Peace, which is stated that nations and leaders on harmony, justice, and observed worldwide each year must prioritize dialogue and respect for diversity. He urged on September 21 under the understanding over conflict. the international community "Peace cannot be achieved to uphold human rights and promote equality, as these are vital principles for building a

theme, Speaker Sardar Ayaz parliamentary actions demon-Sadiq stated that Pakistan is already acting upon this principle through concrete measures. He stated that the National Assembly and the Senate of Pakistan have unanimously passed resolutions strongly condemned the condemning Israeli aggression and war crimes against Palestinians, while affirming their inalienable right to self-de- on Qatar, Syria, Lebanon, and termination. Similarly, both Houses of Parliament have sovereignty of these countries reaffirmed their unwavering in blatant disregard of intersupport for the Kashmiri people in their legitimate struggle for the right to self-determination, and strongly condemned India's hostilities and unilateral abrogation of Articles 370 and 35-A, which stripped Kashmiris of their unique identity. Referring to this year's He said that these unanimous

strate Pakistan's commitment to the UN's call to act now for peace and extend full support to oppressed peoples striving for justice and dignity.

Speaker Sardar Avaz Sadio recent aggression and illegitimate, falsely-justified & unprovoked attacks by Israel Iran, which undermine the national law. He said Israel's continued war-mongering, genocide of innocent and unarmed Palestinian children, women, elderly, and patients, along with the weaponization of aid and obstruction of humanitarian assistance, constitutes crimes against humanity.

# 3-day commemoration of Baba Guru Nanak's 486th death anniversary begins

跨 Faisal Khawar Butt

honouring the 486th death anniversary of Baba Guru Nanak have officially commenced today in Shakargarh, Kartarpur.

Sikh pilgrims from around the globe, as well as from various cities SIALKOT: The three-day celebrations within Pakistan, are participating in the festivities. Meanwhile, the management in Kartarpur is actively welcoming the guests.

This marks the first arrival of foreign



Sikh pilgrims since the recent tensions due to India's water aggression.

offer to issue visas has prevented Border.

Indian pilgrims from attending the events, compounded by the closure of India's refusal to accept Pakistan's the Kartarpur Corridor and Wagah

## Ali Pervez Malik visited At Jalalpur Pirwala

**Asim Tanveer** 

MULTAN: Federal Minister for Petroleum Ali Pervez Malik visited the Jalalpur Pirwala motorway breach site on Saturday to assess flood damage, review relief efforts, and ensure the continuity of gas supply.

He was accompanied by the Secretary of Petroleum, Managing Director of Sui Northern Gas, Deputy Managing Director of Operations, Commissioner Multan Aamir Kareem Khan, and including restoration efforts Deputy Commissioner Multan Waseem Hamid Sindhu.

briefed the minister on the

installed to maintain uninterrupted gas supply. They informed him that, due to high flood levels in the Chenab, Ravi, and Sutlej rivers, the affected pipeline had been proactively isolated as a safety measure. Field teams continue to monitor the situation, and repair and restoration work will commence on a priority basis once water levels recede.

Commissioner Aamir Kareem Khan also updated the delegation on the ongoing rescue and relief operations, on the damaged section of the motorway using heavy During the visit, officials machinery. Commissioner Multan Division Aamir emergency bypass line being Kareem Khan. Deputy Waseem Hamid



Commissioner

Multan General Manager Sui Gas Other Government Officials

Sindhu. Jawad Khan Khakwani and were Also Present. Published by: Almass Ayoub Sabir from Zero Point Printers Rawalpindi

# **Acting President** Gilani vows to rebuild lives of flood victims

👺 Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Acting President of Pakistan, Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani said that the recent floods have caused massive destruction across the country, and that he stands with the Flood victims until their complete rehabilitation. He expressed these views while addressing a ceremony in Multan, where food and basic necessities were distributed among flood-affected people.

On this occasion, Member of National Assembly Syed Abdul Qadir Gilani. Chairman of Public Accounts Committee and Member of Provincial Assembly Syed Ali Haider Gilani, Member of Provincial Assembly Kamran Maral. Human Right Activest Ms Zohra Sajad Zaidi along with a large number of political the flood victims.

and social leaders and local notables were present.

Acting President Of Pakistan Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani appreciated the role of the Farmers Development Organization (FDO) and Pakistan Poverty Alleviation, saying that the government alone cannot deal with this crisis. The contribution of welfare organizations is commendable, as they have supported distressed people and ensured their access to food and other necessities. Acting President Of Pakistan Sved Yusuf Raza Gilani said that the Pakistan People's Party has always stood with its people in difficult times, and at this moment all party workers, leaders, civil society, institutions, as well as federal and provincial governments are focused on the rehabilitation of

## Now India will think thousand times before attacking Pakistan: Sardar Masood

👺 Bureau Report

ISLAMABAD: Former President of Azad Jammu and Kashmir and senior diplomat Sardar Masood Khan has said that after the Pak-Saudi strategic mutual defence agreement, it has become extremely difficult for India to launch a military campaign against Pakistan.

According to Kashmir Media Service, Sardar Masood Khan told various TV channels in interviews that if India commits any foolishness, it will have to face the collective power of the two countries.

He said that Pakistan gave a befitting reply to the unjustified war imposed on Pakistan by India in May this year and the Pakistan Army had proven its superiority in

Pak-Saudi defence agreement. India will have to think a thousand living and working in Saudi Arabia.



times before any kind of aggression in the future because Saudi Arabia According to him, after the has extensive investments in India and 3.5 million Indian citizens are

#### Audit report reveals how sinking PIA doled out Rs9.43 billion free tickets

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The national treasury suffered a loss of Rs9.43 billion in six years due to distribution of free and discounted air tickets by the Pakistan International Airlines (PIA). More than 258,000 free tickets were given PIA audit report. Over 116,000 tickets were given at a 95 percent discount in 6 years, the audit report adds.

Free and discounted tickets were given between 2011 and 2016, the audit report says. As many as 58,861 free tickets were given in 2011 and 51,692 in 2012. Moreover, 56,815 tickets were doled out in 2013, 43,077 in 2014, 21,816 in 2015 and 26,729 in 2016.

As much as 95% discount on more than 116,000 tickets was given to of the PIA, the audit report revealed. PIA spokesperson said.

This fare discount was given without the approval of the chairman or MD, said the auditor general of Pakistan.

For several reminders, no meeting

was called on the issue until 2023, said the auditor general of Pakistan, who later recommended immediate abolito people in 6 years, according to a tion of the free ticket policy. Issuance of free tickets was then completely banned 2018 on the Supreme Court orders, says the PIA spokesperson.

The said tickets were issued to travel agents under the agent incentive scheme to give them more sales, the PIA spokesperson said.

The audit report is 9 years old and but the DAC meeting is called by the concerned ministry, the PIA spokesperson said.

Re-raising such an old audit paragraph is an attempt to exert pressure people who were not even employees from a particular constituency, the

# Fed Govt released Rs 5.5 bln for Green Line Project to facilitate people of Karachi: Raja Ansari

KARACHI: The Spokesperson for the government. He emphasized that the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting for Sindh, Barrister Raja Khalregarding the suspension of work on the Green Line project, stating that the federal government has already fulfilled its responsibility. He said the matter now lies between Karachi Mayor Murtaza Wahab and the contractor.

In a statement, Raja Ansari said that the federal government has 5.5 billion is to be spent by the Sindh Line project.

federal government wishes to work jointly with the Sindh government iq uz Zaman Ansari, clarified reports to provide maximum facilities to the people.

Barrister Raja Khaliq uz Zaman Ansari noted that Mayor Karachi has expressed reservations over the contractor's NOC, but the federal government is committed to ensuring that Karachi residents are provided with transport facilities at the earliest. provided Rs 5.5 billion for the Green He added that funds have already been Line project, while the remaining Rs released for the extension of the Green