



Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول
الہدیٰ رسول اللہ صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم
ابو ہریرہؓ نے بیان کیا کہ میں رسول اللہ صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم کے ساتھ (آپ کے گھر میں) داخل ہوا جی کریم صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم نے ایک برس کے بچے کے لئے دودھ پیا تو فرمایا ابو ہریرہؓ! لا میں ان کے پاس آیا اور انہیں سر سے پاس بنا آئے اور (اندر آئے کی) اجازت پائی پھر جب اجازت دی گئی تو داخل ہوئے۔
(بخاری: ۵۷۳۶، صحیح مسلم: ۶۵۸۶)
Barkat Rice Mills (Pvt) Limited



Kazakhstan's president to visit Pakistan in November

Kazakhstan's Deputy Prime Minister Murat Nurtleu will be accompanying the president as part of the delegation. The Kazakhstan delegation is expected to meet President Asif Ali Zardari, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, and Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar.



Aseefa Bhutto urges govt to tap BISP as Punjab floods affect over 4 million

First Lady Aseefa Bhutto Zardari has said that more than four million people have been impacted by the devastating floods in Punjab, stressing that the Benazir Income Supporting Programme (BISP) is the fastest and most effective way to provide relief to the victims.

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Meeting

NEW YORK: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif attends meeting of the Arab Islamic leaders hosted by The President of the United States Donald Trump and Emir of Qatar H.E Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani on Wednesday.



Photo: PID

Trump, Muslim leaders hold key talks on Gaza ceasefire

Spokesman Report

NEW YORK: US President Donald Trump and the heads of Islamic states held detailed discussions, especially on the situation in Gaza, in a meeting in New York on Tuesday. The meeting, which lasted for approximately 50 minutes, also reviewed the situation in the Middle East. The meeting was attended by the heads of state from Pakistan,

Türkiye, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Egypt, Jordan, and Indonesia. The Muslim leaders presented proposals for a ceasefire in Gaza. The meeting explored potential diplomatic, political, and humanitarian options to bring an end to the ongoing war in Gaza. The participants deliberated on options for de-escalation, ceasefire arrangements, and long-term stability in the region.

In his brief remarks at the beginning of the discussion, Trump said it was his "most important meeting" of the day, and the goal was to end the war in Gaza soon. "This is my most important meeting. I've had important meetings. This is the one that's very important to me, because we're going to end something that you have probably never started. We want to end the war in Gaza.

We are going to end it. Maybe we can end it right now," he said. Referring to the situation in Ukraine, President Trump said that Russia must also be made to stop its ground and air assault. Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim thanked Trump for hosting a meeting on Gaza, saying that the Arab leaders are counting on him to end the conflict. "The only reason we are here is to stop the war and bring the

hostages back, and we count on you and your leadership as well to end this war and to help the people of Gaza," he told Trump. After the meeting, Trump did not take the questions from reporters and only said he had a "very good meeting." Later, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan described the meeting between the US President and the leaders of Muslim countries as highly beneficial.

Only Supreme Judicial Council can act against apex, high courts judges: SC

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Supreme Court has issued detailed decision on intra-court appeal in Nazir Abbas contempt of court case. The 11-page decision has been written by Justice Jamal Mandokhel. The verdict said intra-court appeal against contempt of court was accepted and contempt proceedings against Additional Registrar Nazir Abbas was terminated. Supreme Court raised a question whether contempt of court proceedings were possible against

judges included in the Constitutional and Regular Committees as under Article 199, Supreme Court and High Court judges have immunity in administrative matters, the decision said. The judges were protected from internal and external interference. A judge cannot file any writ or action against a judge of his own court. According to the Muhammad Ikram Chaudhry case decision, action against judges is not possible, verdict said. Judiciary is the main pillar as the guardian of the rule of law



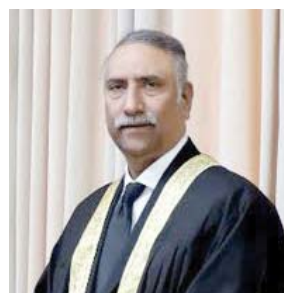
in a democratic state, judgment said. It is settled that a judge of the Supreme Court or a High Court is not answerable to a judge of the same court, judgment. It added that when a judge of a higher court cannot issue a writ against his own judge, how can he take contempt of court action. Only the Supreme Judicial Council can take action against a Supreme Court or High Court judge, the verdict. Article 209 prohibits action against a judge in any forum other than the Judicial Council, the verdict said.

Justice Sarfraz Dogar becomes member of Supreme Judicial Council

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Chief Justice Islamabad High Court, Sardar Muhammad Sarfraz Dogar Wednesday became a member of the Supreme Judicial Council. New members, including

Justice Sarfraz Dogar, were added to the council, succeeding Chief Justice Sindh High Court after his retirement. According to the details, the Supreme Judicial Council meeting, headed by Chief Justice Yahya Afridi, will be



held in mid-October. In the meeting, complaints against judges will be reviewed.

PTI leader Falak Javed arrested for remarks against Azma Bukhari

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency (NCCIA) booked PTI leader Falak Javed for using abusive language against Provincial Information Minister Azma Bukhari. According to the details, Falak Javed was involved in two cases with NCCIA, as she has also been booked for propaganda against state institutions. According to NCCIA, Falak Javed was taken into custody from the Ichhra area.



13 terrorists killed in Dera Ismail Khan operation, says ISPR

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Security forces killed 13 terrorists during an intelligence-based operation in the Daraban area of Dera Ismail Khan on September 24, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said in a statement.

According to ISPR, the operation was launched on reported presence of terrorists belonging to an Indian proxy group, Fitna al Khwarizj. During the exchange, troops effectively engaged the location, killing 13 terrorists.

The military's media wing said that weapons and ammunition were recovered from the killed terrorists, who had been involved in numerous terrorist activities in the region. These included facilitation in



a suicide bombing attack in Daraban in December 2023, as well as abductions and target killings of government officials and civilians. The ISPR added that a sanitisation operation was underway to clear the area of any remaining militants. "The security forces of Pakistan are determined to wipe out the menace of Indian-sponsored terrorism from the country," the statement concluded.

Malaysian Defence chief calls on CJCSC General Sahir Shamshad



Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: General Tan Sri Hj Mohd Nizam bin Hj Jaffar, Chief of Defence Forces Malaysia, during an official visit to Pakistan, called on General Sahir Shamshad Mirza, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJCSC), at Joint Staff Headquarters, Rawalpindi.

According to ISPR, both sides held comprehensive discussions on the evolving global and regional security environment and underscored the importance of exploring new avenues for mutually beneficial cooperation in defence and security

domains. Both military leaders reaffirmed their commitment to further strengthening the military-to-military relationship in the light of evolving regional security dynamics. The visiting dignitary remained appreciative of professional standards of Pakistan Armed Forces, their achievements and sacrifices in fight against terrorism and continued efforts towards regional peace and stability. Earlier, upon arrival at Joint Staff Headquarters, a smartly turned-out tri-services contingent presented Guard of Honour to the visiting dignitary.

Pakistan Army deployment approved for flood damage assessment survey in Punjab

Bureau Report

LAHORE: The Federal Government Wednesday approved the deployment of the Pakistan Army for the assessment of flood damage survey across Punjab.

The provincial government of Punjab had requested the PAK Army's services, and the Federal Government has now sent formal orders for the deployment under Article 245 of the Constitution.

According to the details, the Army will be deployed to survey flood damage in 27 districts of Punjab. The deployed units of the army will



be part of a joint survey team to assess flood damage. A comprehensive post-flood damage survey has been declared essential as the recent floods have wreaked massive havoc, causing significant loss of life and property. The survey will determine the damage to lives and property, crops, livestock, and infrastructure.

Joint Public Action Committee's Strike Appeal Sparks High Level Negotiations in Azad Kashmir

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: The federal government has taken notice of the strike call given by the Jammu and Kashmir Joint Public Action Committee on September 29. The Prime Minister of Pakistan formed a two-member negotiation committee in this regard, consisting of Federal Ministers Engineer Amir Muqam and Tariq Fazal Chaudhry, which reached Muzaffarabad and participated in the negotiation process. Consultations have begun with the already established negotiation committee of the Azad Kashmir government and the negotiation team of the Public Action Committee. The Public Action Committee expressed serious reservations about Minister for Higher Education Malik Zafar, due to which he was separated from the negotiation process.

Currently, federal ministers, Minister



for Kashmir Affairs Engineer Amir Muqam and Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Tariq Fazal Chaudhry, are present at the negotiation table, while the Azad Kashmir government's negotiation committee includes government ministers Faisal Mumtaz Rathore,

Diwan Ali Chughtai, Sardar Amir Altaf and Chaudhry Qasim Majeed. On the other hand, the 9-member negotiation team of the Joint Public Action Committee consists of Shaukat Nawaz Mir, Anjum Zaman Awan and Faisal Jamil Kashmiri from Muzaffarabad

division, Sardar Omar Nazir Kashmiri, Raja Ghulam Mujtaba and Sardar Iftikhar Zaman from Poonch division, while Chaudhry Imtiaz Aslam, Tauseef Ahmed Jaral Advocate and Saad Ansari Advocate from Mirpur division.

According to sources, the Joint Public Action Committee had expressed its strong reservations in the past over the use of unparliamentary words by a minister and allegations like "treason" and "cipher" against the committee. On this occasion, the federal ministers, while addressing the leaders of the Action Committee, said that you are patriots and such allegations are in no way appropriate. They also apologized for including Malik Zafar in the negotiation process. The negotiations continued in a pleasant atmosphere and a prayer break was also arranged during the meeting. The IGP and the Chief Secretary were also present in the negotiations

Protest

RAWALPINDI: Residence of the adjoining areas of the Ring road holds protest in the favor of their demands outside Commissioner Office in City.



Photo: Online

Open letter to UN Secretary General

Mr. Antonio Gutteres
The Secretary General
United Nations Organizations (UNO)
Un Headquarters,
New York, Washington DC

Dear Sir,

It gives me great pleasure to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Your Excellency for reiterating your principled support for the peaceful resolution of long-standing disputes, for giving voice to the concerns of marginalized communities across the globe, and for taking all requisite measures to address conflicts that continue to pose a serious threat to international peace and stability.

Sir,

As you are well aware, the Jammu and Kashmir dispute remains one of the oldest unresolved issues on the agenda of the United Nations and continues to threaten peace and security in South Asia.

The recent confrontation between India and Pakistan has once again demonstrated the volatility of this protracted dispute. For decades, the people of Jammu and Kashmir have endured untold suffering under a repressive regime marked by widespread human rights violations.

Sir,

Reports of arbitrary arrests, prolonged detentions, extrajudicial killings, and the excessive use of force against peaceful protesters are deeply concerning and demand urgent attention from the international community.

The continued use and abuse of draconian laws by the Indian state has led to the ruthless suppression of dissent in the region. Thousands of Kashmiris, including prominent campaigners

advocating for their inalienable right to self-determination, have been subjected to prolonged and arbitrary detention, languishing in prisons under harsh conditions.

It is deeply regrettable that India has consistently denied access to international fact-finding missions in the Indian Occupied territory of Jammu

and Kashmir, and has not responded positively to the offer of the Good Offices made by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.



and Kashmir, and has not responded positively to the offer of the Good Offices made by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Sir,

Our position on the Jammu and Kashmir dispute is firmly rooted in the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions, which explicitly provide for the final disposition of the State through the democratic exercise of a free, fair, and impartial plebiscite conducted under UN auspices.

India's persistent refusal to implement these resolutions remains the principal impediment to any forward movement

Over the course of this conflict, tens of thousands of Kashmiris have lost their lives, nearly ten thousand civilians have been subjected to enforced disappearances, and thousands of children have been left orphaned.

These grim statistics reflect the staggering human cost of the unresolved dispute and underscore the urgent need for international intervention.

Equally alarming is the excessive and indiscriminate use of force by Indian occupation forces against peaceful protesters, resulting in the killing of innocent civilians, enforced disappearances, and the systematic use of sexual

violence as a weapon of war.

The tragic presence of thousands of widows, half-widows, and orphans starkly exposes the grim reality behind India's claims of secular democracy.

The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and other rights bodies have time and again raised their alarm over the precarious situation in the region and called for cession of the state repression and human rights violations.

Regrettably Indian government's refusal to heed these clarion calls have further aggravated the plight of Kashmiris who continue to bear the brunt of state repression and violence.

Sir,

In view of these grave realities, it is imperative that the international community, in particular the United Nations and its member states, play their due role in ensuring accountability for the ongoing human rights violations and in facilitating a just and lasting settlement of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute in accordance with the relevant UN Security Council resolutions.

Your consistent advocacy for peace, justice, and the rights of marginalized peoples offers a ray of hope to the oppressed people of Jammu and Kashmir. We look forward to your continued support in raising this issue at all appropriate forums and in urging India to honour its international commitments.

With profound regards
Mehmood Ahmed Saghar
Acting president
Jammu Kashmir Democratic
Freedom Party

This achievement is a tribute to Organic Growers: Sardar Mir Akbar Khan



Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: The Organic Growers of Parsacha shone brightly at the "Agricultural Exhibition 2025" organized by the Department of Agriculture, where their stall emerged as the top attraction of the entire event. Visitors, dignitaries, and farmers alike praised the Organic Growers for presenting high-quality organic fruits, vegetables, and crops cultivated with modern, eco-friendly techniques.

Their outstanding display earned them fifth position across Azad Jammu Kashmir, a remarkable achievement that reflects both their commitment to sustainable farming and their growing role as pioneers of organic agriculture in the region.

Honoring the Organic Growers with an award, Minister for Agriculture, Sardar Mir Akbar Khan, remarked:

"This achievement is a tribute to the dedication of the Organic Growers. Their efforts guarantee a promising future for organic farming in Azad Kashmir."

The Organic Growers Farm, located in Parsacha on the outskirts of Muzaffarabad, has already become a model farm for the region. By cultivating fruits, vegetables, and other crops through innovative practices, it is setting new standards for productivity, sustainability, and food quality in Azad Jammu Kashmir's agriculture sector.

The stall was visited by several high-profile guests including Speaker of the AJK Legislative Assembly, Chaudhry Latif Akbar, senior government officials, and a large number of citizens, all of whom showed keen interest in the Organic Growers' products.

The exhibition was jointly supported by the Department of Agriculture, Islamic Relief Pakistan, National Bank of Pakistan, and Zarai Taraqati Bank.

PML-N Women's Wing office bearers meeting held



Bureau Report

MIRPUR: An important meeting of political women office bearers was held at the residence of PML-N Women's Wing Central Joint Secretary Bilqis Raja in Mirpur Division, which was chaired by Central Vice President Women's Wing Maryam Idrees. The meeting was attended by Central Secretary Information Maimuna Shah, Central Joint Secretary Bilqis Raja, District Councilor Sajida Raja, City Vice President Gul Zabehna, Sana Raja and other women. The meeting appreciated the efforts of PML-N Azad Kashmir President Shah Ghulam Qadir and Central President of Women's Wing Maryam Kashmiri to further strengthen the party and women's wing and mobilize the workers. In the meeting, Central Vice President Women's Department PML-N Azad Jammu and Kashmir Maryam Idrees discussed in detail the problems faced by women, the upcoming elections, the role of women in politics, further mobilizing the women's wing in Mirpur Division, and various issues including teamwork. Maryam Idrees said that together we all have to not only strengthen the women's wing and mobilize women in politics, but also become the voice of women at every forum and We need to strengthen the convoy under the leadership of the Women's Wing by including more active women in our convoy.

Muslim Conference always played a fundamental role for the rights of the people of the state: Raja Saqib

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: Chief Organizer of Muslim Conference and former candidate for Assembly Raja Saqib Majeed said that the committee formed by the Pakistani government for negotiations is a timely and very good step. From day one, the Muslim Conference has always emphasized on resolving all issues and matters through negotiations. Azad Kashmir is a sensitive region that cannot afford any chaos. Our eternal enemy India takes advantage of any kind of chaos here and propagates it against Pakistan all over the world. Pakistan is the destination and safest haven of Kashmiris. The Muslim Conference considers Pakistan as its destination and considers the committee consisting of ministers as a good future. The trouble will be for those who day and night speak ill of Pakistan and the armed forces of Pakistan and call Azad Kashmir Pakistan occupied Kashmir. The Muslim Conference has always played a fundamental role for the rights of the people of the state and for the construction and development of the state. Before 1947, it was known as Muzaffarabad (Chakri Bahak). The Muslim Conference made Muzaffarabad its capital and is recognized all over the world.

Solar Power System Inaugurated at Govt Boys Primary School Kacha Hassanabdal

Raza Naqvi

ATTOK: A 6-kilowatt solar power system has been inaugurated at the Government Boys Primary School Kacha Hassanabdal by Dr. Muhammad Azhar, Chief Executive Officer of the District Education Authority (DEA) Attock.

The project—supported by District Education Officer (Elementary Male) Syed Taqi Abbas Shah, Deputy DEO Rao Qadir, AEO Shahid Mehmood, and Headmaster Shahid Khan—aims to provide an uninterrupted and eco-friendly power supply for the school.

Speaking at the event, Dr. Azhar said the solar initiative will save the school more than Rs400,000 annually, funds which will be reinvested into upgrading educational facilities. "This step ensures a better learning environment for students while promoting renewable energy," he noted.



Islamabad

30° – 38° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr	4:34 am
Zohr	12:00 pm
Asr	4:19 pm
Maghrib	6:02 pm
Isha	7:25 pm

EMERGENCY

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

Women Police Stations

Islamabad	9222596
Rawalpindi	9270601-20

ENQUIRY

Edhi Ambulance	115
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Railway Exchange	9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi	5555489
CAA	9281092

HOSPITALS

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

DEPARTMENTS

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CDA	9208301-04
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RDA	5555864
TMA	5770886
Cantonment Board	9270151-3
Islamabad Metropolitan Corporation	9209224
Potohar Town	9209224
Rawal Town	5773343

Joint strategic agreement between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia can lead to a major change: Nasir Ali Jaja



Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: After the joint defense agreement between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, its impact on the region and its implications in international politics have become a topic of discussion. It is being seen as a major success in Pakistan. This was said by PML-N leader Nasir Ali Jaja while talking to the media. He further said that a 'strategic agreement of mutual defense' has been signed between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia on cooperation in defense matters and security, under which 'external aggression against one country will be considered aggression against both countries.' While this is the first major defense response taken by a Gulf state after the Israeli action in Qatar on September 9. This strategic agreement can lead to a major change in the regional balance of power and can also affect Israel's strategy regarding the region.

Pakistan Navy Reaffirms Commitment to Safe, Secure, and Sustainable Seas on World Maritime Day

On World Maritime Day 2025 being celebrated on 25th September, the last Thursday of the month each year, I extend my warmest congratulations to the global maritime community. It is especially dedicated to Pakistani seafarers, maritime professionals and coastal communities whose unwavering commitment and tireless efforts constitute the backbone of our nation's economic progress and global connectivity. Their invaluable contributions under challenging conditions are not only elemental but crucial to Pakistan's economic sustenance and resilience.

The International Maritime Organization (IMO) has aptly chosen this year's theme as, 'Our Ocean—Our Obligation—Our Opportunity'. It carries profound meanings, reminding us that the oceans which cover more than two-thirds of our planet not only connect the world but are the lifeline of humanity, sustaining livelihoods, enabling global commerce, supporting ecological balance and ensuring food and energy security. With these immense benefits, comes the paramount responsibility to protect, preserve and harness the oceans, both for our present as well as future generations.

The sea holds exceptional strategic, economic and devel-

opmental significance for Pakistan. Our coastline and Exclusive Economic Zone present unparalleled opportunities for economic growth through fisheries, shipping, energy and in fact, the all encompassing Blue Economy. This places a solemn obligation upon us to safeguard marine environment and ensure safe and healthy maritime practices.

Pakistan Navy (PN) remains firmly committed to these goals, safeguarding maritime security and promoting regional stability through its constant vigilance in the North Arabian Sea. PN also participates in international coalitions, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations. In addition, PN protects

vital sea lanes and upholds the sanctity of freedom of navigation.

Concurrently, PN collaborates with national stakeholders to foster maritime awareness, drive sustainable development of maritime sector and acts as a lynchpin in realizing Pakistan's vision of a thriving maritime nation. The Navy's obligations towards safety and security at sea, cooperation with partner nations and economic progress underscores its indispensable roles in shaping a prosperous maritime future for Pakistan and maintaining maritime order in the region.

On this occasion, I reaffirm PN's unwavering commitment to the IMO vision of safe, secure and environment friendly use of



oceans. Guided by our national maritime objectives, we shall continue to play a constructive role in ensuring peace, security and stability at sea. May this day

inspire us all to honour our obligations and seize the opportunities that the oceans offer for a more dependable, sustainable and prosperous future.

Expertise

ISLAMABAD: People are taking interest and selfies with the beasts of Pakistani young artist, made by old metal (scrap) steel as displayed at local mall in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Riphah International University to host national seminar on 'Imagine Pakistan 2030'

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Riphah International University, in collaboration with the Association of Private Sector Universities of Pakistan (APSUP), will host a landmark national seminar titled "Imagine Pakistan 2030: Challenges, Opportunities & the Way Forward" on September 24, 2025, at the Jinnah Auditorium, I-14 Campus, Islamabad.

The high-profile seminar is designed to bring together eminent academics, senior policymakers, and leading thought leaders to deliberate on Pakistan's future outlook. The discussions will revolve around the nation's most pressing challenges,

untapped opportunities, and the strategic pathways required to steer Pakistan toward a sustainable and progressive future by 2030.

Prominent speakers at the

event include Prof. Dr. Ch. Abdul Rehman, Chairman, APSUP, Mian Amer Mahmood, Chairman, Punjab Group and Mr. Hassan Muhammad Khan, Chancellor, Riphah Interna-

tional University, who will deliver the closing address.

Organizers have highlighted that the seminar will serve as a vital platform for dialogue on key national issues such as development, governance, education reform, technological innovation, and inclusive growth. By fostering collaboration between academia, government stakeholders, and civil society, the initiative seeks to inspire actionable strategies for shaping a stronger Pakistan.

The event will commence at 10:00 AM and is open to all participants eager to engage in thought-provoking and forward-looking discussions about the country's future.

Chief Collector Promises Revival of Faisalabad Dry Port to Boost Trade

Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: All possible efforts will be made to revive the dry port to benefit from the import and export potential of Faisalabad. This was said by Chief Collector Customs Appraisal Punjab Muhammad Ali Raza Hanjra while addressing the business community at Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry today.

He termed the industrialists of Faisalabad as silent soldiers who are fighting for the revival of the economy despite difficulties. He assured the import and export traders that maximum facilities will be provided to the business community without compromising on enforcement.

Earlier, President of Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry



Rehan Naseem Bharara introduced Faisalabad and the Faisalabad Chamber and said that the Faisalabad Chamber is celebrating the 50th anniversary of its

achievements this year.

He mentioned the founder of the Chamber, Syed Nazar Hussain Shah and said that after him, Mian Muhammad

Idrees and Mian Javed Iqbal took it to the peak of development. On this occasion, the founding chairman of the Dry Port, Mian Muhammad Latif, Arif Ehsan Malik, Waheed Khaliq Ramey and Hazir Khan participated in the question and answer session, while the current chairman of the Dry Port, Muzammil Sultan, thanked the guests.

Finally, President Rehan Naseem Bharara gave a special collar pin to Chief Collector Customs Punjab Muhammad Ali Raza Hanjra on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Chamber and also presented a shield to Mian Muhammad Latif. Later, the Chief Collector Customs Punjab also recorded his impressions in the guest book of the Chamber. Collector Customs Faisalabad Rizwan Basharat was also present on the occasion.

Systems Limited achieves the 2025-2026 Microsoft AI Business Solutions Inner Circle award

KARACHI: Systems Limited, a global SI company, has been selected for this AI Business Solution's 2025-2026 Microsoft Inner Circle. Participation within Inner Circle is based on sales achievements that rank Systems Limited in the top echelon of Microsoft's AI Business Solutions global network of partners. It's widely acknowledged that Inner Circle members perform at a high-level by delivering valuable and innovative solutions that help organizations excel.

2025-2026 Inner Circle members are invited to the Inner Circle Summit in Spring 2026 as well as virtual meetings between August 2025 and June 2026, where they will have a unique opportunity to discuss strategy with Microsoft senior leaders and fellow Inner Circle partners, while learning more about the company's road maps and future plans, establish strong executive connections, and collaborate on best practices.

Our journey with Microsoft is defined by a shared vision: to reimagine industries, create sustainable impact, and set new benchmarks for innovation across the Middle East, Africa, and beyond. I extend my gratitude to our clients, partners, and teams whose confidence and collaboration have made this recognition possible," expressed Asif Peer, Group CEO & MD at Systems Limited.

My sincere congratulations to our team for making this achievement consistently possible, and gratitude to our customers for their continued confidence in us," shared Khurram Majeed, General Manager—Middle East & Africa at Systems Limited.

KOICA and UN Women host Digital Startup Roundtable Seminar



Asim Tanveer

LAHORE: United Nations (UN) Women Pakistan, with the valuable support of the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), organized the latest district-level session of its Digital Startup Roundtable Series – Women Leading Innovation in Lahore, Punjab. The event gathered policymakers, tech leaders, private sector representatives, development partners, and young women entrepreneurs to discuss the role of women in shaping Pakistan's digital future.

As part of the Digitalization for Women's Economic Empowerment (D4WEE) project, the Lahore roundtable created a platform for dialogue, collaboration, and solution-building to strengthen women's access to digital skills, tools, and entrepreneurship opportunities across Punjab. Since July 2025, the series has successfully convened similar sessions in Islamabad, Mardan, Multan, and Swabi, with Lahore marking its continued expansion across the country.

The roundtable featured two thematic discussions. The first focused on policy and infrastructure, encouraging dialogue on gender-responsive digital governance, improved infrastructure, and strategies to expand affordable internet access in underserved communities. Government representatives, academics, and industry experts shared insights on enabling inclusive policies to bridge the gender digital divide in Punjab.

RDA demolishes 40 illegal under-construction shops

RAWALPINDI: The Rawalpindi Development Authority (RDA) Task Force has demolished 40 illegal, under-construction shops, launching major operations against illegal housing schemes and unauthorised constructions. According to an RDA spokesperson, in a recent operation against an illegal housing scheme, namely Islamabad City Housing in Katarian near Shinwari Hotel on Main Airport Avenue, Islamabad, the RDA demolished the boundary wall, removed manhole pipes, sealed the site office, and lodged a First Information Report (FIR) against the scheme's owners Qasim Bhatti and Nasir Bhatti.

Similarly, in Waddia Homes located in Mouza Morgha near Askari 14, the boundary wall, security guard room, main gate, and barrier were demolished. Furthermore, in the Wazir Town Housing Scheme, 40 illegally under-construction shops in commercial markets were demolished.

The operations were carried out by RDA officers, including Assistant Director Building Control Shiza Butt, Assistant Director Planning Ali Raza, Assistant Director Planning Mehwish Naseem, Assistant Director Planning Ahmad Hassan, and other RDA staff members, with the support of the Police Station New Airport, Islamabad, on the directions of the DG RDA Kinza Murtaza.

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Pakistan calls for urgent action at meeting of OIC Committee of Six on Palestine

Pakistan reaffirmed unwavering commitment to the Palestinian cause, describing it as central to the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)'s objectives.

Addressing the meeting of the OIC Committee of Six on Palestine, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar stressed that the world continues to witness the harrowing tragedy unfolding in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, particularly Gaza, where civilian infrastructure has been deliberately targeted and the suffering of the population has reached catastrophic levels.

He recalled that the International Court of Justice has described the situation as a case of "plausible genocide" and stressed that Israel's ongoing military campaign continues in blatant defiance of international law, international humanitarian law, and binding orders of the ICJ, according to a press release issued by the Foreign Office Spokesperson.

He condemned the collective punishment of a besieged civilian population through indiscriminate bombardment, starvation, forced displacement, and denial of humanitarian aid, and further warned that settler violence and military aggression are escalating in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem.

The deputy prime minister and foreign minister underscored that this is a defining moment for the Middle East and the Muslim world and urged the OIC to press for a permanent ceasefire, unrestricted humanitarian access, an end to illegal settlements and annexation, restitution of seized lands and properties, accountability for war crimes, and the deployment of an international protection mechanism.

He called for renewed support to UNRWA, reconstruction of Gaza under the Arab-OIC plan, compliance with ICJ rulings, and the realization of the Palestinian people's inalienable right to self-determination through the establishment of an independent and sovereign State of Palestine, based on pre-1967 borders, with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital. The OIC Committee of Six on Palestine is tasked with mobilizing political, diplomatic and legal support for the Palestinian cause.

The Committee includes Pakistan, Senegal, Guinea, Malaysia, the State of Palestine and the OIC General Secretariat. It was established in 1982 during the 13th session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers.

Trump's UNGA Speech Collapses Before a Defiant World

The United Nations General Assembly this year became the stage for one of the most dramatic reversals of American diplomatic influence in modern memory. Sponsored jointly by Saudi Arabia and France, the extraordinary emergency conference convened to debate Israel's naked, blatant, and cruel aggression on Gaza and the West Bank. For decades, the United States, with its vast economic, military, and diplomatic clout, had compelled nations to fall in line—whether by promises of aid, threats of sanctions, or pressure through investment and trade. But this time, before the eyes of the world, Washington's narrative failed.

The global mood was unmistakable. Israel's policies of ethnic cleansing, occupation, and near-genocidal assault on the Palestinian people were denounced with unprecedented unity. Trump, standing at the podium, echoed Benjamin Netanyahu's language of "security" and "self-defense," but those words fell flat. What was once the unchallenged script for Western allies now sounded hollow, archaic, and dangerous. Far from rallying behind the United States, the overwhelming majority of nations broke away, defiantly recognizing Palestine as a sovereign state and announcing they would deal with it directly in bilateral and multilateral forums. This was not only a symbolic rebuke but also a practical shift: future investment, aid, and diplomatic engagement would now flow through Palestinian authorities, bypassing Israel.

Trump did not hide his contempt. He lashed out not only at the leaders present but at the institution itself. Climate change, he declared, was the "greatest con job in history," dismissing decades of scientific evidence on rising seas, melting glaciers, intensifying hurricanes, and the planetary threat of unchecked emissions.

Gasps rippled through the assembly as he accused the UN of peddling fear and lies. He mocked international agreements on climate, insisting that America would burn coal, drill oil, and expand nuclear power without apology. To many, it was more than denial—it was an open invitation to environmental catastrophe.

Nor did Trump stop at Gaza or climate change. He derided the United Nations as useless, ineffective, and irrelevant. He promised to pull U.S. representatives out of key agencies, and he vowed to slash funding—funding that, for decades, Washington had leveraged as its ultimate instrument of control. But instead of weakening the UN, Trump's threat spurred others into action. Within hours, China, the European Union, and several emerging economies pledged to fill the financial gap, signaling that they would seize the leadership America was relinquishing. It was a symbolic passing of the torch: power, influence, and responsibility were no longer to be monopolized by Washington.

For Trump, the United States remained the indispensable nation. He warned that no country could survive without its blessing, invoking America's military might and economic reach. Yet his words rang hollow against the backdrop of near-total isolation. In the past, weaker nations might have bowed to U.S. pressure, clinging to trade deals or fearing the loss of aid. But now, emboldened by collective strength, they no longer needed to. The unifying cause of Palestine's recognition had given the world a new confidence. America's threats sounded less like the dictates of a superpower and more like the frustrated cries of a bully whose grip was slipping.

This shift was not sudden; it was the culmination of years of resentment. Trump's doctrine of "America First" had alienated allies, embittered partners, and emboldened adversaries. By weaponizing tariffs, sanctioning friend and foe alike, and dismantling international agreements, Washington had eroded the very leverage it once wielded. Countries that once tolerated American dominance out of necessity now saw little reason to comply. As one European delegate noted privately, "When the U.S. withdraws, others rush in. They may have forgotten, but we have not."

The recognition of Palestine marked a decisive moment. It was not simply a diplomatic statement; it was a strategic realignment. Humanitarian aid would bypass Israel. Sanctions would be imposed directly on Tel Aviv. Military sales would be withheld. Pension funds and sovereign wealth investments would be divested. These measures, adopted with overwhelming consensus, marked the first time Israel faced comprehensive, global punitive action. For decades, its occupation had been shielded by U.S. vetoes and Western complicity. Now, the shield was shattered.

Trump, furious, accused the assembly of hypocrisy and cowardice. He mocked the idea of collective will, insisting that only the United States could lead. But the chamber had already moved on. Leaders from every continent had made clear that the era of American dictates was over. The collective will of nations would no longer bow to one country's interest. The loudest message of the day was not in the words of presidents or prime ministers but in the silence that followed Trump's speech—an emptiness where once applause would have echoed.

Perhaps the greatest irony is that America's own power remains immense. Militarily, economically, technologically, it still towers over much of the world. But power without legitimacy is fragile. Influence without trust is fleeting. Respect cannot be commanded by force alone. Those nations that are weak or dependent may still flatter America out of fear, but those that are strong from within—confident, stable, and united—see no reason to follow. They do not mistake America's bluster for leadership.

What was witnessed at the UNGA was not just a rejection of a speech; it was the exposure of a failing doctrine. The belief that America could dictate terms, ignore science, crush weaker nations, and shield Israel indefinitely has collapsed. The world has spoken, not in whispers but in unison, and it has chosen a different path—one of defiance against aggression, of recognition for Palestine, of collective resistance to unilateralism.

The United States, under Trump, has forgotten the wisdom of humility, gratitude, and forgiveness. A truly strong nation does not alienate the world; it unites it. A truly great power does not cling to dominance; it earns respect through fairness and justice. By abandoning these principles, America has not only lost leverage but has endangered its own place in history. The verdict from the UN General Assembly is clear: the world will no longer be dictated to by a single power, no matter how mighty. The future will be shaped not by one nation's arrogance but by the collective will of many.

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



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

Issue of Awami Action Committee in AJK and Way Forward

The Awami Action Committee (AAC) in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) emerged as a broad coalition of civil society members—including traders, transporters, lawyers, students, and teachers—united in protest against inflation, electricity costs, shortages of essentials like flour and wheat, and what they see as systemic corruption and elite privilege. Their tactics have included strikes, shutdowns, and negotiations with the AJK and federal governments. A major breakthrough came in May 2024 when the AJK government accepted the AAC's demands, offering subsidies and cutting elite benefits through a 23 billion rupee package. However, dissatisfaction followed due to the slow or incomplete implementation of those promises.

Another sensitive AAC demand is the removal or reduction of perks and facilities for AJK politicians and officials. While AAC highlights the ethical issue of luxurious lifestyles for elites during widespread economic hardship, experts caution against a complete elimination of security and operational facilities. AJK's geo-strategic location near the Line of Control makes its leaders high-risk targets, and Indian intelligence operations in the area have long posed threats. Removing protection and essential resources could expose leaders to attacks, hurt Pakistan's image, and destabilize governance. Analysts argue that instead of abolishing perks, a rational, needs-based system should be introduced, ensuring accountability while preserving necessary infrastructure for effective governance.

Although peaceful protest is a right, using it as a primary tool to pressure the state risks undermining institutional governance. AJK already enjoys benefits like subsidized flour and electricity and receives more federal attention than many Pakistani provinces. With Pakistan facing deep economic challenges, including debt, inflation, and limited fiscal space, it is difficult to meet every demand from every region. If each province or region starts claiming exclusive rights to local resources—like AJK does with hydro-electricity—others could follow suit, demanding similar entitlements based on natural resource production. This could dismantle the concept of a united federation, fueling internal divisions, destabilizing national unity, and inviting external exploitation through propaganda and hybrid warfare.

There is growing suspicion that the AAC might no longer represent genuine public interests. Concerns have emerged that its motives could include personal gain, political point-scoring, and even external influence, possibly from hostile entities like India. Allegations of foreign links, leaked ciphers, and audio recordings suggest connections between some AAC members and Indian intelligence. These claims have shaken public trust. Moreover, the AAC is criticized for ignoring everyday economic exploitation by local market players and failing to speak out against poor-quality goods that affect public health. The movement's focus on political demands while neglecting basic consumer and health issues has drawn criticism from ordinary citizens.

Further complicating the situation is the infiltration of separatist or anti-state elements into the AAC. These fringe groups have used the platform to promote anti-Pakistan rhetoric, undermining Pakistan's contributions to AJK's security, development, and welfare. Despite such narratives, the majority of AJK's population remains emotionally and politically connected to Pakistan, maintaining loyalty to the state and its institutions, especially the military, which has provided support during conflicts and disasters.

Given these developments, the AAC must distance itself from any anti-state actors and allegations of foreign influence. If innocent, it should publicly refute the accusations and cooperate with investigations. Restoring credibility requires transparency. Instead of resorting to protests and shutdowns, the AAC should engage in constructive dialogue with government representatives, experts, and civil society. The government too must act with maturity, avoiding inflammatory language and showing readiness to negotiate on legitimate issues.

Ultimately, the people of AJK seek peace, progress, and stability—not division or hostility. They have endured the burdens of living in a disputed region and want to focus on development, jobs, healthcare, and education. Political movements must avoid becoming tools of disruption or foreign agendas. National unity, institutional strength, and economic realism must guide reform efforts. Pressure-based tactics, if normalized, will destabilize not just AJK but the entire federation. Only through cooperation, accountability, and honest engagement can the region move forward in a way that benefits both AJK and Pakistan.

Climate Justice and Future of Coastal Communities-A Perspective on World Maritime Day

Muhammad Umar

Pakistan has been topping the charts of the most climate-vulnerable countries for the past few years, despite minimal greenhouse gas emissions. According to a report by PIDE, casualties up to 10,000 and losses up to \$4 billion have been directly linked to climate change. With more than 255 million people, Pakistan hosts 2.8% of the global population, and only 0.5% of fresh water resources, aptly dubbed as acutely water scarce as of 2025. Alarming levels of global warming are not only depleting glacial sources but also wreaking havoc in the form of fluvial flooding and rising sea level, which is synergized with a drastic lack of infrastructure, proving to be a catastrophe in the form of 2010, 2022 and 2025 riverine and flash floods. Pakistan has a coastline of 1001 km with an Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of 240,000 sq km, and an Extended Continental Shelf (CS) of 50,000 sq km.

Unfortunately, despite the presence of National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and Provincial Disaster Management Authorities (PDMAs), catastrophic events like the 2023 Cyclone Biparjoy, which caused an evacuation of nearly 85,000 people, damaged over 2,500 houses, and destroyed more than a thousand acres of crops in Sindh and Balochistan, highlight the urgent need for robust early warning and disaster preparedness systems integrated with real-time scientific data. There is a demand for a National Framework for Climate Services (NFCS) integrating coastal climate data, heavy investments in tide gauge networks, co-location of tide gauges with GNSS (Global Navigation Satellite System) for accurate land movement monitoring, improved high-resolution flood inundation modelling, leveraging satellite LiDAR

and drone technologies for precise elevation data collection. Monitoring of climate variables such as temperature, rainfall, salinity, humidity and PH levels can also predict fish stock changes and guide the management of the same.

The NCCP has not been revised since 2021, as Pakistan is lagging behind in the implementation of UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) and Paris Agreement obligations and human rights treaties like the ICESCR (International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights). Pakistan needs to immediately address pollution stringently with both legislative and regulatory measures. However, for restoration and mitigation, before any legislative effort, institutional capacity is to be revitalized. Owing to the strategic importance of Gwadar, Balochistan should be provided with immediate Federal assistance. The density of industry near coasts (40%) increases the vulnerability of the economy to climate risks. Incentivizing climate-smart maritime industries and promoting nature-based solutions can make the Blue Economy sustainable in the long run.

Enduring coastal resilience demands cross-organization collaboration between government, scientific institutions, NGOs, and international partners. Regional support via SAARC has stagnated due to a want of climate funds and resource mobilization. Provisionally, the rights of the communities should be ensured. The government and other stakeholders should stir the mood of the nation towards this burning question.

Climate justice is the key to safeguarding the future of Pakistan's coastal communities and Blue Economy of the nation against the threat of climate change. Legislative and policy reforms, institutional capacity building, and international collaboration are need of the hour to materialize rights and policies. If not addressed promptly and properly, climate risk can become an existential threat to Pakistan.

Maroof Hospital and Serena Hotels celebrate World Heart Day

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Serena Hotels, under the Public Diplomacy Initiative, organized a special Raabta Panel Discussion to mark World Heart Day, in collaboration with Maroof International Hospital. The discussion brought together leading cardiologists, health experts, and media representatives to highlight advancements in cardiac care and the importance of preventive strategies for heart health.

The event was honored by the presence of Federal Health Minister Mr. Syed Mustafa Kamal as the Chief Guest. Addressing the gathering, the Minister praised Serena Hotels and Maroof International Hospital for spearheading dialogue on cardiac health. He stressed the importance of adopting healthy lifestyles to prevent cardiovascular diseases, which remain a leading cause of mortality worldwide, and reaffirmed the government's commitment to strengthening healthcare infrastructure and public awareness campaigns aimed at reducing the burden of heart disease in Pakistan.



The panel was moderated by Ms. Sidra Iqbal, a broadcast journalist and communication strategist, who navigated the conversation with insightful questions and reflections. The distinguished panel featured Dr. Mahim Malik, Congenital Heart Surgeon; Dr. Fahad Khalid, Consultant Interventional Cardiologist; Mr. Shahzad Alam, Representative of WHO; Ms. Nayyer Ali, Secretary of the National Press Club; and Dr. Rashid Ali Khan,

Head of Psychiatry at Maroof International Hospital. Together, they shed light on the latest advancements in cardiac care, including minimally invasive procedures, improved diagnostic technologies, and the growing importance of integrated healthcare. They also emphasized preventive strategies such as regular exercise, balanced diet, routine screenings, and mental health management as essential components of heart health.



On this occasion, Mr. Haroon Naseer, CEO of Maroof International Hospital also shared his thoughts, stressing that World Heart Day serves as a powerful reminder to place heart health at the center of our daily lives. He appreciated the efforts of Serena

Hotels in encouraging dialogue on such critical issues and added that creating awareness and encouraging preventive care are key steps toward building a healthier and more informed society.

Through the Public Diplomacy

Initiative, Serena Hotels continues to provide a platform for meaningful dialogue on pressing social, cultural, and health-related issues, spreading awareness and community engagement.

Photos By Sultan Bashir

PIDE Study Shows Half of Beneficiaries Lifted Out of Poverty Under Graduation Programme

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), under its flagship RASTA (Research for Social Transformation and Advancement) project, organized a seminar on "Graduation Programme: A Stated Asset Transfer Programme." The event was moderated by Dr. Faheem Jehangir, Dean (Policy) at PIDE and Project Director of RASTA, with the keynote presentation delivered by Dr. Nasir Iqbal, Registrar and Associate Professor at PIDE, and commentary by Mr. Saeed Uddin, Project Director of the National Poverty Graduation Programme (NPGP).

The seminar focused on evaluating the medium-term impacts of the NPGP, Pakistan's largest state-led asset transfer programme designed to lift ultra-poor households out of poverty through assets, skills, and institutional integration. Presenting the results of a rigorous four-year study



using Regression Discontinuity Design (RDD), Dr. Nasir Iqbal highlighted that the programme has had significant positive impacts on beneficiaries' economic well-being. Results showed increased income, consumption, and welfare scores, with over 50% of beneficiary households officially crossing

the poverty score threshold (23) and "graduating" from poverty, while nearly 85% showed improvements in welfare indicators.

To address these challenges, Dr. Iqbal proposed reimagining the model for scalability and resilience. Recommendations included the creation of

Village Economic Zones by repurposing public spaces (such as schools after hours) into community markets, diversifying asset transfers beyond livestock to include enterprises like street vending, packaging, and logistics, and shifting the state's role from direct asset provision to creating an ecosystem that facilitates access to finance, markets, and private sector linkages.

Discussant Mr. Saeed Uddin emphasized the practical value of PIDE's evaluation, noting that the positive findings were instrumental in securing new funding from the Islamic Development Bank for expansion into 25 additional districts.

Moderator Dr. Faheem Jehangir placed the programme in context, contrasting the NPGP with other initiatives such as the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), noting that while BISP provides unconditional cash for consumption smoothing, NPGP is focused on sustainable economic empowerment.

USS Wayne E. Meyer arrives at Karachi Port



City Desk

KARACHI: The United States Navy ship USS WAYNE E. MEYER arrived at Karachi Port for a two-day visit, marking another milestone in the ongoing maritime cooperation between Pakistan Navy and United States Navy.

Pakistan Navy officials welcomed the visiting crew. The U. S. Chargé d' Affaires and officials from the U. S. Consulate also attended the event. As part of the visit, officers and sailors of USS WAYNE E. MEYER will collaborate with Pakistan Navy counterparts through professional interactions, combined training and focused operational dialogues. These activities are designed to enhance interoperability, foster mutual understanding, and strengthen operational coordination. The visit will conclude with a Passage Exercise (PASSEX) in the North Arabian Sea, involving USS WAYNE E. MEYER and Ships of Pakistan Navy.

The visit of USS WAYNE E. MEYER reflects the growing maritime partnership between the United States and Pakistan, reaffirming their shared commitment to regional security, stability and global peace.

IBA Extends Full Cooperation To FIA

News Desk

KARACHI: IBA Karachi is fully committed to the rule of law, and will cooperate constructively with the authorities, as always. IBA remains fully transparent with all relevant authorities, and we stand by the credibility of our operations and remain committed to delivering the highest standards of service and progress that have long defined our institution.

IBA has already provided all required documents to the FIA and will continue to extend full cooperation until the requisition requirements are met to the complete satisfaction of authorities.

IBA's governance framework is built on strong internal controls and collective decision-making. No single individual has unilateral authority over financial or administrative matters; approvals are documented and taken through committee processes in line with institutional policies. To ensure probity and accountability, IBA's finances and processes are subject to multiple, recurring layers of review, including pre-audit and internal audit mechanisms, external audits by reputable independent firms (such as BDO and A. F. Ferguson), as well as.

ASEAN Committee in Islamabad Visits NIFTYSPHERE Institute of Arts & Design

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The ASEAN Committee in Islamabad (ACI) visited the NIFTYSPHERE Institute of Arts and Design today, where they presented certificates to outstanding students in recognition of their creative achievements.

During the ceremony, Mr. Usman Shah, CEO of NIFTYSPHERE Institute of Arts and Design and Honorary Advisor to the Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture, was honored with an award for his significant contributions in promoting ASEAN



culture in Pakistan through diverse artistic and cultural initiatives.

In his remarks, Mr. Usman Shah

expressed his gratitude to the ASEAN Committee and emphasized the importance of deepening cultural exchange.

He highlighted the commitment of NIFTYSPHERE Institute, in collaboration with the Ministry of National Heritage and Culture, to further strengthen partnerships with ASEAN countries through art exhibitions, student exchange programs, and joint cultural projects.

The ASEAN Committee representatives commended the Institute's efforts and expressed their willingness to explore new opportunities for future collaboration, ensuring that art and culture continue to serve as a bridge for regional understanding and cooperation.

Photos By Sultan Bashir

Newspapers Still Matter in an AI-Driven World

On National Newspaper Readership Day 2025, we are reminded of a striking reality: information today moves faster than ever. Artificial intelligence powers social media feeds that deliver news, images, and opinions in seconds. But in this flood of content, truth and falsehood often collide.

That is why newspapers matter. They offer not speed but certainty. They carry the discipline of verification, the weight of editorial responsibility, and the clarity of context. In a restless media environment, that steadiness is invaluable.

For a country like Pakistan, where literacy rate is marginal, reliable information is not a luxury — it is a necessity. Citizens depend on credible reporting sources to understand decisions that shape their lives, from economic reforms to education policies. Newspapers serve as the bridge between government actions and public understanding.

The role of newspapers is even more crucial for Pakistan's youth. With more than half the population under 30, young people are both the promise of the future and the most vulnerable to

misinformation. Social media entertains and informs them, but it also exposes them to AI-generated rumors, fake videos, and unverified claims.

In such an environment, newspapers provide something different: perspective. They slow down the rush of information and invite readers to pause, reflect, and think critically. They show not just what happened but why it matters, encouraging independent judgment. For youth, this habit builds resilience against misinformation.

But newspapers are not only about reading. The media industry itself is evolving into a field of opportunity for young Pakistanis. Journalism, multimedia production, data-driven reporting, and digital advertising are areas hungry for talent. AI tools are changing the way stories are told, but they still need human creativity and integrity.

This creates an opening for ambitious youth. By stepping into the media, they can build careers, launch their own ventures, and shape the public conversation. In doing so, they are not just earning livelihoods — they are strengthening democracy and culture.

The Government of Punjab recognizes the dual role of the media as both

a safeguard for democracy and a sector of opportunity. By linking universities with news organizations, investing in training, and encouraging innovation, the province is creating pathways for young people to become both informed citizens and skilled professionals.

Strong readership habits are directly tied to the health of democracy. When citizens read widely and critically, they hold governments accountable, demand transparency, and resist manipulation. Newspapers nurture this culture of questioning, ensuring policies reflect real public concerns rather than unchecked narratives. A society that reads is a society that engages — it debates, challenges, and builds trust between state and people. In Pakistan, where democratic institutions need constant reinforcement, every reader becomes a participant in safeguarding accountability. In this sense, readership is not only personal enrichment; it is a civic duty.

Artificial intelligence itself does not have to be the enemy of journalism. Used responsibly, it can strengthen fact-checking, expand access to archives, and help deliver content tailored to readers' needs. But algorithms can never replace the values of truth, transparency, and accountability. Newspapers, with their traditions of editorial rigor, are best placed to balance innovation with integrity.

Analysis



Qudrat Ullah

This discussion cannot be complete without looking at the legal framework that governs the media in Pakistan. Newspapers operate within the ambit of laws such as the Press Council of Pakistan Ordinance 2002, which emphasizes ethical standards

and professional accountability, and the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA) Ordinance 2002, which, while primarily focused on electronic media, has implications for cross-media practices in the age of convergence. The Defamation Act 2002 also protects individuals from false reporting, highlighting the need for accuracy and responsibility in journalism. Moreover, the Constitution of

Pakistan under Article 19 guarantees freedom of speech and expression, but with reasonable restrictions in the interests of Islam, security, public order, and morality. Beyond the national framework, Pakistan is also a signatory to international instruments such as the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), whose Article 19 protects the right to freedom of expression while allowing restrictions only under narrowly defined conditions. This alignment between domestic law and global commitments strengthens the case for responsible but independent journalism. In a time when unverified social media posts can spread unchecked, the fact that newspapers remain accountable both legally and ethically — and stand rooted in constitutional and international principles — adds to their credibility.

On this day, we should also pay tribute to journalists. Despite financial pressures, safety risks, and challenges, they continue to report with honesty and courage. Their work amplifies the concerns of ordinary people, exposes injustice, and holds power accountable.

In a society battling hardships and uneven literacy, newspapers widen horizons. They do not just record

events; they explain them, offering clarity and direction. For young readers in particular, newspapers act as both a classroom of critical thinking and a guide to responsible citizenship.

The responsibility to strengthen this culture is collective. Governments must create an enabling environment. Media houses must innovate without sacrificing credibility. Citizens must engage with news critically and thoughtfully. They should make a habit of buying newspapers regularly to provide much-needed financial support to the media industry in Pakistan.

If each plays their part, newspapers will not only endure but thrive. They will remain trusted companions in changing times — steady voices of truth amid the noise of AI-driven content.

The future of Pakistan's democracy depends on this balance of tradition and modernity. Newspapers are not relics of the past. They are essential guides for the future, where informed youth carry the torch of accountability, creativity, and hope.

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

**Bull & Bears**

PSX 100-Share Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
158,236.67	157,945.02
Day's High	Day's Low
159,046.60	158,133.30
Index Value	Change
37,591,246,435	+ 291.65
Percentage	Time
+0.18%	24 Sept, 2025 4:30 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
9,250.43	+ 27.11
Percentage	Time
+0.29%	24 Sept, 4:35 pm GMT + 1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
46,168.80	- 123.98
Percentage	Time
-0.27%	24 Sept, 1:07 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
45,630.31	+ 136.65
Percentage	Time
+0.30%	23 Sept, 3:45 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	185.5	190.5
Bahrain Dinar	746.4	753.9
Canadian Dollar	202.25	207.25
China Yuan	39.47	39.87
Danish Krone	44.15	44.75
Euro	333	336
Hong Kong Dollar	36.12	36.47
Indian Rupee	3.12	3.21
Japanese Yen	1.8800	1.9800
Kuwaiti Dinar	913.35	922.35
Malaysian Ringgit	67.1	67.7
NewZealand \$	164.7	166.70
Norwegians Krone	28.37	28.67
Omani Riyal	731.05	738.55
Qatari Riyal	77.22	77.92
Saudi Riyal	75.2	75.7
Singapore Dollar	217.25	222.25
Swedish Korona	29.99	30.29
Swiss Franc	355.02	357.77
Thai Bhat	8.73	8.88
U.A.E Dirham	77	78
UK Pound Sterling	381.5	385
US Dollar	282.4	282.45

SECP Chairperson Urges Streamlining of Account Opening Process in Capital Markets

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: The Chairperson of the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) held a high-level meeting with the chief executives of Capital Market Infrastructure Institutions (CMIIs), including the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX), the Central Depository Company (CDC), and the National Clearing Company of Pakistan (NCCPL). The meeting was attended by the CEOs of PSX and NCCPL, and the Chief Operating Officer of CDC. The focus of the discussion was to streamline the account opening process in Pakistan's capital markets to enhance investor experience and accessibility.

This initiative aligns with SECP's ongoing efforts to modernize the capital market infrastructure and promote digital onboarding to facilitate investors. The roadmap will include actionable steps to address bottlenecks, enhance digital capabilities, and ensure a time-efficient process.

The SECP remains committed to fostering a robust and inclusive capital market ecosystem that empowers investors and supports economic growth in Pakistan.

Gold price remains unchanged at Rs 398,800 per tola

ISLAMABAD: The price of 24 karat gold remained unchanged at Rs 398,800 per tola in the local market on Wednesday, the All Pakistan Sarafa Gems and Jewellers Association reported.

Similarly, the price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold stood firm at Rs 341,906, while 10 grams of 22 karat gold was also traded on existing rates of Rs 313,425.

The price of silver also remained stable, with 24 karat silver being sold at Rs 4,637 per tola and Rs 3,975 per 10 grams.

In the international market, gold was traded at US\$ 3,770 per ounce, while silver was available at US\$ 44.10 per ounce.

PPMA's 8th Pakistan Pharma Summit and Export Awards 2025

Mustafa Kamal sets ambitious \$30 bln Pharma export target for next five years

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Minister for National Health Services, Regulations, and Coordination, Syed Mustafa Kamal while assuring the government's full support to the pharmaceutical industry on Wednesday set an ambitious target of achieving \$30 billion in pharmaceutical exports over the next five years.

Addressing at the 8th Pakistan Pharma Summit and the 4th Pharma Export Summit & Awards (PESA 2025) here, the minister emphasized the industry's potential to become a game changer for Pakistan's economy. "Although this is a challenging target, it is achievable with commitment and hard work," said Kamal. "Let's move forward and work round the clock to meet this target," he remarked.

He highlighted that if other countries can generate \$300 billion through pharmaceutical exports, Pakistan should also aim confidently for \$30 billion.

While acknowledging the recent 35% growth in pharma exports over the past year, the minister said that the current figure of \$ 475 million is not enough. "It's a step forward, but not something to be satisfied with. We must



think bigger," he stated.

Earlier, speaking at the event, Chairman of the Pakistan Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association (PPMA) Tauqeer ul Haq said that

the pharmaceutical industry recorded a 35% growth over the past year, with total pharma exports reaching approximately \$500 million per annum.

Speaking on the occasion, former Chairman of the Pakistan Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association (PPMA), Dr. Sheikh Kaiser Waheed, said that the pharmaceutical sector has witnessed significant growth in recent years. "We have the potential to achieve the ambitious target of \$30 billion in pharma exports, but this will require full government support, including technology transfer, regulatory reforms, and the adoption of AI-based equipment," he said.

Speaking on the occasion CEO DRAP Dr Obaidullah lauded the organizers of the summit and said that the world was changing and digitizing was a very important thing. He said that despite various challenges, the pharma industry in Pakistan was continuously growing and its exports witnessed an upward trend with passage of every year.

Jim Harris AI GenAI & Disruptive Innovation Expert gave a detailed presentation on artificial intelligence in drug discovery and manufacturing.

Dr Zakieh Al-Kurdi (USP, EMEA) spoke on regulatory policy while Prof. Khalid Ahmad Sheikh (UCL, UK) elaborated on building a culture of quality, and Geoff Tsen, PhD (USP, Greater China) on resilience and standards.

Khurram Jaffrani's honoured

Mr. Khurram Jaffrani CEO AdPulse IMC Pvt (Ltd). Honored to receive a special souvenir from Mr. Ghulam Nabi Memon Inspector General of Sindh Police & Dr. Maqsood Ahmed , DIG Special Security Unit & Emergency Services Division, President IPO Pakistan, for my services at the Marka-e-Haq 3rd Police Extreme Handgun Championship 2025



Dr. Mahathir committed to deepening Pakistan-Malaysia trade relations

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Former Prime Minister of Malaysia, H. E. Tun Dr. Mahathir Bin Mohamad, reflected on the deepening ties between Pakistan and Malaysia and underscored the enduring and evolving relationship between the two countries. He emphasized that the foundation of strong bilateral ties lies in shared values, mutual respect, and collaborative efforts across sectors.

In a special video message, Dr. Mahathir extended heartfelt greetings and warm congratulations to the Pakistan-Malaysia Friendship Association (PMFA) on the occasion of its 4th Appreciation Awards Ceremony 2025. He reiterated that strong bilateral ties are built on shared values, mutual respect, and cooperation across sectors.

Dr. Mahathir also expressed deep gratitude to the people of Pakistan for their kind wishes and "doa" on his recent 100th birthday. He acknowledged Shahid Jawed



Qureshi, President of PMFA, for his leadership and unwavering commitment to fostering friendship between the two nations.

In response, Shahid Jawed Qureshi, President of the Pakistan-Malaysia Friendship Association (PMFA), expressed sincere appreciation for Dr. Mahathir's message and reaffirmed the strength of Pakistan-Malaysia relations.

No Signs of open Conflict in Customs Agents Elections, Says Asif Sakhi

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: The Customs Agents Association elections are proceeding without any signs of open conflict, with the issue of 46 cancelled licenses resolved and only 12 licenses still pending reinstatement, said Haji Asif Sakhi, Leader of the Customs Agents Alliance, in a statement. He accused opponents of spreading false statements for cheap publicity.

Sakhi highlighted that the resolution of the license cancellations was achieved through the Alliance's efforts, adding that the remaining 12 licenses would be restored soon. "This is why the

Karachi customs community stands united with us," he stated. He emphasized the Alliance's commitment to merit-based practices and noted that the elections, scheduled for September 27, are being conducted in a peaceful environment with significant enthusiasm among agents.

Urging the customs community to ignore misinformation, Sakhi called on members to focus their energies on the upcoming elections. "On September 27, the results will speak for themselves," he concluded, expressing confidence in the support of the customs community and the smooth conduct of the polls.

Google AI Plus plan launches in Pakistan



Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Google today announced the rollout of its Google AI Plus plan in Pakistan, its newest plan designed to empower people to do more with Google AI. This new plan opens up more access to powerful AI tools to help people level up their productivity and creativity—all at an accessible price.

Farhan Qureshi, Country Director, Google Pakistan, said: "Pakistan's digital

landscape is vibrant and growing, and we've been inspired by the creativity Pakistanis have shown in adopting AI tools. With the launch of Google AI Plus, we are making these tools even more accessible to more people across the country.

This is a core part of our commitment to fuel Pakistan's digital transformation, ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to enhance their productivity, creativity, and learning with AI."

CCP hosts Competition expert Professor Whelan

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) organized a lecture under its "Lecture Series in Competition Law," featuring Professor Peter Whelan of the University of Leeds, UK. Whelan is a Professor of Law at the School of Law and Director of the Institute of Criminal Law and Justice. He delivered a valuable lecture on the concept of parental liability in competition law.

Welcoming the guest, Chairman CCP Dr. Kabir Ahmed Sidhu said this is the beginning of a new era of reforms at CCP. He noted that CCP has recovered over PKR 1 billion in

penalties from violators of the Competition Act. These recoveries, he said, have helped safeguard consumer rights and ensure fair competition. Dr. Kabir added that CCP has resolved more than half of its pending court cases and established a Centre of Excellence to conduct advanced research with the support of experts and PhD scholars.

In his lecture, Professor Whelan explained the principle of parental liability, which makes parent companies responsible for anti-competitive conduct of their subsidiaries. He said this doctrine is important to strengthen enforcement, prevent misuse of market power, and hold large corporate groups accountable. He also



discussed international practices, with examples from the European Union and other jurisdictions, highlighting lessons for Pakistan.

The session concluded with an active Q&A

discussion. Participants from CCP, academia, and the legal community engaged with Professor Whelan on the challenges and opportunities of applying parental liability in Pakistan.

IS Asia Cup Cricket Tournament 2025

India Defeated Bangladesh by 41 Runs to Reach the Final of the Asia Cup 2025

ASim Tanveer

DUBAI: In the crucial match of the Asia Cup, India defeated Bangladesh by 41 runs to reach the final of the Asia Cup. India defeated Bangladesh in the final, Sri Lanka was eliminated, Pakistan's match became a semi-final. Bangladesh lost the match against India. Thus, India became the first team to reach the final of the Asia Cup 2025. With this result, Sri Lanka has also been eliminated and the last Super 4 match between Pakistan and Bangladesh on Thursday, September 25, 2025, became a semi-final. Bangladesh won the toss and invited India to bat first and although they had little grip in the beginning, they restricted India to 168 for 6 in the last 8 overs by giving away just 54 runs and showed their strength in the match. India, who were at one point 114 for 4 in 12 overs, could

only score 54 runs in the next 8 overs. For India, Abhishek Sharma once again played a big innings and scored 75 runs off 37 balls. Shubman Gill made 29 and Surya Kumar made 5. Hardik Pandya played an innings of 38 runs. Bangladesh's Rashad Hossain took 2 wickets for 27 runs. Bangladesh cricket team took a stand in response. They could not calm down due to the wickets falling at intervals. Saif Hassan alone was seen fighting with 67 runs off 48 balls. Parvez Hossain scored 21. No other player played calmly and could not enter double figures. Bangladesh cricket team was dismissed for 127 runs in 19.3 overs. Thus India won by 41 runs. India's Kuldeep Yadav took 3 wickets for 18 runs and Chakraborty took 2 wickets for 29 runs. Bangladesh rested their



captain Liton Das and important pacer Mustafizur Rahman against India. They did not feed

2 other players either, as if they believed that they had to save this energy to defeat Pakistan.

Pakistan and Bangladesh have 2 points each after 2 matches and the winner of the



two will play the final match against India on Sunday, September 28 with 4 points.

The match between Sri Lanka and India on Friday, September 26 has become a formality.

Huawei's Simplified Private Network Solution for CMPak Drives Digital Transformation of Various Industries in Pakistan

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Recently, CMPak, a leading telecom operator in Pakistan, and Huawei reached a strategic cooperation to jointly promote product innovation and technology upgrade. They aim to work out a leading enterprise network solution to accelerate digital transformation of various industries in Pakistan. To achieve this, CMPak and Huawei jointly launch a unified enterprise node (Card-UEN), a simplified, integrated private network solution, for the enterprise market. The solution is designed to tackle the pain points encountered by local enterprises throughout digital transformation. Featuring space saving, cost-effectiveness, easy deployment, and fast deployment, the solution introduces informatization momentum to conventional industries such as mining, logistics, and manufacturing, helping Pakistan achieve its strategic goal of "Digital Pakistan 2030." Focusing on Local Requirements: Breaking Through Enterprise Transformation Barriers with a Simplified Solution In recent years, Pakistan's economy has been growing rapidly, but the digital penetration among enterprises remains low. Problems such as scattered infrastructure investment, poor technology adaptability, and high initial expenditure



have long hindered the upgrade of various industries. Against this backdrop, CMPak and Huawei have jointly developed a simplified integrated private network solution. This solution is precisely tailored to local requirements through four innovative designs, outlined below: High integration: The Card-UEN is co-located with the BBU of the (R)AN in one subrack, reducing equipment room footprint by 60% and power consumption by 30%. It is well-suited, as most small and medium-sized enterprises in Pakistan are facing equipment room

space limitations. Simplified site deployment using a single cable: The Card-UEN is directly connected to a wireless switch through a single network cable over the N2, N3, Om, or N6 interface. Under this context, joint site deployment can be performed for the Card-UEN and base station, improving efficiency by 80% compared with conventional approaches. Dual-converged access: The Card-UEN supports full convergence of 4G and 5G as well as the 3GPP unicast trunking technology, meeting trunking

communication requirements in remote areas, such as mining and forestry areas. Lightweight O&M: The local Web LMT provides visualized monitoring capabilities, reducing the technical skill requirements for enterprise IT teams. Industry Empowerment: From Mere Connectivity to Effective Utilization Despite their ongoing reliance on basic network services, most traditional enterprises in Pakistan can achieve digital and intelligent transformation through the lightweight adaptation capability of the solution—without the need for substantial infrastructure investment. As a key node in the Digital Corridor of the Belt and Road Initiative, Pakistan plays a pivotal role. It collaborates with the Huawei local engineering team to continue enhancing their enterprise private network solutions, assisting CMPak in building a digital foundation that spans all industries. Future Outlook: Ushering in a New Chapter of Industry Through Commercial Deployment With the future implementation of Card-UEN, the collaboration between CMPak and Huawei will not only transform the production methods of Pakistani enterprises but also set a benchmark for the digitalization process across South Asia, bringing to life the vision of "empowering industries through technological innovation."

UK govt's report reinforces OICCI's call for urgent IP enforcement reforms in Pakistan

Commerce Desk



KARACHI: The Overseas Investors Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OICCI) has welcomed the launch of the latest UK government's report, by the British High Commission, on Pakistan's Intellectual Property (IP) regime, noting that its findings strongly validate the Chamber's longstanding call for urgent IP enforcement reforms. The report, developed by the UK Intellectual Property Office and the Department for Business & Trade, highlights that IP enforcement remains Pakistan's one of the greatest challenges, with copyright piracy and trademark counterfeiting costing the economy an estimated £2.2 billion (approximately Rs 800 billion) in 2023 alone. British Deputy High Commissioner Karachi, Lance Domm, stated: "Enforcement of intellectual property rights matters for business confidence and economic growth. This report sets out a path to strengthen Pakistan's IP system through policy dialogue, technical support and awareness building. The UK is committed to working with the Government of Pakistan and businesses to help create a safer and fairer business environment." OICCI Secretary General, M. Abdul Aleem, added: "The UK government's report's findings validate OICCI's repeated recommendations to tackle IP infringements with urgency. Strong enforcement is not just a legal matter, it is a critical economic priority. Without it, Pakistan risks continued revenue losses, consumer harm, and a weaker investment climate. OICCI works closely with IPOP to drive stricter IP enforcement in Pakistan and has been a staunch advocate for a stronger, well-resourced IPOP, backed by effective inter-agency coordination." The report calls for a comprehensive, intelligence-led national IP enforcement strategy, streamlined institutional arrangements, and increased public awareness to combat the acceptance of counterfeit goods.

JUI Takhte Bhai rejected the privatize various health centers

Tariq khan Yousafzai

TAKHT BHAI: Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI) Tehsil Takhte Bhai has rejected the provincial government's decision to privatize various health centers and educational institutions across the province. The party announced strong resistance and a movement against this step, declaring that the incompetent provincial government, which has been in power for the past 13 years, will not be allowed to sell public resources or privatize institutions related to education and healthcare, as if selling them like addicts disposing of assets. Addressing a press conference at the Takhte Bhai Press Club, JUI District Mardan Ameer Maulana Amanat Shah Haqqani, Tehsil Takhte Bhai Ameer Maulana Hafiz Muhammad Saeed, General Secretary Shafiq Ahmed, JUI Supreme Council member and

JUI Business Forum District Mardan Convener Haji Dost Muhammad Darwesh, Deputy General Secretary Maulana Ziaullah Jan Hashmi, Qazi Iqbal, Sher Khan, and Hameedullah Derwi stated that Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has been under the rule of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf for the past 13 years. However, despite this long period, no meaningful welfare projects have been introduced for the people. They said that privatization of schools and hospitals directly harms the poor and is nothing short of oppression. Leaving the basic needs of the people—education, health, and employment—at the mercy of the private sector is a dangerous trend. Education and healthcare are fundamental for the progress and stability of any society. It is the primary responsibility of a welfare state to provide quality education and adequate health facilities so that society can

become enlightened, healthy, and developed. Unfortunately, the situation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is the opposite. For years, the provincial government has failed to meet public expectations. Educational institutions and hospitals face a shortage of facilities, lack of staff, and flawed policies that have caused serious hardships for the people. Now the situation has reached a point where the government is moving toward privatizing these basic institutions. The biggest victims of privatization will be the poor and middle class, since private institutions prioritize profit above all. As a result, education and healthcare will move out of the reach of the common man, which will further increase social injustice. This policy will not only widen class divisions but also negatively impact future generations. This is a grave issue that requires serious consideration and



balanced policymaking to ensure that people are provided with basic services as their right, not as commodities for private gain. Such steps increase social inequality and worsen the plight

of the poor. Maulana Haqqani made it clear that until the government withdraws its decision on privatization, the protest movement will continue with full force.

He stressed that this issue is not merely political opposition but a matter of the people's fundamental rights, and JUI is ready to make every sacrifice in the interest of the public.

Pakistan calls upon Afghanistan to take concrete action against terrorists' outfits

Continued from From Page 1

Dar said no country desired to see normalcy and stability return to Afghanistan more than his country, Pakistan, adding their destinies were intertwined and they needed to help secure an Afghanistan that is at peace with itself and its neighbours. The DPM/FM said the meeting came at a critical juncture for Afghanistan that had entered a phase of relative peace after nearly five decades of conflict and civil war. He also expressed Pakistan's govern-

ment's deepest condolences on the earthquake calamity that struck Afghanistan last month. In the aftermath of the earthquake, Pakistan dispatched 105 tons of aid to Afghanistan as a gesture of support. He stressed that at a time when global priorities were shifting focus towards other hotspots in the world, they should not lose focus on the situation in Afghanistan, which was faced with crippling sanctions, terrorism, narcotics, a dysfunctional banking system, unemployment, poverty, human rights concerns and a political

dispensation that remained unrecognised after more than four years in power. "A political stalemate and lack of Afghanistan's integration with the international community cannot continue indefinitely. As fellow OIC members, regional partners and neighbours, we must use this platform to take initiatives that can help pull Afghanistan out of its isolation," he added. The DPM/FM enumerated certain steps in this regard, including, first, the OIC Group must advocate for adequate funding by the international donors

to meet Afghanistan's humanitarian aid requirements without any political considerations. Second, the OIC group must help stabilise the Afghan economy and revive its banking systems to create conditions necessary for trade and commercial activity and for the implementation of regional connectivity projects. This will help reduce unemployment and lift ordinary Afghans out of poverty. Third, they must support engagement and dialogue with the Taliban at the regional and multilateral level to encourage them to comply with their

international obligations. Fourth, they commended UN-led efforts to help ex-poppy farmers secure alternate livelihoods and must support these endeavours to create further opportunities for a sustainable future for Afghan cultivators. Fifth, the OIC group must urge the Taliban to lift restrictions on women and girls that were unjustified and contrary to the Islamic principles and norms of the Muslim society. Their outreach efforts must be directed to influence the Taliban to rethink their policies towards this end.

Sixth, with peace returning to Afghanistan, it was now time for Afghan refugees to return to their homeland. "The OIC Group must urge the Afghan interim authorities to create conditions necessary for facilitating the resettlement of Afghan returnees from neighbouring countries and to ensure their integration into the political and social fabric of Afghanistan for lasting peace and stability. The international community must also share the burden of this responsibility," he further stressed.

Inauguration

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, General Sahir Shamshad Mirza and H.R.H. General Shaikh Mohammed Bin Isa Bin Salman Al Khalifa, Commander Bahrain National Guard inaugurating the King Hamad Institute of Nursing and Associated Medical Sciences (KHINAMS) on Wednesday.



Photo: PID

CJCSC Gen Mirza highlights strong Pak-Bahrain ties

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee General Sahir Shamshad Mirza has attended as chief guest, the inauguration ceremony of His Majesty King Hamad Institute of Nursing and Associated Medical Sciences (KHINAMS) in Islamabad.

According to an ISPR release issued on Wednesday, the ceremony was also attended by H. R. H. General Shaikh Mohammed Bin Isa Bin Salman Al Khalifa, Commander

Bahrain National Guard as guest of honour and other senior civil-military officers.

CJCSC, while thanking His Majesty and His Royal Highness, underscored the strong bilateral relations between Pakistan and Bahrain.

He further said that the inauguration of KHINAMS marked an important milestone in advancing medical education, expressing confidence that the institute would produce competent healthcare professionals and set new benchmarks in nursing and associated medical sciences in Pakistan.

Lahore teenager obsessed with PUBG sentenced to 100 years in prison for killing family



Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: A Lahore sessions court has sentenced a teenager to a cumulative 100 years in prison along with a fine of Rs4 million for the brutal murder of his mother, brother and two sisters in Kahna, a case that shocked the nation in 2022.

Additional Sessions Judge Riaz Ahmed awarded the punishment to Ali Zain, a PUBG-obsessed convict, who was 14 years old when he committed the crime.

The court said the convict's young age was taken into account, sentencing him to four life terms instead of capital punishment.

The tragic incident occurred in January 2022, when Zain, enraged after failing to achieve targets in the popular online game PUBG, picked up his mother's pistol and went on a shooting spree inside his home.

According to case details, Zain first shot his mother, a lady health worker, while she was asleep in her room. He then turned the gun on his two sisters — 15-year-old Mahnoor Fatima and 10-year-old Jannat — killing them instantly.

When his elder brother, 20-year-old Taimoor Sultan, rushed

in after hearing the commotion, Zain shot him dead as well.

A senior police officer said the teenager was a habitual PUBG player who spent most of his time locked in his room gaming.

On the day of the murders, hours of continuous play followed by failure to meet an in-game target pushed him into a fit of rage.

After the killings, Zain attempted to stage the crime scene, throwing the pistol into a nearby drain and pretending to be asleep in his room.

However, investigators noticed blood stains and his suspicious behavior, eventually piecing together the evidence. Following days of intense questioning, Zain confessed to the murders.

Police confirmed it was not the first PUBG-linked crime in Lahore.

This case marked the fourth such incident, with three previous cases involving teenagers who had committed suicide allegedly due to the game's intense psychological impact.

In 2020, after the first such case, then Lahore CCPO Zulfiqar Hameed had even recommended banning PUBG to "save young lives" from its dangerous influence.

PM Shehbaz urges IMF to factor in flood impact in economic review

Spokesman Report

NEW YORK: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday said that Pakistan was making steady progress towards meeting the various targets and commitments under the IMF programme, however, the impact of the recent floods on Pakistan's economy must be factored into the IMF's review.

The prime minister, in a meeting with Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Kristalina Georgieva, appreciated the IMF's longstanding constructive partnership with Pakistan, which had strengthened further under the current chief's leadership.

The meeting was held on the sidelines of the 80th session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

The prime minister



acknowledged the IMF's timely support under various instruments, including the

Stand-By Arrangement for \$3 billion in FY 2024, followed by the Extended Fund Facility

(EFF) of \$7 billion and the Resilience and Sustainability Facility (RSF) of \$1.4 billion.

"Today, with the institution of deep-rooted structural reforms, Pakistan's economy is showing positive signs of stabilisation and is now moving towards recovery," Prime Minister Shehbaz said and appreciated the IMF's support in this regard which had been instrumental in guiding the government's economic reform efforts.

The IMF managing director expressed her sympathy to all people affected by the floods and noted the importance of the damage assessment to underpin recovery priorities.

The IMF chief commended the prime minister's commitment to pursuing sound macro-economic policies and reiterated the IMF's continued support as Pakistan advances the necessary economic reforms to ensure sustainable long-term economic growth.

KP earns record \$1.9 million from trophy hunting permits auction

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Wildlife Department has achieved a major success by generating record revenue of \$1,913,842 through the auction of 39 trophy hunting permits for the 2025-26 season.

According to official details, four exportable markhor permits fetched the highest



amount, selling for \$946,000.

Nine non-exportable markhor permits brought in \$553,300, while 20 non-exportable ibex permits were auctioned for \$16,042.

Additionally, six permits for the grey goral were sold for \$398,500.

Special Assistant to the Chief Minister on Wildlife, Peer Masoor Khan, said this was the first time a grey

goral permit was introduced in the province, significantly boosting overall revenue.

He added that the income generated will be spent on wildlife protection and the development of local communities.

The department has also launched a rewilding program aimed at restoring populations of chinkara, urial, and black-buck in KP.

Pakistan calls upon Afghanistan to take concrete action against terrorists' outfits

Spokesman Report

NEW YORK: Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister Senator Ishaq Dar on Wednesday raised Pakistan's serious concerns over the presence of more than two dozen terrorist groups inside Afghanistan and called upon the Afghan interim authorities to take concrete and verifiable action to prevent their soil from being used for terrorism against its neighbouring countries, particularly Pakistan.

In his statement at the Inaugural Meeting of the OIC Contact Group on Afghanistan, the deputy prime minister/foreign minister mentioned these terrorist groups, particularly the TTP, BLA, Majed Brigade and ETIM, which were actively collaborating with Al-Qaeda and posing a grave threat to regional and international peace and security.



"Our law enforcement officials and civilians continue to make enormous sacrifices to terrorism emanating from Afghanistan. Earlier this month, 12 Pakistani soldiers were martyred in our bordering regions while combating TTP terrorist infiltrators from Afghanistan," he added.

The DPM/FM further said that digital platforms and social media were also being used by these terrorist groups for propaganda and incitement to violence. "This cannot be tolerated under any circumstances," he emphasised.

For meaningful progress across all

priority pillars, Dar said the Afghan interim authorities must take concrete and verifiable action to prevent their soil from being used for terrorism.

He also proposed the establishment of a working group of experts from members of this contact group to jointly put forward a practical roadmap with a series of reciprocal steps to make progress across the entire spectrum of issues faced by the brotherly country of Afghanistan.

The deputy prime minister/foreign minister reiterated that Pakistan was committed to supporting all efforts for realising the goal of a peaceful and prosperous Afghanistan.

"But this requires mutual respect, sincerity and demonstration of necessary political will by the Taliban authorities to help us to help themselves," the press statement quoted him as saying.

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Finance Minister Virtually Chairs Meeting of ECC



Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: A meeting of the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet was held today at the Finance Division with the Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, chairing the meeting virtually from New York.

The ECC considered a summary regarding the commercial import of used vehicles and, after detailed discussion, accorded approval to the proposals.

The ECC decided to amend relevant provisions of the Import Policy Order, 2022 to allow the commercial import of used vehicles. Initially, only vehicles not older than five years will be permitted until 30th June 2026, after which the vehicle age limit shall stand removed. The ECC further directed that such commercial importation would remain subject to strict compliance with prescribed environmental and safety standards. The Committee also approved the

imposition of 40 percent Regulatory Duty (RD), in addition to the existing customs duties, on the commercial import of used vehicles (less than five years old). This enhanced duty will remain applicable until 30th June 2026. Thereafter, the duty shall be reduced gradually by 10 percentage points per year, reaching zero by 2029-30, in line with the recommendations of the Tariff Policy Board.

On another summary moved by the Cabinet Division, the ECC considered and approved allocation of Rs 800 million ad Technical Supplementary Grant in favour of the Pakistan Virtual Asset Regulatory Authority (PVARA).

The meeting was attended by Federal Minister for Petroleum Ali Pervaiz Malik, Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research Rana Tanveer Hussain, Federal Minister for Power Sardar Awaiz Ahmad Khan Leghari, federal secretaries and senior officials from concerned ministries and regulatory bodies.