# The Spokesman

(مصحح بغاری: مدیث نمبر 6290) **Barkat Rice Mills** (Pvt) Limited



SC suspends IHC order barring Justice Jahangiri from judicial work

A constitutional bench of the Supreme Court of Pakistan (SC) suspended the Islamabad High Court's (IHC) order that had barred Justice Tariq Mahmood Jahangiri from performing judicial functions, allowing him to continue work until the case is decided by the Supreme Judicial Council (SJC).



**Ambassador Qureshi, EU official discuss** climate change

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# Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Acting President Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani meeting Ms Coco Ushiyama, Country Director and Representative of the



# Pakistan not in any power struggle; fully focused on economic prosperity: PM

## 跨 Chaudhry Tabraiz Aurah

LONDON: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday said that the recently signed Pakistan-Saudi defence pact was not against any other country, as Pakistan was not in any power struggle but was pursuing a focused approach to achieve economic prosperity by exploiting its immense resources.

"Saudi Arabia and Pakistan are brotherly countries, bound by decades and centuries-old ties. This pact is against no one but a formalisation of these ties... Every Muslim has a belief and ready to sacrifice his life to the meeting on Gaza situation safeguard Roza-e-Rasool and Makkah al Mukarramah, so through this pact, we addressed

*Toshakhana* 

II case hearing

postponed till

October 1

our religious values," the prime minister said, talking to the newsmen here.

He said that without indulging in any power struggle, Pakistan was striving to achieve its economic goals by addressing poverty, unemployment and exploiting immense potential in agriculture, artificial intelligence, mines and minerals as well as youth bulge by providing them education and skill training.

The prime minister apprised the media of his "fruitful and successful" visits to New York and Washington, particularly, co-chaired by President Trump and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and attended both our worldly interests and by leaders from Pakistan, Qatar, tive outcome for Gaza ceasefire... will hear good news very soon,"



UAE, Saudi Arabia, Indonesia, Jordan and Egypt.

"There was an encouraging discussion and I'm confident that it will come up with a posi-suring. Insha Allah, I hope you

After the meeting, my expectations have greatly risen... In our meeting too in Washington, President Trump's words were reashe remarked.

Condemning the unprecedented Israeli oppression and killings in Gaza, the prime minister said that at the UN General Assembly, Pakistan had effectively raised its voice in support of the people of Palestine and Kashmir, Pakistan's water rights and also the Marka-e-Haq in which India had faced a humiliating defeat.

"We have won the war by grace of God through our brave armed forces, who fought with great courage and outstanding professional acumen led by Field Marshal Asim Munir who led from the front with an iron-clad resolve," he said, highlighting the nation's full support to its armed

# Finance Minister, UNICEF Rep. discuss collaborative efforts on child welfare, education, climate

## Commerce Desk

跨 City Desk ISLAMABAD: United Nations ISLAMABAD: The hearing of Toshakhana II case against PTI founder Imran Khan and his spouse Bushra Bibi was postponed till October 1 after hearing of the case continued for seven hours in Adiala child welfare, education, and Jail Rawalpindi on Monday, climate challenges. reported 24NewsHDTV

Channel. Special Judge Central Shahrukh Arjumand heard the case in Adiala Jail. PTI founder Imran Khan and Bushra Bibi were present in the courtroom. The family members of the founder PTI and Bushra Bibi are also present in the court during the hearing.

Continued on Page 7

Children's Fund (UNICEF) Representative in Pakistan, Ms. Pernille Ironside on Monday called on Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb to discuss collaborative efforts on

The Finance Minister appreciated the technical support and knowledge transfer provided by UNICEF in Pakistan. He highlighted the two existential challenges facing the country climate change and population growth-particularly their impact on child stunting and learning poverty, said a press

release issued here. He discussed the Country Partnership Framework signed



with the World Bank, noting that

nearly two-thirds of the USD 2 billion expected every year, under the program over the next ten years, would be directed toward addressing popula-

tion-related challenges. The Minister emphasized

the importance of making the best use of available resources to address these pressing issues.

Senator Aurangzeb also underlined the important role of UNICEF and other development partners in supporting Pakistan's efforts, particularly

through close collaboration with the Ministry of Climate Change, Ministry of Population Welfare, and Ministry Of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination.

Ms. Ironside reaffirmed UNICEF's commitment to Pakistan, noting that UNICEF is actively working with relevant ministries and stakeholders across a broad range of sectors, with a particular focus on child care and girls' education.

She highlighted UNICEF's provision of technical expertise through strategic partnerships and its leadership role in driving initiatives aligned with national

She explained that UNICEF follows a multi-sectoral approach to community welfare, prioritizing projects in education, health, and climate resilience.

# **Recent Catastropic Floods Left Millions Homeless: Acting President**

### 👺 Kiran Asim

ISLAMABAD: Acting President Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani, met with Ms. Coco Ushiyama, the Representative and Country Director of the World Food Programme (WFP) in Pakistan today at President House Islamabad.

Welcoming Ms. Ushiyama, the Acting President expressed pleasure on receiving such an honourable and dedicated humanitarian leader, especially at a crucial time when Pakistan is grappling with the devastating consequences of floods and the looming threat of malnutrition among vulnerable communities. He expressed confidence that her extensive expertise in humanitarian response and strategic management would greatly benefit the people of Pakistan. security sectors.

He highlighted the role of parliamentary diplomacy in fostering partnerships to address shared global challenges and achieve national development goals.

The World Food Program Country Director informed that the organisation is excited to work closely with Benazir Income Support programme to address the issue of stunting and work on the problem of malnutrition in children. She thanked the Acting President for his support.

She informed the Acting President about the emerging situation in the flood hit areas particularly the South Punjab. She also expressed her keen interest to work in close collaboration with Senate standing committees on health and national food security in the health and food

# Ali Pervaiz Malik pledges full support for petroleum sector reforms

## S Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Support for reforms in the petroleum sector, terming them vital for long-term sustainability and economic growth.

During a meeting with the Managing Director and senior executives of the Oil and Gas Development Company Limited (OGDCL) at the company's head office, the minister said indigenisation of the energy sector was the way forward, stressing that Exploration and Production (E&P) companies were working diligently to achieve this national goal.

According to a news release

OGDCL management briefed the minister on operational activities and a production optimisation plan designed to slow the decline in mature hydrocarbon fields.

He was also informed about initiatives to enhance recovery and sustain production levels.

The minister underlined that improved governance was critical to strengthening the company's operational and financial performance.

He was told that in fiscal year 2024-25, OGDCL had made five new oil and gas discoveries, reflecting Pakistan's immense hydrocarbon potential.

# Protest is a right, but chaos harms economy: DG ISPR tells AJK students

## Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Army spokesperson Lieutenant General Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry has said that while the people of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) have the right to protest, chaos and violence only damage the economy.

Addressing over 1,000 students and faculty members from various universities in Palandri on September 15, the Director General Inter-Services Public Relations (DG ISPR) engaged in an interactive question-and-answer session, parts of which later

went viral on social media. Responding to a question on the politics of the Awami Action Committee, General Chaudhry emphasised that AJK has a functional political system and that by most indicators - including education, health, and infrastructure -

the region is performing well. He underlined the importance of taxation, stating: "If the state does not collect



ries and benefits? More than 30% of the people in AJK are employed in government service. The DG ISPR reiterated

that while peaceful protest is a democratic right, unrest undermines economic stability. He further noted that God has blessed Kashmir with

immense natural resources. General Chaudhry also

reminded students of Kashmir's deep connection to Pakistan, saying: "The dream of Pakistan was envisioned by someone from Kashmir. Many officers and soldiers in the Pakistan Army are Kashmiri, and the future of Kashmir lies in 'Kashmir banay ga Paki-

# Governor Balochistan highlights technical education as pathway to youth employment

#### B Rafiullah Mandokhel

ZHOB: Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhel has stressed the crucial role of technical and vocational education in creating employment opportunities for youth, noting the rising global demand for skilled professionals.

He made these remarks while inaugurating a newly established 'Skills Education Center', specializing in electrician training and solar technology, during his visit to the Government Boys Model Higher Secondary School here

"In today's modern era, equipping youth with employable skills is not merely desirable but an urgent necessity," the Governor said, adding "An empowered and skilled generation will lay the foundation for a stronger, more prosperous and self-reliant future for the province and the country at large."

The Governor called for the integration of vocational programs across government schools in Balochistan and



urged the federal government to prioritize skills development at national

Upon arrival, he was received by Deputy Commissioner Mehboob Achakzai, SP Shoukat Ali Momand, Program Manager Naqeebullah, PSP Shoukat Ali, Divi-

sional Director of Education Gul Rehman Mandokhel, District Education Officer Attaullah Kakar, DOE Wazir Khan Nasar, ESP Coordinator Razziq Jan Kakar, school principal Sheikh Musa Khan Mandokhel, senior teachers, and students. He was welcomed with a bouquet of flowers.

Briefing the Governor, UNICEF's Naqeebullah outlined ongoing initiatives, including the School Development Plan (SDP), Remedial Learning Center Programs (RLCPs), Accelerated Learning Program Centers (ALPs), and the establishment of four Skills Education Centers in the district, Solar & Electrician, and Olive Oil Marketing and Value Addition at the boys' school and Healthcare Skills, and Baking and Patisserie at girls' school.

The Governor praised the collaborative efforts of the Directorate of Education, UNICEF, and the EU in promoting technical education across the province.

It is worth mentioning that, 33 schools across 15 districts are offering skills-based programs, where over 3,000 students from Grades 7 to 9 are enrolled. The Skills Education Component is steadily transforming classroom instruction into hands-on expertise, enabling young learners to secure sustainable livelihoods and explore entrepreneurial opportunities.

## City School Multan organized a 'High Achievers Ceremony'



**Kiran Asim** 

MULTAN: The City School Multan organized a "High Achievers Ceremony" to celebrate the excellent results of Matriculation, O-Level and A-Level, in which a large number of teachers, parents and students participated. The special guests of the ceremony were CTD Additional Director South Punjab Iqbal Chandia, his wife and PEMRA Deputy Director Muhammad Usman and his wife. Speaking on the occasion, the special guest Igbal Chandia said that such institutions and students are a source

of pride for brightening the future of the country.

Deputy Director PEMRA Muhammad Usman said that the joint efforts of parents and teachers play a key role in the character building and achievements of students. Such events motivate children to work harder. Vice Principal Nida Javed Khan said that The City School Multan has always been committed to quality education and high performance. It is known that our first priority is the all-round training of students and their adaptation to modern requirements. Today's successful students are the identity of our institution and a source of pride for us. On this occasion, Headmistress Huma Aziz, Senior Mistress Samra Jabeen and other seniors also spoke and appreciated the achievements of the students and said that these results are a testament to the excellent teaching policy of our institution and the hard work of the teachers. At the end of the ceremony, prizes and certificates were distributed among the successful students and the attendees paid rich tribute to the educational services of the school.

## TMA Takht Bhai is financially self-sufficient Chairman

#### **15** Tariq khan Yousafzai

TAKHT BHAI: Chairman of Tehsil Council Takht Bhai, Hafiz Muhammad Saeed, has said that despite the provincial government's failure to provide funds, the Tehsil Municipal Administration (TMA) Takht Bhai has been made financially stable and self-sufficient. He stated that timely salaries for employees and smooth pension payments to retirees have been ensured. Additionally, land measuring 45 kanals has been purchased at a cost of 20 million rupees for a dumping ground. He expressed these views while addressing a ceremony held at the TMA Chairman's office, where he presented the three-year performance report of TMA Takht Bhai. The event was attended by JUI's Supreme Council member Haji Dost Muhammad Darwaish, JUI office-bearers and UC chairmen, Tehsil Chairman Takht Bhai, JUI General Secretary Shafiq Ahmad, Sher Khan, VC Chairman Dr. Asghar Khan, Iftikhar Ahmad, Khanzada alias Mune, Rafiq Khan, Mufti Ata-ur-Rehman, Khalilullah Darwaish, and TOR Usman Ali Nashad. Hafiz Muhammad Saeed said that before 2020, TMA was facing a severe financial crisis to the extent that salaries and pensions could not be paid on time, and even fuel costs for government vehicles could not be met. However, after assuming charge, the administration was stabilized financially by reducing unnecessary expenses and promoting austerity.

# SHINE Humanity and Transparent Hands Partner to Support Flood-Affected Communities in Pakistan



## B City Desk

ISLAMABAD: SHINE Humanity and Transparent Hands Foundation have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to provide urgent relief to communities impacted by the 2025 floods in Pakistan. The initia $tive \ focused \ on \ distributing \ medicated \ mosquito \ nets \ to \ protect \ vulnerable$ families from mosquito-borne diseases in the aftermath of the disaster.

Under the agreement, SHINE Humanity will also ensure transparency in costs, allowing donors to recognize the value of their support. Transparent Hands will manage logistics, storage, and distribution in flood-affected areas of Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK).

Faheem Khan, CEO of SHINE Humanity, said, "The floods of 2025 have left thousands vulnerable. This collaboration represents our shared mission of serving humanity in times of crisis. By working together, we can extend lifesaving support to those most in need."

SHINE Humanity has a history of supporting flood-affected communities across Pakistan. From introducing Mobile Urgent Care units after the 2022 floods to distributing mosquito nets in Buner, Swat, and Sindh, it has consistently combined immediate relief with long-term healthcare support. These efforts reflect its commitment to building resilience and ensuring critical medical care reaches even the most remote and underserved communities.

## Repair, reconstruction works accelerate in flood-affected areas

LAHORE: On the special directions of Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif, rehabilitation and reconstruction works are continuing at a fast pace in flood-affected areas of the province, with priority being given to the repair of roads and protective embankments.

The CM lauded Provincial Minister for Communication and Works (C&W) Sohaib Bherth and Secretary C&W Sohail Ashraf for their tireless efforts in expediting the work.

In Muzaffargarh's suburban area, a major breach in Nooraja Bhutta Dyke has been fully repaired, with a 1,960-foot protective dyke rebuilt and a 1,250-foot breach completely filled, extending the embankment to 3,450 feet. Near Hafizwala on the motorway side, 23,000 feet of distributary track has been restored, while two roads with a combined breach length of 410 feet have also been rehabilitated. Meanwhile, more than 80 percent of the work to fill a total of 33,700 feet of breaches has been completed. In addition, the repair of a 283-foot breach in the fourth canal has also been successfully carried out.

## Souvenir

ISLAMABAD: Mr. Isphanyar Bhandara presented to Sardar Masood Khan three special books: Gems and Jewels- The Re-



# Woman's University Multan and THAAP Sign MOU

👺 Quratul Ain Asim

MULTAN: Women University Multan has entered into a landmark partnership with THAAP through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) aimed at preserving and promoting Pakistan's traditional arts and crafts. The agreement was formally signed by Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Kalsoom Pracha and THAAP CEO Ms. Sajida Vandal at Women's University Multan. The Ceremony Attended By Ms. Sonia Nasir Teacher-in-charge Department of Art and Design and Dr. Sumaira Mehboob Teacher-in-charge Department of History & Pak Studies.



The partnership aims to bridge master artisans (Ustads), and safe- and intergenerational knowledge the gap between academia and prac- guard intangible cultural heritage transfer.

tice, connect aspiring students with through structured apprenticeships

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Dr. Kalsoom Pracha highlighted the importance of connecting academia with practice and providing students access to Pakistan's rich cultural heritage. VC Prof Dr Pracha said Multan's soil is rich with the colors of tradition, its air carries the rhythm of crafts, and its people have safeguarded these treasures for centuries. Together with THAAP, we aim to make our cultural heritage relevant in contemporary times, empowering students to become ambassadors of Pakistan's rich artistic legacy.

Ms. Sajida Vandal emphasized that safeguarding traditional crafts is essential not only for cultural identity but also for creating livelihood opportunities for the younger generation.

# Indian cricket team's behavior is a stigma on the sanctity of sports: Syed Aman Shah

## News Desk

KARACHI: Syed Aman Shah, Provincial Convener of Awaam Pakistan undermining the spir-Party Balochistan, strongly criticized it and sanctity of sports. the conduct of the Indian government and the Indian cricket team. He said have always been that the refusal of the Indian team to considered a means to receive the Asia Cup trophy from Pakistan's Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi between countries and to *Cricket Council* not only hostility towards they will prove dangerous for the future during the award ceremony after the promote peace, love, and

final match was deeply regrettable and shameful. He said that sports



brotherhood. However, the Indian team's action exposed India's negative mindset and prejudiced mentality before the whole world. To sacrifice the field of hatred and politics is sports but will also bring of sports.

disgrace to India at the global level. He demanded that the International Cricket Council (ICC), the Asian Cricket Council (ACC), and other relevant bodies take immediate notice of this unfortunate incident and take effective steps to keep sports free from sports at the altar of prejudice and politics. If such incidents are not discouraged in the sports field,



SERVICES	
Namaz T	imings
Fajr	
Zohr	11:58 am
Asr	4:13 pm
Maghrib	5:55 pm
Isha	7:18 pm

## **EMERGENCY**

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

## **Women Police**

Stations		
Islamabad	9222590	
Rawalpindi	. 9270601-20	

ENQU	IIRY
dhi Ambulance	
IA Flight Info	11

Luiii Airibulance		
PIA Flight Info	114	
PIA Cargo	9280979	
Railway Inquiry	117	
Railway Exchange	9270831-5	
WASA Rawalpindi	5555489	
CAA	9281092	
HOCDITALC		

## HOSPITALS

CMH	5611111
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**

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

Bugti emphasise to represent Mines & Minerals Bill in Balochistan Assembly as joint resolution

QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti emphasized that the Mines and Minerals Bill will be restructured and reintroduced in the Balochistan Assembly as a joint resolution, reflecting consensus between the treasury and opposition

Sarfraz Bugti extended n open invitation to opposition leaders and even parties outside the Assembly to contribute their input. "If there are objections to any clause, we are ready to improve it. Convincing others through reason is part of the democratic process," he added.

Addressing the Balochistan Assembly, Chief Minister Bugti reaffirmed his coalition govern ment's core principle of inclusive decision-making on critical provincial matters.

He noted that the directive to pursue consensus came from Pakistan Peoples Party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, who emphasized the importance of unity among all political parties,

including the opposition. The chief minister has announced the suspension of the Mines and Minerals Act, 2025, through an executive order, following successful negotiations and a renewed commitment to build broad political consensus around the prov ince's mineral resources.

# CM Maryam addresses inaugural ceremony of Electric Bus Service in Faisalabad

FAISALABAD: Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif addressed the inauguration ceremony of Electric Bus Service project in Faisalabad and made several major announcements.

She announced the upcoming launch of ART Metro Bus Service in Faisalabad and the establishment of a new Faisalabad IT City, following the completion of Nawaz Sharif IT City Lahore.

The Chief Minister also declared that a Water and Sanitation System worth Rs.40 billion would soon be inaugurated in Faisalabad adding that a Co-ablation Machine would be provided at Allied Hospital for the treatment of cancer.

She said, "I do not need anyone's permission to give people of Punjab their due rights." She underscored that had there be any attack or injustice against Punjab or Punjabis, she would not have remained silent. She called for non-interference in Punjab's affairs, and stated, "Punjab does not interfere in others' matters, so others should kindly refrain from interfering in

She said while addressing concerns about Punjab's development initiatives, "It's our water and our money. Why is it a problem if we build canals? India turned its deserts into fertile lands using canals." She criticized those who objected to Punjab providing relief to the public despite high electricity cost.

She expressed surprise why it bothered others when Punjab gave relief to its people from expensive electricity? She emphasized,"We are Pakistanis first.

Punjab never dictates what others should or should not do. In fact, we are happy when others progress." She while speaking about political opponents that they have devoted themselves to public service while some people waste their time on mudslinging and personal attacks.

She noted that their political rallies, such as the one in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, have failed miserably. She highlighted resilience of PML-N, noting how it remained united during difficult times, while other parties crumbled under pressure.

She also referred to the incident at Masjid-e-Nabawi(SAW)

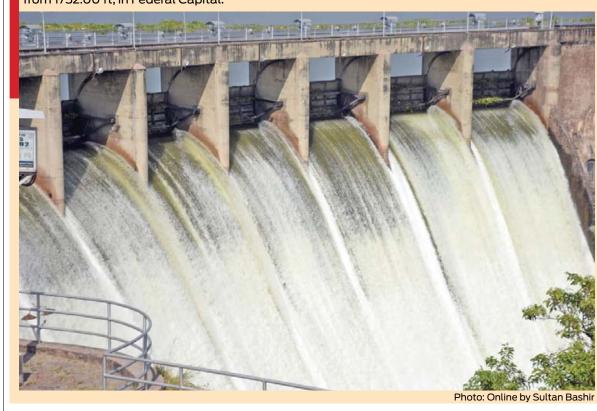


Shahbaz Sharif and his delegation. She met their fate. Today, Shahbaz Sharif is seen Sharifain), even when his plane entered jets."

involving regretted,"Those who acted disrespectfully as a protector of the Holy sites (Harmain Saudi airspace, it was saluted by fighter

# Spills ways opened

ISLAMABAD: A view of the Rawal Dam as the spills ways are open before crossing the water level from 1752.00 ft, in Federal Capital.



# World health Day seminar arranged at Kamalia THQ hospital

## 👺 Zafar Chishti

TOBA TEK SINGH: On the occasion of World Heart Day, Medical Superintendent of THQ Hospital Kamalia, Dr. Mian Adeel Arif, highlighted the importance of this global health day. He said that the purpose of observing World Heart Day is to create awareness among the public about the vital role of the heart in the human body and to educate people about preventive measures against cardiovascular diseases, enabling them to live a healthier life. Dr. Adeel Arif pointed out the five major causes of heart diseases:

1. Unbalanced diet.2. Lack of exercise.3. Smoking.4. Hypertension and diabetes.5. Mental stress and lack of

He advised that to prevent heart-related illnesses, people should walk at least 30 minutes daily, increase the intake of fruits and vegetables, avoid excessive



use of salt and fried foods, and undergo Adeel Arif emphasized that adopting a to protect oneself from heart diseases.

basic health tests at least once a year. Dr. healthy lifestyle is the most effective way

# A Shared Commitment and Vision for a Strong Economy and Pakistan's Sustainable Prosperity

## 跨 Zain Khan Malghani

MULTAN: Chairman of SM Group of Industries, Member of the National Export Development Board and Member of the Board of Investment, Chaudhry Zulfiqar Ali Anjum, stated that Pakistan's development and prosperity are a collective responsibility.

Renowned industrialist aid, "I firmly believe that a strong and stable economy can only be achieved when we provide every individual with dignified employment, quality education, and basic healthcare facilities.

These are the very foundations on which the edifice of sustainable



national progress is built.

"At SM Group of Industries, our mission is not limited to industrial growth alone; we are committed to creating employment opportunities for thousands of families so that every citizen can achieve economic independence and contribute to the nation's

I believe that a healthy, educated, and dignified nation is Pakistan's true wealth. For this, the private sector and the government must work together to create an environment where every person has the opportunity to realize their full potential.

"Through our industries, we have and held high. Ameen."

not only strengthened the national economy but also raised Pakistan's name in international markets. Promoting technology and adopting modern industrial trends are among our top priorities, enabling Pakistan to secure a prominent place on the world's industrial map.

"My resolve is to translate our achievements into social welfare and national service. This is the vision that guides my every step towards the realization of the dream of a prosperous, just, and dignified Pakistan."He concluded with a prayer: "May Allah always keep our homeland flourishing

# Gilgit-Baltistan is a multilingual region: Dr Najiba Arif

### 

ISLAMABAD: The inaugural session of the two-day, conference titled Literature of Gilgit-Baltistan: Contemporary Perspective organized by the Academy of Literature of Pakistan was held in Skardu. The conference was presided over by prominent historian, researcher, critic and intellectual Mr. Yousuf Hussain abadi. The special guests were Syed Amjad Zaidi Provincial Minister for Works and Leader of Opposition



of Gilgit-Baltistan Mr. Muhammad Kazim Maisam, while the duties of the conference were performed by Mr. Qasim Naseem and Ms. Kausar Parveen.

Dr. Najiba Arif, President of the Academy, while delivering the welcome address, said that today's conference is the third conference in this series. Earlier, conferences titled "Literature of Sindh: Contemporary Perspective" and "Literature of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa: Contemporary Perspective" have been organized. She said that Gilgit-Baltistan is a multilingual region and the languages here are a symbol of our cultural heritage. He also informed the audience about the steps taken by the Academy regarding the dialect of Gilgit-Baltistan and said that languages are not just a means of expression but also a source of our thoughts.

Distinguished researcher, historian and scholar Mr. Muhammad Hassan Hasrat expressed his views on the topic of "Literature of Gilgit-Baltistan and the Changing Requirements of Contemporary Society". Distinguished poet and critic Mr. Ali Qurban presented his paper on the topic of "Wakhi: History, Culture and Literature" and delivered a lively discussion. The special guest Mr. Muhammad Kazim Maisam, Leader of the Opposition, Gilgit-Baltistan, said that language is not just a source of information but every language reflects the history, culture, psychology and thought of its speakers. If we have to keep our culture and history alive, we have to keep our respective

## Price control meeting held

## **Zafar Chishti**

TOBA TEK SINGH: In line with the directives of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, the crackdown against profiteering and artificial price hikes is in full swing.

On the instructions of Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Naeem Sandhu, a meeting of Price Control Magistrates was held under the chairmanship of Additional Deputy Commissioner General (ADCG) Zeeshan Labbha Masih. The meeting was attended by Assistant Commissioner Pirmahal Zulfiqar Sabir, all Price Control Magistrates and Assistant Director Economics and Marketing Zahid Sharif. During the meeting, Zahid Sharif gave a detailed briefing on the performance of his department, while the individual performance of all magistrates was also reviewed in depth. It was reported that during the past week, more than 41,000 inspections were carried out and fines exceeding 31,000 were imposed on profiteers and violators. ADCG Zeeshan Labbha Masih said that profiteering will not be tolerated under any

## Test Cricketer Asad Shafiq distributes cricket kit and bags to the school cricketers

## **₿** Sports Desk

KARACHI: Strengthening grassroots cricket is the top priority of the PCB Chairman for the betterment of Pakistan cricket. The PCB Talent Hunt Program for Schools is the first step. Future star players will be found among them. We all have to make this program successful



together. These views were expressed by the former Test cricketer and Chairman Women Wing and Member Selection Committee PCB Asad Shafiq at the PCB Talent Hunt Program for School Cricket distribution ceremony to the school officials and players of Karachi Region. He said that the facilities provided by the PCB will benefit the players and they can improve their performance from this tournament. On this occasion, Coordinator PCB Rahat Ali Shah, Senior Manager HPC, Saad Manzoor Chaudhry, Assistant Manager Sajid Siddiqui, Joint Secretary Karachi Region Tauseef Siddiqui, Coordinator Karachi Region Azam Khan, Head Coach Karachi Region Iqbal Imam, Assistant Coach Tahir Mahmood, Coach Owais Rahmani, Coach Wajid Ali, were also present.

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# **Mohsin Naqvi stands** firm at Asia Cup

he Asia Cup 2025 final will not be remembered only for the thrilling cricket but for an ugly spectacle that exposed how deeply politics has poisoned sport. India may have beaten Pakistan on the scoreboard, but when it came to honour, dignity and respect for the game, it was Mohsin Naqvi who emerged the real winner. As Chairman of the Pakistan Cricket Board and President of the Asian Cricket Council, Naqvi stood firm in the face of Indian stubbornness and refused to let political bullying trample over cricket's traditions.

Despite their victory, the Indian team went home empty-handed — champions without a trophy. In an unprecedented act of defiance, they refused to accept the Asia Cup from Naqvi. Individual awards were picked up — Tilak Varma and Shivam Dube collected theirs, while Pakistani players received runner-up medals — but the main prize remained untouched. The trophy was brought to the ground, yet India's refusal to receive it and Naqvi's refusal to bend meant the ceremony ended without its crowning moment. It was the first time in cricket history that a winning team left without the trophy, and the world saw clearly why: Indian arrogance, fuelled by the war hysteria of its government, left the game humiliated.

The entire prize ceremony in Dubai was delayed as umpires, players and officials stood by, waiting for reason to prevail. Instead, the Indian team clung to political instructions from their board, turning what should have been a celebration of sport into a petty act of hostility. This was no sporting decision — it was a calculated move dictated by New Delhi's aggressive posture towards Pakistan. The so-called champions of the Asia Cup revealed themselves as captives of their government's obsession with confrontation.

What was Mohsin Naqvi supposed to do in the face of such defiance? Step aside, and let India dictate the rules of the game? Hand over the trophy by proxy, signalling that intimidation can rewrite cricket's traditions? That would have been surrender. Instead, Naqvi chose dignity. He held his ground, proving that neither he nor the institutions he represents would be bullied. The ceremony ended without a trophy, yes — but it also ended without Pakistan's cricket being humiliated. Naqvi ensured that the ACC's rules and the PCB's honour remained intact.

Critics who attempt to caricature his resolve as ego miss the point entirely. The disruption came not from Naqvi but from India, which dragged geopolitics into the heart of cricket. By refusing to mount the podium, the Indian team declared contempt not for one man but for the very idea of cricket as a neutral space. Mohsin Naqvi answered that contempt with defiance — and in doing so, he preserved the sanctity of the game.

# Sumud Flotilla To Gaza: Humanity at Sea

stand by while Gaza was starved. They said states would avert their eyes as children cried for bread and water. Yet when Muslim governments folded, when Western nations chose silence, and when the United Nations looked on powerless, civil society — that stubborn conscience of the world — took up the mantle. In this desperate week of insensitivity and inability, ordinary men and women filled the vacuum left by governments, setting sail with aid that should have been delivered through corridors of diplomacy and justice.

Thus emerged the Global Sumud Flotilla, a fleet of resolve as much as vessels, charting a dangerous course across the Mediterranean. Some fifty small ships and boats, crewed by activists, lawyers, journalists, parliamentarians, and volunteers from over forty countries, embarked on a mission larger than their holds. They carried roughly a hundred tons of food, medical supplies, and water, but above all they carried the moral weight of seven billion people whose red blood still insists that dignity and survival are not negotiable.

Israel had not expected such defiance from civil society. Used to intimidating states and dictating conditions, it now faced fragile ships bearing the courage of the people. Almost immediately, the flotilla was harassed. Off Greek waters, drones swooped low; explosions and stun devices rattled decks, activists claimed. In Tunisia, a fire consumed a key aid boat, which organizers blamed on a drone strike though authorities denied the peril — one vessel, the Family Boat, rhetorical but backed by governments nation and refuse to reduce Palestinian

hey said humanity would suffered catastrophic failure and lagged behind. Yet despite disruption and fear, the flotilla pressed forward. Their blood was red, their purpose unwavering, and no intimidation could deter them.

As the convoy pushed closer to Gaza, the unexpected happened: two European governments decided to stand visibly with it. Spain ordered a naval

ship from Cartagena to monitor and assist the flotilla, declaring that the aid boats posed "no threat to Israel." Italy, condemning the drone attacks as "intolerable," dispatched a frigate to protect its nationals onboard and signaled its support for a human-

itarian sea corridor. Their escorts are not overwhelming fleets, but their symbolism looms large. For the first time in years, EU states placed themselves — even cautiously — between Israel's blockade and the conscience of the world.

Yet symbolism alone cannot carry the weight of a humanitarian crisis. Now is the moment for powerful states that still possess diplomatic and kinetic leverage Turkey, Saudi Arabia, China, France, Germany, the United Kingdom, Pakistan and others — to move beyond statements and commit real protection and logistical support. If these nations deploy naval escorts, open safe corridors, offer port facilities, and use every lawful means at their disposal to protect civilian ships, the flotilla's mission could be made safer and the principle of saving lives reinforced. Such collective resolve would signal it. Mechanical breakdowns added to that the world's conscience is not merely

willing to defend humanitarian action. Israel's response has been unvielding. Foreign Minister Gideon Saar warned in stark terms that Gaza's coastal waters are a "combat zone" and that no ship will be allowed to enter. Officials insist that if aid is genuine, it should be offloaded at Ashkelon port, under Israeli control, from where Israel promises to transfer

it into Gaza. Yet the promise rings hollow: for months Israel has restricted and slowed aid to a trickle, starving civilians under siege. For the flotilla, docking at Ashkelon would betray the very principle of their voyage - delivering aid directly to the

starving without Israel's interference. The organizers have therefore refused.

**Qamar Bashir** 

Now the confrontation nears its climax. The flotilla lies a few hundred nautical miles from Gaza, with organizers estimating arrival within days. Israeli naval forces are reportedly mobilized to intercept them, echoing the bloody precedent of 2010 when a raid on the Mavi Marmara left activists dead and the world in uproar. The fear is palpable that history could repeat itself, that once more peaceful civilians will meet armed commandos in international waters.

But whether or not the ships succeed in reaching Gaza's shore, the symbolic victory is already secured. This flotilla embodies the conscience abandoned by states. It represents the mothers in Europe, the students in Asia, the workers in Africa, the citizens of the United States - all who see starvation as an abomi-

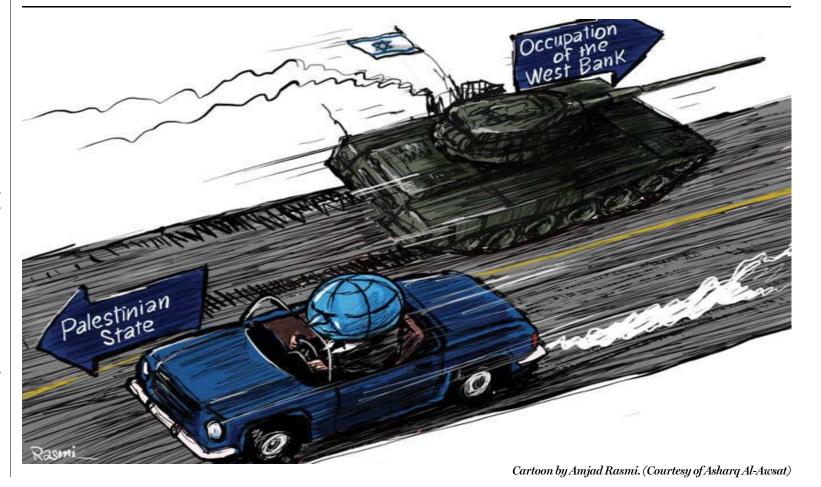
survival to a bargaining chip. By taking the risk states would not, the Global Sumud Flotilla has already pierced the blockade of indifference.

And yet the test is cruelly real. On one side, determined civilians sail with supplies of life. On the other, a powerful military insists they must be stopped. Between them lies not only the fate of cargo, but the very question of whether humanity still has meaning in the face of brute force. If Israel crushes the flotilla, it will deepen the stain already seared onto its name: the deliberate starvation of two million souls. If the flotilla prevails, it will write a chapter where people, not governments, rose to redeem humanity.

This is no longer about tonnage of aid. It is about moral freight. It is about whether law serves power or whether it can still protect the powerless. It is about whether the hunger of children can outweigh the pride of armies. And as the boats draw closer to Gaza, the world is forced into its own reckoning: stand with humanity, or stand aside as cruelty sails unhindered.

Let us hope, in these decisive hours, that the flotilla prevails. Let us hope that the dignity of human life triumphs over siege, that courage outweighs cruelty, and that the Mediterranean does not become yet another graveyard of hope. For in these boats, humanity itself is on board. And history will judge not only what becomes of them, but what becomes of us all.

The writer is 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



# Khush Haal Kisan and double R system in Agriculture department Sindh!!

t is difficult to give any confirmed figures after doing enough research and searching, because even after searching the reports of the responsible institupaperwork are found, which can confirm how

ture department) have been registered so far. Neither online registration, nor through boundary post or application. Therefore, some indicators are given below. From which you will get information about the performance of the responsible authorities of the agriculture department and interest in agriculture.

than 1.5 million farmers can register themselves online. According to sources, initially there was a plan to issue cards to about 298,000 farmers, in which it was decided to include farmers with land to some news, the number of newly registered farmers is 80,000 who are ready to be issued cards. The website's "About Us" page says that the target is to register 1.4 million farmers. After all this process, the Sindh government announced a program of 55.9 billion to keep farmers happy. The name of this program has been given with the slogan (Wet Growers Support Program). According to the Sindh government's claim, which is also made in the above advertisement. it is 55.9 billion (our farmers will be happy). The same advertisement states that 4 lakh farmers will benefit. 22.6 lakh acres of land have been registered. One DAP and 2 urea bags will be provided through Benazir Hari Card. According to some sources, DAP-about ₹ 12,430-₹ 12,610

**Rehmatullah Buriro** 

Urea-about ₹ 5,040-₹ 5,080 for a 50 kg bag. It should be noted that these prices are an average estimate of the local market, and may tional authorities and finding out from vary depending on regional distribution, transthe responsible authorities, no solid figures or portation costs, supply and demand. According to these estimates and market sources and prices, many Benazir Hari Cards (under the agricul- when the price of urea per sack of Rs 5,040 is

multiplied by 4 lakh farmers, the cost of 4 lakh farmers is Rs 2 billion 16 crore, while the price of DAP fertilizer per sack is Rs 12,430

In this way, each additional director is forced to pay Rs. 15 to 20 lakh and assistant director Rs. 5 to 7 lakh for posting. These posts are taken in the name of the Minister of Agri-

The Sindh government claims that more culture, Sardar Muhammad Bakhsh Mehar. whose big seal or seal is sitting in the head office. In this way, the announced program like fertilizer subsidy, Vet Growers Support Program, in which a package of more than Rs. 55 billion holdings ranging from 1 to 25 acres. According has been given, will also be a source of attraction for the officials and officers spending on related projects. The sources also say that in the agricultural extension wings and in other wings, there are rotten models like Double R (Rafiq = Rahu) and Server System. Whose work is the cost of money and collection work. If these projects are implemented on the basis of transparency, the dream of improving agriculture and making farmers happy will be fulfilled. It can take the form of. With this transparent policy, the vision of the agriculture policy of the PPP led by Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and Asif Ali Zardari can be successful.

While the Chief Minister Sindh and the Provincial Minister Sardar Muhammad Bakhsh Mehar can succeed in giving the impression of for a 50 kg bag (as per the agricultural website the success of the 2018 to 2030 Agriculture very deserving of these things.

Policy. The rest of the bureaucracy, especially the little work that was done in the secretariat of Rafiq Buriro and its change or change within a vear, is not the owner of anyone. Similarly, the Chief Secretary's favorite Secretary Sohail Qureshi, who took charge from Rafiq Buriro within an hour of the order being given, was also dismissed within a few months in such a way that everyone forgot the example of Rafiq Buriro leaving or giving the charge.

Now the current Secretary Muhammad Zaman Narejo, who is reported to have been posted to the secretariat for the first time. The work is going on the same way, but it is being heard that he talks a lot on the intercom with his subordinates running in the name of the system. More important work Requests files. These and other such works are related to the agriculture department.

Some are being completed and some are being completed, God knows the rest. The Sindh government and Chairman Bilawal Bhutto and President of Pakistan Asif Ali Khan Zardari's agricultural policy concept is not only a good but also a very useful and timely step and decision. To give practical shape to which Chief Minister Sindh Murad Ali Shah and his cabinet member Sardar Muhammad Bakhsh Mehar are making great efforts to provide relief as soon as possible. It is hoped that the Sindh government will implement the above fertilizer subsidy scheme in a very easy and efficient manner.

The rice distributors will work as soon as possible by setting the conditions on the basis of ease and transparency. Because wheat cultivation has started and South Sindh now needs the concession that is being cultivated there. The more responsible and empowered people know better how urgent and fundamental this work can be, so they can also do it and get better results. The farmers and cultivators of Sindh are

# **New Cold War in the Middle East**

or decades, the Middle East has Gaza and the West Bank by the Israeli military resembled a chessboard on which the major powers have been studgoing an extraordinary transformation. The Qatar by the Israel creates new rivalry between classic bipolar power struggle, characterized by the unchallenged dominance of the United

of alliances and rivalries. The central question facing strategists in capitals from Tel Aviv to Riyadh is: Will US's perceived retreat lead to a more stable, self-sufficient region or will it open a Pandora's box of multipolar competition that could spark even bloodier proxy wars?

In this emerging multipolar system, relations between key regional actors economic ambitions of "Vision 2030." On the are characterized by profound doubts. On the other hand, the defense agreement between one hand, there are clear signs of de-escalation the KSA and Pakistan shows new military alliin the region, the most spectacular example is the rapprochement between the Sunni military aggression. Similar dynamics can be Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Shiite Islamic Republic of Iran, which was mediated by China. For Riyadh, this is a strategic necessity. They are seeking a modus vivendi with their archfoe to end the costly proxy war in Yemen and protect the ambitious economic reforms of "Vision 2030" from the risks of a military confrontation. It is an insurance policy against Washington's volatility. Other Gulf states, such as the United Arab Emirates are also following this course of cautious de-escalation while simultaneously building up their military capabilities.

Israel, the most relying partner of US creates even more complex problems in the region. The writer is student of BSS-8(A)IR in Bahria The war that was forced on the Palestinians in

remains as the unresolved issue in the region. War between Israel and Iran posed serious ving their position, but the strategic threats to the overall wellbeing of the region. foundation of this game is under- Recent attack on the Hamas leaders in Doha, the West and the Arab World.

This new reality is forcing Middle Eastern States as a regional power and its conflicting actors into a remarkable diplomatic tug-of-war. antagonism to Iran, is crumbling. It is being Suddenly, direct talks between archenemies replaced by a more complex, unpredictable web are possible, not out of affection, but out

> of complete necessity. The most remarkable example is the rapprochement between Saudi Arabia and Iran, mediated by China. For Riyadh, this is classic insurance policy. It no longer wants to rely exclusively on the unreliable American security umbrella and is seeking de-escalation with its

Hashir Khan Jadoon Shiite counterpart to secure the ances in the region against the threat of Israeli observed elsewhere. The United Arab Emirates maintains trade relations with Iran despite official tensions.

> The American withdrawal could be a positive development. It forces regional rivals to embrace a kind of "realpolitik" that could be more stable in the long run game than an order imposed by an external power. It represents the hope for a kind of "Westphalian system" for the Middle East, in which states resolve their conflicts through diplomacy and balances of power instead of relying on outside big brothers.

University Islamabad.

# The Spokesman 5

# German Ambassador calls on Finance **Minister Senator** Muhammad Aurangzeb

#### **Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: H. E. Ina Lepel, diverse sectors of the economy. Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Pakistan, called on the Ambassador an overview of Pakistan's Federal Minister for Finance and Reve- economy, highlighting recent improvenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, at the Finance Division today.

Welcoming the Ambassador, the Finance Minister extended his best titative and structural benchmarks wishes and assured continued engagement to further deepen bilateral cooperation. He thanked the Government tion caused by recent floods and the of Germany for its valuable technical broader challenges posed by climate and financial assistance to Pakistan change. He outlined the government's

and emphasized the significance of commitment to fostering an investinvestment by German companies in ment-friendly environment, noting

Senator Aurangzeb provided the ments in key indices. He briefed her on the ongoing IMF review mission and Pakistan's progress on meeting quanunder the program. The Minister also apprised her of the devasta-

that the Prime Minister was clear and keen on letting the private sector lead the country's growth.

He assured the Ambassador of full support and facilitation for foreign investors, including German firms, in expanding their footprint in Pakistan, while ensuring ease in repatriation of profits and dividends and addressing allied matters.

previous diplomatic assignment in ment and expressed support for the climate. Pakistan from 2013 to 2015, sharing government's efforts to achieve sustain-



She discussed avenues for further private sector participation and foreign Ambassador Lepel recalled her promoting bilateral trade and invest- investment in a welcoming business

Both sides reaffirmed their commit-

her fond memories of that period. able economic growth by encouraging ment to strengthening Pakistan-Germany economic cooperation and to exploring new opportunities for trade, investment, and development part-



# Group photo

LONDON: Prime Minister of Pakistan, Mian Shehbaz Sharif, met with Pakistani journalists based in the United Kingdom at the Pakistan High Commission.



# PRCS Chairperson meets Ambassador of Pakistan in Norway

#### Spokesman Report

OSLO, NORWAY: The Chairperson of the Pakistan Red Crescent Society, Mrs Farzhana Naek, held a meeting with Pakistan's Ambassador to Norway, Mrs Sadia Altaf Qazi, in

During the meeting, Chairperson PRCS apprised the Ambassador on the PRCS auxiliary role to the Government of Pakistan and reiterated its strong commitment to supporting vulnerable communities, particularly in the aftermath of the recent devastating floods that have affected millions across Pakistan. She emphasized that, as global humanitarian funding continues to shrink, the Pakistani diaspora could play a vital role in extending support to flood-affected populations. Mrs Naek stressed that engaging the Pakistani community in Norway would not only be helpful for the provision of immediate relief for flood-affected people but also reinforce PRCS's long-term recovery efforts. She further underlined PRCS's



seven provincial branches, 62 district stan, recognizing the PRCS role branches, and a dedicated network of in supporting vulnerable popula-1.7 million volunteers serving commutions during emergencies. She also

Ambassador Mrs Sadia Altaf Qazi commended PRCS for its dedicated efforts in humanitarian response extensive nationwide presence, with and resilience building across Paki-

discussed potential funding opportunities through the engagement of the Pakistani diaspora and collaborations with organizations operating

# ISSI hosts International Seminar on President Xi Jinping's Global Governance Initiative (GGI)

## 跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The China-Pakistan Study Centre (CPSC) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI), in collaboration with China Media Group (CMG), hosted an International Seminar on the "Global Governance Initiative (GGI): China's Vision of a Just and Fair Order."

Ms. Wang Lei, Country Head of CMG, in her remarks, described GGI as a continuation of China's commitment to a just international order She underscored the vital role of the the China-Pakistan friendship.

Ambassador Sohail Mahmood, Director General ISSI, in his welcome remarks highlighted the significance of lined that GGI, anchored in the five states. core concepts of sovereign equality,

sivity, democratization, and effective ness in global governance. He emphasized that GGI complements President Xi Jinping's three earlier initiatives -Global Development Initiative (GDI), Global Security Initiative (GSI), and Global Civilization Initiative (GCI) offering an alternative vision of a peaceful, stable and cooperative world. These three initiatives were already serving as global public goods.

Maj. Gen. (R) Fazle Elahi Akbar, Chairman FSDS Bangladesh, in his keynote address, lauded the Global and a shared future for mankind. Governance Initiative (GGI) as a beacon of hope for a world beset by media in enhancing communication, conflict, unilateralism, and injustice. building mutual trust, and deepening He underlined that GGI offers a fairer alternative to the existing global order.

Ambassador Khalil Hashmi, Pakistan's Ambassador to China, highlighted that the GGI resonates with President Xi Jinping's timely initiative Pakistan's long-standing support for announced at the SCO Plus meeting in multilateralism, peaceful dispute reso-Tianjin earlier this month. He under- lution, and equal representation of all

Mr. Shakeel Ahmad Ramay, CEO of international law, multilateralism, a AIERD, noted that global governance people-centered approach, and prac- is at a crossroads and emphasized GGI tical results, seeks to strengthen inclu- as a corrective, action-driven frame-



work rooted in common prosperity. Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, Additional Director General FIA, highlighted the erosion of fairness in current systems and called for prioritizing victims' rights, exposing perpetrators, and building collective platforms through GGI to ensure meaningful global action.

Ambassador Moin-ul-Haque, Pakistan's Former Ambassador to China, underlined President Xi Jinping's vision of a community with a shared future for mankind, anchored in the five landmark initiatives.

Counsellor at the Chinese Embassy, represent the Global South.

described the GGI as a timely response to global turbulence and shifting power dynamics. Highlighting Pakistan's diplomatic achievements and strong partnership with China, he stressed the need for equality, rule of law, and Mr. Wang Shengjie, Political reform of global institutions to better

Chief Guest, Mr. Murtaza Solangi, Spokesperson to the President of Pakistan and former Federal Minister, highlighted that the GGI reaffirms the UN's founding values and provides a comprehensive framework for development, security, and civilizational

Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman BoG ISSI, reaffirmed Pakistan's strong support for the Global Governance Initiative (GGI), describing it as a game-changer for the region and beyond.

Earlier in his opening remarks, Dr. Talat Shabbir, Director China Pakistan Study Centre, highlighted the GGI as a forward-looking vision rooted in equality, multilateralism, and people-centered development, offering just and sustainable solutions to global challenges.

The event brought together eminent diplomats, scholars, practitioners, media persons, and policymakers from Pakistan and China, to deliberate on this timely initiative announced by President Xi Jinping on 1 September 2025 at the SCO Plus meeting in Tianjin, China.

# Food security in Uzbekistan begins with support for agricultural producers

## 跨 Nadira Rashidova,

ISLAMABAD: Almost half of the population of the Republic of Uzbekistan lives in rural areas. Millions of hardworking individuals in these communities play a crucial role in ensuring the country's food security and establishing a solid foundation for the export of agricultural products.

The nation's development cannot be limited solely to urban centers; it is equally important to ensure that life in rural and incentives to transition towards peripheral regions is comfortable and sustainable.

the stimulation of their activities constrained. merit special attention from both the state and society. Govern-

the agricultural sector.

However, the agricultural industry still faces significant challenges, including high tax burdens and limited access to financing, which contribute to the expansion of the informal economy. According to various estimates, up to half of agricultural producers operate outside the legal framework, resulting in reduced profitability and hindering sectoral development. Without genuine a formal economy, the agrarian sector's capacity for investment The care for rural residents and and modernization will remain

In this context, the introduction of a zero rate of Value Added net income, and enable the allo-

producers selling their own products, including vegetables, fruits, meat, milk, eggs, and other food items, is a timely and significant measure. Producers of grain and cotton are excluded from this provision, as these sectors are regulated through state-managed clusters.

The existing practice of VAT refunds on expenses related to the production of seeds, fertilizers, fuel, logistics, electricity, and other operational costs will remain in place. As a result, farmers are tions. expected to save up to 700 billion Uzbek soums annually.

The zero VAT rate will reduce the tax burden, increase farmers' mental support measures have Tax (VAT) starting January 1, cation of additional funds toward

become pivotal in strengthening 2026, for farmers and dehkan modernization.

According to projections, farm profitability is expected to rise from 5-7 percent to approximately 15 percent. This measure will also facilitate more accurate planning of subsidies and incentives.

Another positive impact will be the growth of domestic processing industries. When products are processed locally, demand for investment in processing facilities and export logistics chains increases, leading to job creation and improved working condi-

The reorientation of agriculture towards food crops has been one of the strategic priorities pursued in recent years. Areas allocated to cotton and grain cultivation are being reduced, while orchards,

vineyards, and vegetable crops are being developed instead. Approximately 1,500 food production projects have already been implemented, with a total investment of around one billion dollars.

The introduction of a zero VAT rate will further stimulate processing and export activities, strengthening the potential of the agro-food sector and enhancing the competitiveness and attractiveness of its products on the international market.

For farmers and dehkans, this presents an opportunity to development. retain a significant portion of their income. The savings can be directed towards farm development, improving working and living conditions, and modernizing production processes. Rural



areas will benefit from job creation, technology influx, higher product quality, and a favorable environment for sustainable

For the state, this translates into a reduction of the shadow economy, increased transparency in reporting, and more accurate planning of support measures, tax incentives, and development

programs. For society at large, it means access to higher quality and more affordable food products, enhanced resilience of the rural economy, and the strengthening of domestic agro-industrial value

The writer is Member of the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis of Uzbekistan

# **Bull & Bears** PSX 100-Share

Index Fluctuation		
Pakistan: PSX 1	00-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close	
163,847.68	162,257.00	
Day's High	Day's Low	
162,257.00	162,058.64	
Index Value	Change	
45,464,754,392	+1590.68	
Percentage	Time	
+0.98%	29 Sept, 2025 4:30 pm	
Europe: FTS	E 100 Index	
Index Value	Change	
9,299.84	+15.01	
Percentage	Time	
+0.16%	29 Sept, 4:35 pm GMT+1	
<b>USA: Dow Jones I</b>	ndustrial Average	
Index Value	Change	
46,207.12	-40.17	
Percentage	Time	
-0.087%	29 Sept, 1:47 pm GMT-4	

	GIVII I
Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Averag	
Index Value	Change
45,043.75	-311.24
Percentage	Time
-0.69%	29 Sept, 3:45 pm GMT+9

### **Open Market Forex Rates**

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	184.1	189.1
Bahrain Dinar	746.5	754
Canadian Dollar	204.1	211.1
China Yuan	39.52	39.92
Danish Krone	44.15	44.75
Euro	333.5	334.50
Hong Kong Dollar	36.27	36.62
Indian Rupee	3.12	3.21
Japanese Yen	1.8575	1.9575
Kuwaiti Dinar	913.35	922.35
Malaysian Ringgit	67.15	67.75
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	75.3	76
Singapore Dollar	216	221
Swedish Korona	29.99	30.29
Swiss Franc	355.02	357.77
Thai Bhat	8.73	8.88
U.A.E Dirham	77.1	78.1
UK Pound Sterling	378.5	383
US Dollar	282.45	282.50

### Zong Launches Smart IoT Solutions for Industrial, "Agricultural and Urban Infrastructure

## **Example 2** Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Zong, Pakistan's leading technology innovation company, has launched a new suite of Internet of Things (IoT) solutions to support high-impact sectors scale at large. This phase expands Zong's footprint beyond core connectivity into intelligent industrial, agricultural, and urban infrastructure, marking a pivotal step in its transformation journey toward industry-specific digital services.

The latest portfolio of Zong's IoT solutions include world-class Industrial IoT Automation solutions such as inventory monitoring & refill automation, industrial energy efficiency tools, real-time production performance monitoring (GE & OEE), smart data centers for intelligent power, as well as cooling & uptime management. These solutions empower enterprises to optimize efficiency, reduce costs.

In agriculture and climate tech, Zong is enabling sustainable farming and environmental management with IoT-powered soil monitoring, localized weather stations providing real-time data, and air quality monitoring: strengthening resilience for our farmers across the country.

# Smaller provinces and administrative units is the need of the hour: S.M. Tanveer

CHAKWAL: United Business Group (UBG) Patron-in-Chief S. M. Tanveer has said that the creation of smaller provinces and administrative units is the need of the hour for the country's economic prosperity and for sustainable solutions to public issues. He said that when smaller provinces are established, the benefits  $\,$ of development will reach the grassroots level.

S. M. Tanveer said that very soon the interest rate will come down to single digits, electricity prices will decrease, and these measures will accelerate the wheel of industry. He stressed that for economic revival and improvement of the business environment, the government and business community must move forward

UBG Secretary General Zafar Bakhtawari in his address said that Chakwal is the land of martyrs and veterans, rich in both mineral and human resources. An industrial estate should be established here so that local resources can Najeeb Bhutta said that the business commuand contributed to its progress. be utilized. He said that Chakwal's archaeological and historical sites have great appeal for tourists worldwide, and by promoting them, the country can earn valuable foreign

President of Chakwal Chamber Aamir always stood by the nation in difficult times



nity has always played a key role in the country's economic growth, and through the platform of UBG, these efforts will continue in ness community is united and will continue its an even more effective manner. Former President Khawaja Arif said that traders have

UBG Punjab President Aamir Atta Bajwa and Waqar Bakhtawari said that the busistruggle for the resolution of all issues through

In the end, the speakers paid tribute to the economy.

late Qazi Muhammad Akbar for his valuable services to the business community and national development, and expressed the resolve to carry forward his mission by continuing to play an active role in the welfare of traders and the strengthening of the national

## Appeal to CM Punjab

LAHORE: Activists of Milk Seller Association are shouting during protest in the favor of their demands outside press club in Provincial Capital



# Lucky Investments Wins 'Emerging Islamic Finance Entity of the Year' Award

## **Example 2** Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Lucky Investments Limited ("Lucky Investments") has been recognized as the Emerging Islamic Finance Entity of the Year in South Asia at the 10th Islamic Finance Forum of South Asia (IFFSA) Conference & Awards 2025, held in Colombo, Sri Lanka. The award is testament to stellar performance of Lucky Investments since launch of its first fund in April 2025. The AUMs currently stand at over Rs.100 billion (USD 350 million) making Lucky the fastest growing AMC in Pakistan this

The prestigious award was received by Mohammad Shoaib, CFA, CEO of Lucky Investments, at a ceremony attended by leading policymakers, regulators, and industry leaders from various countries in South Asia including Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, India, Pakistan, Maldives and other neighboring countries.



ment industry with over three decades of able Shariah-compliant investment solu- Company's Shariah Advisor.

Led by Mohammad Shoaib, CFA—a experience—the Company is committed to tions. Mufti Muhammad Hassaan Kaleem, pioneer of Pakistan's Islamic asset manage- delivering ethical, innovative, and sustain- a renowned Shariah scholar, serves as the

# **CCP** issues advisory on dealership agreements and exemption compliance

### Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD,: The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) has cautioned and wholesale agreements containing restrictive provisions may fall within the scope of prohibited agreements under Section 4 of the Competition Act, 2010.

Such agreements are void ab initio under Section 4(3) unless specifically exempted, Commission under Sections 5 and 9 of the Act. Exemptions are granted only when and consumer benefits. agreements meet the criteria aid down in Section 9 and the Competition (Exemp- will render exemptions liable tion) Regulations, 2020 namely, when they enhance 6 of the Act and may invite production or distribu- enforcement proceedings, tion, encourage technical

of resulting benefits.

Commission reminded businesses that Exemption Orders are conditional. Undertakundertakings that dealer- ings must not use them as ship, distribution, agency, a cover for anti-competitive conduct, transfer pricing, economic rents, or practices harmful to consumer welfare. Agreements must strictly adhere to the conditions of the Exemption Order, with undertakings required to notify the CCP of any amendments, market prior to execution, by the changes, and to submit periodic compliance reports demonstrating efficiencies

Failure to comply, or to seek renewal before expir to cancellation under Section including financial penalor economic progress, and ties of up to PKR 75 million allow consumers a fair share or 10% of annual turnover.

# **OPPO A6 PRO** launches in Pakistan



## Commerce Desdk

LAHORE,: OPPO, the global leader in smartphone devices, has launched the 7,000 mAh battery to its much-anticipated OPPO A6 Pro in Pakistan, setting a new benchmark for the A-series with Pro Power, Pro Smooth performance, and Pro Waterproof protection.

George Long, CEO of "Pakistani consumers value OPPO."

reliability and performance, and the OPPO A6 Pro delivers both in abundance. From its 5-year durable reverse-charging feature and cooling system tested to perform in 40-degree heat, this device keeps pace with our customers' energetic lifestyles while offering the sleek, premium and durable OPPO Pakistan, remarked: design they expect from

# Aik by BankIslami and PTCL strengthen Pakistan's Digital Banking Ecosystem with Cloud-Based Solutions

## Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD,: Aik, Pakistan's first Islamic digital banking platform, has entered into a strategic partnership with Pakistan Telecommunication Company Limited (PTCL) to bolster its infrastructure with secure and reliquarters in Islamabad, in the presence ah-compliant banking," commented

will deliver secure and reliable cloud Officer, Aik, Waqar Ul Hassan, CIO infrastructure, ensuring business continuity and resilience for Aik, enhancing its digital capabilities. As part of Bank-Islami's digital-first initiative, Aik aims

that are convenient and seamless. The across the country and advancing platform aims to contribute to a more accessible and efficient digital banking ecosystem in Pakistan.

The agreement was formalised at a signing ceremony held at Aik's headable services using PTCL Smart Cloud. of key leadership from both compa-Through this collaboration, PTCL nies, including Ashfaque Ahmed, Chief Aik Digital, and Asif Ahmad, Group Chief Business Solutions Officer, PTCL & Ufone 4G.

"At Aik, we are driven by our purpose

to provide end-to-end financial services of expanding access to Islamic banking Ahmad, Group Chief Business Soluour overarching mission of Saving Humanity from Riba. Achieving this requires systems and networks that are robust and scalable enough to meet the growing demand for Shari-Ashfaque Ahmed, Chief Officer of Aik. "This partnership brings us closer to our goal, making banking simpler for customers while contributing to broader economic upliftment", he

During the signing ceremony, Asif

"We are pleased to sign an agreement with Aik to support them in fulfilling their business needs. PTCL, being a national company, is leading digitalisation efforts across the country. Through such partnerships, PTCL continues to play its key role in the development of telecom infrastructure by providing innovative and secure solutions to the corporate sector that will further contribute towards the overall economic growth of the country."

tions Officer, PTCL & Ufone 4G, said,

This partnership marks a key step



digital banking ambitions while lever-telecom industry.

toward building a secure and scalable aging PTCL's expertise in cloud soluinfrastructure that supports Aik's tions and its longstanding legacy in the

# '34th Independence Day' symbolizes Turkmenistan's effort for world Peace, tranquillity: Ambassador Movlamov



👺 Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD,: Ambassador of Turkmenistan, Dean of the Diplomatic Corps in Islamabad, Atadjan Movlamov has said that the 34th Independence Day of Turkmenistan is a symbol of the continuation of the efforts of the nation for world peace and permanent neutrality.

Ambassador of Turkmenistan. Dean of the Diplomatic Corps in Islamabad, Atadjan Movlamov said this while addressing the 34th Independence Day, of Turkmenistan here in Islamabad.

MOFA Hamid Asghar Khan, the event.

the Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Pakistan, Yerzhan Kistafin, the Vietnamese Ambassador to Pakistan is Pham Anh Tuan, Ambassador of Poland to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Maciej Pisarski, Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Pakistan, Khazar Farhadov, Ambassador Syria to Pakistan Dr. Ramez Alraee, Ambassador of Myanmar to Pakistan, Wunna Han, Ambassador of Italy to Pakistan, Ms. Marilina Armellin and diplomats from different Countries including Indonesia, Malaysia and The Additional Secretary, EU countries also participated in



The Ambassador said that Turkmenistan's foreign policy is based on great principles such as peace, neutrality and shared property in the world, which has been recognized by the international commu-

nity, including the United Nations. "The government and people of Turkmenistan advocate dialogue and integration among the global community, and regional connectivity and collaboration are an significant part of our country's foreign policy", he added.

The envoy said that Turkmenistan's relations with regional countries, including Pakistan, are of utmost importance and span

"Our bilateral historical and cultural ties are helping to bring the two countries closer and economic and trade relations between the two countries are growing day by day."

The Turkmenistan Afghanistan Pakistan India (TAPI) gas pipeline project between Pakistan and Turkmenistan will be completed in the coming years and similarly the railway and road projects between the two countries will reach completion, which will play an important role in regional economic integration.

Ambassador said that Turk-



countries in the region, located in

an important geographical loca-

tion and both countries can play

an significant role in regional

economic integration.

menistan is a important Caspian country which is rich in gas and that Pakistan and Turkmeninatural resources and in this regard it is providing due cooperation to Pakistan and other regional countries in the gas and natural resources sector.

He said that Turkmenistan is among the richest countries in the world in natural gas resources and will provide cooperation to all the regional countries in the energy sector for regional economic

Dean of diplomatic Corp said on this day.

Before the National Day cerestan are two important regional mony of Turkmenistan, a polo match was also played between ambassadors and diplomats of different countries and personalities from different walks of life.

At the end of the ceremony, The ambassador said that today awards were distributed among is a significant day and the people the winning players of the polo of Turkmenistan reaffirm their match, including ambassadors independence and cooperation and diplomats from Vietnam, between communities at the global Kazakhstan, Italy, Poland, Indolevel and world peace and security nesia, Malaysia and Myanmar.

# Reinvigorating Environments & Blue Economy of Pakistan



Rabail Zareen / Dr. Hasan Yaser

lue Economy is simply defined as any sustainable earning out of sea. Eighty per cent of global trade by loaded and unloaded 41 and 62 % of the global trade volume respectively in 2020. Sea trade is valued for its flexibility and being cheapest transportation mode. Transportation through sea is 10, 45 and 163 times cheaper than rail, road and air respectively. In case of Pakistan 95 % of its trade is carried out through sea. However despite its huge sea dependence, possession of 1050 km long coast and 29, 0058 sq. km of EEZ in Indian Ocean through which 70 % of global oil is traded Pakistan has not been able to prudently make use aspects like port activities, shipping Industry, offshore hydrocarbons, renewable energy, fisheries and costal tourism. Pakistan with over 1000 km long coast

200 countries is merely earning 10,000 USD per annum, which is too little as coastal tourism accounts for 62 % global

In case of Fishers and Aqua Culture, the present global fish consumption average is 22 kg per capita however in case of Pakistan it is lesser than 2 kg. Keeping in view the environmental characteristics like increasing urbanisation, transforming of agriculture land into societies, ever increasing water shortage and ever increasing facets like Climate Change including cloud bursts and floods Pakistan has already entered volume and 70 % by value in the phase of food insecurity hence the are being carried out through sea and nation will be compelled to eat and trade it just is merely earning only about 450 million out 270 billion USD of global fishing trade. Pakistani shipping fleet has reduced sharply from 71 to 11 since 1971, which only transports 5 percent of Pakistan's trade worth 0.25 billion USD thus compelling Pakistan to spend 5 to 6 billion USD of its valued foreign exchange as freight charges annually. Pakistan's present ship building capacity is to build a ship up to 26,000 tonnes whereas super tankers weigh more than 500,000 tonnes. Pakistan has also lost it pride of ship breaking as Gadani Ship Breaking Yard has been lost it position to Calcutta and Bangladesh. During 1980

line which brings it on 44th positon out of Gadani Ship Breaking Yard had 30,000 employees which have reduced to 6,000.

As Pakistan has been blessed a long coast, five major rivers and world's largest canal network hence all should also be integrated in Blue Economic Policy for at least fishing, transportation. Danube, Mekong, Morava, Maghna and Padma rivers are points in case. It should be noted that Bangladesh transported 27.80 lac tons (30%) of cargo through inland waterways in financial year 2019 to 2020, Pakistan can also make use of its 10,370 km long Inland water ways for transportation. As far as sea trade is concerned mated that by 2050, 50 % of global oil shore resources. Pakistan should enhance it's of offshore exploration and drilling enhance its blue economy. by partnering with countries like China, Germany, and Turkey.

Pakistan is part BRI it should of Gwadar Shipyard and a Special Economic Zones closer to ports and to establish Gomthal Midway Transit Transhipment Hub 20 km north of Gilgit. Astola Island which is a small uninhab-



a logistic base for Navy and Marchant ships including foreign vessels and should also serve as a naval intelligence and defence out post. This will also secure the most critical sea line of communication emerging out of hydrocarbon rich Strait of Hurmuz leading to Pacific Ocean apart from increasing the ships there is through Strait of Malacca and Atlantic a need to enhance port handling capacity Ocean through Suez Canal. Despite from 54 to 217 million tons per annum Pakistan is sitting on all the strategic is increasing significantly. Asian ports—more fish, Pakistan has the potential to—within five years by transforming Gwadar—Sea Lines of Communication in Indian earn more than 4 billion USD however in to a SMART Automated port. It is esti- Ocean through which 100, 000 ships pass every year. Pakistan's share in global and gas needs will be met through off Blue Economy is just 0.016 % hence will have to follow continuous policy to

> Writers Rabail Zareen an accomplished environmentalist and Dr. Hasan Yaser Malik, Ph. D in International Relaendeavour for earliest development tions and Fellow Research Member with Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transportation (UK), Member Board of Advisor "The Beacon" Research Journal of Pakistan Navy War College, Fellow Research Member with Environ ited 6.7 km long Pakistani island in the Monitor and Fellow Research Member Arabian Sea approximately 39 km south- with National Foundation for Environeast of Pasni should also be developed as ment Education & Research

## Toshakhana II case hearing postponed till October 1

### Continued from Page 1

During the hearing PTI legal team cross examined the statements of the eye witnesses.

PTI founder's lawyer continued to cross-examine NAB officer Mohsin Haroon. The hearing of the court in the jail was postponed until Wednesday, October 1 due to the suspension of electricity supply. On October 1, the accused.

defense lawyer Qosin Faisal Mufti will complete the cross-examination of the last two prosecution witnesses.

During the hearing, the three sisters of the founder of PTI, cousin Qasim Zaman, and sisterin-law of Bushri Bibi were present in the court. Cousin Faisal and Salman Safdar Advocate appeared in the court on behalf of the

# At UN, Pakistani diplomat slams India...

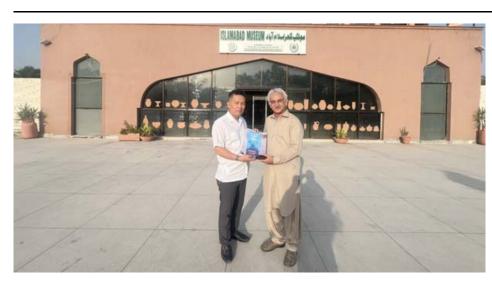
## Continued from Page 8

Noting that India is in the league of those who illegally occupy territories, oppress populations and violate fundamental human rights as is the case in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, the Pakistani diplomat pointed out that "State terrorism - in the form of: extrajudicial killings, arbitrary arrests, detentions, staged encounters and collective punishment under the cover of counter

terrorism." "This country", he said, also runs

a sinister cross-border terrorist web and clandestine networks through its proxies, both inside Pakistan and beyond, and cited the case of Commander Kulbhushan Jaday, a serving Indian Naval Officer, who was caught spying red-handed by Pakistan.

Referring to what called Jaishankar's "bizarre and untenable claims about the Pahalgam incident, Rashid said, "Whenever an incident occurs, Pakistan is reflexively blamed—without evidence, without logic, and without inves-



# Pakistan, Vietnam explore cultural collaboration through museum visit

## 跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Director of the Department of Archaeology and Museums (DOAM), Dr Abdul Ghafoor, on Monday hosted a visit to the Islamabad Museum for Mr Truong Van Thang, Deputy Head of Mission at the Embassy of Vietnam, accompanied by the Advisor to the Federal Minister,

Ministry of National Heritage form to discuss prospects of scored that such engageand Culture Division.

The delegation was briefed on the museum's diverse collection, which reflects Pakistan's rich civilizational history and cultural traditions.

The guests also visited the newly announced gallery, showcasing rare artifacts and highlighting the country's heritage. Ministry of National Heritage

in organizing joint exhibitions, cultural diplomacy. cultural events, and heritage

The visit served as a plat- and Culture Division under-

understanding and strengthen

future cultural collaborations ments play an important role between Pakistan and Vietnam. in building people-to-people Both sides expressed interest connections and advancing

The interaction concluded initiatives to promote mutual with a commitment to explore avenues of cooperation in heritage preservation and The officials from the cultural exchange, marking another step forward in Pakistan-Vietnam relations.

# Uzbek Parliamentary Delegation Calls on NA Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq

Continued from Page 1

The Speaker also stated that of multiple parliamentary dele-Pakistan responded in a firm and balanced manner to Indian aggression and that the ceasefire was eventually reached upon India's request. He credited the nation's unity and the unmatched sacrifices of Pakistan's armed

defense and diplomatic victory. The Speaker further said that Afghanistan must ensure that its territory is not used for terrorist activities and reiterate that Pakistan offers immense oppor-

He stressed that the presence gations-expected from Saudi Arabia, Türkiye, Azerbaijan, and Iran in the coming month reflects growing international trust in Pakistan's democratic institu-

In his remarks, Speaker Mr. forces for the country's resilient Nuriddin Ismoilov expressed deep gratitude for the warm hospitality and generous reception accorded to the Uzbek delegation. He praised the leadership of Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq for promoting meaningful parliamentary diplotunities for trade, investment, macy and deepening ties between

and economic collaboration. the two legislatures. He acknowledged Pakistan's strategic importance in the region, particularly in the context of trade corridors, energy cooperation, and connectivity. Mr. Nuriddin Ismoilov noted that Uzbekistan, like Pakistan, has also suffered from terrorism and emphasized that both countries can learn from one another in counterterrorism efforts. He lauded Pakistan's diplomatic stance during recent tensions with India, describing its response as balanced and admirable. On climate change, he called for the adoption of a joint strategy to address environmental challenges

that threaten the region's stability

He described the recent visit of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif to Uzbekistan as a milestone in bilateral relations, offering fresh momentum to political, economic, and parliamentary cooperation.

Speaker Ismoilov recognized the value of Pakistan's cultural and civilizational heritage, expressed well wishes for Pakistan's continued development, and commended the Parliament of Pakistan for its effective service to the nation. He further reaffirmed that relations between Pakistan



brotherhood, mutual trust, and shared interests, and stated that through enhanced parliamentary closer parliamentary relations and institutional engagement. would naturally strengthen bonds between the peoples of both countries. Both sides reaffirmed their Nuriddin Ismoiloy, Speaker of the

integration, and joint prosperity

The Parliamentary delegation from Uzbekistan, led by Mr.

and Uzbekistan are based on resolve to promote peace, regional Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan also visited corridors of Parliament House, inscribed remarks in official guest book placed in National Assembly and exchanged

# Uzbek Parliamentary Delegation Visit Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq in a group photo with Uzbek Parliamentary delegation led by Speaker of the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan Mr. Nuriddin Ismoilov at Parliament



# **Uzbek Parliamentary Delegation Calls on NA** Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: On the invitation of Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, a high-level parliamentary delegation from Uzbekistan, led by Mr. Nuriddin Ismoilov, Speaker of the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis of promoting peace, regional and access to seaports like the Republic of Uzbekistan, arrived in Islamabad for an He underlined the imporofficial visit Speaker Sardar tance of platforms such as the Ayaz Sadiq warmly welcomed Pakistan-Uzbekistan Parliathe Uzbek delegation and mentary Friendship Group zation of the Inter-Parliamen-

centuries-old civilizational ties.

said that parliamentary diplostability, and development. Gwadar and Karachi, which

relations between Pakistan and tional links between the two Uzbekistan, which are rooted nations. He also stated that in shared faith, culture, and Pakistan considers Uzbekistan a key partner in the region In his meeting with Uzbek and is eager to expand ties in counterpart, Speaker National trade, energy, infrastructure, Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq and connectivity. He invited Uzbekistan to benefit from macy plays an essential role in Pakistan's strategic location

zation PAECO more proactive. Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq added that Pakistan is the least contributor to climate change, but it has been facing severe challenges. He praised the National Disaster Managecan serve as gateways to the ment Authority (NDMA) for its commendable performance global market. He also lauded the recent successful organiduring recent floods and called for joint regional efforts to expressed his appreciation in building stronger legisla- tary Union (IPU) conference mitigate the impact of envifor the historic and brotherly tive collaboration and institu- in Uzbekistan. He, further, ronmental challenges. The

Economic cooperation Organi-

stressed on the need to make Speaker strongly condemned Parliamentary Assembly of ongoing human rights violations in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IIOJK) and Israeli aggression in Gaza. He stressed that lasting peace in the region is impossible without a just resolution of the Kashmir and Palestine disputes. He called on the international community and the Muslim Ummah to play a fair and decisive role in supporting the oppressed people of Kashmir and Pales-

Continued on Page 7

# Shutterdown, wheel jam strike in Azad Jammu and Kashmir

👺 Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: A shutterdown and wheel jam strike is currently underway in Azad Jammu and Kashmir on Monday, organised by the Joint Action Committee (JAC).

Markets, transportation, and business centers are closed across the region, while schools remain open, albeit with many classrooms empty. The strike has garnered support from the

this During period, communication services have been severely disrupted. For the second consecutive day, mobile phone and internet services, along with landline connections, have been suspended, leaving citizens entirely cut off from the outside world. This unprecedented blackout has exacerbated public hardships.

Public Action Committee has put forward a 38-point charter of demands, which includes the abolition of 12 reserved seats for refugees and the return of privileges to

The committee has announced plans to hold a rally following the strike to amplify their protest. Key demands in



the charter include:

- Abolition of privileges for
- the ruling elite
- Cessation of exploitation by mobile companies
- Abolition of assembly seats reserved for refugees residing in Pakistan
- Construction of the road from Azad Yaqin to Sudh-
- Free and equal education Employment for the brother of martyr Azhar
- Establishment of an international airport Prevention of timber smug-
- Elimination of the refugee quota in jobs
- Abolition of the quota system in Azad Kashmir
  - Provision of clean drinking
  - Supply of irrigation and agricultural water Commercial electricity bills
  - above 5 kVA Establishment of the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Expressway
  - Implementation of all matters related to electricity Construction of the Shohr
- Tunnel
- Implementation of matters
- Construction of the Lohar Gali Muzaffarabad tunnel Legislation on flour and
- Valley Tunnel, Jhelum Valley, and Sandmar Behdi
- Haveli Dismissal of cases regis-
- by the government Implementation of High
- related to flour
- electricity
- Construction of the Leepa
- tered during the movement
- Court decisions regarding hydropower projects and

Expiration of the development budget

other demands

- Reforms in departments and elimination of redun-
- dant departments Deployment of external forces and abolition of
- black laws Interest-free loans for youth
- Construction of the Rehman Bridge in Kotli Provision of employment
- Quota for disabled individ-Cessation of PSG examina-
- tions and ad hoc appoint-
- Cessation of merit-based appointments Tax relief
- Protection and support for traders in Azad Kashmir Penalties for non-custom vehicles and transporters Reforms in the judiciary
- Support for the local charter of demands Elimination of bribery, corruption, and nepotism in government depart-
- Empowerment of local representatives and student union elections
- Request to grant scheduled bank status to Azad Jammu and Kashmir Bank

# PM Shehbaz welcomes Trump's 20-point plan to end Gaza war



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday welcomed US President Donald Trump's proposed peace plan to bring an end to the nearly two-year-long Israeli inva-

His statement came in a post on X as President Trump greeted Israeli and economic growth to the region." Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu at the White House for talks on the US-led initiative. Before the meeting, role in shaping the proposal, while Trump told reporters he was "very confident" that there would be peace tion was "essential" for lasting peace.

in Gaza, despite scepticism from multiple sides.

In his remarks, PM Shehbaz wrote: "I welcome President Trump's 20-point plan to ensure an end to the war in Gaza. I am also convinced that durable peace between the Palestinian people and Israel would be essential in bringing political stability

The prime minister also praised Trump's envoy Steve Witkoff for his reiterating that the two-state solu-

# Deadline for filing income tax returns will not be extended

**Example 2** Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: FBR has taken notice of unverified reports circulating on various media platforms claiming that the deadline for filing Income Tax Returns for Tax Year 2025 will be extended. Some elements have also attempted to link this perceived extension to the recent floods.

FBR categorically clarifies that these reports are false, baseless, filing Income Tax Returns for Tax Year 2025 will not be extended.

It is pointed out that a vast majority of taxpayers reside in areas unaffected by floods and have

IRIS system has slowed down are legal consequences. also unfounded. FBR's IRIS plat-



and misleading as the deadline for failure to file returns by the due date will result in late-filer status and imposition of penalties under the

FBR urges all eligible taxpayers to act responsibly and file their had ample time to discharge their Income Tax Returns with accuracy national obligation of filing returns. and honesty before the deadline of The reports suggesting that the 30th September, 2025 to avoid any

In case of extreme form is fully operational, functioning the taxpayers can avail extension smoothly, and taxpayers can easily of return upto fifteen days with file their returns using the new payment of due taxes by 30th simplified income tax return form. September subject to approval by Taxpayers are also cautioned that the relevant committee as per law.

# **Communication services** suspended in AJK

跨 Bureau Report

MIRPUR: Officials have stated that the suspension of internet, mobile, and landline services aims to limit communication during large-scale protests and to prevent any potential disturbances. Citizens have reported that the blackout has disrupted their connections, halted online businesses and educational activities, and led to long queues at ATM machines.

Negotiations between the government and the JAC failed on September 25, with federal ministers Tariq Fazal Chaudhry and Amir Muqam indicating that while Islamabad has flour and electricity prices, those requiring constitutional amendments can only be approved by parliament.

The government has deployed additional police and Rangers in Muzaffarabad and other districts to manage the situation, with nearly 3,000 Islamabad police personnel already stationed in the region.

Dr. Irfan Ashraf, spokesperson for the Azad Kashmir government, has stated that the region is peaceful and that people are engaged in their daily activities. He noted that the government has initiated a negotiation process and added that the public is growing weary of strikes and roadblocks. Furthermore, the JAC has written to UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and human rights accepted most demands related to organizations, demanding an investigation into the deaths, arrests, and alleged crackdown during protests in

# At UN, Pakistani diplomat slams India's attempt to malign Pakistan, calls it serial perpetrator of terrorism

UNITED NATIONS: Pakistan his Indian counterpart, Rentala saying that the attempt to distort the country's name was "utterly

shameful" and petty. "It is utterly shameful that India stoops so low as to distort the very name of a country, a member of the United Nations," Pakistani diplomat Muhammad Rashid told the UN General Assembly, that saw a fiery clash between the two South Asian neighbours, the second in the current session.

Rashid, a second secretary at the Pakistani Mission to the UN,

took strong exception when Srinivas, who accused Pakistan of India called it "Terroristan" at promoting terrorism, saying, "No the United Nations on Saturday, arguments or untruths can ever whitewash the crimes of Terror-

Hitting back at India, the Pakistani diplomat said, "Resorting to mockery of a sovereign nationstate's name is not just undignified, it is also a deliberate attempt to malign and insult an entire people.

"This is not a local political congregation, Rashid told the to offer—only, I am sorry to say, 193-member Assembly. "By engaging in this kind of rhetoric, India diminishes its own credibility, showing the world that



cheap slurs which are not worthy of serious discourse."

He added, "Such language reflects neither maturity nor was exercising his right of reply to it has no substantive argument responsibility. Instead, it exposes in supporting and sponsoring ting terrorism."

that India is frustrated and reveals its pettiness on the world The Pakistani diplomat said

India itself has been implicated Published by: Almass Ayoub Sabir from Zero Point Printers Rawalpindi

referring to credible reports pointing to networks run by Indian intelligence agencies to destabilize its neighbouring countries. "And this is unfortunate: intelligence operatives have been accused of financing and directing groups engaged in sabotage and targeted killings across the world."

"Undermining regional stability and violating international law is a habit for India," he said, adding, "such actions expose the duplicity of its counterterrorism claims and raise serious concerns about its role in fueling rather than combat-

no further response from flustered-looking Srinivas, a second secretary at the Indian Mission to the UN, and with that the presiding officer closed the and radical ideology. day-long session, the 5th day of the General Debate. Earlier, the Pakistani diplomat

took issue with the Indian External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, who also accused Pakistan of sponsoring terrorism,

Responding to India's accudescribed India's remarks as an Sharif) at this forum. attempt to malign his country, yet

Rashid's sharp retort evoked completely devoid of facts. That country is not just a serial perpetrator of terrorism, but a regional bully that is holding South Asia hostage to its hegemonic designs

India's unlawful and reckless behaviour must not be ignored by the international community,

Pakistan, he added, has sacrificed over 90,000 lives in fighting terrorism - its sacrifices are branding the neighbouring recognized globally. "We are one country as an "epicentre of global of the strongest pillars in leading global efforts for combating terrorism as also highlighted sations, Rashid said Pakistan by my Prime Minister (Shehbaz

Continued on Page 7