**Barkat Rice Mills** 



UN slams suicide attack in Quetta which killed 10 people

United Nations condemned the suicide bombing which took place in a busy street in Quetta, killing at least 10 people. "We condemn all acts of terrorism including what happened in Pakistan today," UN Deputy Spokesperson Farhan Aziz Haq.



Supreme Court adjourns super tax hearing until Thursday

The Supreme Court's constitutional bench on Wednesda ourned the hearing of petitions related to the super tax unt

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## Solutions

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad: Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Chaudhary Anwar ul Haq, and Federal Minister for Parliamen-



#### **№ Fazal-Kashmir-ACC**

## 90% demands of ACC accepted: Dr. Tariq Fazal

Abdul Majeed Tahir

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Dr Tariq Fazal Chaudhry on Wednesday said that 90 percent of the demands put forward by the Awami Action Committee (AAC) had been accepted, urging the its leaders to return to the negotiating table.

Addressing a joint press conference at Kashmir House Kashmir, nor do we want our

Kashmir (AJK) Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar-ul-Haq, he said there was no justification for protests in AJK as the majority of the demands had already been

He criticized the AAC leadership for pushing the situation towards a dead end, warning that protests would neither deliver results nor offer solutions. "We do not want violence in Azad along with Azad Jammu and enemies to exploit it," he said.

Minister Shehbaz Sharif had tasked him and Federal Minister for Kashmir, Gilgit, Baltistan, and States and Frontier Regions (SAFRON), Engr Amir Muqam with holding talks in Muzaf-

negotiations had already taken place, resulting in a written agreement, with corrections requested

by the AAC also accepted. Despite this progress, he withdrawn. Demands regarding

The minister said Prime said, the committee resumed protests on September 29, which he termed unnecessary. He cautioned that violent demonstrations would only allow India to use the footage for propaganda

purposes. We served as guarantors He revealed that 12 hours of that the agreed points would be implemented. Government employees suspended during earlier protests were reinstated, and cases against them were

wheat, electricity, and local government were also accepted,"

he said. However, he clarified that two demands - abolition of refugee seats and reduction in the number of ministers - required constitutional amendments and could not be addressed immediately. "Despite these constraints, both sides had agreed to move forward under a written agree-

ment," he added. Continue on Page 7

## Muqam distributes relief cheques among flood victims

跨 Bureau Report

SWAT: Federal Minister for Kashmir, Gilgit, Baltistan, and Muqam, here on Wednesamong flood victims of Swat. 17 last.

Addressing the cheques distribution ceremony among

General Syed Asim Munir, and he himself visited flood-af-States and Frontier Regions fected areas of Khyber Pakh-(SAFRON), Engr Amir tunkhwa soon after the flood day, distributed relief cheques Shangla, and Swabi on August

He said Prime Minister flood victims of Swat, Engr has distributed relief cheques of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Amir Muqam said that Prime among flood victims of Buner

Sharif along with Chief of Rs two million each for the Army Staff Filed Marshall heirs of deceased flood victims of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Irrespective of political affiliation, he said that compensation and assistance on behalf struck Buner, Swat, Bajaur, of the federal government to flood victims continued. He said the government efforts will continue till the rehabil- also caused colossal damage Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif itation of the last flood victim

Besides human and mate-



to electricity, gas, and road tunkhwa, thanking the Prime domain of Federal, KP, or Minister Muhammad Shehbaz during his visit and announced rial losses, he said, floods have Minister for instructing the District Govts.

National Highway Authority to reconstruct/repair damaged infrastructure in Khyber Pakh- roads, whether it comes in the



## DPM chairs meeting to discuss cooperation with regional countries

跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Wednesday chaired a meeting to review avenues for enhancing cooperation with regional countries. In the meeting, the participants discussed strengthening cooperation in trade, commerce, connec-

The deputy prime minister underscored that Pakistan would continue to pursue mutually beneficial cooperation to advance regional development and collective well-being.

The meeting was attended by the Minister for Petroleum, SAPM Tariq Bajwa, Attorney General, and senior officials from the Ministry of Foreign tivity, energy, and people-to-people Affairs and other relevant departments.

## 13 Indian-backed terrorists killed in Balochistan operations: ISPR

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Security forces killed 13 Indian-backed terrorists and arrested four others disguised as women during separate intelligence-based operations (IBOs) across Balochistan, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said on Wednesday.

According to the military's media wing, the operations were conducted in Quetta and Kech districts on September 30 and October 1 following confirmed intelligence about the presence of terrorist groups Fitna al-Khawarij and Fitna al-Hindustan.

In Quetta, ten terrorists were killed in a fierce gun battle after security forces encircled their

Another operation in Kech left three militants dead. Large caches of arms, ammunition, and explosives were recovered from both sites.

The ISPR said that these terrorists were involved in multiple attacks and attempts to destabilise the province. Their elimination marks a significant blow to Indian-sponsored militancy.



In a separate IBO in Khuzdar, four militants linked to Fitna al-Hindustan were arrested while attempting to flee in women's attire. Weapons and explosives were also seized.

The cowardly bid to escape disguised as women was foiled through swift action, the ISPR noted. The military confirmed that

clearance and sanitisation operations are continuing in the region.

Meanwhile: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi praised the successful operations. The premier said, "Our brave forces are ensuring the nation's safety. The entire nation stands firmly behind them in the resolve to eradicate terrorism."

Interior Minister Naqvi lauded the courage and professionalism of the troops, stating: "I salute the valour of our brave sons who continue to protect Pakistan at all costs.

## PML-N, PPP agree to end war of words after tensions over Maryam Nawaz remarks



😂 Citv Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) have agreed to end their recent war of words after tensions flared over Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz's speeches, sources said on Wednesday.

A PPP delegation met PML-N leaders in National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq's chamber to defuse the situation. The PML-N side included Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar, Rana Sanaullah, Azam Nazeer Tarar, Kaira said Maryam's language Tariq Fazal Chaudhry and Rana Mubashir, while the PPP was represented by Naveed Qamar cratic and measured.

and Ejaz Jakhrani.

During the meeting, PPP leaders voiced objections to Maryam's recent remarks, including her criticism of PPP's handling of flood politics in Punjab and her warning that she would "break the finger" raised against her province.

Naveed Qamar cautioned that negative statements between coalition partners hurt both consensus and governance, urging restraint from both sides.

The controversy erupted last week after Maryam accused PPP leaders of politicising floods in Punjab during the launch of an electric bus service in Dera Ghazi Khan. PPP leaders hit back strongly, with some from Sindh publicly criticising the Punjab chief minister. Senior PPP figure Qamar Zaman was inappropriate, stressing that criticism should remain demo-

## Over 1,000 dead as floods wreak havoc across Pakistan: NDMA

跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: At least 1,006 people, including 275 children, have lost their lives in devastating floods across Pakistan following weeks of relentless torrential rains and flash flooding, the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) reported on Wednesday.

Rescue and relief operations are ongoing as authorities struggle to reach affected communities and assess the

full scale of destruction. Punjab has recorded the highest death toll with 304 men, and 51 women. In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa,

504 people have died, including 90 children, while Sindh has reported 80 fatalities. Balochistan confirmed 30 deaths, Gilgit-Baltistan 41, Azad Jammu & Kashmir 38, and Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) 9.

In addition, 1,063 people have been injured nationwide, with Punjab again the worst hit — reporting 661 injuries, including 200 chil-

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa reported 218 injuries, Sindh 87, Gilgit-Baltistan 52, AJK fatalities — 110 children, 143 37, Balochistan 5, and ICT 3.

## Maryam announces Rawalpindi-Murree train service, inaugurates cardiology centre

City Desk

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz on Wednesday announced the launch of a train service between Rawalpindi and Murree, while inaugurating the Nawaz Sharif Cardiology Centre in the hill station.

Speaking at the ceremony, CM Maryam said her government had fulfilled promises of development, including some "we had not even made."

She noted that Murree's hospitals and schools were being upgraded, with a new 100-bed hospital under construction in Kotli Sattian and a state-of-the-art facility planned in

The chief minister said Murree had long lacked facilities for cardiac



patients, forcing residents to travel elsewhere for treatment.

"Now patients will be treated in

Murree itself," she declared, adding that the new cardiology centre was completed in record time.

The chief minister also announced that 15 green buses will soon be launched for Murree, offering free rides for students, senior citizens, women, and persons with disabilities.

She highlighted previous development initiatives of former prime minister Nawaz Sharif, including the Murree Expressway and the Rawalpindi-Murree road.

"Coming to Murree feels like stepping into another country," Maryam remarked, describing her deep personal connection with the hill station, which she called her "second home."

The chief minister said the PML-N government was committed to service-oriented politics, asserting that while others made claims, it was her party that delivered meaningful development in Murree.

#### Called on

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety, Syed Imran Ahmed Shah was called on by the Ambassador of Republic of Turkiye H.E. Mr. Irfan Neziroglu today to discuss possible Collaboration in Social Sector on Wednesday.



## Tourism sector can be strengthened on sustainable foundation: Amara Saeed

B Abdul Waheed Khan

MANSEHRA: The Department of University Mansehra, organized a seminar on the theme "Tourism" natural asset is wasted, so that the connection with World Tourism Day.

The event was largely attended extensive experience working with the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics, Quaid-i-Azam University Islamabad and the Aga is committed to promoting tourism

Khan Development Network, deliv- in the province and enhancing ered the keynote address. She emphasized that sustainable development of Tourism and Hospitality, Hazara tourism requires careful utilization of natural resources, ensuring that no and Sustainable Transformation" in tourism sector can be strengthened on sustainable foundations.

Guest of Honour, Mr. Umar by faculty members, students, and Arshad Khan, Director Adminisadministrative officials. Tourism tration and Finance, Khyber Pakhexpert Ms. Amara Saeed, who has tunkhwa Culture and Tourism Authority, also addressed the seminar.

collaboration with universities and relevant institutions.

He assured that the provincial government would continue to support Hazara University in the future as well. Vice Chancellor Hazara University, Prof. Dr. Ikramullah Khan, in his address, said that active participation of the private sector can bring significant improvement and development in tourism.

He directed the concerned Dean and Head of the Department to private sector involvement in the

promotion of tourism. The Vice Chancellor thanked the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Culture and Tourism Authority for supporting the event and also congratulated Dr. Anas Mahmood Arif, Head of the Department for the successful organization

of the seminar. Dean Faculty of Arts and Humanities, Prof. Dr. Shakirullah Khan, thanked the keynote speaker and other participants, noting that the Department of Tourism and Hospitality is playing a leading role in He said the provincial government prepare recommendations regarding promoting tourism and contributing to local development.

## NUML, UNESCO Pakistan, MoFE&PT join hands

跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD,: In a landmark step toward building a more inclusive Pakistan, the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training, in collaboration with the National University of Modern Languages (NUML), and UNICEF Pakistan convened Islamabad to develop a unified framework for the standardization of Pakistan Sign Language (PSL). This important gathering is part of the UN Country Team's Disability Inclusion Strategy and aims to create a national roadmap

hearing individuals across the

country. multi-stakeholder consultation brought together key voices from government bodies, academia, the Deaf community, and civil society for curriculum development, interpreter training and certia National Consultation in fication, and the creation of digital PSL resources. It also standardization, with clearly defined timelines, responsibilities, and mechanisms for others. monitoring progress.

access for Deaf and hard-of- figures including Maj Gen Shahid Mahmood Kayani HI (M) (Retd), Rector NUML; Minister of State for MoFE&PT, Ms Wajeeha Qamar; Capt. Asif Iqbal, Director General, Special Education, Ministry of to identify priority actions Federal Education and Professional Training; Sharmeela Rasool, Deputy Representative, UNICEF Pakistan; Afke Bootsman, Head of the UN focused on formulating a Resident Coordinator's Office; National Action Plan for PSL and Irfan Mumtaz, Chief Executive Officer of the Pakistan Association of the Deaf, among

In his address, Rector The event was attended NUML Maj Gen Shahid tise in language research and for improving communication by several distinguished Mahmood Kayani empha-



sized the urgency of closing positioned to serve as a neutral Pakistan's inclusivity gap by introducing a nationally ratified Pakistan Sign Language standard. He underlined that NUML, as an institution with experemerging technologies, is well toward a common goal.

long-standing academic host for this initiative. He added that NUML has the capacity and credibility to bring together Deaf community representatives, government bodies, researchers, and the private sector to work

## CCP grants approval for PTCL's acquisition of Telenor

**Example 2** Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: PTCL is grateful to the Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) for successfully concluding Phase II of the review of its acquisition of Telenor Pakistan. We highly appreciate the Commission's thoroughness in safeguarding the future outlook and long-term sustainability of Pakistan's telecom sector. We are especially thankful to our customers, partners, and the wider telecom community who have been eagerly looking forward to this historic announcement.

PTCL fully cooperated with the Commission throughout the review process and remains committed to advancing the acquisition in complete alignment with the directions of all regulatory bodies on this matter, along with necessary compliances to the applicable laws

This intra-sector consolidation is a pivotal step forward for Pakistan's telecom industry, which will draw strengths from both PTML (Ufone) and Telenor to deliver best in class customer experience, enhanced network quality, broader coverage, and innovative digital services for their customer base, while enabling the sector to achieve greater efficiency, resilient infrastructure, and a more competitive landscape. Moreover, the consolidated entity will strengthen nationwide connectivity, drive innovation, and support the government's vision of a digitally empowered Pakistan.

## Successful test of Fateh-4 missile is a milestone in national defense: Makhdoom Ahmed Mahmood

**Asim Tanveer** 



MULTAN: Pakistan Peoples Party South Punjab President and former Governor Punjab Makhdoom Syed Ahmed Mahmood congratulated the entire nation and Pakistan Army on the successful test of Fateh-4 missile and termed it an important milestone in Pakistan's defense system. Former Governor Punjab Makhdoom Ahmed Mahmood

The locally developed modern missile is not only a manifestation of Pakistan's scien-

tific self-reliance but also a practical step towards further strengthening our defense capabilities. Makhdoom Ahmed Mahmood paid tribute to the scientists, engineers and officers and men of the armed forces involved in the development of the missile and said that the nation is rightly proud of its hardworking experts.\*

The leadership of the Pakistan Peoples Party has termed this success as a continuation of the policies of Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and Shaheed Democracy Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto, which aimed to make Pakistan self-sufficient and invincible in terms of defense. Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto secured Pakistan's defense future by laying the foundation of the nuclear program, while Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto gave a new dimension to the country's security by introducing missile technology.

## Special screening of "A Cry from the Mountains"

News Desk

KARACHI: Salim Habib University's Fatima Business School in collaboration with Aga Khan University hosted a special screening of "A Cry from the Mountains", an episode of the award-winning documentary series Voices from the Roof of the World (VRW). The film highlights the devastating impact of floods in Pakistan's mountain regions and the resilience of affected communities.

Students enjoyed an exclusive preview of the upcoming Season 4 trailer, giving them a first look at the new stories set to be released later.

The program featured an interactive Q&A session with Andrew Tkach, Executive Producer of VRW and an 8-time Emmy Award-winning filmmaker, who shared insights on the role of documentary storytelling in shaping climate awareness.

#### Violence against unarmed and peaceful workers is condemnable: Former PM

Spokesman Report



ISLAMABAD: President of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Azad Kashmir and former Prime Minister Sardar Abdul Qayyum Niazi expressed grief over the martyrdom of the youth, demanded immediate medical assistance to the injured.

Former Prime Minister Sardar Abdul Qayyum Niazi strongly condemned the lathi charge, use of force and violence on peaceful protesters. The peace of Azad Kashmir has been destroyed. Violence

against unarmed and peaceful workers is condemnable, The news of the martyrdom of a youth and dozens of injuries is regrettable, Sardar Abdul Qayyum Niazi.

The government should come to its senses and immediately stop the use of force, Sardar Abdul Qayyum Niazi warned. He urged the

Mobile service should be restored. Sardar Abdul Qayyum Niazi.

Such situations should not be created that India or enemy forces can take advantage of. Sardar Abdul Qayyum Niazi.

#### Sindh CM chairs meeting on wheat support program for growers

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah chaired a high-level meeting on Wednesday to review the Wheat Support Program for growers aimed at ensuring food security and supporting small farmers.

Speaking on the occasion, the chief minister said that wheat production in Sindh had declined due to the absence of a fixed support price and lack of government procurement. He emphasized that the provincial government to launch a package worth Rs 55.8 billion to encourage wheat cultivation and ensure food security.

Murad Ali Shah announced that farmers owning up to 25 acres of land would be provided one bag of DAP and two bags of urea fertilizer under the package. He informed that there are 411,408 growers in Sindh with landholdings of 2,262,746 acres, who will benefit from

"The Sindh government will distribute 2,262,746 DAP bags and 4,525,492 urea bags among eligible farmers," the CM said.

During the meeting, Agriculture Minister Muhammad Bux Maher briefed the CM that a Procurement Committee and a Survey Team headed by the Director General Agriculture have already been notified. A verification cell has also been established to confirm the eligibility of farmers before fertilizer distribution.





## **Namaz Timings**

#### **EMEDGENCY**

EMERGENCI	
Rescue (Police) 15	5
Bomb Disposal 15	5
Fire Services Rawalpindi/	
Islamabad1122 & 16	б
Emergency Ambulance 1122 8	Ł
& Rescue Services 4451122	2
Motorway Police9266044	4
Motorway Police 9270601-20	0

#### Women Police Ctations

Statio	113
Islamabad	9222596
Rawalpindi	9270601-20

## **ENQUIRY**

HUCDI	TAIC
CAA	9281092
WASA Rawalpindi .	5555489
Railway Exchange .	
Railway Inquiry	
PIA Cargo	9280979
PIA Flight Info	114
Luiii Aiributurice	

#### 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 Metropo	litan
Corporation	9209224
Potohar Town	
Rawal Town	5773343

#### **COMPLAINTS**

G-5, G-6, G-7, G-8, G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, H-8 ..9266316 Wapda Islamabad......9217579-80 Sui Gas Complaint..... 119, 9272249 ...0331-5022125

Sahulat Bazar, provide the people of Attock with essential commodities at affordable rates: Anil Saeed

#### 👺 Raza Nagyi

ATTOCK: Additional Deputy Commissioner General and Administrator Municipal Committee Attock, Anil Saeed, has said that the establishment of the Sahulat Bazaar will provide the people of Attock with essential commodities at affordable rates.

He expressed these views while presiding over an important meeting at the Municipal Committee Attock regarding the Sahulat Bazaar. The meeting was attended by Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz ticket holder Malik Hameed Akbar, Chief Officer Municipal Committee Attock Sardar Aftab Ahmed Khan, office bearers of the Anjuman-e-Tajran, and other concerned officials.

During the meeting, Malik Hameed Akbar and representatives of the Anjuman-e-Tajran presented their suggestions and expressed their commitment to extend full cooperation with the Municipal Committee

## **UNODC** and NAB Round Off a Collective Journey Towards Transparency and **Business Integrity**

#### **Spokesman Report**

LAHORE: The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), in collaboration with the National Accountability Bureau (NAB), concluded its series of business integrity workshops under the Global Action for Business Integrity (GABI) project with a final guest lecture at the University of Lahore.

The workshops created a platform for SMEs, the private sector, academia, and youth to learn, share, and act together on integrity. The closing session brought students and faculty into dialogue with NAB and private sector leaders, stressing that young people are vital to building a culture of accountability and transparency.

The series showed clear results. NAB was seen not only as an enforcer but also as a partner in prevention. Businesses and SMEs gained practical tools to manage risks and improve compliance. Most importantly, youth pledged to act as integrity ambassadors, making integrity part of their personal and profes-

sional values. Trust between institutions, businesses, and young people grew stronger, laying a base for longterm cooperation.

This project has laid the foundation for promoting business integrity in the private sector, widely recognized as the engine of economic growth. By combining the preventive role of NAB with active private sector participation, the initiative created a collective will to enable a transparent and growth-oriented business environment. Championing this change are young people, alongside public and private actors, who are emerging as key drivers of change through accountability and reform.

NAB and UNODC underlined that real change happens when government and partners work together with citi-

By investing in youth, supporting SMEs, and encouraging collective action, the GABI project has helped advance meaningful reforms for a fairer and more transparent future in Paki-



### Cultural Performance

ISLAMABAD: Children from Nigerian and Pakistani Schools are performing cultural performance during the celebrate of the Nigerian National Day, in Federal Capital



## Acid Attack: Police Swiftly Arrest Main Accused Within 24 Hours

#### 跨 🛮 Zain Khan Malghani

MULTAN: In the jurisdiction of Thana Makhdoom Rasheed, at Mouza Nai Wala, Chah Khan Wala, a tragic acid attack incident took place due to a domestic dispute. The accused, Ali Raza, along with his accomplices, threw acid on his mother-in-law Nasreen Bibi and sister-in-law Chandni

Upon receiving information, the police immediately reached the spot, rescued the injured women, and shifted them to the hospital. A case was registered, and investigation was initiated.

On the directives of CPO Multan Sadiq Ali Dogar, the



SP Saddar Khadija Umar enforced against violence police arrested the prime visited the hospital to inquire and acid attacks on women. to the victims.

accused Ali Raza within 24 about the condition of the She assured that the culprits hours and placed him in victims and stated that strict will be awarded the harshest zero-tolerance policy is being punishments under the law and justice will be provided

#### GCWUF and Commissioner Faisalabad Align on Key *Initiatives*

#### 👺 Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: Prof. Dr. Kanwal Ameen (T. I.), Vice Chancellor of Government College Women University Faisalabad (GCWUF), called on Commissioner Faisalabad, Raja Jahangir Anwer, to congratulate him on assuming charge and to explore avenues of collaboration. They both expressed



their commitment to working together on student development opportunities, road improvement at the Main Campus, and provision of an access road to the New Campus, as well as joint environmental protection initiatives. The meeting reflected a shared vision to strengthen academia-administration linkages for the progress of the city and its youth.

#### Public must join hands with the government to eliminate dengue: Naeem Chaudhry

#### **E** City Desk

RAWALPINDI: Muhammad Naeem Chaudhry, social leader and Patron-in-Chief of the Rawalpindi Restaurants, Caterers, Sweets & Bakers Association, appreciated the efforts of the Chief Minister of Punjab and her cabinet in preventing the spread of dengue. He stated that in



view of the rising number of dengue cases, the public must cooperate with the government. He paid tribute to Chief Minister Punjab, Ms. Marvam Nawaz, for mobilizing government resources effectively.

A high-level meeting regarding anti-dengue measures was held at Rawalpindi Medical University, chaired by Provincial Health Minister  $Khawaja\,Salman\,Rafique.\,Muhammad\,Naeem\,Chaudhry\,participated$ as a special guest. Also present were Punjab Health Secretary Azmat Mahmood Khan, Deputy Commissioner Rawalpindi Dr. Hasan Waqar Cheema, Dr. Muhammad Umar, along with other health officials and representatives from relevant departments.

According to Provincial Health Minister Khawaja Salman Rafique, it is encouraging that the number of dengue patients has decreased by 50% compared to last year. Due to the efforts of the administration, the situation in Attock and Murree has also improved. He praised the role of Members of Parliament, district administration, health department,

He further stated that the Provincial Minister made it clear that a zero-tolerance policy would be implemented in anti-dengue measures. For this, the President of the Association, Muhammad Farooq Chaudhry, Chairman Mumtaz Ahmed, and other officials are sincerely grateful, as eradicating dengue is extremely important. Our organization appeals to the public to support the government and play their part in eliminating dengue. Muhammad Naeem Chaudhry also appreciated the efforts of DC Rawalpindi Hasan Waqar Cheema and stated that his role in raising public awareness about the anti-dengue campaign has been very significant.

## Pearl-Continental (PC) Hospitality Expands Presence in Multan with Management of Arena DHA Multan

#### 跨 Zain Khan Malghani

MULTAN,: Pearl-Continental (PC), Group, has entered into a manageattended by senior leadership of PC Multan management, and distin- one roof.

guished personalities of the city.

Located in the heart of DHA Multan, The Arena is designed to redefine gaththe hospitality division of Hashoo erings in South Punjab. The complex boasts a grand seating capacity of ment agreement with DHA Multan over 1,500 guests, 27 luxurious hotel to manage and operate Arena DHA rooms including executive suites, and Multan, the city's premier event and an extensive array of modern amenihospitality complex. The signing ties. Perfectly positioned to host grand ceremony took place at Rumanza by weddings, premium corporate events, Pearl-Continental Hotel, Multan, exhibitions, and cultural festivals, The Arena combines elegance, conveni-Hospitality, Hashoo Group, DHA ence, and world-class facilities under

Speaking on the occasion, Brig Ahmed Rizan Ghumman SI(M), Project Director DHA Multan, highlighted the strategic importance of the collaboration in delivering trusted hospitality experiences to the region. He emphasized that Arena DHA Multan will provide unparalleled sophistication and convenience for every occasion.

Commenting on the collaboration, Bastien Blanc, Chief Executive Officer, Hospitality Division, Hashoo Group, noted that Arena DHA Multan repre-



sents "a unique venue that strengthens

event facilities of international standour portfolio while supporting regional ards." He further reaffirmed PC Hospidevelopment through hospitality and tality's dedication to expanding its foot-

that drive economic social impact with

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### India's chronicle of repression in Kashmir

ashmir is the largest and the oldest foreign occupation, and India the oldest remaining foreign occupier of the world. Indian military-industrial enterprises with the most diabolical political ethos which she has successfully used to ward off the Charter of United Nations and the United Nations Security Council Resolutions, including Resolution 47, adopted on April 21, 1948 mandating an unfettered plebiscite for self-determination.

India is guilty of numerous crimes against Kashmiri population and crimes against humanity, including the following:

- 1. Secretly plotting an illegal invasion into Jammu and Kashmir in cahoots with the British Viceroy Mountbatten and Hindu Maharaja, Hari Singh on October 27, 1947 into the princely state of Jammu and Kashmir.
- 2. Illegally occupying the state permanently against the will of the indigenous people of Kashmir
- 3. Unjustifiably holding and manipulating local illocutions repeatedly for the next five decades under Indian machination with popular will of Kashmiris.
- 4. Defying 23 substantive United Nations Security Council resolutions on Jammu and Kashmir to hold referendum to determining its future.
- 5. According to Jammu and Kashmir Coalition of Civil Society report of 2017 over 70,000 people were killed since 1990. Since then, the number of martyrs has acceded to 100,000.
- 6. The United Staes Department of State report of 1998 citing Amnesty International 200 people died in custody in 1997 alone, and 500-600 disappeared. Association of Parents of Disappeared Persons (APDP) report cites that 8,000 to 10,000 people have disappeared in Kashmir.
- 7. On August 5, 2019 Prime minister Modi's regime suddenly abrogated Articles 370 and 35-A to abrogate Kashmir's semi-autonomous status and fully annex the state. He imposed a complete shut-down and blackout on the valley, shoot on site, blackout on news and communication and total ban on travel. Schools and colleges were shut down. This suffocation lasted for 6-8 months. Kashmir was broken into union territory of
- 8. Most prominent Human Rights activist, politicians and journalists remain in different Indian prisons under draconian laws with minimal if any due process.
- 9. India keeps expropriated Kashmiri land, natural resources and expelling Kashmiri government employees from their positions.
- 10. Over 4.7 million Indians, mainly Hindus are being imported and appropriated under the Indian settler-colonial project, which is part of its original Jammu Genocide of 1947, now being extended to the Kashmir valley. It is reported that more than 300,000 Muslims of Jammu area were massacred
- 11. All this is being done under the broad day light, before the eyes of the world community and the United Nations. All this is being perpetrated before the eyes of 57 Muslim countries and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC).

## Atlas: The Stranger That Stirred the Solar System

that a foreign body, nicknamed Atlas, had drifted into our solar system from the deep unknown, the story ignited imaginations across the world. Unlike the countless comets and asteroids that pass silently and obediently under the rule of gravity, Atlas appeared to resist the script of physics, straying from expected trajectories, releasing strange exhaust, and fueling a chorus of voices who insisted that this was no ordinary celestial wanderer. For some, it was a harbinger of hope, for others a reason for dread, and for many more, simply another case of social media whipping fantasy into fear.

As the reports multiplied, so too did the speculations. Atlas, they said, was not just a ball of rock and ice, but a thinking structure, a body with a mind. It seemed to accelerate and decelerate as if under command. Its tail expelled jets that some described as more like controlled emissions than the natural outgassing of frozen material. More astonishing still were claims about its makeup: pristine water ice, carbon dioxide, nickel, oxygen, and other minerals necessary for sustaining life. If comets are the ancient archives of planetary chemistry, Atlas was presented as something more—a vault stocked with the ingredients of creation. In some theories, it carried not just the seeds of life but the nursery for colonizing Mars, a shortcut to a dream that has eluded human ambition and bankrupted engineering calculations for decades. If Elon Musk and the world's brightest engineers struggled with the exorbitant demands of turning Mars into a second Earth, perhaps, suggested the more audacious voices, Atlas itself had arrived as nature's or someone's readv-

"We should consider the possibility that Atlas is technological," he argued, suggesting that its peculiar behavior could not easily be reconciled with the standard toolkit of cometary physics. Loeb's position, amplified by media headlines hungry for mystery, lent academic weight to what others were too quick to

label fantasy. Yet many astronomers recoiled from this leap. Natural explanations. they insisted, remained the safest bet. Comets do outgas in strange ways; icy jets can mimic controlled propulsion;

dust tails and solar radiation can disturb paths more than simple equations predict. "We must resist the temptation to let imagination outrun data," said Professor Karen Meech of the University of Hawai i, who has studied interstellar objects with NASA's backing. To her, Atlas's chemistry and behavior, though unusual, were still within the margins of cosmic possibility. Extraordinary claims, she reminded us, demand extraordinary evidence, and in the absence of such evidence, science must remain

grounded in caution. Still, in the slipstream of scholarly debate, a flood of less measured voices took hold. Religious preachers framed Atlas as a sign written in scripture, a herald of judgment or renewal. Conspiracy theorists insisted that governments knew more than they admitted, withholding proof of alien fleets. Entrepreneurs of fear churned out videos and posts, monetizing curiosity and anxiety. What had begun as an astronomical observation became a mirror reflecting our own social media

chance against sensation.

The deeper danger lay not in Atlas itself, but in what its story revealed about us. People shared and reshared the most speculative claims, rarely pausing to check their sources. Platforms rewarded the loudest, not the most accurate. Anxiety spread like

static, especially among those predisposed to mistrust official explanations. As studies from the American Psychological Association have shown, misinformation, once lodged in the mind, is resistant to correction. In the digital age, a comet can be transformed into

a spaceship by nothing more than collective imagination, and the correction, even if it comes, arrives too late to erase

This is not the first time our species has faced such a moment. In 1938, Orson Welles's radio dramatization of "War of the Worlds" sparked panic in listeners who mistook fiction for news. Today, Atlas plays a similar role, except that the amplifiers are global, instantaneous, and relentless. The risk is not simply that we misunderstand one comet, but that we normalize a culture where conjecture is sold as fact, where fear is a business model, and where science becomes drowned by noise.

The lesson is not that we should shut down wonder or forbid speculation. Wonder is the soul of science. The lesson is that wonder must be married to honesty. It is one thing to ask, "What if Atlas is a probe?" and another to declare, "Atlas is a probe." It is one thing to invite curiosity, another to inflame fear. Scholars like Loeb remind us that bold ideas have their place,

ecosystem, where truth often stands little but they must be framed as hypotheses, not headlines. Media must learn to distinguish between what is known, what is possible, and what is pure invention. And platforms, if they are to remain responsible guardians of global conversation, must find ways to check the flood of monetized rumor without strangling free inquiry.

Atlas may one day fade from our skies, absorbed into the long list of cosmic visitors that passed through unnoticed. It may shatter, evaporate, or leave quietly into the galactic night. But the story it triggered will remain as a test of how humanity responds when faced with mystery. Do we reach for knowledge or for clicks? Do we calm ourselves with reason or excite ourselves with fear? Do we treat the universe as a source of truth or as a stage for performance? These are questions not about Atlas, but about us.

The future of social media and conventional media alike depends on the answers. We need a culture that prizes credible information, that nurtures critical thinking, that separates speculation from deception. Governments and civil society must press platforms to curb deliberate misinformation. Educators must teach skepticism as a civic skill. And as individuals, we must pause before sharing, ask where claims come from, and remember that not every dazzling tale deserves belief. In the end, Atlas may be no more than a lump of ice and rock obeying hidden but natural laws. The real wonder—and the real danger—lies not in the comet, but in the stories we build around it.

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

## At the Zenith of Power: Pakistan's Diplomatic and Strategic Rise

2025. It would not be an exaggeration to state that such a vigorous and impactful diplomatic drive has rarely been witnessed in the nation's more than seven-decadelong diplomatic history.

Recent constructive engagements and carefully coordinated initiatives — under regional disputes, particularly with India,

the forward-looking leadership of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and the country's Army Chief, Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir — merit genuine recognition.

Beyond bilateral ties, the SMDA holds profound regional implications. It has the potential to serve

as a catalyst for broader defense cooperation across the Arab and Gulf states, creating a collective security framework under the umbrella of Pakistan — a globally acknowledged nuclear power. Should other states adopt similar arrangements, their deterrence posture would be substantially strengthened, minimizing vulnerabilities to external coercion or military adventurism by hostile actors.

Indisputably, Pakistan's stature has witnessed a marked and meteoric rise, not only in South Asia but also across the Arab and Gulf regions. This transformation has positioned Pakistan as a force of considerable weight and relevance in regional and interregional affairs. Several interre-Pakistan's recognized status as the world's

larly after decisively thwarting tary capability, decisively proven during India's blatant and brazen India's failed aggression in May 2025; and, military misadventure in May most importantly, its robust and coherent diplomatic offensive in the aftermath of

Looking ahead, this enhanced stature carries profound implications for Pakistan's future trajectory. Its renewed credibility is likely to bolster its bargaining power in

while also deepening its partnerships with Arab and Gulf allies that increasingly view Pakistan as a reliable strategic partner. Furthermore, the improved perception of Pakistan as both militarily resilient and diplomatically agile creates new avenues for expanded

economic cooperation, foreign investment, and more active participation in multilateral forums. Nonetheless, sustaining this elevated position will require careful balancing — reinforcing military strength while simultaneously investing in longterm diplomatic engagement and internal

economic reforms. Beyond the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA), which has already fortified its security through the SMDA with Pakistan, several other Arab and Gulf states are believed to be actively considering similar arrangements with nuclear-armed Pakistan to safeguard their vulnerable security interests and territorial integrity. Yet, it is imperative to acknowledge a fundamental truth: lated factors account for this development: Pakistan can only serve as a credible and enduring security guarantor if it possesses

akistan's diplomatic offensive seventh nuclear power, which affords it a strong and resilient economy. Without has reached its peak — particu-unmatched strategic deterrence; its mili-economic stability, even the most formieconomic stability, even the most formidable military power cannot be expected to provide sustained strategic support to its allies or to effectively counter potential threats and aggressions.

In this context, Arab and Gulf states endowed with immense financial resources and economic strength - must look beyond short-term defense accords and adopt a more strategic, long-term policy. Supporting Pakistan in overcoming its pressing economic challenges is not charity; it is a mutually beneficial investment in regional security and stability. By extending substantial economic assistance, forging deeper trade and investment partnerships, and facilitating Pakistan's financial recovery, these nations would be strengthening the very foundation of the defense umbrella they seek to rely upon. A militarily strong, nuclear-capable, and economically resilient Pakistan can serve as a linchpin of collective security, ensuring that any pact signed today remains credible, sustainable, and strategically effective well into the future.

In essence, Pakistan stands at a decisive moment in its history. The convergence of military strength, nuclear capability, and diplomatic agility has restored its rightful place in the comity of nations and opened pathways toward a more assertive and influential role in global affairs. If guided with foresight and prudence, this rise could transform Pakistan from a reactive regional actor into a proactive architect of peace, stability, and cooperation in South Asia, the Muslim world, and beyond.

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## **Shiv Sena Mindset Threatens Cricket Diplomacy**

overshadow dialogue, sports diplomacy has emerged as a creative tool for peacebuilding. It offers nations a chance to reconnect through shared passions rather than political agendas. Since the late nineteenth century, international sports have been seen as a means to promote peace among nations. Pierre de Coubertin, founder of the modern Olympic Games, believed that global sports competitions could reduce the chances of war and foster mutual understanding. Reflecting this vision, UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan in 2000 affirmed that the Olympic ideals of tolerance, equality, and fair play align with the United

Nations' mission to promote global peace. The UN General Assembly, in its 70th session, passed a resolution recognizing the power of sports in promoting peace, dialogue, and development. Titled "Building a Peaceful and Better World through Sport and the Olympic Ideal," the resolution urged all nations to observe the Olympic Truce during the 2016 Rio Olympic and Paralympic Games. It emphasized that sports can

unite people and help build understanding in conflict

Although General Zia-ul-Haq's cricket diplomacy did not bring major changes in India-Pakistan relations, it opened a door for future engagement through sports. In 1997, the Indian cricket team visited Pakistan to play One Day matches, reviving people-to-people contact. However, after both countries carried out nuclear tests in 1998, cricket ties were again suspended.

A new hope appeared when Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vaipavee visited Lahore. During his visit, he and Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif agreed to resume cricket between the two nations. In 1999, the Pakistani team toured India and received a warm welcome. According to the team manager, Shaharyar Khan, Indian fans showed great love and support. In Chennai, more than 40,000 spectators shouted slogans of "Long Live Pakistan-India Friendship."

However, not everyone welcomed this friendship.

n today's world, where political tensions often The extremist group Shiv Sena issued threats and even tried to stop the matches by digging up the pitch. Despite such actions, the reaction of the Indian public showed that they wanted peace and friendship through sports

rather than confrontation. The cricket diplomacy between India and Pakistan. once seen as a bridge of peace, has once again collapsed due to the Shiv Sena mindset that has deeply penetrated both the government level and the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI). This extremist attitude has not only destroyed the spirit of sportsmanship but also

violated the basic ethics of the game. This typical mindset was also visible during the match,

where players from both sides appeared distant from each other, and the cricket ground seemed to have turned into a battlefield. The final of the Asia Cup was played between the two teams, but the rivalry fuelled by the Indian media and further intensified by Indian fans reached its peak. The hostility deepened even more when the victorious Indian team refused to receive the trophy from Mohsin Naqvi, the Chairman of

the Asian Cricket Council, who also heads the Pakistan Cricket Board.

Such actions clearly show how political animosity and extremism have overshadowed the true essence of cricket, which was once celebrated as a means to foster peace and friendship between the two nations.

Cricket diplomacy must once again serve as a bridge of harmony, uniting people beyond borders and reviving the true spirit of the game. The recent conduct of the BCCI reflects an alarming rise of intolerance and arrogance that has no place in international sports. Such extremist tendencies not only tarnish India's image but also poison the very purpose of cricket, a game meant to foster friendship, respect, and peace. If the ICC continues to remain silent and fails to act firmly against these unethical acts, it will set a dangerous precedent and erode the credibility of the sport. The BCCI must rise above the Shiv Sena mindset and realise that cricket thrives on sportsmanship, not on hatred and hostility.

## Ambassador Dr. Jemal awarded honorary PhD degree for strengthening Ethio-Pakistan ties

#### 👺 Bureau Report

KARACHI: H. E. Kamran Khan Tessori, Governor of Sindh, Pakistan, conferred an Honorary PhD ceremony of the Sir Syed University of degree and a gold medal on H. E. Dr. Engineering and Technology, held at Jemal Beker Abdula, Special Envoy the Governor House Sindh. The event and Ambassador Extraordinary of was attended by government officials, the Federal Democratic Republic of Parliamentarians, the diplomatic Ethiopia to the Islamic Republic of corps, the business community, civil

strengthening the diplomatic relations between the two countries.

The Ambassador was honored with the distinction at a special convocation Pakistan, for his exceptional work in society representatives, and media.

Addressing the convocation, the Governor of Sindh lauded the efforts of Ambassador Dr. Jemal Beker Abdula for his remarkable contributions to strengthening the bilateral relationship between Ethiopia and Pakistan.

He specifically appreciated the Ambassador's critical role in commencing the operations of Ethiopian Airlines in Pakistan, which has served as a key instrument of Paki-

stan's Look Africa and Engage Africa policies.

The Ambassador expressed his gratitude to the Governor of Sindh for the honor and recognition of his work.

He called the Governor as a "Friend of Ethiopia", recognizing his key role

Embassy in Islamabad, the exchange of official and business delegations, and the launch of Ethiopian Airlines in Karachi.

Following the ceremony, the two sides held a meeting and discussed tion in these diverse areas.

in the establishment of the Ethiopian the growing bilateral cooperation in areas including trade, investment, aviation, environment, education, health, culture, and tourism.

They agreed to further deepen bilateral relations by enhancing coopera-



## UAE Consul General visits Aaghosh Old Home

#### 👺 Bureau Report

KARACHI: On the occasion of the International Day of Older Persons, the Consul General of the United Arab Emirates in Karachi, H. E. Bakheet Ateeq Al Romaithi, paid a compassionate visit to Aaghosh Old Home, a charitable institution that for the past 25 years has been providing shelter, dignity, and care to elderly, destitute, and differently-abled women. His visit not only uplifted the spirits of the residents but also brought renewed hope for the expansion of Aaghosh's humanitarian mission.

Speaking on the occasion, the Consul General commended the extraordinary services of Aaghosh Old Home, describing it as "a beacon of hope for shelterless and marginalized women." He praised the management, trustees, and volunteers for their



sincerity, and humanity. However, he least 2,000 square yards of permaalso highlighted a serious challenge: despite decades of service, Aaghosh still operates in a rented facility. He its residents. tireless efforts carried out with zeal, emphasized the urgent need for at

nent accommodation to provide a safe and sustainable environment for

President of Aaghosh Trust, expressed her gratitude for the Consul General's encouragement. Sharing her personal motivation, she recalled her own siblings who were mentally challenged, explaining how that experience inspired her to create a safe home for such children. "Karachi, despite being Pakistan's largest city, still lacks specialized facilities for these children. With the support of the UAE Consulate, I hope to realize this dream," she said.

Trustee Mr. Shakil Baig thanked H. E. Al Romaithi for taking time from his demanding diplomatic schedule to personally engage with the residents, calling it a morale-boosting moment for both the women and the manage-

On this occasion, Trustee Manzar Naqvi and Media Adviser Mubasher Mir were also present and briefed the Consul General about the future plans Ms. Shagufta Saba, Founder and and pressing needs of the institution.

## Made in Pakistan exhibition creates buzz for Pakistani products in Bangladesh

ISLAMABAD: Founder Chairman of Pakistan Association of Exhibition Industry Muhammad Khurshid Barlas called on Pakistan High Commissioner to Bangladesh Imran Haider. The founding chairman reviewed the exhibition which was held from September 23 to 27 at the International Convention City Bashundhara ICCB Dhaka, Bangladesh. It was told that the exhibition involved the textile industry, food products, consumer products, footwear, household goods, tiles and ceram-



ics, gems and jewelry, sports equipment, service providers, fashion and fabrics, tourism and handicraft products and other sectors.

The Pakistani High Commissioner congratulated the founding chairman Khurshid Barlas on the excellent organization of the third Made in Pakistan Exhibition and Business Investment Conference. Organizing exhibitions is very important to expand trade and find new avenues. Pakistani High Commissioner Imran Haider. Founder Chairman Khurshid Barlas said that the aim of the event is to highlight Pakistani products. Pakistani products were introduced in Bangladesh. Thank God, Pakistani products were very popular in Bangladesh. After 14 years, the Made in Pakistan exhibition will further strengthen trade relations between the two countries. Pakistani women entrepreneurs can benefit from the developing textile industry of Bangladesh. While Bangladeshi businesswomen can find new customers in Pakistan's growing retail market.

## Tashkent will host International exhibition for "Education and Learning Technologies -Ta'lim Expo/ISUE"

#### **Spokesman Report**

TASHKENT: The International Exhibition for Education and Learning Technologies - Ta'lim Expo/ISUE ber 10-12, 2026.

Uzbekistan is driving sweeping of the key priorities of the "New Uzbekistan" Development Strategy.

tion is the cornerstone of the country's modernisation and the preparation of young people for the challenges of the 21st century.

In recent years, new learning stand-

will take place in Tashkent on Novemards have been introduced, modern schools and universities established, and digital technologies integrated reforms in its education system, one alongside training programmes for marketable professions.

A landmark step came with President Shavkat Mirziyoyev has declaring 2026 as the "Year of Youth repeatedly underlined that educa- Empowerment through Professional Training".

The International Exhibition for Education and Learning Technologies - "Ta'lim Expo/ISUE" will bring together educational institutions,

EdTech companies, government and an annual platform showcasing the international organizations, the business community, academia, and experts to discuss strategic pathways for developing human capital, from preschool and school education to professional retraining and advanced training of specialists in the rapidly changing labor

Special attention will be paid to lifelong learning, the integration of innovative technologies into the learning process, the development of soft and digital skills, and exploring solutions for cooperation between the state and business in training qualified profes-

"Ta'lim Expo/ISUE" will become

cutting-edge educational solutions in the field of education and shaping new approaches to the development of the education sector in line with the goals of sustainable economic growth and the country's global competitiveness.

The organizers: international exhibition company Iteca Exhibitions and its partner Congresses of Central Asia (CCA) inspired by the President's initiatives to reform the education system, are relaunching their third education-focused exhibition, further expanding the company's portfolio of projects in strategically important areas of the economy and social life.

### PM's Youth Program, UNFPA launch Youth Development Index Tool 2025



跨 City Desk

 $ISLAMABAD: The\ United\ Nations\ Population\ Fund\ (UNFPA-Pakistan)$ on Wednesday launched the Youth Development Index (YDI) Tool 2025, in collaboration with the Prime Minister's Youth Program (PMYP) and SDPI as implementing partner, to develop the Pakistan Youth Development Index (PYDI) - 2026 to systematically measure and track the progress of youth well-being and development in Pakistan.

The YDI Tool 2025 has been rolled out with the clear objective to collate the progress on youth development for establishing YDI 2026 that demonstrate Pakistan's commitment to global frameworks such as the UN, Commonwealth, and other international organizations.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Muhammad Ali Malik, Deputy Secretary to the Prime Minister, emphasized the urgent need for the Pakistan Youth Development Index (PYDI), highlighting the country's unique demographic profile. According to the 2023 Census, nearly 68% to 70% of Pakistan's population is under the age of 30, equivalent to almost three out of every four Pakistanis.

#### Shokat Ali leads British Muslim Friends of Labour in hosting cross-community lunch at party conference



**Chaudhry Tabraiz Aurah** 

LIVERPOOL: The British Muslim Friends of Labour, under the chairmanship of Shokat Ali, hosted a distinguished cross-community lunch during the Labour Party Conference in Liverpool, bringing together senior parliamentarians, diplomats, and community leaders from across the United Kingdom. The high-profile gathering showcased Labour's commitment to inclusivity, dialogue, and partnership between diverse communities. It was attended by eminent representatives from different faiths, cultures, and political backgrounds, symbolising the spirit of unity. Among the notable guests were: Abida Islam, High Commissioner of Bangladesh, Koray Ertaş, Ambassador of Turkey, Shaikh Fawaz Al Khalifa, High Commissioner of Bahrain, Rt Hon Afzal Khan MP, Yasmin Qureshi MP, Sir Stephen Timms MP, Tan Dhesi MP, Abthisam Mohammed, Lord Russell. Their presence highlighted the growing importance of dialogue between international representatives, British Muslims, and the wider political The event served as a platform to address Labour Party policy, community cohesion, and the vital role of British Muslims in strengthening the UK's social and economic fabric.

## PIDE Hosts Seminar on National AI Policy: Bridging Gaps in Pakistan's AI Roadmap

#### 👺 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) hosted a high-profile seminar on Pakistan's newly launched National Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy, focusing on the theme "Bridging Gaps in Pakistan's AI Roadmap: Opportunities, Challenges and the Way Forward." The session brought together policymakers, academics, entrepreneurs, and industry leaders to deliberate on the transformative potential of AI for Pakistan's economy, governance, and society.

The panel featured distinguished speakers including Dr. Anil Salman, Chair of the Government of Pakistan's AI Policy Committee; Dr. Najibullah, Member Science and Technology at the Planning Commission of Pakistan; Ms. Suniya Shahid, CEO & Co-founder of Techvention Ltd.; and Dr. Naveed Iftikhar, CEO of Atomcamp, who joined virtually via Zoom. The discussion was moderated by Mr. Wajid Islam, Research Economist at

Dr. Salman explained the policy's vision as bold, ethical, and transformative, stressing inclusivity across economic, social, and technological dimensions. He highlighted that the policy was developed through exten-



Dr. Najibullah discussed the financial ecosystem and emphasized the importance of venture capital and accelerators to bridge Pakistan's "valley of death" in scaling startups. He

announced a Public Venture Capital Fund of PKR 2 billion and highlighted the need for global accelerators to support Pakistani innovators.

Ms. Suniya Shahid presented an industry perspective, stressing the importance of AI adoption in healthcare and the need for ethical auditing mechanisms to ensure responsible AI

Joining via Zoom, Dr. Naveed Iftikhar highlighted the gap between market competitiveness.

policy formulation and adoption, stressing that AI integration within government, universities, and industries remains slow.

In his concluding remarks, Dr. Nasir Iqbal, Associate Professor and Registrar at PIDE, reflected on the macroeconomic implications of AI policy. He stressed that the success of the policy must be judged on three fundamental pillars: productivity, inclusivity, and

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

'`` Index Fluctuation			
Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index			
Current	Prev. Close		
165,640.33	165,493.58		
Day's High	Day's Low		
166,522.61	164,155.32		
Index Value	Change		
55,357,391,151	+146.75		
Percentage	Time		
+0.09%	1 Oct, 2025 4:30 pm		
Europe: FTSE 100 Index			
Index Value	Change		
9,446.43	+96.00		
Percentage	Time		
1.03%	1 Oct, 4:35 pm GMT+1		
USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average			
Index Value	Change		
46,421.92	+24.03		
Percentage	Time		

+0.052%	GMT-4	
Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Ave		
Index Value	Change	
44,550.85	-381.78	
Percentage	Time	
0.95%	1 Oct, 3:45 pm	

GMT + 9

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	185	190
Bahrain Dinar	746.4	753.9
Canadian Dollar	206	212
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	1.8760	1.9760
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	75.15	75.80
Singapore Dollar	216.25	221.25
Swedish Korona	29.99	30.29
Swiss Franc	355.02	357.77
Thai Bhat	8.73	8.88
U.A.E Dirham	77	78
UK Pound Sterling	379.5	383.5
US Dollar	282.25	282.35

#### Real-time deepfake services now 400x cheaper on darknet: Kaspersky Warns



#### **Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Kaspersky's Global Research and Analysis Team (GReAT) have uncovered ads on darknet offering realtime video and audio deepfake services. Prices reportedly start at \$50 for fake videos and \$30 for fabricated voice messages, with costs rising based on the complexity and duration of the content. These findings were made after analyzing multiple Russian- and English-language platforms.

"Deepfakes pose a growing threat to both organizations and individuals," said Muhammad Asad Ul Rehman, Cyber Security Expert and Trainer. "From financial scams and reputational damage to data leaks and market instability, the risks for companies are severe. On a personal level, deepfakes can enable fraud, identity theft, blackmail, and even career sabotage. Combating this challenge requires a mix of awareness, strong verification practices, AI detection tools, and supportive policy measures to protect society from manipulation and harm."

#### Gold price surges by Rs3,500 to Rs410,278 per tola

ISLAMABAD: The price of 24 karat gold witnessed an increase of Rs3,500 on Wednesday and was sold all time high at Rs410,278 per tola as compared to Rs406,778 on the last trading day.

According to All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association, the price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also increased by Rs3,001 to Rs351,747 from Rs348,746 whereas 10 grams of 22 karat gold went up to Rs322,446 from Rs319,695, showing a rise of Rs2,751.

## A delegation of ICCI and UBG met with the newly appointed Ambassador of Austria

#### **Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: A delegation of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) and the United Business Group (UBG) met with the newly appointed Ambassador of Austria to Pakistan, H. E. Mr. Wolfgang Oliver Kutschera, at the Austrian Embassy. The delegation comprised ICCI President Sardar Tahir Mehmood, UBG Secretary General Zafar Bakhtawari, and ICCI Senior Vice President Tahir Ayub.

The meeting was held in a cordial atmosphere and reflected a strong spirit of mutual understanding between the Austrian Embassy and Pakistan's business community. The Ambassador expressed Austria's willingness to further promote bilateral trade and business relations with Pakistan, assuring his full cooperation with ICCI in strengthening ties in the future.

ICCI President Sardar Tahir Mehmood reaffirmed the Chamber's commitment to



working closely with the Austrian Embassy, expressing readiness for B2B meetings to explore partnerships in the IT, agriculture, mining, and business sectors.

Zafar Bakhtawari Secretary General UBG, underscored the importance of peace and stability for business and economic growth, recalling Austria's historic role as a neutral country during the Cold War. He emphasized that ongoing regional conflicts - such as the Russia-Ukraine war, tensions in South Asia, and instability in the Middle East - continue to pose challenges to global

ICCI Senior Vice President Tahir Ayub highlighted the potential for agriculture cooperation, particularly the export of Pakistani fruits and vegetables, including mangoes, to Austria.

The Ambassador, while appreciating these proposals, assured the delegation of his continued support in strengthening economic and cultural ties between Austria and Pakistan.

#### Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Petroleum Ali Pervaiz Malik held a meeting with Mr. Pierce Onthank, CEO of Hycarbex-American Energy, and Mr. Faheem Haider, CEO of Mari Energies on Wednes-



## CCP approves PTCL acquisition of Telenor Pakistan with conditions

**Example 2** Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) has approved the acquisition of 100% shareholding of Telenor Pakistan (Pvt.) Ltd. and Orion Towers (Pvt.) Ltd. by Pakistan Telecommunication Company Limited (PTCL), subject to extensive conditions designed to preserve competition and ensure non-discriminatory access and secure the pass-through of efficiencies to consumers

The order was announced today at a press conference held at CCP head office. CCP Chairman Dr. Kabir Ahmed Sidhu, Member Salman Amin, Mr Shahzad Hussain, Regis $trar\,CCP\,and\,Head\,of\,Legal\,Ms.$ Ambreen Abbasi shared the key highlights. They explained that CCP conducted a comprehensive review of the merger trans-



market structure, concentration competition risks.

CCP Chairman Dr. Kabir expand product offerings, and Ahmed Sidhu emphasized accelerate technological innothat the Commission's deci-vation, including the rollout

action. The review examined sion ensures a level playing field for all telecom operators levels, efficiencies, and potential and safeguards consumer interests. He noted that the merger Speaking on the occasion, aims to enhance service quality,

of 5G. He further stated that CCP studied various of international precedents, including orders from the United States, United Kingdom, and European Union, involving similar transactions before granting approval.

Senior Legal Advisor Ms. Ambreen Abbasi explained that the assessment considered possible lessening of competition in the relevant sub-markets, market shares, and efficiency claims. She underlined that the merger was approved conditionally, with safeguards designed to prevent anti-competitive conduct.

Member CCP, Mr. Salman Amin, added that the conditions are specifically aimed at preventing favoritism, predatory pricing, and barriers to market entry, while ensuring continued regulatory oversight by CCP and PTA.

#### Women's Chamber Multan, meet with project director DHA Multan



Kiran Asim

President of Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry Multan, Ms. Farah Saqib, and executive members met Multan, Rizwan Ghuman. On this occasion, opportunities for mutual cooperation and common interests between the two institutions President, Masoomah Found- present.

er President, and Executive Member Quratul Ain, Nosheela Naeem, were present on the occasion. Multan: President of Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry Multan Ms. Farah Saqib with Project Director DHA and executive members met with Project Director DHA Multan Rizwan Ghuman. Project Director DHA Rizwan Ghuman presented a shield to President of Women were discussed. President Chamber of Commerce and Women Chamber Ms. Farah Industry Ms. Farah Saqib Saqib expressed the hope that on behalf of Project Directhis collaboration will not only tor DHA Multan. She was give women an opportunity accompanied by Senior Vice to move forward in the busi- President Nadia Wasim Filza ness field but will also play an Mumtaz Farmer President, important role in the econom- Masoomah Faw The Presiic development of the region. dent of the Neddar, and the Senior Vice President Nadia Executive Member of Quratul Wasim, Filza Mumtaz Farmer Ain, Nosheela Naeem, are

### TPL REIT Management joins hand with partners to raise funds for the new REIT

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: TPL REIT Management Company Limited (TPL RMC) has entered into a Strategic Partnership Agreement with Topline Securities Limited and Growth Securities (Private) Limited to raise funds for the new REIT.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Jamal Baquar, CEO of TPL RMC, said, "This strategic partnership combines TPL RMC's strong asset pipeline, TPL REIT Fund 1's strong anchor investor base of 8 of the leading banks of Pakistan, with the capital

markets expertise of Topline and Growth Securities, two of Pakistan's leading brokerage houses.

Muhammad CEO of Topline Securities, commented: "We believe that the upcoming economic recovery and rising equity market provide an ideal environment for REITs to raise

Iqbal A. Karim, Chairman of Growth Securities, added: This collaboration will help deepen Pakistan's real estate market, provide muchneeded market depth, and open new avenues for investor participation."

## JazzCash and Saylani Welfare Trust Join Hands

**E** Commerce Desk

KARACHI: JazzCash and Saylani Welfare Trust have joined hands to digitize monthly Kifalat ration disbursements and education fee payments, expanding their collaboration beyond donations. Under the initiative, 5,000 families will now receive rations directly through JazzCash wallets or CNIC-based payments, while more than 22,000 students in Saylani's technical education programs will have the option to pay their fees digitally via

Arif Chaudhary, VP Public



Sector Partnerships at Jazz- convenience, it changes how Cash, said Digitizing welfare support is delivered. By moving is not only about speed and disbursements into the formal

financial system, families begin to build a financial footprint that can connect them to services such as savings, credit, and insurance.

Bashir Ahmed Polani, Chairman of Saylani Welfare Trust, said "Our ambition is to make both donations and disbursements completely cashless, reducing hassle for donors and recipients alike. Going digital makes the entire process more efficient and trustworthy, ensuring that support reaches those who need it with dignity. This partnership with JazzCash is a key step toward that vision."

### **Pak-Saudi Economic** Corridor is urging need of hour



Commerce Desk

LAHORE: SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry former President Iftikhar Ali Malik Wednesday stressed the urgent need for developing Pak-Saudi Economic Corridor (PSEC) on the pattern of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor to further fortify recent historic defence pact

between the both Muslim Iftikhar Ali Malik said

Saudi Vision 2030, aimed at economic diversification, industrial development, and reducing dependency on oil, provides Pakistan with a unique opportunity to become a key partner in this transformation. Pakistan's Gwadar Port can serve as a vital trade gateway for Saudi exports to Central Asia, China, and beyond, while Saudi investment in Pakistan's energy and industrial sectors can help overcome Pakistan's chronic economic bottlenecks.

## Fatima Sana banks on spinners to do well in World Cup

Sports Desk

LAHORE,: Pakistan Women's Captain Fatima Sana has said that the team has the services of world-spinners and they will hopefully take advantage of similar pitch conditions in Sri Lanka and the team will do well in the ICC Women's World Cup 2025.

Speaking at the pre-match press conference at the R. Premadasa stadium, Colombo on Wednesday, she expressed the hope the team will overcome pressure of the mega event and do well in the tournament, adding that Pakistan Women had done well against Bangladesh in the World Cup qualifiers in Lahore and they will take that momentum into tomorrow's match.

Pakistan Women will meet Bangladesh in their opening match of their campaign in the ICC Women's World Cup 2025. Pakistan are due to play all their matches in the world cup at R. Premadasa stadium in Colombo, Sri

All-rounder are backbone of a team and good all-rounder are vital to the performance of a team, adding that the team has services of three all-rounders including Omaima Sohail, Rameen



Shamim and Natalia Pervaiz besides her. She said she will give her best in the tournament.

Captaincy is a tough job but she is to do well at the biggest stage of the are a good sign for the team.

World Cup. and Aaliya Riaz are senior players and familiar with the conditions in Sri Lanka, confident to execute the plans in order adding that there experience and form

Fatima Sana said that the coaching To a query, she said that Sidra Amin staff has worked on exploiting reverse swing in the sub-continent conditions, adding that she and Diana Baig will try replicate their performance as pacers and produce wickets during the middle overs.

## Malik Faisal inaugurates 44th National Kabaddi Championship

**15** Tahir Amin Malik.

ISLAMABAD: Punjab Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs Malik Faisal Ayub Khokhar has inaugurated the 44th National Kabaddi Championship at Punjab Stadium, Lahore.

Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Muzaffar Khan Sial, Director General Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Khizar Afzaal Chaudhry and Secretary Pakistan Kabaddi Federation (PKF) Rana Sarwar attended the opening ceremony. Besides them, several national kabaddi stars and a large number of kabaddi enthusiasts were also present

As many as 12 teams, including Pakistan Army, Pakistan Air Force, Wapda, HEC, Police, Railways, Punjab, Sindh, Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and Islamabad are participating in the National Kabaddi Championship being organised at the Punjab Stadium from October 1 to 5. Captain of national kabaddi team Shafiq Chishti took oath to compete with dedication, sportsmanship, and commitment to the true spirit

of the game. While talking to media, on this occasion, Punjab Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs Malik Faisal Ayub Khokhar said that kabaddi is part of our culture and tradition and our youth has special attraction for this exciting game. "Several kabaddi players have



from all participating players pledging Endowment Fund and are being fully supported by the government for their training to participate in top kabaddi events".

The provincial minister further said that kabaddi is a traditional game of Punjab and the Punjab government is taking effective measures for its promotion among the younger generation. "The potential kabaddi players are being provided sufficient playing opportuni-

priority of the Punjab government".

Punjab Minister for Sports and Youth he remarked". Affairs Malik Faisal Ayub Khokhar said that the presence of young talented enthralling game that provided plenty for the country".

promotion of sports culture is the top tors as well. No matter which province wins, the true victory will be of Kabaddi,"

He said the game of kabaddi is helping a lot in highlighting Pakistan's kabaddi players from all over Pakistan soft image. "Kabaddi has a signifiis commendable. "Kabaddi is such an cant place in national sports due to its exciting and entertaining game which immense popularity in all parts of the created motivation and courage among country. There is no doubt that talented the young people. Kabaddi is such an kabaddi players are no less than an asset

## Medicam Trophy U-19 Inter Zonal Cricket Tournament from Sunday 5th October

Zahid Hussain Bukhari will be the chief Guest

**Sports Desk** 

KARACHI: Khalid Nafees Chairman Tournament Committee announced the 3rd Phase of RCAK Talent Hunt Programme begins with Medicam Trophy Under-19 Inter Zonal Cricket Tournament from Sunday 5th October.

Trophy Under-19 Inter Zonal Cricket

Sunday 5th October at KCCA Stadium.

On this occasion Zahid Hussain Group of Companies will be the Chief Guest and inaugurate the Tournament.

Selected Players of Zone-I Whites The Opening Match of the Medicam and Zone-IV Greens are advised to report at 8.30 am, While Other Zonal

Tournament will be played between Selected Players are also advised to Medicam Group of Companies after Zone-I Whites vs Zone-IV Greens on report M. Touseef Siddiqui, Tournathe year of 2013. In which 16 Zonal ment Secretary and their Zonal Offi- teams two from each Zone and Three cials on Sunday 5th October at 11 am teams of Zone-III and Zone-IV are Bukhari Executive Director Medicam at KCCA Stadium on White Kit along participating in the event. with data form with documents Smart Card/CNIC/FRC for Scrutiny.

Karachi with the collaboration of

All the matches of the tournament will be played on PCB One Day Tour-The tournament is being organ- nament Rules with 40 overs basis, and ized by Regional Cricket Association a bowler can not bowl more than 8

## IPC Ministry gifts new sports facilities to Islamabad Students

**Sports Desk** 

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Inter-Provincial Coordination (IPC) has gifted two modern sports facilities to Islamabad's girls' colleges, opening new doors for youth engagement and physical development. Activewear

Under the leadership of Federal Secretary IPC Mohyuddin Wani, Federal Parliamentary Secretary IPC Kiran Imran Dar, and Director General Pakistan Sports Board Yasir Pirzada, a brand new Pedal Tennis Court was inaugurated at Islamabad College for Girls (ICG) F-8/1, along with a state-of-the-art Futsal Ground here at IMCG F-7/4.

This initiative reflects the government's vision of offering students greater opportunities to stay active, foster team-

work, and lead healthier lives. Speaking on the occasion here at future.



IMCG F-7/4, Secretary IPC Mohyuddin Wani said, "Every week we are bringing good news for the youth of Islamabad.

Sports plus students equals a strong

These new facilities are a gift to our young generation, encouraging them to excel not only in academics but also in physical activities.

He further emphasized the govern-

ment's commitment to youth development, adding that we want to ensure every child in Islamabad has access to quality sports infrastructure.

These initiatives are investments in a healthier, stronger, and brighter Paki-

Director General Pakistan Sports Board (PSB) Yasir Pirzada urged the girls to become self independent so that they won't have to depend on anyone in life. "If you won't depend on anybody than no one can exploit you," he said.

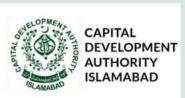
The new facilities will host regular student activities, inter-college competitions, and sports festivals, ensuring maximum participation of young players.

The IPC Ministry has once again reinforced its mission of promoting grassroots sports and empowering students through healthy avenues of growth and development.

## CDA bags RISJA Inter-Media Cricket Tournament title

➢ Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD,: The Capital Development Authority displayed top notch performance to outplay Dunya News by 186 runs in the final of the 2nd RISJA Inter-Media Cricket Tourna-



ment here at the National Cricket Ground on Wednesday.

Batting first, CDA piled up a mammoth 245 for 5 in 20 overs. Faisal Satti played a blistering knock of 71 off just 22 balls, earning him the Player of the Match award. He was well supported by Touseef Sarwar (67 off 36 balls) and Rizwan Sarwar (62 off 35 balls), who kept the scoreboard ticking with aggressive stroke play.

Chasing the huge target, Dunya News faltered badly and were bundled out for only 59 runs in 12.1 overs. Only Asad (15 runs) offered some resistance while the rest of the batting lineup collapsed against CDA's bowling attack.

After the match, a prize distribution ceremony was held where Chairman Capital Development Authority (CDA) Muhammad Ali Randhawa was the chief guest. The champions CDA team was awarded with a cash prize of Rs300,000 along with the winners' trophy, while Dunya News received Rs200,000 and the runners-up

On the occasion, Fazlur Rehman of Zakat Foundation and Chaudhry Muhammad Zahid, CEO of Bravo Foods, also presented shields to the tournament's best performers.

The event was attended by players, officials, and media representatives who lauded the successful organization of the tournament.

#### Three more matches conclude in PCB Talent Hunt Programme for Cricket Championship (Karachi Region)

**₿** Sports Desk

KARACHI: Three more matches decided in the PCB Talent Hunt Programme for School Championship (Karachi Region) at various Grounds of the City.

The highlights of the days play was Brilliant all-round Performance by Aaish Malik got 4 for 14 and then he scored 42. and Fine batting by Kaleem ullah 76.

Standard Secondary school beat Mumtaz Government Boys Secondary school by 8 wickets at IBA Cricket Ground. Mumtaz Government Boys Secondary school 145 all-out in 37 overs. Amanullah 51 5x4 1x6, Muhammad Abdullah 21. Aaish Malik (ob) 4/14,

Match Usaid 2/26 In reply Standard Secondary school 147/3 in 20.3 overs. Muhammad Naveed 51 6x4 1x6, Aaish Malik 42 5x4 1x6, Soman

In the 2nd Match Hira Foundation School beat Karachi Public School by 7 Wickets at Darul uloom Korangi. Karachi Public School 65 allout in 16.3 overs. Sved Muhammad Avan 36. Shahzaib Ashfaq 3/23, Muhammad Aqil 2/3, Maaz Maqbool 2/16, Jakwan Usmani

In reply Hira Foundation School 66/3 in 11.3 overs. Jakwan Usmani 15, Fakhar uddin 15 not out.

In the 3rd Match of the day Oasis Secondary school beat Al Haider Secondary school by 149 runs at NED University Ground. Oasis Secondary school 249/9 in 40 overs. Kaleemulllah 76 4x4 8v6 Uzair Khan 50 5v4 3v6 Sved Mehdi Rizvi 46 4v4 9v6 Muhammad Sajjad 23. Jazim Ali3/43, Shaheer Ali2/40, Hanzala Tariq 2/47, Syed Jazir Rizvi 2/61.

In reply Al Haider School 100 all-out in 21.4 overs. Aman Haider 28. Syed Mehdi Rizvi 2/7, Uzair Khan 2/18, Muhammad Hafeez

#### Pakistan outplays New Zealand in ATF Team C'ships

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan recorded a remarkable victory, defeating strong contenders New Zealand 2-1 on the second day of the ATF 12 & Under Intercontinental Team Competition 2025.

Pakistan is placed in Group C alongside Korea and New Zealand in the event, underway at Shymkent Kazakhstan with the participation of 12 nations from across the globe, said a press

Participating Nations: Australia, Africa (CAT), China, Chinese Taipei, South America (COSAT), Hong Kong, Kazakhstan, Korea, New Zealand, Pacific Oceania, Pakistan, Thailand.

Pakistan lost against the top team of Asia, Korea, 2-1 on Tuesday in a very close encounter.

Aisam-ul-Haq Qureshi, President PTF, congratulated the team on this remarkable victory and said our boys are going well in the tournament. Against top teams like Korea yesterday, they played really well and he hoped they would continue this performance.

Col. (R) Zia-ud-din Tufail, Secretary-General PTF, also congratulated the team and said our team is performing well and will continue the same performance in the championships.

## 90% demands of ACC accepted: Dr. Tariq Fazal

Sontinued from Page 1

He regretted that violence erupted despite the progress, stressing that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had even expressed readiness to personally meet AAC leaders upon his return from London.

Azad Jammu Kashmir Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq, speaking on the occasion, said dialogue was the only way to resolve disputes. "Provoking people through civilian groups leads to anarchy and needless loss of human lives. I extend an open invitation to the Awami Action Committee to engage in talks," he said.

Expressing grief over casualties, he said three policemen were martyred and nearly 150 others injured, including eight in critical condition. "I had repeatedly warned that the protest would not remain peaceful, as different groups were active in various areas," he noted.

He reiterated that the government was prepared to resume dialogue in Muzaffarabad, Rawalakot, or any other part of AJK. "Violence only brings bloodshed. Taking one life is like taking the life of all humanity. We must avoid a path that leads to further tragedy," he said.

The AJK premier recalled that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, as Chairman of the Jammu and Kashmir Council, had deputed two federal ministers to monitor the negotiations. "The talks were not declared a failure; they only faced a deadlock on two constitutional matters. When 90 percent of issues are settled, the rest can also be resolved," he added.

He added that the prime minister had conveyed his willingness to personally hear the AAC's concerns, saying that after such assurances, there was no justification for violent demonstrations.

## The Spokesman

# Meeting ISLAMABAD: Acting President Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani in a meeting with the Ambassador of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Dr Jemal Beker Abdullah, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, on Wednesday.

## Israeli navy seizes Gazabound Global Sumud Flotilla carrying humanitarian aid

**B** Spokesman Report

JERUSALEM/GAZA: The Israeli navy on Wednesday launched an operation against the Gaza-bound Global Sumud Flotilla, detaining crew members and cutting off live transmissions from several vessels, according to activists and regional media reports.

Reports say the communications between a number of hips were disrupted as the flotilla entered what participants described as a "danger zone" in the Mediterranean.

More than 500 activists from 44 countries are on board nearly 50 boats, including prominent figures such as climate activist Greta Thunberg, Nelson Mandela's grandson Mandla Mandela, and several Euro- international waters north pean lawmakers. The flotilla is carrying a symbolic amount of humanitarian aid – mainly food and medicine - for jammed communications. Palestinians in the besieged and disabled live cameras. "It on deck. enclave of Gaza. Among those was an intimidation act. They



on board is former Pakistani

senator Mushtaq Ahmad. By Wednesday afternoon, the vessels were sailing in of Egypt. Overnight, activists reported that two Israeli warships circled their boats,

wanted us to see them," said activist Lisi Proenca, who was aboard one of the targeted

Despite the encounters, the flotilla continued broadcasting live streams, with activists chanting "Free Palestine" and though no evidence has been displaying solidarity messages

Gideon Saar described the flotilla as a provocation, urging participants to halt their voyage and deliver aid through authorised channels. Israel has accused some flotilla members of links to Hamas,

European responses have

Minister Pedro Sánchez defended the mission as a legitimate humanitarian effort, offering full diplomatic protection for Spanish nationals on board. Italy, however, urged caution, warning the mission risked complicating US-led efforts to resolve the Gaza war.

Under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, a state's jurisdiction extends only 12 nautical miles from its shores. While intercepting ships in international waters is generally prohibited, exceptions exist during armed conflict. Legal experts remain divided over whether Israel's blockade of Gaza is militarily justified and therefore lawful.

International law specialists argue that unarmed humanitarian missions have the right to deliver aid if basic needs are unmet by the occupying power. Israel, however, maintains the right to inspect vessels and monitor supplies entering Gaza, similar to its oversight Israel's Foreign Minister been mixed. Spain's Prime of aid trucks at land crossings.

## Pakistan, China to take enduring friendship, partnership to new heights: PM



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday said that the enduring and unbreakable bond between Pakistan and China had grown stronger over time, expressing the hope that the two countries would elevate their friendship and partnership to new heights.

The prime minister, in his message on the 76th National Day of the People's Republic of China annually observed on October 1, felicitated the leadership and brotherly people of progress and prosperity that served China on behalf of the people and as a role model for the world.

Government of Pakistan.

Wishing progress, prosperity, and success for the Chinese people, he said that the National Day served as a reminder of China's remarkable national journey, besides acknowledging the progress, stability, and China's role in establishing global peace.

Prime Minister Shehbaz said that Pakistan took pride in its brotherly relations with China and that under the visionary leadership of President Xi Jinping, China had achieved

## **DPM** lauds Baroness Mobarik's role in promoting Pak-UK ties



**E** City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Baroness Noshee- Nosheena Mobarik also inquired na Mobarik CBE called on Deputy about Pakistan's flood recovery and Prime Minister Ishaq Dar in Islam- mitigation efforts abad today.

the importance of parliamentary Pakistan and the United Kingdom.

exchanges, and the Pakistani diaspora in the United Kingdom, Baroness

Ishaq Dar appreciated Baroness They discussed the strength Nosheena Mobarik's continued of Pak-UK bilateral relations, efforts to further deepen ties between

## Three policemen martyred, 9 injured as AJK protests turn bloody

👺 Bureau Report

Rawalakot and Dadial on Wednesday. farabad.

According to the report, firing incidents took place in Chamyati, Dhirkot and Dadial areas. Three personnel of the Azad Kashmir Police were martyred in the firing incidents. Nine policemen were injured in these incidents.

A civilian was also killed and several others

injured in these firing incidents. All the police martyrs and those MUZAFFARABAD: Three policemen injured belong to Azad Kashmir. were martyred when unknown men Constable Khurshid and Constable Committee allegedly opened fire in Constable Tahir Rafi was from Muzaf-



## Floods could push up food prices, inflation to stay below 4.5pc

**Example 2** Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan said in its economic outlook recent floods could push food prices higher in year, with large-scale manufacturing the weeks ahead but inflation was expected to stay below 4.5 percent and investor confidence staying firm this month, underscoring a broadly stable economic outlook despite severe weather shocks.

The finance ministry's September economic outlook said flood-related supply chain disruptions may cause a temporary rise in prices, which eased to 3 percent in August, the lowest in more than three years, but forecast that inflation will remain contained between 3.5 and 4.5 percent in pressures.

September 2025.

The report said the broader economy had continued to stabilize in the first two months of the fiscal rebounding, fiscal balances improving

despite widespread flood damage. Pakistan is currently in the first year of a \$7 billion Extended Fund Facility (EFF) approved by the International Monetary Fund in September 2024, a program that has helped restore investor confidence, stabilize foreign exchange reserves and support a recovery in growth after years of balance-of-payments

## Naqvi refutes India media's apology claims amid Asia Cup trophy row

👺 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Cricket Cup trophy controversy. Board (PCB) Chairman and Asian

Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) regarding the ongoing Asia

He issued the statement in a strong Cricket Council (ACC) President response to recent Indian media Mohsin Naqvi, has firmly denied reports. Taking to Twitter, Naqvi claims of having apologized to the described the reports as "fabricated" apologized to the BCCI nor will I ever tarnishing the spirit of the game.



nonsense" and "cheap propaganda," stating that Indian media "thrives on lies, not facts".

He categorically stated, "I have done nothing wrong and I have never

He also reiterated his stance that the entire matter had been blown

out of proportion, accusing India of

dragging politics into cricket and thus

## Finance Minister Aurangzeb vows to meet IMF targets

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

ISLAMABAD: Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb has made it clear that the government will not slap extra taxes on the people to make up for the revenue shortfall.

Speaking to reporters in the federal capital, the minister businesses or citizens. said that the government is fully committed to achieving the targets agreed with the International Monetary Fund (IMF). He emphasized that the resolving outstanding cases,"

to 11 percent this year, as prom-

Aurangzeb pointed out that a large chunk of revenue is stuck in tax disputes pending in courts, and recovering those dues will help bridge the shortfall without piling fresh taxes on

"We will not burden the is to meet the revenue targets by improving compliance and

tax-to-GDP ratio will be raised he assured. The minister also confirmed that talks with the IMF are moving in the right direction, calling the progress so far "positive".

Pakistan secured a threeyear, \$7bn aid package with the IMF in July last year to stabilise the economy and promote inclusive, resilient growth.

In May this year, the IMF people with new taxes. Our aim board approved an additional \$1.4bn loan to bolster Pakistan's resilience against climate risks and natural disasters. Aurangzeb revealed that that process,"he noted.



In an interview with Bloomberg News, Finance Minister

Muhammad

He said the government has identified priority sectors for foreign investment, adding that there is strong appetite in those areas. "With respect to the US, we have just kick-started

this month.

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