Barkat Rice Mills (Pvt) Limited

Zardari wants Pak-China focus on hydel powe

President Asif Ali Zardari has declared that Pakistan and China are iron brothers and their bilateral cooperation in China-Pakistan Economic Corridor will lead to the development of the entire region



Those who want to divide Punjab not our friends: CM Maryam

Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif said that those who are talking of dividing Punjab into North and South are not our friends and she wants to keep Punjab as one unit.

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Rabius Sani 9, Friday, October 3, 2025



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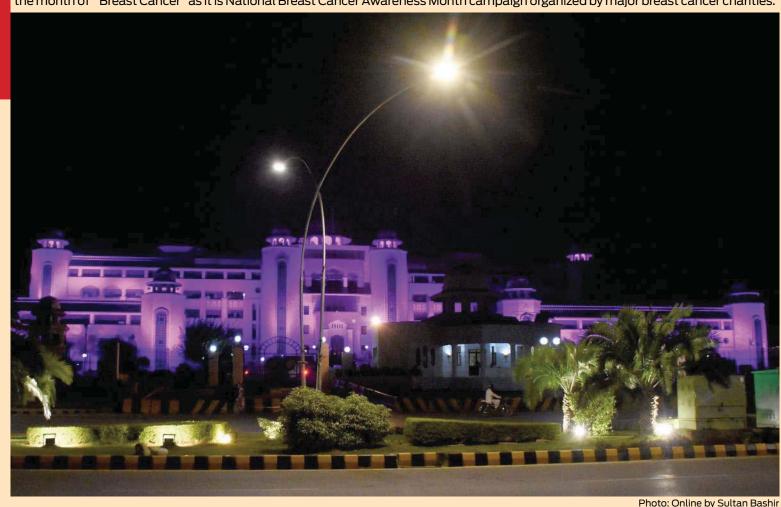
(a) @daily spokesman



Daily Spokesman Vol: 19, Issue: 168 Price Rs. 25.00 Pages 8

Breast Cancer Awareness Month

ISLAMABAD: A view of the National Buildings along the Constitution Avenue turned into "Pink Color" with lights in connection with the month of "Breast Cancer" as it is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month campaign organized by major breast cancer charities.



Talks resume between AJK govt and Joint Awani Action Committee amid violent protests

跨 Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: Formal ment and the Joint Awami Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), following days of violent process in AJK. protests that left multiple casualties on both sides.

tion, comprising ministers and solution," he said. senior leaders, held talks with

farabad to defuse tensions.

Federal Minister Dr Tariq negotiations resumed on Thurs- Fazal Chaudhry confirmed in day between the federal govern- a statement on X that official talks had begun, stressing the Action Committee (JAAC) in government's commitment to strengthening the democratic

"We are making every effort A high-level federal delegabecause violence is never the

JAAC representatives in Muzaf- Iqbal told reporters that Prime accepted, with discussions Adviser Amir Muqam expressed

to resolve matters peacefully

Planning Minister Ahsan

Minister Shehbaz Sharif had directed the delegation to hear JAAC's demands and assess the situation on the ground.

He appealed to the people of AJK to remain cautious and not allow Pakistan's adversaries to

exploit the unrest. Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwarul Haq welcomed the resumption of talks, saying most of the JAAC's demands had already been

continuing on the rest. National Assembly Speaker

Raja Pervez Ashraf called the situation "deeply saddening" and urged dialogue as the only way forward.

"The committee's legitimate demands will be fulfilled," he

Interior Minister Rana "violence only complicates issues

rather than solving them," while

hope that the JAAC would engage in the talks with sincerity.

Former federal minister Sardar Muhammad Yousaf echoed these sentiments, expressing regret over the loss of lives and assuring practical

steps for public welfare. Federal Adviser Qamar Zaman Kaira praised the Prime Sanaullah also stressed that Minister's initiative, noting that "the solution to all problems lies

PM appeals to AJK protesters to stay peaceful; assures resolution of issues

👺 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday expressing deep concern and taking notice of the assured that the government situation in Azad Kashmir, was always ready to resolve appealed to the protesters to remain peaceful, assuring brothers. the resolu-

tion of their issues and committing to personally oversee the negotiation process.

The prime minister, in a state ment, said

that peaceful protest was a right of every citizen but the protesters should refrain from actions harming public peace.

He directed law enforcement agencies to exercise immediate assistance to the restraint and patience with affected families.

the protesters, ensuring respect for public sentiments and avoiding any unnecessary harshness.

The prime minister the issues of its Kashmiri



Expressing deep concern constitutional and democratic over the unfortunate incidents during the protests, he ordered a transparent investigation into the matter and directed the provision of

PM demands return of Pakistani citizens participating in Sumud Gaza Flotilla

跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday appreciating the "dignified" participation of Pakistani nationals in Sumud Gaza Flotilla, demanded their return as they were intercepted on their way to Gaza to supply

the humanitarian aid. The prime minister, in a post on X, appreciated including Mushtaq Ahmed Khan, Mazhar Saeed Shah, Wajahat Ahmed, Dr. Osama Riaz, Ismail Khan, Syed Aziz Nizami, and Fahad Ishtiaq, praying and striving for their among other Pakistanis, who took part in this great human-

itarian mission in accordance with the principles of human compassion. "This initiative represents

the peace-loving aspirations of the Pakistani people, their struggle for justice, and their spirit of helping those in need," he remarked. He said that the Govern-

ment of Pakistan supported the principles of respect for human life, safe access, and the Pakistani nationals uninterrupted humanitarian aid.

"The Government of Pakistan...strongly demands the return of its citizens while safety, dignity, and swift return to the homeland," he added.

DPM stresses importance of strengthening Pak-German ties

Lepel, called on Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar in Pakistan. Islamabad today.

stressed the importance of strengthening bilateral political, trade and Hungary Dr. Zoltán Varga called on

investment ties, climate action, skilled Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar in labour mobility, defence and educa-German Ambassador to Pakistan, Ina Minister also wished the German Ambassador a successful tenure in

Dar lauds growing Pak-Hungary During the meeting, Ishaq Dar cooperation in diverse fields

Newly appointed Ambassador of

Islamabad today. Ishaq Dar appreci-ISLAMABAD: The newly appointed tion cooperation. The Deputy Prime ated the growing Pakistan-Hungary cooperation in diverse fields, including trade, investment, energy, education, defence, and culture.

He wished the Ambassador a successful tenure and expressed confidence in his efforts to further strengthen and expand bilateral relations.

Interior Minister Naqvi visits PIMS Hospital to inquire after health of injured cops

跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi visited PIMS Hospital to inquire after the health of personnel of Islamabad Police and Azad Kashmir Police in Azad Kashmir who had got injured during a clash with protestors in Azad Kashmir.

Interior Minister visited each injured policeman one by one and inquired about their recovery. 31 Islamabad Police personnel and 12 Azad Kashmir Police personnel are undergoing treatment at PIMS Hospital. On the occasion Mohsin tion to provide the best medical facilities to the injured police officers.

He lauded injured police personnel



Naqvi directed the hospital administra- for their courage and bravery who that they acted with patience despite performed their duties with utmost courage, bravery and valor. Naqvi lauded injured policemen by saying said Mohsin Naqvi.

the hostility. "You are a brave son of Pakistan and we are all proud of you",



Friday, October 3, 2025

SELD and JICA conclude two-day workshop on Strengthening **Mathematics Education** in Sindh

👺 Qayoom Sarohi

HYDERABAD: The School Education and Literacy Department (SELD), with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), successfully ulum specialists, and policymakers to

Mathematics Education in Sindh, held gies to strengthen Sindh's curriculum at the Sindh Textbook Board (STBB),

Government of Sindh, in collaboration together textbook authors and reviewers, education experts, curricconcluded the First Capacity Devel- explore innovative approaches in mathopment Workshop for Strengthening ematics education and identify strate-

and textbooks.

The workshop concluded with The two-day workshop brought closing remarks by Mr. Parvaiz Ahmed Baloch, Chairman, Sindh Textbook Board, who stated: "This workshop has provided valuable insights into global mathematics trends, curriculum development, and the cultural dimensions

On the second day, the JICA Study Team conducted two important sessions: Session 1: Two Mathematics Cultural Spheres - led by Mr. Yoshitaka Tanaka, which focused on understanding mathematics cultural spheres and the differences in learning

approaches across them; and Session 2: Academics, STBB. Issues of Sindh's Mathematics - led by Mr. Daigo Ito, which discussed current Department (SELD), Government challenges and ways to improve mathematics textbooks and teaching methodologies. The proceedings of the workshop were conducted by Mr. Naresh ty-building initiatives to improve the

The School Education and Literacy of Sindh, with the support of JICA, remains committed to advancing curriculum reform and capaci-Kumar Shivani, Deputy Director quality of education across the province.



Protest

ISLAMABAD: Members of civil society hold placards and shouting slogans during protest against Israel attack on Global Sumud Flotilla, outside National Press Club, in the Federal Capital.



CM inspection team chairman visits Toba Tek Singh

👺 Zafar Chishti

TOBA TEK SINGH: A high-level meeting was chaired by Brigadier (R) Babar Alauddin and Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Naeem Sandhu. The meeting was attended by DPO Ibadat Nisar, Assistant Commissioners Munawar Hussain, Iqra Nasir, Sadaf Akbar, Zulfiqar Sabir along with heads of all line departments.

 $Deputy\,Commissioner\,Muhammad$ Naeem Sandhu gave a detailed briefing on flood rescue operations and relief measures. He informed that the water flow at Head Sadhnai was recorded at 194,164 cusecs. Floods affected 80 villages, 117,500 people, and 63,593 acres of agricultural land. As many as 16 schools, 3 dispensaries, and 35 link roads were damaged.

Brigadier (R) Babar Alauddin $praised \ the \ performance \ of \ the \ district$ administration, stating that the relief camps provided food and shelter in an organized manner. He said school councils and the community must play their role in the restoration of schools. He further added that under



Maryam Nawaz Sharif, all departments mized loss to life and property. Survey for the first time worked in a coordinated and organized manner.

He appreciated the timely rescue the leadership of Chief Minister Punjab and evacuation operations which mini-

teams from Revenue, Agriculture, Livestock, Urban Unit, and Pakistan Army are actively engaged in damage assessment. Chief Minister Punjab Maryam

Nawaz Sharif has taken oath from all survey teams to ensure transparency. This entire process under her leadership is a clear reflection of seriousness and transparency.

Suthra Punjab Kamalia Project Manager, s briefing to journalists for Flood Situation

👺 Zafar Chishti

TOBA TEK SINGH: Project Manager of Suthra Punjab Kamalia, Mudassar Ehsan, held a press briefing with journalists regarding the ongoing relief operations in view of the recent flood

He stated that Suthra Punjab Kamalia had mobilized all available machinery and resources to tackle the emergency and ensure timely assistance to the affected population.

Relief teams have been actively engaged in rescue operations, drainage of floodwater and provision of immediate aid to the victims. Mudassar Ehsan highlighted that the



Suthra Punjab Kamalia's field staff is working round the clock to minimize the suffering of the people in flood-hit flood-affected localities.

He added that food supplies, clean drinking water and medical support are being provided to those affected, while special arrangements have been made for women, children and elderly

The project manager also emphasized that coordinated efforts with the district administration and other relevant departments are underway to ensure effective and transparent delivery of relief services.

He reiterated Suthra Punjab Kamalia's commitment to standing by the people during this difficult time and assured that every possible step would be taken to restore normalcy in

"Mohmand Qaumi Ittehad"established



跨 Tariq Khan Yousafzai

TAKHTE BHAI: In Tehsil Takhte Bhai, the "Mohmand Qaumi Ittehad" (Mohmand National Unity) has been established for the purpose of uniting the widely settled Mohmand tribe, fostering harmony among them, and addressing their issues collectively. In this regard, a large gathering has been organized on Saturday, October 4, at 2:00 PM in Jahazuno Dag, Takhte Bhai. While addressing a crowded press conference at the Takhte Bhai Press Club, the organizers of the Mohmand Qaumi Ittehad — Wajid Mohmand, Pordil Khan Mohmand, Haji Yousaf Khan Mohmand, Adil Niaz Mohmand, Saadat Khan Tawani, Jan Alam Mohmand, Amjad Ali Mohmand, Anwar Shameem Advocate, Haji Mukhtiar Mohmand, Dar Kamal Mohmand, and other elders — said that when members of a tribe remain united, they can face every difficulty and challenge with ease. Unity strengthens them against external threats and problems, making them more organized and powerful. They emphasized that the Mohmand Qaumi Ittehad is a non-political organization, with its primary objective being the collective welfare, development, and prosperity of the Mohmand tribe. They made it clear that the organization has no aggressive or prejudiced intentions against any other tribe or community; its entire struggle is solely dedicated to the development and welfare of the $\,$ Mohmand people. Finally, they invited all Mohmand tribes residing in Takhte Bhai to attend the Jirga on Saturday, October 4, at 2:00 PM at Jahazuno Ground, Takhte Bhai, and make this mission a success.

Professional Photographers Association will continue to play its best role: Muhammad Ahmed

FAISALABAD: According to Sheikh Qaswar Munir Goreja, General Secretary of Professional Photographers Association, after a meeting with Rehan Naseem Bharara, former President of Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry, a meeting is being organized on October 7, 2025 at the residence of Chairman Professional Photographers Association Syed Tanveer Hussain Zaidi. In which many important matters will be discussed. All office bearers are requested to attend this meeting. The agenda of the meeting will include discussion on working relations with other associations of the city. The meeting of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the subsequent renewal of membership and general membership will also be discussed. Therefore, all office bearers should complete their attendance on Tuesday, October 7, 2025 at 9:00 PM.

New sewerage lines, road repairs and installation of modern street lights

Maxim Tanveer

MULTAN: Executive Officer Cantonment Board Multan Sardar Atif Sultan Said The Multan Cantonment Board has taken a new turn in terms of development and public facilities in the last few months, which has been led well by the Cantonment Executive Officer Sardar Atif Sultan. Soon after his appointment, several important steps were taken that guarantee the development of the city and the convenience

The most prominent of these steps is the increase in the pace of development works. Significant increase in revenue, road repair, sanitation and civic amenities projects are proof that development is not possible without practical steps and planning. Cantonment Board Member Peace $\,$ Committee Syed Qalb Abid Khan said that

Sardar Atif Sultan has also taken commendable steps in the field of horticulture. Enhancing the beauty of parks and public places, maintaining greenery and organizing flowers and plants, and distributing plants among the citizens of the cantonment, is creating a pleasant envi-

WASA Punjab moving towards digitalisation

LAHORE: Under the Chief Minister Punjab's Smart City Vision, WASA Punjab is advancing towards digitalization.

Through the Water Operator Partnership Program, modern IT reforms

will be introduced in WASAs across Punjab. In the initial phase, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) ceremony was held between WASA Lahore and WASA Murree, Okara, Sahiwal, and Hafizabad. The special ceremony, chaired by Punjab Minister for Housing Bilal Yasin, was attended by DG WASA Punjab Tayyab Fareed, Deputy Secretary Housing Waleed Baig, and MDs of the concerned districts. Director Mudassir Javed gave a detailed briefing to participants regarding the MoU.

The integration will include finance, revenue, call centers, complaint management, financial management system, vehicle tracking, live camera monitoring, and water meter system. Moreover, GIS infrastructure of WASAs, SDG targets, and real-time banking system will be implemented on a priority basis.



Namaz Timings

EMERGENCY

Rescue (Police)	15
Bomb Disposal	15
Fire Services Rawalpindia	/
Islamabad	1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance	1122 &
& Rescue Services	4451122
Motorway Police	.9266044
Motorway Police92	270601-20

FNOUIRY

LITYOIT	. I
Edhi Ambulance	115
PIA Flight Info	114
PIA Cargo	9280979
Railway Inquiry	117
Railway Exchange	9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi	5555489
CAA	9281092

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

$Riphah\,Int'l$ *University* Signs MoUwith Al Baraka Bank Pakistan Limited

👺 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Riphah International University and Al Baraka Bank Pakistan Limited have entered into a strategic partnership aimed at enhancing healthcare, education, and financial services in Pakistan by formally signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

The MoU was signed at Riphah Gulberg Greens Campus, Islamabad, by Mr. Hassan Muhammad Khan, Chancellor, Riphah International University & Managing Trustee HMCI and Mr. Muhammad Atif Hanif, CEO, Al Baraka Bank Pakistan Limited.

Senior leadership of RIPHAH including Prof. Dr. Anis Ahmad, Vice Chancellor, Mr. Asadullah Khan, Executive Director, Mr. Raza Khan, Deputy Vice Chancellor Management & Director Finance, Prof. Dr. Yawar Hayat Khan, Deputy Vice Chancellor Academics, Mr. Junaid Khan, Director Marketing, Mr. Yahya Khan, Member Board of Trustees, and Mr. Jalaluddin Akbar, Deputy Director Finance, were present at the occasion

From Al Baraka Bank, senior officials included Mr. Muhammad Farrukh Aslam Chughtai, Group Head - Corporate and Investment Banking, Mr. Muhammad Umar Pasha, Group Head - Service Quality, Marketing & Corporate Communications, Mr. Mohammad Zohair Saif, Group Head – Digital Banking, and Mr. Sheikh Raheel Sajjad, Regional Head - CIBG

Great education and job opportunities for Pakistani youth in Russia', says Russian Ambassador

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: "Learning Russian language is not only a means for educational advancement but also opens numerous new doors for business and career opportunities'

This was said by H. E. Mr. Albert Khorev Ambassador of the Russian Federation while addressing the ceremony for the distribution of certificates to the third and fourth batch of Russian language students at Allama Iqbal Open University

The ceremony began formally with a welcome and introductory speech by the Registrar, Raja Umar Younis who warmly welcomed the attendees. Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Nasir Mahmood said that the Open University gives special importance to inter-

the Russian language course is a clear reflection of this commitment.

Ms. Alina Kolesnikova, Third Secretary for Education and Culture at the Russian Embassy in Islamabad described the Russian Language Center at the Open University as an important step in fostering friendly relations and cultural exchange between the two countries. Russian language instructor Ekaterina Andriets highlighted the achievements and key aspects of the

Dr. Zahid Majid, Director of International Collaboration and Exchange gave a brief on the university's profile and cooperation with the Ministry of Education, Russian Federation stating that this educational partnership plays an important role in providing academic opportunities for students of both counnational cooperation and the success of tries and promoting cultural exchange.



Inauguration

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Sweden to Pakistan Alexandra Berg Von Linde cut the ribbon to inaugurate the painting exhibition by Minaa Haroon, at Satrang Arts Gallery in Federal Capital.



Workers Welfare Fund briefs 38th Senior Management Course

ISLAMABAD: A delegation of participants from the 38th Senior Management Course of the National Institute of Management (NIM), Islamabad visited the Workers Welfare Fund (WWF) for a comprehensive briefing on the Fund's mandate, operational framework, and welfare initi-

The delegation included officers from various occupational groups.

Secretary WWF, Mr. Zulfiqar Ahmad, welcomed the delegation and highlighted the Fund's wide-ranging initiatives in housing, education, health, and social welfare for industrial workers and their families. He underlined that in the last three financial years, WWF has



tial contributions from industrial establishments — a clear to uplifting the working class. confidence and trust in the leadership of Secretary WWF, and effective service delivery. and hard work in strength-

The participants appre- ening the Fund's operations.

national institution committed

successfully mobilized substan- ciated WWF's role as a key The delegation observed that such efforts are vital to ensuring that institutions reflection of the private sector's They particularly lauded the like WWF continue to serve as engines of social progress Fund's transparent operations acknowledging his dedication and instruments of socio-economic uplift for workers and their families across Pakistan.

Shehryar Tasser arrived in Gillani House and meets with Ali Qasim Gilani

👺 Kiran Asim

MULTAN: At the invitation of Member National Assembly Syed Ali Qasim Gilani, Chief Executive of First Capital Group, Shehryar Ali Taseer, son of former Governor Salman Taseer, arrived at Gilani House. Syed Ali Qasim Gilani



welcomed Shehryar Ali Taseer and the team of First Capital Group on their arrival in Multan and wore a Saraiki ajrak. Syed Ali Qasim Gilani appreciated the efforts of Shehryar Ali Taseer and the team for distributing ration and essential items among the flood victims. Public Service Our First Duty

Member National Assembly Syed Ali Qasim Gilani along with Shehryar Ali Taseer, son of former Governor Punjab Salman Taseer, Chief Executive of First Capital Group, arrived in the flood-affected area of Basti Jalalabad, Constituency #NA148. Syed Ali Qasim Gilani and Shehryar Ali Taseer distributed ration Bags to 300 flood-affected families at the Dera of Malik Milad Maitla on behalf of First Capital Group. Syed Ali Qasim Gilani and Shehryar Taseer Ration and essential items distributed among flood victims

Wonderful Yoga Club Donates Rs. 1.2 Million to Alkhidmat Foundation for Flood Relief

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: In continuation of its relief efforts for flood victims, the Wonderful Yoga Club presented a cheque worth Rs. 1.2 million to Prof. Dr. Hafeez ur Rehman, President of Alkhidmat Foundation Pakistan.

The cheque presentation ceremony was attended by key officebearers and members of the Wonderful Yoga Club, including Sheikh Naseem Adil, Shehzada Saleem Khan, and Club Admin Abdul Qayyum Qureshi. Also present were Javed Akhtar, Secretary Alkhidmat Foundation Rawal-

pindi District, and Engr. Abu Umair Zahid, Chairman **Alkhidmat** Razi Hospital.

Speaking on the occa-Prof. sion, Hafeez Dr. ur Rehman appreciated



the noble gesture of the Wonderful Yoga Club, stating that in these testing times, it is encouraging to see every segment of society stepping forward to support their brothers and sisters in need. He reiterated that Alkhidmat Foundation remains fully engaged in flood relief and rehabilitation efforts, with the cooperation of philanthropists and social organizations playing a vital role.

Representatives of the Wonderful Yoga Club said that their members have always stood by fellow citizens in times of difficulty with a spirit of humanitarian service. They lauded the role of Alkhidmat Foundation in reaching out to the affected families and assured that their cooperation would continue in the future as well.

Bahria University organizes 4th Int'l Conference on Communication

👺 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Bahria University tional Conference on Communica-(C-CODE'25) at E-8 Campus, Islamabad on Oct 1-2, 2025.

innovation, and the role of C-CODE in fostering knowledge exchange.

Admiral Asif Khaliq HI(M) (Retd), graced the ceremony as the Chief Guest. In his address, he expressed gratorganized the two-day 4th Interna- itude to the distinguished gathering of scholars, innovators, and professionals. tion, Computing and Digital Systems He emphasized Bahria University's commitment to promoting research, innovation, and global collaboration, $Conference\ Chair, Dean\ Engineering \quad adding\ that\ C-CODE\ is\ a\ proud\ reflection of the conference of the confere$ Sciences Dr. Faisal Bashir, welcomed the tion of the University's mission to bridge participants and highlighted the Bahria theory with practice and prepare youth University commitment to research, to become future leaders and innova-

International Conference Rector Bahria University, Vice featured strong global participa-



tion from Gebze University Istanbul Macquarie University (Australia), and provided a forum for academia, Türkiye, Istanbul Medipol University Prince Sultan University Riyadh Saudi research organizations, and industry to Computing, Digital Systems, Creative

Türkiye, Coventry University (UK), Arabia and other leading institutions exchange knowledge and share experi- Systems, Communication, and Security.

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CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif Announces to Establish Centres of Excellence

hief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif made important announcements while addressing a ceremony in the honor of matric and intermediate position-holders of all 09 educational boards of Punjab. She pledged to bear all educational expenses of position holders, besides providing them laptops in recognition of their meritorious performance in the field of education. She said that the Punjab government would establish Centers of Excellence for boys and girls across Punjab, and would create 6000 new science, technology, arts, engineering and mathematics labs to strengthen STEM education in the province.

As part of a plan to improve access and learning conditions, Punjab government will launch a school-transport programme, organize sports competitions in every educational institution and will provide free uniforms to all government school students. Chief Minister Punjab also vowed to upgrade basic facilities including classrooms, toilets and clean drinking water in every school within the next six months. Recognizing financial barriers to study, she said that 80,000 merit scholarships are being awarded to talented students including the poor, orphans and those from underprivileged segments of society. She emphasized that education is the greatest equalizer, adding that rich and poor become equal after acquiring knowledge.

Chief Minister Punjab underscored the importance of acquiring technology in modern education system, noting that books, paper and pencils alone are not enough. She promised that laptops and digital resources will be distributed among distinguished students to help them meet current learning objectives. She encouraged students to learn English alongside Urdu and Punjabi, saying proficiency in English is necessary for national and international competitiveness. Highlighting recent provincial projects, she drew attention to a Center of Excellence in Chakwal, built on 40 kanals at a an estimated cost of Rs 65 crore which currently imparts free education to 1,400 needy and orphan students. She said Lahore's new early childhood center will offer facilities that surpass many private centres, ensuring poor children receive the same early learning opportunities as received by the rich.

Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif said, "I urge students to learn English. Free travel facility has been provided for all students in electric buses. There is no government school in the entire Punjab where there is shortage of teachers."

Trump's Gaza Plan: A Peace Built on Surrender, Not Justice

Syed Munir Ahmed

plan for Gaza is being trumpeted in Washington and Tel Aviv as a "breakthrough blueprint" to end the carnage. It promises a ceasefire, hostage releases, reconstruction, and international management of Gaza until stability is restored. Yet behind the diplomatic packaging, it looks less like a peace agreement and more like an ultimatum. Its core design is coercive: Hamas must disarm, surrender control, and accept trusteeship in exchange for humanitarian relief. To many in the Muslim world, this is not a roadmap to peace but a camouflaged surrender that dilemma. Some governsmooths Israel's long-term project of territorial consolidation.

The sequencing itself reveals the intent. Ceasefire and humanitarian aid are tied to Hamas's immediate disarmament and acceptance of an international transitional administration for Gaza. In practice, this means bread and medicine for civilians come only after their leaders abandon resistance. As one analyst put it, "This is less a peace deal than a disarmament demand dressed up in diplomatic language." It is hard to see how a document that effectively forces one side to lay down its arms under the threat of continued destruction could be considered an agreement between equals.

Supporters of the plan argue that it could stop the bombing, secure the release of hostages, and open aid channels. The humanitarian imperative is undeniable; Gaza's suffering has reached horrific proportions. But as history shows, coerced ceasefires without political solu-

resident Donald Trump's political inclusion often breeds fragmen-refugees will not be seen as peace, but as recently unveiled 20-point tation, with militant groups splintering into smaller, harder-to-control factions. Reconstruction without sovereignty tends to create dependency and corruption. Security guarantees that prioritize Israel's interests while leaving Palestinian rights unresolved are unlikely to be sustainable. In effect, the Trump plan may deliver a fragile quiet in the short into surrender, sidelining international

term, while sowing the seeds of long-term instability.

For Arab Muslim-majority states, the proposal presents a ments may cautiously support it to ease regional pressure or to secure lucrative recon-

struction contracts. Yet popular sentiment across the Muslim world is deeply suspicious. Millions have watched the devastation of Gaza unfold on their screens, and they are unlikely to accept a deal that trades dignity for temporary relief. A political scientist in Amman summarized this anger: "You cannot bomb people into submission, then call it peace when they accept aid under foreign supervision." The risk is not only renewed militancy within Gaza, but also growing resentment across the region that weakens already fragile govern-

The broader Muslim world views Palestine as a litmus test of justice in international politics. A plan that secures Israeli security and internationalizes Gaza's governance while shelving the tions rarely hold. Disarmament without questions of statehood, occupation, and

capitulation. As one Turkish commentator noted, "If this plan succeeds, it will show that the West does not want a Palestinian state — it only wants Palestinians silenced."

What makes the plan particularly controversial is how it could serve Israel's long-term strategy. By coercing Hamas

legal challenges, and placing Gaza under external trusteeship, it clears the way for Israel to entrench its control over the rest of the Palestinian territories without fear of resistance. The West Bank remains under relentless settlement expansion, East

Jerusalem is effectively annexed, and now Gaza would be pacified under international supervision. Step by step, without formal declaration, this is how the idea of Greater Israel advances. Not through dramatic annexation, but through managed containment, coerced peace, and the erosion of Palestinian resistance.

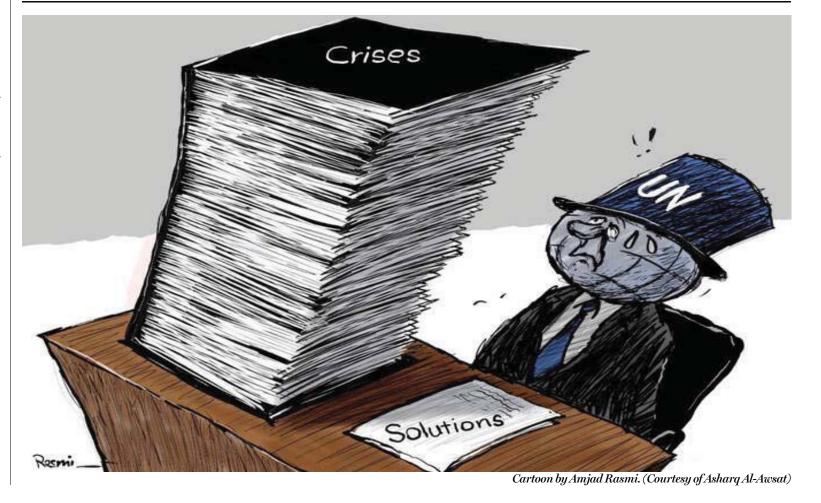
Critics warn that this arrangement will not deliver lasting stability. "It is a peace that silences guns but not grievances," said one Palestinian negotiator in exile. Those grievances - occupation, statelessness, displacement, and systemic inequality are the core drivers of conflict. A ceasefire that ignores them is not sustainable peace but a temporary pause before the next eruption. The illusion of calm purchased at the price of dignity will only deepen resentment and radicalize future gener-

The Trump plan, then, is less about ending conflict than about managing it. It seeks to neutralize Hamas, pacify Gaza, and allow Israel to proceed with business as usual. It offers the world a convenient narrative of progress while pushing the Palestinian struggle further into the margins. But containment is not resolution. A deal that forces surrender without justice may pacify the battlefield, but it cannot extinguish the cause.

Real peace requires more than international funding and security arrangements. It requires justice. That means addressing the occupation, guaranteeing political rights, ensuring accountability for crimes, and recognizing Palestinians as equal stakeholders in their future. Without those elements, any plan is just a fragile truce. As one rights advocate bluntly put it, "Peace without dignity is not peace. It is submission."

Trump's 20-point plan has been hailed as bold, but its boldness lies in how openly it discards the principle of equality in negotiations. For Palestinians, it offers aid in exchange for surrender. For the Muslim world, it is another reminder that their calls for justice are sidelined in global power politics. And for Israel, it is a strategic victory disguised as compromise. The plan may stop the bombing for now, but it risks leaving behind a deeper, more dangerous legacy: a silenced Palestine, a fractured Muslim world, and a peace built not on justice, but on coercion.

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Education and Peace: Two Prerequisites for Humanity's Future

of the same bird; without one, the education is a mirage, a hollow illusion. Every September, the world celebrates International Peace Day, yet too little effort is made to strengthen its roots through education. Without this connection, are foundations that hold societies upright, peace remains rhetoric, not reality.

The absence of true education is most painfully felt in developing nations, and Pakistan is

no exception. Here, education has too often been reduced to indoctrination—narratives of fear and victimhood replacing critical thought, compassion, and tolerance. Such education breeds compliance rather than conscience, silence rather than reflection, extremism rather than harmony. Peace without enlightened education is hogwash. It is unsustainable. fragile, and false.

Education, if true to its spirit, should not chain minds but liberate them. It should not darken horizons with rigid dogmas but brighten them with curiosity, dialogue, and empathy. When twisted into indoctrination, it becomes an enemy of peace; when anchored in conscience, it becomes its only guardian. My own journey testifies to this truth. I once walked a path shaped by rigid narratives that narrowed my worldview. But through reflection and the transformative power of knowledge, I moved from extremism to tolerance—a transformation documented in the Daily Times and the Daily Spokesman. That journey taught me that peace cannot be imposed by compliance; it must be chosen through conscience. It cannot emerge from indoctrina-

tion; it must rise from enlightenment. To carry this conviction forward, I launched fear.

ducation and peace are two wings a poster campaign to highlight the sacred bond between education and peace. These posters were other cannot fly. Peace without not mere slogans; they were lanterns lit against the darkness, each carrying a vision of a gentler

> - Books are pillars on which peace stands. Books are not just collections of words; they replacing ignorance with stability.

- Children learning light tomorrow's peace. Every child in a classroom today is a beacon

for a peaceful world tomorrow; their learning is humanity's investment in harmony. - Classrooms protect the

planet, one lesson at a time. When classrooms nurture responsibility, they become shields not only for societies but

for the very Earth that sustains - Open the book, open the world of peace.

tles prejudice, and makes the world less divided and more humane. - Knowledge shatters chains — peace sets us

Every book opened widens horizons, disman-

Muhammad

Ignorance binds; knowledge liberates.

Freedom rooted in wisdom is the soil in which peace flourishes - Knowledge lights the way to lasting peace.

It is not might but enlightenment that lights the path to a peace that endures beyond gener-

- Education builds the bridge from conflict

Where conflict divides, education connects, constructing bridges of understanding across the fault lines of society.

- When pens replace weapons, peace replaces

A pen writes hope where a gun breeds terror; education disarms the hand by arming the mind.

 Education is the seed — peace is the harvest. What we sow in the fields of schools, we reap in the harvest of nations; education yields the

only crop worth gathering-peace. These messages remind us that peace is not written only in treaties but in textbooks; not guarded by weapons but nurtured by teachers; not imposed from above but cultivated within classrooms. When a pen replaces a sword, peace replaces fear. When a child learns, the world heals. The call before us is urgent and clear: if we wish to inherit a world of peace, we must sow it in schools today. Policymakers, educators, and communities must rise together-turning classrooms into sanctuaries of conscience, filling books with bridges, and placing pens where weapons

For treaties may end wars, but only education can end enmity. Guns may silence voices, but only teachers can silence hatred. Peace written in ink will fade; peace written in minds will endure. The future will not be built by armies or decrees, but by children holding books, by teachers lighting lamps, by societies daring to choose conscience over compliance.

Let us, then, sow the seed of learning with faith, water it with tolerance, and watch it bloom into the harvest of peace. For education is not merely preparation for life; it is the very architecture of peace, the only fortress strong enough to guard humanity's tomorrow.

Muhammad Rabnawaz Awan is an educationist, writer, and advocate of tolerance whose work has been nationally recognized for linking learning with peace-building and social harmony. His personal journey from extremism to tolerance, documented in the Daily Times and Daily Spokesman, underscores his commitment to conscience over compliance and education over indoctrination.

A Safer Future Together: Pakistan and Saudi Arabia's **Alliance for Peace**

Dr. Muhammad Shahzad Ashfaq

ne of the key shared values between Pakistan and Saudi Islam as the state religion and teachings of Prophet Muhammad (P. B. U. H). Pakistan and Saudi Arabia have a relationship that is deeply rooted in history, culture, and religion. The two countries share many commonalities which have allowed them to maintain a strong and enduring partnership. Share a longstanding

bilateral relationship rooted in cultural and strategic ties.

The alliance between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia is built on a strong foundation of shared values and common strategic interests. Both countries have a history of cooperation on matters of security, defense and counter-terrorism. Pakistan with its well-trained military and expertise in combating

extremism has been a key partner for Saudi Arabia in addressing security challenges in the region. Saudi Arabia on the other hand has been a vital economic partner for Pakistan providing financial assistance in various sectors of the

Both countries have been actively involved in counter-terrorism operations and have cooperated closely in sharing intelligence, conducting joint military exercises, and implementing measures to combat extremism. The Saudi-led Islamic Military Counter Terrorism Coalition (IMCTC) which includes Pakistan as a member aims to enhance coordination and cooperation among member states to combat terrorism and extremism.

Furthermore, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia have also worked together to promote peace Arabia is their strong Islamic and stability in conflict-ridden regions such as identity. Both countries have the Middle East and South Asia. The two countries have played a constructive role in mediating hold sacred the principles of the Quran and the disputes and fostering dialogue to resolve conflicts peacefully. Saudi Arabia has supported Pakistan's efforts to facilitate peace talks in Afghanistan, while Pakistan has stood by Saudi Arabia in its efforts to enhance regional stability in the Gulf.

Security and peace between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia extends to economic cooperation and

development. Saudi Arabia has made significant investments in Pakistan's energy, infrastructure or other key sectors contributing to economic growth and stability in the country. The Saudi-Pakistani Joint Economic Commission (JEC) serves as a platform for enhancing bilateral trade and economic cooperation

between the two countries. Despite the progress made in

the Pakistan-Saudi Arabia alliance, both countries continue to face complex regional challenges that require sustained cooperation and coordination. The rise of extremism, the threat of terrorism, and regional conflicts pose significant risks to peace and stability in the region. By working together, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia can address these challenges more effectively leveraging their strategic partnership to promote peace, dialogue, and conflict resolution. Additionally engaging with other regional players and international partners, both countries can contribute to broader efforts to enhance security and stability in the Middle East and South Asia.

The writer is Post-Doctorate (Peace Education), International Islamic University Islamabad

Business Africa Trade Forum

Exploring African Markets: RCCI Organizes **Business Africa Trade Forum**

Naveed Ahmad Khan

RAWALPINDI: The Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) successfully organized the Business Africa Trade Forum under Pakistan's "Look Africa, Engage Africa" policy. The Forum brought together ambassadors, high commissioners, trade envoys, business leaders, and policymakers to explore trade and investment opportunities, joint ventures, and enhanced cooperation between Pakistan and African nations.

In his welcome remarks, RCCI President Usman Shaukat highlighted RCCI's role in strengthening bilateral trade linkages and providing a platform for dialogue. Chairman of the Forum, Zahid Latif Khan, provided an overview of the event's objectives and significance and role of RCCI in taking leads to explore new avenues and markets including Africa.

Rana Ihsan Afzal Khan, Coordinator to the Prime Minister of Pakistan on Commerce and Industries, emphasized the government's commitment to boosting trade, skilled workforce, stands ready to be connectivity, and foreign investment to achieve sustainable economic recovery. He appreciated RCCI's efforts in promoting new markets for Pakistani businesses. He reiterated that Africa—with a population of 1.5 billion and fast-growing economies offers immense opportunities for that Pakistan is repositioning itself collaboration in textiles, agriculture, IT, renewable energy, leather goods, food processing, and machinery. Paki- diverse export portfolio including rice, stan, with its industrial strength and



a reliable partner in Africa's development journey.

Addressing the Forum, Ambassador Hamid Asghar Khan, Additional Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, lauded RCCI for bridging gaps between Pakistan and Africa, stating geo-politically and geo-economically by leveraging its "blue economy" and cotton, marble, and textiles.

Senator Mushahid Hussain Sved, President of the Pakistan Africa Institute for Development and Research (PAIDAR), shared his vision on enhancing connectivity with Africa and effectively implementing Pakistan's Engage Africa Policy.

The event was attended by ambassadors, high commissioners, and senior diplomats from several African countries, including Algeria, Ethiopia, Kenya, Libya, Nigeria, Rwanda, Somalia, Sudan, South Africa, Tunisia

and Zimbabwe. The envoys highlighted current levels of cooperation with Pakistan, identified challenges, and proposed measures to increase bilateral trade and investment. A special commemoration was also

held to honor the outgoing Ethiopian Ambassador to Pakistan, H. E. Dr. Jemal Beker Abdula, for his services in strengthening Pak-Ethiopia relations.

The Forum was further graced by Ilyas, PM's Coordinator on Tourism, thanks, acknowledging the contribu-





and H. E. Mr. Khazar Farhadov, tions of participants and reaffirming Ambassador of Azerbaijan. Dr. Mirza RCCI's commitment to expanding dignitaries including Sardar Yasir Ikhtiar Baig delivered the vote of Pakistan's trade horizons.

Photos Online by Sultan Bashir

CCP Approves Systems Limited's Acquisition of BAT SAA Services

Example 2 Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Compestan (CCP) has approved the British American Tobac-(UK) Limited.

work in accordance with the Pakistan or internationally. Competition Act, 2010.

company in software develtition Commission of Paki- opment, BPO, and cloud the target's operations are and best practices to enhance services, will acquire full proposed acquisition of SAA ownership of the captive Services (Private) Limited by service provider which with Systems Limited in Systems Limited from the currently operates within the domestic BPO sector. the global British American co International Holdings Tobacco Group. The entity that while both companies The transaction, executed bled services such as HR, bled services space, their authorized the transaction under a Share Purchase finance, procurement, and customer bases are distinct under Section 31(1)(d)(i) of Agreement, was reviewed digital technology to group and the deal does not consol- the Competition Act, 2010, under Phase-I of CCP's companies without serving idate market power or merger assessment frame- any external customers in reduce competition.

leading Pakistani technology the transaction raises no enabling Systems Limited competition concerns as confined to the BAT Group and there is no overlap The Commission observed provides IT and IT-ena- are in the IT and IT-ena-

After conducting its expected to bring strategic market.

Systems Limited, a review, CCP concluded that and economic benefits, to leverage global expertise service offerings in Pakistan. It is also aligned with national objectives of job creation, technology transfer, and digital transformation of the economy.

CCP has accordingly determining that it will not create or strengthen a domi- merit-based grievances. is nant position in the relevant

Stop Brutality Against Students, Ensure Jobs on Merit: Qomi

Maria Abdul Ghafoor Sarohi

HYDERABAD: These are the petty, insignificant rulers of the world, but history shows that when oppression crosses its limits the popular flood sweeps away even the greatest empires. Therefore the rulers of the time should mendations to candidates come to their senses, refrain who scored 33 marks, then from bribery, the open denying jobs to candidates buying and selling of jobs, who scored 40 marks and take steps to redress and subjecting those who

religious scholar Allama Ayaz Hussain Qomi while condemning, edly, the government's brutal violence against the protesting ABA-pass candi-

He said that if orders are being issued on the basis of bribes and recomprotest for their rights to These remarks were inhuman, savage violence Qomi demanded that not sweep away the halls of made by the well-known is a gross violation of only should orders be issued power.



Allama Ayaz Hussain public uprising, they will

immediately to candidates who passed with 40 marks, but the time period should also be extended by six months.

He warned that if injustices and this chain of violence against the nation's future builders — the youth continue, the nation will be forced to join those protests alongside its future

Once those protests ssume the character of a

Japan Embassy Hosted Cultural Exchange for Japanese Learning Students

ISLAMABAD: To foster cultural understanding and strengthen people-to-people ties, the Embassy of Japan successfully hosted a dynamic cultural exchange event on Wednesday October 1, for the students of Japanese language from the National University of Modern Languages (NUML)Islamabad. The event offered the students a unique and interactive opportunity to engage directly with traditional Japanese culture, enriching their understanding and appreciation.

While welcoming the students, Ms. Ura Mamiko, Deputy Head of Public Affairs, Embassy of Japan, expressed her deep appreciation for the students for their interest in learning the Japanese language and culture, calling it a bridge to bring the two people further closer.



In the second session, students traditional calligraphy brushes and ink, explored the art of Japanese calligraphy gaining hands-on experience with this (Shodō) and enthusiastically practiced centuries-old art form. The students writing Japanese Kanji characters using filled with enthusiasm expressed their

deep appreciation for this ancient art form.

The final session focused on Japanese dining customs where students



sticks. This interactive activity included a fun challenge, transferring beans from one plate to another using chopsticks. The top four performers advanced to a mini-tournament, and the final two winners were awarded small commemorative gifts from the Embassy.

In her concluding remarks, Ms. Mamiko stated that this cultural

dedication to fostering youth-centered initiatives that promote mutual understanding and strengthen the friendship between Japan and Pakistan. She added that this cultural interaction is part of the Embassy's ongoing efforts to enhance people-to-people ties and build enduring bridges between the youth of

😭 Tribute Paid to Chaudhry Zulfigar Ali Anjum

Grand ceremony held for restoration of RO Plant in Sabzwari Town

跨 Zain Khan Malghani

MULTAN: A grand ceremony was held in Sabzwari Town to mark the restoration of the water filtration plant, where the office bearers of the youth development organization "YCDO" and residents of Sabzwari Town expressed special gratitude to Chairman SM Group of Industries, Chaudhry Zulfiqar Ali Anjum. On the occasion, he was presented with flower bouquets and garlands.

recitation of the Holy Quran by

Chaudhry Zulfiqar Ali Anjum said that considering the dilapidated condition of the water filtration plant in Sabzwari Town and complaints from residents about contaminated water, the plant was rehabilitated with an expenditure of over six million rupees purely for public welfare and has now been dedicated to the residents of the area. The water plant is supplying free clean water for 16 hours daily.

He symbolically handed over The event began with the the keys of the project to YCDO's central office bearer Rana Ikhlaq. Qari Ali Ahmad. In his address, However, YCDO declined to take

direct responsibility, with its CEO Rana Zaheer Babar announcing on stage that the SM Food Company should look after the plant's maintenance and quality standards to preserve its efficiency and dignity. Consequently, the keys were handed over to SM Food Company's Media Advisor and Project Incharge, Zain Khan.

On the occasion, Chaudhry Zulfiqar Ali Anjum paid rich tribute to the social services of YCDO, calling their efforts a proud chapter in public service. He remarked, "I find peace of mind and comfort in social work.



My wish is for our people to live healthy lives. Contaminated water causes diseases such as hepatitis, which makes clean drinking water essential for life."

YCDO CEO Rana Zaheer Babar, in his address, sincerely thanked Chaudhry Zulfiqar Ali Anjum for successfully rehabilitating the project and undertaking this noble cause, also praising his social contributions as "the benefactor of Multan."

he said صلى الله عليه وسلم he said that providing water is a deed of immense reward and has been صدته described as Sadaqah Jariyah (a continuing charity), benefitting a person even after death. He added that quenching the thirst of every living being earns

On behalf of the residents of Chaudhry, Khursheed Subhani,

in this world but also on the Day



Sabzwari Town, Haji Naeem Hamza Askari, Malik Akhtar Ahmad Khan also came to the stage to extend heartfelt gratitude to Chaudhry Zulfiqar Ali Ahmad, Rao Asif, Rana Ghaz-Anjum. YCDO further presented him with an honorary shield in recognition of his services.

The event was attended the pleasure of Allah, and its by prominent personalities reward will be received not only including Rana Ikhlaq, Rana Zaheer Babar, Rana Iqbal, Haji Naeem Ahmad Khan, Aslam Ijaz

Hussain, Amiad Khan Khera, Rana Ghafar GM. Qari Ali anfar, Ateeq-ur-Rehman, and a large number of local residents. From SM Food Company, officials including Waseem Shahzad, Abdul Wahid, Riaz-ul-Haq, Danish Bukhari, Chaudhry Abdul Majeed, Rana Munir, Yaqoob Jamal, and Zain Khan were also

Bull & Bears PSX 100-Share Index Fluctuation

index Fluctuation		
Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index		
Current	Prev. Close	
168,489.62	165,640.33	
Day's High	Day's Low	
168,619.32	165,567.22	
Index Value	Change	
52,608,874,760	+2849.29	
Percentage	Time	
+1.72%	2 Oct, 2025 4:30 pm	
Europe: FTS	E 100 Index	
Index Value	Change	
9,427.73	-18.70	
Percentage	Time	

index value	Gnange
9,427.73	-18.70
Percentage	Time
-0.20%	2 Oct, 4:35 pm GMT+1
USA: Dow Jones I	ndustrial Averago

USA. DUW JUHES HILUUSHIAI AVETAYE	
Index Value	Change
46,417.19	-23.91
Percentage	Time
-0.051%	2 Oct, 1:31 pm GMT-4
Asia Pacific: Nikkoi Stocks Average	

sia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average		
Index Value	Change	
44,936.73	+385.88	
Percentage	Time	
+0.87%	2 Oct, 3:45 pm GMT+9	

Open Market	Forex F	≀ates
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	185	190
Bahrain Dinar	746.4	753.9
Canadian Dollar	205	212
China Yuan	39.52	39.92
Danish Krone	44.15	44.75
Euro	331.5	335
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	216.5	221.25
Swedish Korona	29.99	30.29
Swiss Franc	355.02	357.77
Thai Bhat	8.73	8.88
U.A.E Dirham	76.8	77.8
UK Pound Sterling	380.5	383.5

Smog monitoring and control committee has been formed in Faisalabad division

👺 Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: A 16-member smog monitoring and control committee has been formed in Faisalabad division, which will also include representation from the Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The committee's responsibilities include monitoring the air quality index, identifying pollution hotspots, implementing SOPs against vehicles emitting smoke, industrial units, burning crop residues or garbage. Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry President Farooq Yousuf Sheikh has said that the share of industries in environmental pollution is negligible, while according to the government's own data, the biggest cause of pollution is unburnt fuel of vehicles, which contains carbon dioxide and the highly harmful carbon monoxide. He said that due to high chimneys, even a small amount of smoke from industrial units can be seen from a distance, but the process of burning garbage in the city is ignored.

Pakistan, Ethiopia to strengthen agricultural cooperation for food security and economic growth

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research, Rana Tanveer Hussain, held a high-level meeting with the Ambassador of Ethiopia, Dr. Jemal Beker Abdula, to explore avenues of enhancing bilateral cooperation in the agriculture and livestock sectors.

Welcoming the Ambassador, the Minister underlined the longstanding relationship between Pakistan and Ethiopia, emphasizing that both countries, being predominantly agrarian economies, have enormous potential to work together in addressing the global challenge of food

Rana Tanveer Hussain said that agriculture in Pakistan holds vast untapped potential, and collaboration with Ethiopia can prove mutually beneficial in strength-

oping countries due to its successful adoption of adopting foreign models. ening food systems, promoting innovation, and home-grown development models. He further advancing rural development. He highlighted that Ethiopia stands as a role model for develenous growth pathways rather than blindly and Livestock to institutionalize dialogue and perity for both nations.

stressed that Pakistan, too, is committed to indig- a Joint Working Group (JWG) on Agriculture

cooperation between the two countries. He said the JWG would facilitate collaboration in research, livestock health, veterinary services, technology transfer, irrigation, and capacity-building through technical exchanges. He also welcomed Ethiopian cooperation in aligning sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) standards to unlock greater agricultural trade potential.

Ambassador Dr. Jemal Beker Abdula appreciated Pakistan's vision and acknowledged the need for deeper cooperation in agriculture. He informed that Ethiopia has successfully mobilized its people through a home-grown development model, stressing that problems and solutions must be addressed within local contexts.

Concluding the meeting, Rana Tanveer Hussain reaffirmed that enhanced agricultural collaboration between Pakistan

and Ethiopia will not only strengthen bilateral The Minister proposed the establishment of relations but also contribute significantly to food security, rural livelihoods, and economic pros-

Protect from dengue



Coca-Cola Foundation, Coca-Cola System and Rizq Partner to distribute over half a million meals in flood-affected communities

Example 2 Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Coca-Cola Foundation and the Coca-Cola system, in partnership with Rizg, aim to deliver over 550,000 meals to flood-affected communities in Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and Gilgit-Baltistan. The drive includes 3,000 food ration hampers (with flour, rice, oil, sugar and lentils) to feed families for one month. A community dastarkhwan is serving meals safely, alongside the distribution of more than 100,000 servings of drinking water. Selected communities are also receiving blankets, bedding, and feminine hygiene kits to support affected families.

The Coca-Cola Foundation extended immediate relief support with ration bags in Balochistan and Coca-Cola Pakistan installed a solar-powered water filtration plant in Thatta for drinking water. We thank Rizq and provincial authorities in Punjab, KP, and GB whose coordination said Sunay Sanli, General Manager, CCI not alone."



enabled the rapid mobilization of relief operations.

Witnessing the resilience of those affected has been deeply moving. We remain committed to both immediate support and long-term recovery, helping build a stronger, more resilient Pakistan,"

Pakistan.

Qasim Javaid, CEO of Rizq, emphasized, "This contribution is critical to stabilizing communities. Coca-Cola's assistance, including the time and effort of its volunteers, goes beyond material aid, showing those affected that they are

Changan sells 1000+ New Karvaan Power Plus 1.2L in 50 Days



Commerce Desk

KARACHI: In August 2025, Master Changan Motors Limited (MCML) successfully introduced cle (MPV) Segment.

Building on this remark-

introducing a new variant, At the launch of Karvaan Power Comfort, Mr. Danial Malik, CEO of Master Changan Motors, said, "Master Changan holds the all new Karvaan Power Pakistan's most diversi-Plus 1.2L with unmatcha-fied portfolio, serving every ble features. Living up to segment of mobility. With its promise as "Hum Sab over 25,000 Karvaan on Ki Pehli Choice", it crossed the road, it stands as the the 1.000-units milestone nation's preferred MPV. This in just 50 days quickly new launch reaffirms our becoming the benchmark commitment to innovation in the Multipurpose Vehi- and enhancing the value we bring to this category"

Changan Karvaan able success, MCML is now Hum Sab Ki Pehli Choice.

ABHI Selected for Mastercard's Start **Path Small Business** Program

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: ABHI, a neobank of the future that is revolutionizing access to earned wages and SME financing in emerging markets, has been selected as one of the eight startups worldwide to join Mastercard Start Path's Small Busi-

ness program. Alongside ABHI, the new cohort features INI, SiFi, TogoAgro, TurnKey Lender, Conduiit, Tracflo, and Morado, all pioneering companies transforming how SMEs access and manage financial resources.

A abhi

Omair Ansari, Co-Founder and CEO of ABHI, shared his thoughts: "I witnessed how outdated financial systems and limited access to credit have held back individuals and businesses in emerging markets. My vision for the future is financial technology that helps people everywhere with instant access to the resources they need to grow, thrive, and achieve their goals."

Positions Peshawar as the Next Regional Hub of Commerce

Commerce Desk

way to Central Asia," hosted the Pakistan Business Summit 2025 under Nutshell Group and Al Baraka Bank economic strength." (Pakistan) Limited, with the Over-Summit was themed "Shaping What's

& Chairman, Senate of Pakistan, PESHAWAR: Peshawar, the "Gate- remarked: "Empowering women, securing peace, and fostering innovation will transform Pakistan's the patronage of the Governor of resilience into lasting prosperity, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Co-hosted by unlocking global recognition and

Faisal Karim Kundi, Governor, seas Investors Chamber of Commerce Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, stated: and Industry as Strategic Partner, the "Endowed with hydel power, minerals, and tourism potential, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa stands at a The inaugural session featured crossroads, only through investment, high-level leadership and keynote peace with Afghanistan, and busiaddresses. H. E. Syed Yusuf Raza ness-banking collaboration can the

Pakistan's economic future." Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, Federal Minister for Finance & Revenue, emphasized fairness: "National development is only possible when all citizens equitably contribute through taxes, ensuring fairness, shared responsibility, and a sustainable path to economic sovereignty." Muhammad Ali, Federal Minister for Privatisation, highlighted structural reform: "Pakistan's economy must shift toward a market-based model that reflects the strength of 240 million people. Our efforts

Gilani, Acting President of Pakistan province unlock its role in driving need structure, performance, and competitiveness to achieve lasting progress." "Pakistan's Economy & Business Climate - Is Pakistan Ready for a Turnaround?" was an impactful session, with Muzammil Aslam, Minister for Finance, Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, who said: "Highest corporate taxation and repatriation of profits is compelling investors to exit. The Government needs to support provincial visions, not curtail them with unjustified regulatory framework."

Prof. Dr. Muhammad Rehman, Prof. Dr. Abdul Bari Khan, Jahangir



of Al Baraka Bank (Pakistan) Limited,

Khan, Kaan Terzioglu, Group CEO of & Chairman of Nutshell Group, Air VEON, Muhammad Atif Hanif, CEO Chief Marshal (Rtd) Sohail Aman and "Rabia Ahmad, Director & CEO of Muhammad Azfar Ahsan, Founder Nutshell Group, also speaks

Bangladesh Women beat Pakistan by 7 wickets in ICC Women's World Cup Clash

👺 Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: Bangladesh Women defeated Pakistan Women by seven wickets in the ICC Women's World Cup at the R. Premadasa Stadium in Colombo Thursday.

Pakistan captain Fatima Sana, playing her 50th ODI, won the toss and chose to bat first, but her side struggled from the outset.

Pakistan were bowled out for just 129 runs in 38.3 overs after losing both openers, Umaima Sohail and Sidra Amin, for ducks in the very first over to Marufa Akhtar.

Ramin Shamim (23) and Muniba Ali (17) briefly steadied the innings with a 42-run stand, while Fatima Sana added 22 and Diana Baig remained unbeaten on 16. However, consistent



breakthroughs from Bangladesh's bowlers kept Pakistan from building momentum. Leg-spinner Shorna Akhtar produced career-best figures of 3 wickets for 3 runs, while Marufa Akhtar and Nahida Akhtar claimed two scalps each.

In reply, Bangladesh chased down the target comfortably, reaching 133 for 3 in 31.1 overs. Debutant Rubia Haider led the charge with an unbeaten 54 off 8 fours, sharing a 62-run third-wicket partnership with skipper Nigar Sultana (23). Subhana Mostari sealed the win with 24 not out, hitting six boundaries.

For Pakistan, Diana Baig, Ramin Shamim, and Fatima Sana took one wicket apiece.

Pakistan Women will now face India Women in their second group match on October 5 in Colombo.

ICC Women's World Cup Cricket Tournament in Sri lanka

Bangladesh Women's Cricket Team Defeat Pakistan Women's Cricket Team By 7 Wickets



COLOMBO: Bangladesh Women Cricket Team Defeated Pakistan the ICC Women's World Cup.

This is Bangladesh's 8th time win Day International matches.

Pakistan has also won 8 matches Win AgainstBangladesWomen's. One match was tied.

Fatima Sana won the toss and elected to bat first in her 50th One Day International at the Premadasa Stadium

in Colombo on Thursday. Pakistan Women were bowled out for 129 runs in 38.3 overs.

In reply, Bangladesh Women Women Cricket Team By 7 wickets in achieved the required score for 3 wickets in 31.1 overs.

In the very first over of Pakistan's after scoring 16 runs. gainst Pakistan in 17 Women's One innings. Marufa Akhtar dismissed (0) with consecutive balls.

Ramin Shamim scored 23 runs with



Muniba Ali, who scored 17 runs.

Sidra Nawaz was dismissed for 15 and Alia Riaz for 13 runs. Captain runs with the help of 5 fours. Fatima Sana played an innings of 22 runs. Diana Baig remained not out wicket partnership.

Leg-spinner Shorn Umaima Sohail (0) and Sidra Amin the most successful bowler, taking 3 fours. wickets for just 3 runs, which is her Due to the intermittent wickets, the career best bowling. Marufa Akhtar Fatima Sana took one wicket each for Pakistan team could not reach a big and Nahida Akhtar dismissed two Pakistan. players each.

in the third wicket partnership with and scored 54 runs with the help of 8 fours and remained not out. Captain Nigar Fatima played an innings of 23

The two added 62 runs in the third

Subhana Mostari scored 24 runs ithout being out, which included six

Diana Baig, Ramin Shamim and

Pakistan Women's team will play Rubia Haider, playing her first ODI their second match on October 5 the help of two fours and added 42 runs in the Bangladesh innings, batted well against India Women in Colombo.

Punjab Sports Minister chairs an important meeting to review the ADP Schemes

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Punjab Minister of Sports and Youth Affairs Malik Faisal Ayub Khokhar has presided over an important meeting at National Hockey Stadium on Thursday to review the ADP Schemes of Punjab Sports Department.

Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Muzaffar Khan Sial, Director General Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Khizar Afzaal Chaudhry and other officials attended the meeting.



Youth Affairs Malik Faisal Ayub Punjab Sports Department

Punjab Minister of Sports and briefing on various projects of sports development schemes. Addressing the meeting,

Youth Affairs Malik Faisal Avub Khokhar said that 58 sports Khokhar was given a detailed including ongoing 88 new Punjab Minister of Sports and development schemes have been

approved while 30 schemes are awaiting approval. He directed the officials concerned to take all necessary measures to remove the obstacles for the approval of sports schemes.

Punjab Minister of Sports and Youth Affairs Malik Faisal Ayub Khokhar said that the plan of constructing food courts around Punjab Stadium should be finalized as early as possible. He also issued instructions to ensure parking and other facilities for the public. He directed the officials concerned to complete all sports development schemes as per given time

Former national captain optimistic about future of football in country

Sports Desk

PESHAWAR: Former Pakistan football captain and renowned player Muhammad Arshad has expressed optimism over the future of football in the country, stating that the Pakistan Football Federation (PFF) under President Mohsin Gilani is steering the sport in the right

Speaking to the media in Peshawar, Muhammad Arshad said that the revival of national-level committees, promotion of football at educational



He praised Mohsin Gilani as institutions, establishment of a seasoned and visionary sports training camps, organization personality whose extensive of domestic competitions, and experience with international the resumption of international and Asian football bodies will

Pakistan's standing in the sport. His leadership will give Pakistan football new hope and direction, Arshad remarked.

Recalling the golden days of

Pakistan football was at its peak, commanding respect at the international stage. From the national team to provincial and district levels, even children playing in the streets shared a unique passion and energy for the game.

Muhammad Arshad commended the current PFF administration for taking effective steps to restore the lost glory of football in Pakistan. He noted that uniting former international players, coaches, and stakeholders under one vision is crucial for the sport's

resurgence. He also welcomed the federa- emerging talent.

the game, the former captain tion's newly announced plan to said, There was a time when promote football at schools and colleges, describing educational institutions as vital nurseries for producing future stars. With the involvement of former internationals and qualified coaches, grassroots talent can now be identified and polished, which is a very positive development for Pakistan football, he said.

Arshad further revealed that the federation has engaged international players and qualified coaches to provide young footballers with better opportunities. Junior teams are being sent to international tournaments to gain exposure, which he believes will pave the way for

Cricketers Zone-IV services for promoting cricket in Karachi are unforgettable: Tabish Javed



KARACHI: Zone-IV has produced outstanding cricketers like Saeed Anwar, Rashid Latif, Taslim Arif, Khurram Manzoor, Khalid Latif, Saeed Azad and many other brilliant cricketers said Tabish Javed, Senior Vice President of the Regional Cricket Association Karachi, speaking at the closing ceremony of the PCB Y. J Sports Zone-IV T20 Inter club Cricket Tournament held at the RLC Gulberg Ground. He added that Zone-IV officials' contributions to promotion of cricket are unforgettable.

Khalid Nafees, ChairmanTournament Committee RCA Karachi, said, "Win or lose, we are with you. Touseef Siddiqui Joint Secretary of Regional Cricket Association6 Karachi, congratulated Zone-IV President Musarat Raza, S. M Asim, and other officials for organizing an excellent tournament and assured them of all possible support.

In the final match, Malir Gymkhana defeated Faisal Gymkhana by 51 runs at RLCA Gulberg Ground to win the tournament. Malir Gymkhana scored 223 runs for 5 wickets. Danyal Ahsan scored 109 runs (7 fours, 8 sixes), Test cricketer Khurram Manzoor made 74 (13 fours, 1 six), and Abdul Rahman scored 28. Faisal Gymkhana scored 172 for 9 wickets. Arslan Farzand scored 58, and Imran Shah made 55. Abdullah 3/26, Azam Hussain 2/20

The winner's trophy received by Malir Gymkhana Skipper Azam Hussain, and the runner-up trophy received by Faisal Gymkhana captain Arslan Farzand from chief guest Tabish Javed. Awards included Player of the Tournament (Danyal Ahsan), Best Batsman (Khurram Manzoor), Best Bowler (Mohammad Arif), and Best Wicketkeeper (Mohammad Waqas). Zone -IV President Musarat Reza presented shields to chief guest Tabish Javed and Azam Khan. Shields were also presented to Khalid Nafees, Touseef Siddiqui, Arif Waheed, Visal Ansari, S. M Asim Zahoor, Mohammad Ahmad Naqvi, Mazhar Ali Awan, Zia Ahmad Siddiqui, and other guests.

Pak coach selected for UCI Level 3 Diploma

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: For the very first time, a Pakistani coach, Haroon General, has earned selection for the prestigious UCI Level 3 Coaching Diploma-an international coaching certification awarded by the Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI).

The Pakistan Cycling Federation (PCF), in a state-



This elite one-month program, taking place in Agile, Switzerland, will equip Haroon with advanced technical, tactical, and

strategic expertise in professional cycling. Upon his return, he will play a pivotal role in transferring world-class knowledge to Pakistan's cycling community—

strengthening local coaching standards and elevating the nation's presence on the global stage.

The PCF will also launch a Level 1 Coaching Course for aspiring coaches nationwide. This initiative will introduce internationally recognized training methodologies at the grassroots level, laying the foundation for a structured pathway of coaching excellence in Pakistan.

These groundbreaking developments reaffirm the Pakistan Cycling Federation's unwavering commitment to fostering talent, promoting professional standards, and establishing Pakistan as a recognized force in the international cycling community.

4th CNS All-Pakistan Hockey Tournament semifinals today



₿ Sports Desk

LAHORE: The stage is set for the semi-finals of the 4th Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS) All-Pakistan Hockey Tournament, which will take place Friday (tomorrow) at the National Hockey Stadium, Lahore.

Four top teams, Pakistan Navy, Pakistan Air Force (PAF), Mari Energies, and Pakistan Customs, have qualified for the

semi-finals following intense league matches earlier this week. In the first semi-final, Pakistan Navy will face Pakistan Air Force, while the second clash will feature Mari Energies taking on Pakistan Customs, with both matches expected to draw strong crowds and deliver high-octane hockey action.

Thursday was observed as a rest day, giving teams time to regroup and prepare. The league stage concluded on Wednesday with two exciting matches that finalized the semi-final lineup. In the first game, Port Qasim and National Bank of Pakistan (NBP) played out a thrilling 3-3 draw while the second encounter saw Pakistan Army overpower Pakistan Rangers with a commanding 5-2 victory.

The CNS Hockey Tournament has brought together top talent from across Pakistan, with fans witnessing impressive performances, tactical gameplay, and strong team spirit throughout the league stages

On Saturday, the third-place playoff will take place prior to the final while the grand final of the 4th CNS All-Pakistan Hockey Tournament will be graced by top Pakistan Navy officials along with former Olympians and hockey legends.

The Spokesman

ECC Meeting ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb chairing a meeting of the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet held at Finance Division on Thursday.

ECC amends barter trade mechanism with Afghanistan, Iran and Russia

Example 2 Commerce Desk

on Thursday approved key of Finance. supplementary grants alongside measures to streamline

governing bilateral trade of New York. ISLAMABAD: The Econom- with Afghanistan, Iran, and ic Coordination Commit- Russia, according to a statetee (ECC) of the Cabinet ment issued by the Ministry

by Finance Minister Senator proposal. trade with regional partners. Muhammad Aurangzeb, The ECC gave the reviewed a summary from

barter trade mechanism lease agreement with the City for the Defence Complex of Rs174.8 million was

While expressing support needs, the ECC directed the ministry to revisit its esti-The committee, chaired mates and resubmit the

Ministry of Defence, the for law and order maintego-ahead to a draft Statu- the Ministry of Interior and ECC approved a Tech- nance, with disbursements to tory Regulatory Order (SRO) Narcotics Control seeking nical Supplementary Grant be managed by the Finance proposed by the Ministry of financial support for the (TSG) of Rs4 billion for cash Division in consultation with Commerce, amending the Roosevelt Hotel in New York compensation to residents the Interior Division. business-to-business (B2B) after the termination of its affected by land acquisition

Islamabad, with the balance to be arranged by the Capital to address urgent financial Development Authority (CDA).

The committee also endorsed the Interior Ministry's proposal for Rs20 On a request from the billion in phased funding

approved for the Frontier Corps KP (North) headquartered in Peshawar.

The meeting was attended by Petroleum Minister Ali Pervaiz Malik, Commerce Minister Jam Kamal Khan, **Investment Board Minister** Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh, Privatisation Adviser Muhammad Ali, along with federal secretaries and senior officials of concerned ministries and

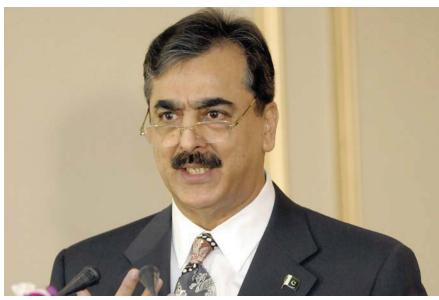
Gilani clarifies Pakistan's Backing of Trump Gaza Peace Plan

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: Acting President and Senate Chairman Yousuf Raza Gilani on Thursday clarified that Pakistan's decision to support US President Donald Trump's Gaza peace plan was not unilateral but taken after consultations with key Muslim nations. Pakistan travel guide

Speaking to reporters, Gilani emphasized that Pakistan acted as a consensus builder, saying the agreement was the outcome of collective thinking, not the decision of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif or Field Marshal Asim Munir

"All coalition partners including Saudi Arabia, Indothe United Arab Emirates jointly prepared the agreed document," he said, noting



detailed clarification.

Gilani assured that once concerns. He reiterated that travel guide

nesia, Türkiye, Jordan, and that Deputy Prime Minister Parliament convenes, Foreign Pakistan's stance remained Ishaq Dar had already given a Minister Dar will brief rooted in consensus within lawmakers to address any the Muslim world. Pakistan

Trump's 20-point Gaza a prisoner exchange, phased Israeli withdrawal from Gaza, Hamas disarmament, and a transitional government under international supervision. While Trump announced Pakistan's full backing, Dar earlier clarified that not all of Islamabad's recommendations were included in the final draft.

The deputy prime minister also said Pakistan's leadership would decide on any participation in a proposed international peace force for Palestine, stressing that Islamabad's core policy on the issue remains unchanged.

Meanwhile, opposition parties have raised concerns over the government's support for the plan, demanding transparency and clarity from the ruling coalition.

Minister vows to extend political, diplomatic, moral support to the Kashmiri people

E City Desk

tee on Kashmir, Rana Qasim, vowed to extend political, diplomatic and Parliament House on Thursday. moral support to the Kashmiri people until they achieved their Chairman Parliamentary Committee legitimate right to self-determi- on Kashmir reaffirmed that the nation as enshrined in the United Parliament of Pakistan was fully

He expressed these views during ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister/ the meeting with a Member of the Chairman Parliamentary Commit- House of Lords, United Kingdom, Lord Shaffaq Mohammad, at the

During the meeting, the

Kashmir issue at all international

He stated that Pakistan's recent success in defending itself against Indian aggression has once again drawn the world's attention to the unresolved dispute of Jammu and

Lord Shaffaq Mohammad appreciated Pakistan's consistent and princi-Nations Security Council resolu- committed to highlighting the pled position on the Kashmir issue. national forums.

He commended the efforts of the Pakistani Parliament and leadership in advocating the just cause of Kashmir.

He further observed that India's persistent violations of the Indus Waters Treaty represented a serious breach of international law and global commitments, which must be raised effectively at relevant inter-

Fazlur Rehman rejects 20-point agenda of Trump, announces nation-wide protest

ISLAMABAD: The leader of the Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) Maulana Fazlur Rehman, rejects the 20-point agenda presented by US President Donald Trump along with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu during a press conference in the White House on



"We reject the 20-point formula of Trump," said Fazlur Rehman.

From his official X (former

twitter) handle, he announced to participate in the peaceful demonhold demonstrations on Friday in all the district headquarters against

Israeli provocations to show solidarity with Palestinians.

JUI-F chief also advised to high-He said that his party will not light the inception of the Sumud accept any oppressive action against Gaza Flotilla, which was heading towards Gaza to deliver aid.

Fazl called all the patriots to

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DPM Dar chairs meeting to review issue of seized and tampered vehicles



Minister Ishaq Dar chaired a non-custom vehicles. high-level committee meeting to review the issue of seized and adopt transparent and effective tampered vehicles. According to system. He said government wanted spokesperson for Foreign Office, to adopt technology-based soluthe meeting was attended by Law tions to safeguard valuable public Minister, chairman FBR and Secre- resources.

tary Information. The participants of the meeting were briefed on ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime FBR's online/e-auction module for

Dar reiterates commitment to

Pakistan strongly condemns Israeli attack on Gaza aid flotilla



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Thursday strongly condemned the dastardly attack by Israeli forces on the Sumud Gaza flotilla, carrying over 450 humanitarian workers from 44 countries on a mission to take humanitarian aid to Gaza.

forces raided the Global Sumud Flotilla, which was one of the biggest naval aid missions to Gaza.

and jammed signals as the flotilla prime minister remarked.

carrying more than 40 civilian boats approached the blockaded Gaza

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, in a post on his X timeline, said, "This barbarity must end. Peace must be given a chance and humanitarian aid must reach those in need."

He expressed the hope and prayed for the safety of all those who have According to the reports, Israeli been illegally apprehended by Israeli forces and called for their immediate

"Their crime was to carry aid for The forces cut communications the hapless Palestinian people," the

Dialogue only way forward for every major issue: Sardar Yousaf

B City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Religious Affairs and Interment delegation is proceeding to to address the concerns raised by the Awami Action Committee (AAC) on the directives of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

Expressing grief over the loss of lives during recent unrest, the for the greater cause of Kashmir and minister emphasized that dialogue hoped the matter would be resolved is the only way forward. "Every major amicably at the earliest.

issue can be resolved at the negotiating table," he remarked.

He said the delegation would listen to the grievances of the committee faith Harmony, Sardar Muhammad and assured that their legitimate Yousaf, on Thursday said a govern- demands would be considered in line with the prime minister's guidance Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) and in the best interest of the people of Kashmir.

The minister further expressed confidence that the leadership of the Awami Action Committee would engage in meaningful talks

Ahsan confident of resolving AJK people's issues through dialogue

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minis- Minister Shehbaz Sharif to assess ter for Planning Development the ground situation and engage and Special Initiatives Professor with stakeholders in AJK. Ahsan Iqbal on Thursday reafto resolve the public concerns and legal means.

"A high-level delegation is going firmed the government's pledge to AJK capital, Muzaffarabad to assess the situation firsthand and and protests in Azad Jammu and hold talks with the people there," Kashmir (AJK) through dialogue he said, adding that wherever legal solutions were possible, the He was speaking to the media government was fully prepared before his departure to Muzaf- to play its role in addressing the farabad as part of a high-level legitimate concerns of the people committee, constituted by Prime of Azad Kashmir.