(میخی بخاری: مدیث نمبر 6322) **Barkat Rice Mills** (Pvt) Limited

JI to launch Kisan Bachao Tehreek

Addressing a press conference after meeting with farmers in Lahore, Ameer Jamaat-e-Islami Hafiz Naeem-ur-Rehman's demanded that both the public and farmers should get subsidy on flour. Hafiz Naeem-ur-Rehman said small farmers are in serious trouble for not getting their rights and due to inflation, costly fertilizers and other agriculture related products.



Dengue cases continue to surge in Punjab

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

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Corps Commanders Conference

RAWALPINDI: Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir presiding the 272nd Corps Commanders Conference at General Headquarters.



PM Shehbaz calls Pakistan-Saudi Defence Pact symbol of brotherhood

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday said the Pakistan-Saudi Arabia defence cooperation agreement is rooted in brotherhood and mutual trust, emphasizing that both nations, by working together, can secure a stronger position in the global community.

He was addressing a luncheon held here at the Prime Minister's House in honour of the visiting Saudi delegation led by Prince Mansour bin Mohammad bin Saad Al Saud, Chairman of the Saudi-Pakistan Joint Business Council. Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Ishaq Dar, federal ministers, senior officials, and prominent business figures attended the

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif warmly welcomed Prince Mansour, saying it was a pleasure



He recalled his long-standing relationship with Saudi Arabia, sharing that he first visited the Kingdom in the 1960s and had to see him again, noting that "we since witnessed its remarkable

visit to Riyadh as "unique and unforgettable," lauding the warm hospitality extended by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman

and the Saudi people. "The Saudi leadership and lined that the Pakistan-Saudi

people have always stood by Pakistan through every trial and difficulty," he said, reaffirming that every Muslim is ready to sacrifice

for the sanctity of the holy sites. The prime minister under-

defence pact formalizes a relationship founded on deep fraternity. "We are true brothers, and a brother always stands by his brother. We will always remain protectors of the holy cities of Makkah and Madinah," he declared.

Highlighting the growing scope of bilateral cooperation, the prime minister said both countries are determined to enhance ties based on trade, investment, research, and innovation. "This is a time of golden opportunities. Together, we can transform our shared business vision into reality," he said.

The prime minister praised Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's dynamic and visionary leadership, crediting it for transforming Saudi society. "Time and circumstances wait for no one. We must prepare ourselves for new challenges and opportunities. With cooperation and unity, we can establish a firm place in the global community," he added.

Corps Commanders Conference vows swift, decisive reply to any Indian aggression

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Chief of Army Staff Field Marshal Sved Asim Munir on Wednesday presided over the 272nd Corps Commanders Conference at General Headquarters, where senior commanders conducted a detailed review of national security, counter-terrorism operations, regional developments and operational preparedness, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said.

The session opened with a recitation of the Fatiha for soldiers killed in recent attacks by Indian-backed terrorist

proxies. Field Marshal Asim Munir praised the courage, resolve and sacrifices of Pakistan Army personnel in the war against foreign-sponsored terror proxies and paid tribute to the force's role in recent flood relief and rescue operations

conducted alongside civil authorities

According to the ISPR, participants carried out a comprehensive assessment of ongoing counter-terrorism actions, emerging threats and operational readiness.

The forum reaffirmed that the armed forces remain ready to thwart the inimical designs of Pakistan's adversaries across all domains.

The existing nexus between terror and crime with vested political patronage, which is gravely hurting the interests of the state and security of its people, will not be allowed to continue anymore, the forum

The Forum expressed grave concerns about the recent irresponsible and unwarranted provocative statements by Indian civil and military lead-

Continued on Page 7

DPM/FM Dar reaffirms commitment to facilitating Saudi investment



跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, Wednesday, highlighted Pakistan's conducive investment climate and reaffirmed the Government's commitment to facilitating Saudi investments.

The DPM/FM received Mansour Prince bin Mohammad Al Saud, Chairman of the Saudi-Pakistan Joint Business Council (JBC), who is leading a highlevel Saudi business delegation visiting Pakistan, Foreign

Office Spokesperson said in a press release.

Expressing satisfaction at the growing momentum in bilateral economic relations, DPM/FM Dar noted the tremendous scope for enhanced Pak-Saudi cooperation.

Prince Mansour bin Mohammad Al Saud appreciated the progress of the Saudi-Pak JBC, terming it among the most successful business councils globally.

Both sides agreed to further strengthen economic linkages for the shared prosperity of the two brotherly nations.

Saudi trade delegation visits Islamabad to boost bilateral investment

👺 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: A high-level Saudi trade delegation, led by His Excellency Prince Mansour bin Mohammed Al Saud, participated in the Saudi-Pakistan Joint Business Council Meeting and investor-friendly business enviheld in Islamabad on 8 October 2025. The meeting was organized under the Saudi-Pakistan Joint Business Council, with the support of the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) and the Ministry of Commerce.

The delegation comprised leading Saudi business figures representing key sectors including minerals, energy, agriculture and livestock, construction, infrastructure, tourism, and real estate. Prominent representatives from Pakistan's private sector and business enterprises also participated, underscoring the shared resolve to expand bilateral trade and investment cooperation.

During the session, Pakistani ministers, senior officials, and industry

leaders briefed the Saudi delegation on Pakistan's evolving investment climate, presenting opportunities in SIFC's priority sectors and highlighting the government's facilitative reforms aimed at creating a predictable, transparent, ronment. The Joint Business Council provides a structured institutional platform to foster joint ventures, crosssector partnerships, and private-sector collaboration - promoting sustainable economic linkages between the two brotherly nations. His Excellency Prince Mansour bin

Mohammed Al Saud commended Pakistan's ongoing efforts to strengthen its investment ecosystem and reaffirmed the Kingdom's commitment to long-term economic engagement aligned with Saudi Vision 2030. He emphasized that Pakistan is an important regional partner with promising potential in agriculture, mining, energy, technology, tourism, and real estate.

Gandapur steps down, change in KP leadership

his resignation, saying he is stepping down on new chief minister. the instructions of PTI founder.

Gandapur said the post of chief minister was a trust given to him by the PTI founder.

"At his direction, I am returning this trust and resigning from the office of chief minister," he said.

Gandapur added that Suhail Afridi would have his full support and that the party would move

forward under Imran Khan's leadership. Sources said that Imran Khan issued instructions to replace Gandapur with Suhail Afridi during the Toshakhana case hearing in Adiala

Meanwhile, speaking informally to journalists in Peshawar, Suhail Afridi said his name had been circulating for several days, but he will step down — leadership doesn't always rest had not vet received official instructions from with one person."

PTI Secretary-General Salman Akram Raja PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief later confirmed Gandapur's removal, saying Minister Ali Amin Gandapur has announced that Suhail Afridi had been nominated as the "The KP government could not distance itself

In a video statement on Wednesday, from the policies of the agencies. Now, Suhail Afridi will lead a government that focuses on wisdom, understanding -

this is a well-thought-out decision by Imran Khan," Raja said.

He added that Imran Khan had directed Suhail Afridi to engage with the

federal government and emphasise the need to follow Khan's vision. Raja dismissed allegations that Imran Khan was sympathetic to the Taliban, saying Afridi

would make it clear that the KP government does not support federal policies. "Imran Khan has sent his best wishes for Ali Amin Gandapur," Raja added. "It's time for a new beginning and a fresh approach. Gandapur

quake struck Pakistan. Paying tribute to the courage, resilience and deter-

Muqam lauds national unity during **October 8, 2005** earthquake mination of the nation, Engr

跨 Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: Federal Minister for States and Frontier Regions, Gilgit Baltistan and Kashmir Affairs, Engr Amir Muqam here Wednesday said that the entire nation set a remarkable example of unity, patience, and perseverance after devastated earthquake on October 8, 2005.

Engineer Amir Muqam said this in a statement on completion of 20 years since the October 8, 2005 earth-

Amir Muqam said that the 2005 earthquake was a tragic day in our history and praised the entire nation that set a remarkable example of unity, patience, courage and faith. He termed the role of volun-

teers, Pakistan Armed Forces, and international organizations was exemplary. A tribute was paid to the

martyrs, and solidarity was expressed with their families. "I personally took part in

relief efforts in the affected areas and visited Muzaffarabad, Balakot, and Bagh as Federal Minister" he said.

Masood Khan urges preparedness for emerging biosecurity challenges in a changing international order

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Sardar Masood Khan, former President of Azad Jammu & Kashmir and Pakistan's former Ambassador to the United Nations, the United States, and China, delivered a thought-provoking address at the Federal Urdu University of Arts, Sciences & Technology (FUUAST), Islamabad, highlighting the intersection of international order, biosciences, and biosecurity. Addressing faculty. researchers, and students, Ambassador Khan underscored the urgency of strengthening Pakistan's preparedness for a rapidly evolving biopolitical landscape shaped by advances in science and technology.



education, research, and innova- wari, Vice Chancellor of FUUAST, tional biosecurity order."

Ambassador Khan praised the tion, particularly under the leader-

who has earned national and international recognition in biosciences. He commended the institution's vision for becoming a center of excellence, noting its potential to position Pakistan at the forefront of emerging scientific fields.

Ambassador Khan concluded by calling on Pakistan's universities, scientists, and policymakers to invest in research, international collaboration, and innovation in life sciences. "This is not just about science—it is about the security, prosperity, and future of our nation.

The young generation of Pakistan must seize this moment to build resilience, harness biotechnology, and make University's contributions to higher ship of Prof. Dr. Zabta Khan Shin-Pakistan a leader in the new interna-

Inauguration

RAWALPINDI: Parliamentary Secretary for Information & Broadcasting, Barrister Danyal Chaudhry inaugurated a new 30bed Cardiac Ward at BBH, affirming that delivering quality public healthcare and achieving national economic stability are



Muslim Conference to pay tribute to the victims of the deadly earthquake of October 8

RAWALPINDI /MUZAFFARABAD: Under the auspices of All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference to pay tribute to the victims of the deadly earthquake of October 8, Candles are lit in memory of the martyrs and special prayers are offered for their elevation. Held Quran recitation and collective prayer gatherings.

Muslim Conference leaders from various backgrounds participated in Assembly candidate Sajad Anwar Abbasi and other Muslim Conference

Shahdaa Zalzala 20th Anniversary of Muslim Conference Leaders Former President Mirza Muhammad Shafiq Jaral Advocate, Muslim Conference Secretary General Smt. Former asir Naqvi Advocate, Major Retired Altaf, Raja Zareen Khan, Majid Tahir, Raja, Shahida Tabassum, Gaddafi Altaf.



ence District Muzaffarabad Sidi-

Nasrallah Khan, Sardar Abid Razak, General Secretary of Muslim Conference District Muzaffarabad Ahmad, Chairperson Students Wing Ms. Memoona Kayani Advocate, General Secretary Women Wing Kosar Praveen Women's Conference Chairman Advocate, Chairman Muslim Confer-Shah, President of Muslim Conference Finance Board Syed Zar Abbas Shah, Rajah Muhammad, Sir Latejaf

Afshan Saeed Chaudhry, Khawaja Aziz, Chaudhry Khazrahiat, Chaudhry Shaukat, Riaz Palhaji, Haji Ashraf Advocate, Syed Arshad Gilani Advocate, Anwar, Zasfarma Syed Tassuor Mousavi, Retd Colonel Arif Abbasi, Bashar Jahandad, Bashari Tabassum Advocate, Shaukat Abbasi Advocate, Munib Qureshi Saghar Azad, Nasreen

Azad Kashmir Commemorates 2005 Earthquake on National Natural Disaster Awareness Day

👺 Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: October 08 was observed as National Natural Disaster Awareness Day across the state. In this regard, a prayer was held at the University Ground under the State Disaster Management Authority in memory of the Shahada earthquake At 8:52, sirens sounded in tribute to the martyrs, a minute's silence was observed, and traffic in the entire city came to a halt.

Special Minister for Planning and Development and PDO Chaudhry Rashid and Chief Secretary Azad pay tribute to the 2005 earthquake.



of October 8, 2005 in Muzaffarabad. Kashmir Khushhal Khan laid wreaths at the memorial and blessed the martyrs. Rescue 1122 and police officers paid tribute and saluted the victims. Guest of the function, Special Minister PDO Chaudhry Rashid said that today we have decided to

Kari establishes modern requirements, coordinated and committed to rebuilding the territory with planning. After the devastation of the devastating earthquake of 08 October 2005, the reconstruction and rehabilitation of free Kashmir is underway with the cooperation of the international community, the Pakistani government and humanitarian organizations.

The immediate emergency relief and rehabilitation of victims during a sudden disaster highlights the usefulness and importance of these institutions, no one among us cannot serve others without India throwing detailed light on the performance of Mirza, Secretary

SDMA during war, monsoon rains and other natural disasters. Secretary State Disaster Management Authority and Civil Defense Chaudhry Muhammad Farid also highlighted the need for awareness of natural disasters and citizens to take necessary precautions. Minister of Education, Colleges Malik Zafar Iqbal, Minister of Wildlife and Fisheries Sardar Javed Ayub, Minister of Public Health Nasar Ansar Abdali, Minister of Trade and Travel Authority Professor Tagdis Khaldar Jangkarmotri, Secretary Secretary Services Ansar Yaqoob, Secretary Sierra Aamir Mahmood

CM Punjab Maryam announces Rs. 7 Billion Agricultural Transformation Plan for Potohar Region



 $RAWALPINDI/ISLAMABAD: Chief Minister Punjab \, Maryam \, Nawaz$ has announced a Rs. 7 billion Agricultural Transformation Plan for the Potohar region. Under this plan, mini dams will be constructed in District Attock with 70% government subsidy.

A balloting ceremony was held for the allotment of mini dams, with Member Provincial Assembly Nawabzada Chaudhry Sher Ali Khan as the chief guest. A total of 168 applications were received from farmers $\,$ across the district, out of which 35 successful applicants were selected

The selected farmers include 8 farmers from Tehsil Attock, 9 farmers from Tehsil Fateh Jang,9 farmers from Tehsil Pindigheb,10 farmers from Tehsil Jand

Under the Agricultural Transformation Plan, 400 mini dams will be constructed in Rawalpindi Division over a period of three years, with 70% cost covered by the government. In the first year, 100 dams $\,$ will be built, followed by 150 dams each in the second and third years.

Addressing the ceremony, MPA Nawabzada Chaudhry Sher Ali Khan said that the development of agriculture and prosperity of farmers are among the top priorities of Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz. He added that irrigation has always been a challenge in the Potohar region, and the construction of mini dams under a dedicated package was a long-standing need. By fulfilling this promise, the Chief Minister has won the hearts of the farmers of the region.

The balloting ceremony was attended by Additional Director General Soil Conservation Dr. Pervaiz Sikandar, Director Project Monitoring Unit Muhammad Irfan Maan, Director Soil Conservation Rawalpindi Ateeq-ur-Rehman, officers of the Agriculture Department, and a large

Shahid Jilani holds first open court in Toba Tek Singh to Tackle WAPDA Complaints

👺 Zafar Chishti

TOBA TEK SINGH: An Open Court under the Outreach Complaint Resolution (OCR) initiative was held at the FESCO (WAPDA) Complex Toba Tek Singh supervised by Mr. Shahid Hussain Jilani, Advisor to the Federal Ombudsman of Pakistan. According to details, the session was organized to directly address public complaints related to electrici-



ty supply, billing issues, meter faults and other WAPDA se A large number of local citizens attended the event and presented their grievances before the Advisor.

Mr. Shahid Hussain Jilani listened to the complaints attentively and issued on the spot directives to concerned WAPDA officials for their immediate resolution. He emphasized that negligence and delay in resolving public complaints would not be tolerated, adding that the aim of such open courts is to establish direct communication between government institutions and the public. He further stated that the Federal Ombudsman's office is fully committed to ensuring transparency, accountability and timely redressal of grievances across all public service departments.

The doors of Professional Photographers Association always open to photographer's: Chairman



FAISALABAD: The meeting of the Professional Photographers Association Registered Faisalabad was held in Karim Town under the leadership of Chairman Syed Tanveer Hussain. In this meeting, various propaganda was held by the organizations of sub-professional photographers. General Secretary Sheikh Qasur Munir Goreja rang the bell to start the meeting and Muhammad Afzal recited the Holy Quran.

After this, the General Secretary presented the proceedings from the previous meeting to this meeting. According to the agenda, opinions were sought from all the office bearers. Keeping all the opinions in mind, the President of the Professional Photographers Association, Registered Faisalabad, Muhammad Ahmed, was duly authorized and presented to the Chairman.

On which it has been decided that the doors of the Professional Photographers Association (Syed Tanveer Hussain Zaidi Group) are open to all professional photographers.

Whoever wants to be a part of this organization will be welcomed with garlands and flower petals. If any senior official contacts, a committee has been formed for him. He can hold negotiations with his delegation at a third place.

The meeting was attended by Vice Chairman Muhammad Shahid, Senior Vice Presidents Saeed Ahmed, Muhammad Asif, Vice Presidents Kashif Mahmood, Shahram Raza, Muhammad Afzal, Iqbal Danish, Joint Secretary Muhammad Ramzan, Finance Secretary Khurram Shahzad, Media Secretary Rao Mubashir Farooq, Information Secretary Abdul Majid.

Finally, prayers were also offered for the progress, achievements and safety of the members of the association, the Pakistani Armed Forces and the country of Pakistan.



Namaz '	Timings
Fajr	4:45 am
Zohr	11:56 am
Asr	4:02 pm
Maghrib	5:43 pm
Isha	7:06 pm

EMERGEN	CY
Rescue (Police)	15
Bomb Disposal	15
Fire Services Rawalpindi	/
Islamabad	1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance.	1122 &
& Rescue Services	4451122
Motorway Police	9266044
Motorway Police9	270601-20

ENOUIRY

Edhi Ambulance	
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

DEDADTMENTS

COMPLAINTS

E-7, F-10 & F-11 .. G-5, G-6, G-7, G-8,9203883 G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, H-8 ..9266316 Wapda Islamabad......9217579-80 Wasa Water Tank ..0331-5022125

Maulana Fazl announces Mufti Mehmood Conference on Oct 16, expresses solidarity with Gaza

PESHAWAR: Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (F) Chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman on Wednesday announced that a historic Mufti Mehmood Conference will be held in Dera Ismail Khan on October 16, where participants will expres strong solidarity with the people of Gaza.

Addressing a press conference in Mufti Mehmood Markaz Peshawar, he said that more than 70,000 unarmed civilians, including children, women, and the elderly, have been martyred in Gaza, and it is the duty of the Muslim Ummah to raise its voice in support of the oppressed Palestinians.

On the occasion, he remarked that PTI has now realized the deteriorating situation, which he termed a positive sign.

On a question regarding the possible change of Chie Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Fazlur Rehman said it would be premature to comment, though he maintained that the current provincial government has failed to deliver.

Discussing Pakistan-Afghanistan relations, Fazlur Rehman said that the territories of both countries should not be used against each other, adding that instability in Afghanistan was affecting Pakistan as

well. On the political landscape, the JUI-F chief said that his party believes in serious and responsible politics, adding that the conduct of some politicians should not bring disrepute to the political system.

Hamdard Foundation honors Shaheed Hakim Mohammed Said on **Martyrdom Anniversary**

👺 Bureau Report

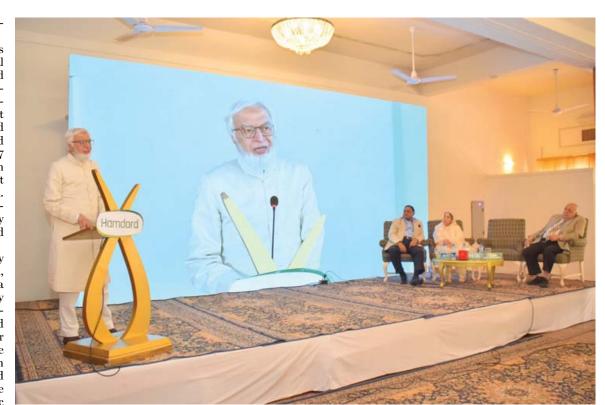
KARACHI: Members of the Hamdard Shura Karachi chapter and young speakers of the Hamdard Naunehal Assembly Karachi paid glowing tribute to the renowned physician and visionary social reformer, Shaheed Hakim Mohammed Said, at a memorial event held in a local hotel on the occasion of his martyrdom anniversary, 17 October 1998. The special programme, chaired by Ms. Sadia Rashid, President of Hamdard Foundation Pakistan, was themed "Shaheed Hakim Mohammed Said and Service to Humanity.

Addressing the gathering, Gen (r) Moinuddin Haider, Speaker of Hamdard Shura, said that if today's youth need a true role model, it is undoubtedly Shaheed Hakim Mohammed Said. He said "Shaheed Hakim Said was a man of conscience, high moral values, and a great social reformer who established Hamdard Pakistan on the principles of ethics, education, health, and patriotism – a national institution that has grown into a strong and flourishing organisation. Hakim Said believed that children made a principled decision to migrate were the builders of the nation's future; and began his journey from a small clinic

their intellectual and moral develop-

He also said "Institutions such as Madinat al-Hikmah, Hamdard Naunehal Assembly, Hamdard Public School, and Hamdard Village School are living examples of his visionary thinking, continuing to enlighten society with the light of knowledge and wisdom. Hakim Said was a symbol of simplicity, humility, and service to humanity. The tragic day of 17 October 1998 marks a painful chapter in our history when the nation lost a great benefactor. A true loss to our nation. Today, Hamdard Foundation Pakistan continues to uphold his mission by actively serving humanity in every field of public welfare."

Col (r) Mukhtar Ahmed Butt, Deputy Speaker of Hamdard Shura Karachi, remarked that October has been a sorrowful month in Pakistan's history — it was in this month that Quaid-e-Millat Liaquat Ali Khan was martyred on 16 October 1951, and Dr Abdul Qadeer Khan also passed away in the same month. He said that after the creation of Pakistan, Hakim Mohammed Said



therefore, he focused his life's work on in Karachi, which later evolved into the golden institution, Hamdard Pakistan, that continues to thrive even today.

Continued on Page 7

World Post Day

ISLAMABAD: A Chinese family post the letter in box for their beloved one as the specialty of 9th October is that, it is a world Post Day, which marks the anniversary of setting up of Universal Postal Union in the year 1874.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

PPP South Punjab leaders urge Maryam Nawaz to halt political attacks and prioritize flood relief

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Pakistan Peoples Party South Punjab President and former Governor of Punjab Makhdoom Syed Ahmed Mahmood, Senior Vice President South Punjab Khawaja Rizwan Alam, Chief Coordinator South Punjab Abdul Qadir Shaheen, District General Secretary Rao Sajid Ali Addressing to the Press Conference in Multan He Said that they want to convince Marvam Nawaz, the top image, who took refuge under the shad-



regime, to avoid Imran Niazi because at present, the Punjab and the establishment, that gosvernment has not providthe series of foul words and high-handed tactics against victims in Seraiki Waseeb. The the PPP leadership should protests that have started in be stopped and all attention ow of the martyrs of democ-should be focused on provid-have exposed the false prayers racy Bhuttos during the PTI ing relief to the flood victims given by the Punjab govern-

ed timely relief to the flood every district of the victims

ment to the flood victims because at present, the farmer of Seraiki Waseeb is helpless and helpless, the laborer of Seraiki Waseeb is in a miserable condition, and the youth of Seraiki Waseeb is unemployed.

After withdrawing the security, if any tragedy befalls Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani and his sons, then Maryam Nawaz, also known as the above picture, will bear the entire responsibility for it. He further said that the PPP has the courage and record of fighting a long war and struggle against dictators, making sacrifices and enduring oppression.

UET Lahore organized a book launching ceremony

👺 City Desk

LAHORE: The Literary Society of the University of Engineering and Technology (UET) Lahore organized a prestigious book launching ceremony of "Legacy Beyond Leadership: The Role of Moral Authority in Creating Sustainable Change" authored by Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Arshad Mahmood, HI(M), SJ. The event was presided over by Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir (TI), Vice Chancellor UET Lahore, while the chief guest was the author himself, Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Arshad Mahmood, who also served as Vice Chancellor of the



In his address, Prof. Dr. Shahid as a valuable resource for youth and

Munir praised the book, describing it

future leaders. Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Arshad Mahmood, while sharing key insights from his book, remarked that true leadership does not stem from authority or power but from character, ethics, and the ability to inspire positive change.

The ceremony was attended by former Vice Chancellors including Prof. Dr. Nizamuddin, Prof. Dr. Akram Chaudhry, Prof. Dr. Nadeem Bhatti, Prof. Dr. Ihsan Malik, and Prof. Dr. Munawar Mirza, along with faculty members from the University of Punjab and other distinguished guests. Participants highly appreciated the theme and content of the book.

Punjab Government Not Compensate Flood Affected Peoples: Syeda Abida Bukhari

MULTAN: Pakistan Peoples Party Women's Wing Multan City President Syeda Abida Bukhari, while addressing a press conference in Multan, said that the recent floods have wreaked havoc in Punjab and especially in southern Punjab, due to which 4.7 million people in Punjab have been badly affected, while more than 150 people have died due to the floods. While thousands of people have been injured due



to flood water and collapsed houses. Abida Bukhari said that the federal government and the Punjab government should have appealed for assistance from the international community to help the flood-affected people. While Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif said that we will help the flood-affected people with our own resources.

Syeda Abida Bukhari said that Maryam Nawaz Sharif's maidserants are Uzma Bukhari, Maryam Aurangzeb Zeb, Hina Peryaiz, come and visit me in South Punjab. International and domestic media are informing the whole world about the devastation caused by floods in District Multan Muzaffargarh, Khangarh, DG Khan. Alipur. Jalalpur Pirwala and Other Flood Affected areas. Ruqya Bano, Samira Nadeem, Maryam Naz, Tahira Bibi, Rubina Saleem and others were also present on this occasion.

NUST Conference Concludes, Charting a Roadmap for the China-Pakistan Partnership

ISLAMABAD: The Centre for International Peace and Stability (CIPS) at the National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST) successfully concluded its landmark international conference, "Shaping a China-Pakistan Shared Destiny: The Roles of CPEC 2.0 and Academic Cooperation." The one-day event brought together a distinguished gathering of policymakers, senior academics, and industry leaders from both nations to deliberate on the future of this strategic partnership.

"The discussions over the past two days have been incredibly fruitful," $stated\ by\ Prof.\ ZHANG\ Jiegen,\ Director,\ Pakistan\ Study\ Centre,\ Fudan$ University, Shanghai. "We have moved from simply celebrating the successes of CPEC to strategically aligning our academic and research capabilities with the demands of CPEC 2.0. This synergy between economic development and knowledge creation is what will truly define our shared destiny."

Market Stability Improves, But Ordinary Citizens Still Face Economic Hardship

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Former Chairman of the All Pakistan Customs Agents Association, Sheikh Muhammad Tariq, has said that while Bloomberg Intelligence's recognition of Pakistan as one of the emerging markets showing rapid improvement in sovereign default risk is encouraging, the reality on the ground remains far more complex and subdued.

He stated that Bloomberg's report reflects improvements largely due to financial discipline, stringent IMF conditions, deferred loans from friendly nations, and controlled imports — not due to growth in exports or improved productivity. "Pakistan has repaired its financial image internationally, but domestically, the economic foundations remain fragile," he remarked.

Commenting on the recent stability of the Pakistani rupee, Sheikh Muhammad Tariq emphasized that this calm is not organic but rather the result of administrative controls, import restrictions, and carefully managed financial flows. "Exports have not seen significant growth, and industries continue to grapple with energy shortages and policy uncertainty," he said.

Sheikh Muhammad Tariq acknowledged that Bloomberg's recognition is important as it reflects restored confidence through financial discipline. However, he stressed that sustainable improvement requires more than controls. "True progress demands structural reforms, enhanced energy efficiency, a broadened tax base, and exportdriven productivity."

He concluded by saying, "Pakistan in 2025 is neither in crisis nor in comfort. It stands in a state of uncertain calm — a calm achieved through control, not through real economic growth. Real success will come when this stability begins to improve the lives of ordinary people."

Thursday, October 9, 2025

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Has Ladakh slipped from Modi's hands?

he Modi Government is currently trapped on all sides: on one hand, there is declining popularity in the upcoming Bihar elections and, on the other, a civil disobedience movement against the BJP Government in Ladakh has created a serious situation.

The increasing bloodshed in the Himalayan region is a clear indication of the Modi Government's complete failure. Since September 24, 2025, the youth in Leh, the capital of Ladakh, have been protesting against the Central BJP Government. Protesters set fire to a police vehicle as well as BJP offices, while the police used tear gas and batons to disperse the crowd. As of now, the protests have resulted in the deaths of five young individuals, over 70 injuries and 30 police officers also injured.

In the meantime, notable activist Sonam Wangchuk has emerged as a leader. Recent protests have been organized in solidarity with Wangchuk, who has been on a hunger strike demanding full federal state status and constitutional safeguards for Ladakh. A well-known environmental activist, Wangchuk established a university-level institution in Ladakh named the Himalayan Institute of Ladakh, which operates entirely on solar energy. The institution is managed not by technical staff, but by students. He has received international recognition for extraordinary services to the community, engineering work and as an educator. Wangchuk has termed these protests as a continuation of Generation Z after Nepal.

Since the situation deteriorated in Ladakh, Wangchuk has been in the government's crosshairs, arrested under the CBI on charges of inciting youth through provocative statements and misleading people by citing references to Arab Spring-style protests and Generation Z protests in Nepal. The Modi Government has also revoked the FCRA license of Wangchuk's NGO. Leh is currently under strict surveillance by Indian security forces, but the Modi Government seems to have forgotten that the struggle for freedom in Kashmir has been ongoing for the past 77 years under the shadow of gunfire.

The roots of this protest movement trace back to 2019 when India abrogated Articles 370 and 35-A of the Constitution, stripping the oppressed valley of its special state status. Previously, Ladakh was part of the State of Jammu and Kashmir, which was then divided into three separate parts, bringing Ladakh directly under federal administration. In its quest for power, the Modi Government, desirous of a majority in Ladakh, had promised to make it an autonomous state. According to the Times of India, the BJP Government's negligence and criminal silence on Ladakh's issues is concerning. After the abrogation of Article 370, Ladakh lost its state status and the people are now on the streets demanding constitutional rights and state autonomy.

Pak Army's Frontline Response to 2005 Earthquake

October 8, 2005, stands as one of the single most devastating natural disasters in the entire history of the country, leaving an undeniable and indelible scar upon the collective memory and consciousness of the nation. Striking at precisely 8:52 AM local time, the earthquake registered a severe magnitude of 7.6 on the Richter scale and had its immediate origin near the major city of Muzaffarabad, the administrative center of Azad Jammu and Kashmir. Within a terrifying span of just a few minutes, entire towns and countless scattered villages were violently and completely reduced to rubble, with the naturally mountainous terrain of the region serving only to dramatically compound and exacerbate the scale of the destruction. Across the affected areas, critical buildings violently crumbled, major roads and highways cracked open, essential communication systems failed immediately, and the desperate cries of the injured and the dying filled the air, creating a scene of utter devastation. The sheer magnitude and scope of the physical destruction were profoundly beyond anything Pakistan had ever experienced before, and the agonizing aftermath severely tested the collective resilience, compassion, and underlying unity

of the country in an unprecedented way. The tragedy also instigated a genuine cultural shift in how Pakistan officially approached the enforcement of building codes, the practice of emergency drills, and overall public awareness regarding the reality of natural disasters. Consequently, earthquake safety education

he massive seismic event that component of the school curriculum in tragically struck Pakistan on certain regions, and the continuous development of early warning systems, while still an evolving process, became a prominent fixture in the national conversation on security and preparedness.

Furthermore, the 2005 earthquake exacted a profound and lasting psychological and emotional toll on the entire affected population. The trauma experienced by the survivors—particularly the

many children who lost their families, homes, schools—was immense and pervasive. Unfortunately, specialized mental health support services were severely under-prioritized during the initial, chaotic phase of emergency relief. However,

strategically integrate psychological care and counseling into the longer-term rehabilitation and rebuilding efforts. Dedicated community centers and support groups emerged organically, and survivors were actively encouraged to share their traumatic experiences, formally honor their profound losses, and begin the painstaking process of rebuilding their lives. Public memorials were erected in many towns to respectfully honor the thousands of victims, and the anniversary of the earthquake is solemnly observed every year to both remember those who were lost and to publicly reaffirm the nation's commitment to continuous preparedness and deep-seated solidarity.

On the international stage, the sheer scale of the 2005 earthquake simultanewas made a mandatory and integrated ously positioned Pakistan as a country

also as a nation institutionally capable of mobilizing and coordinating large-scale relief operations with notable dignity and professional coordination. The event successfully forged new international partnerships and significantly raised Pakistan's profile and visibility within global humanitarian and development forums. The domestic response to the disaster, particularly the efforts spearheaded by

the organized Pakistan Army and the mobilized civil society, was widely commended as one of the most organized and effective among developing nations facing a disaster of such magnitude. The Pakistan Army played a remarkable and heroic role in the after-

subsequent efforts were later initiated to math of the devastating 2005 earthquake. Immediately after the disaster, the Army was at the forefront of rescue and relief operations, often reaching remote and mountainous regions that were inaccessible due to destroyed infrastructure. Soldiers worked tirelessly to pull survivors from the rubble, provide medical aid, distribute food and shelter, and rebuild essential services. Their swift and selfless response not only saved countless lives but also brought hope and stability to millions affected by the tragedy. The Army's dedication and discipline during this national crisis earned them widespread respect and highlighted their crucial role in disaster management in Pakistan. Pakistan's tragic but instructive experience also contributed valuable, practical lessons to the global community regarding effective disaster response in highly challenging adversity.

in severe need of humanitarian aid but mountainous and remote geographical regions. Furthermore, its cooperation with various UN agencies, international NGOs, and bilateral donor countries created replicable models for public-private partnerships in the context of largescale emergency situations.

> The devastating earthquake of 2005 was unquestionably a defining and pivotal moment in Pakistan's modern history. It brought with it immense grief, widespread, irreversible loss, and starkly exposed deep-rooted vulnerabilities in both national infrastructure and governmental governance. Crucially, however, it also powerfully awakened a national conscience, successfully rallied people together across internal political and social divides, and fundamentally catalyzed significant institutional reforms that continue to actively shape the country's modern disaster response and preparedness policies today. The remarkable spirit of sacrifice, unity, and deep resilience demonstrated during those dark, difficult days has become an indelible part of Pakistan's collective national identity. The hard-won lessons learned from the immense tragedy remain critically relevant as the country must continue to face the reality of numerous other natural disasters, including severe floods, prolonged droughts, and the certainty of future seismic threats. The profound pain of October 8, 2005, may never completely fade, but it has been transformed into a powerful and necessary reminder of both the fundamental fragility and the immense strength of human life, and of the unyielding unbreakable spirit of a determined nation that refuses to surrender in the face of unimaginable



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

Trump's Peace Plan and Hamas's **Conditional Consent**

Dr. Muhammad Tayyab

Gaza's tragedy into sharp global focus. A few days ago, Hamas expressed conditional acceptance of the American presidential peace proposal widely referred to as "Trump's 21-Point Plan." The group stated its to a Palestinian authority composed of inde-

pendent technocrats, while showing readiness to engage in structured negotiations concerning the release of prisoners and a defined framework for political dialogue. At the same time, Hamas categorically rejected any scheme aimed at reoccupying Gaza or forcibly displacing its population, insisting instead on a complete Israeli military withdrawal and the protection of existing ground realities.

Khan Singhanvi In response, the U.S. President issued a terse ultimatum "Sign the agreement by Sunday 6 p.m. or face severe consequences." Alongside this warning came an advisory for civilians to move to designated safe zones. Yet, according statehood especially when the political destiny to diplomatic sources in Europe and the Middle East, mediation efforts particularly from Doha, Cairo, and Ankara prompted a recalibration in Washington's tone. President Trump, acknowledging Hamas's declaration as a sign of readiness for peace, reportedly urged Israel to halt its bombardment in order to facilitate the safe release of hostages.

At the heart of the Trump plan lie several key propositions, a temporary international administration of Gaza, an alternative security framework, prisoner exchange, immediate humanitarian assistance, and a roadmap for long-term created a faint yet tangible hope for a short-term exponentially, further eroding public trust and transparency, and the rule of law.

ecent events have once again cast ceasefire. However, the plan simultaneously raises formidable legal, political, and operational questions. Provisions such as demilitarization, the dismantling of armed structures, and foreign monitoring demand not only rigorous oversight but also credible mechanisms for enforcement and binding regional guarantees. Without willingness to hand over Gaza's administration these, the plan risks collapsing into yet another symbolic exercise.

> The Gaza question has never been merely an administrative or logistical matter. It embodies a centu-

ries-old struggle over land, self-determination, refugee rights, and the implementation of international resolutions. Thus, while a technocratic interim government may help stabilize humanitarian conditions and enforce a ceasefire. any enduring settlement must rest upon Palestinian national

unity, reconciliation among political factions, and a legitimate framework recognized by the international community. Administrative adjustments alone cannot guarantee justice, dignity, or of a people is determined in external diplomatic corridors rather than through their own representation.

The humanitarian dimension of Gaza's crisis remains acute. The collapse of infrastructure, severe shortages of water and electricity, and the mass displacement of civilians demand not just emergency relief but decades-long reconstruction and employment programs. These efforts will require massive international funding and a transparent implementation framework. If reconstruction begins without local participation or oversight, the risks of corruption, politpolitical resolution. Collectively, these have ical favoritism, and resource diversion will grow of peace rest not on coercive power, but on justice,

exacerbating instability.

Security provisions pose two immediate challenges. First, unless Israel's excesses are effectively restrained, it will likely continue its punitive and oppressive policies toward Palestinians. Second, in reaction, Hamas and other resistance movements will inevitably preserve their covert or semi-military networks, sustaining cycles of resistance and retaliation. The only viable path forward lies in internationally supervised security arrangements, regional verification missions, and a phased trust-building strategy rooted in verifiable progress rather than rhetorical promises.

The durability of any agreement will depend on whether it evolves into a transparent, enforceable political framework or fades into another temporary diplomatic document. Should the accord be implemented with fairness, accountability, and the participation of Palestinian representative institutions, it could redirect the ongoing conflict toward a negotiated and peaceful resolution. Conversely, if the deal remains clouded by ambiguity or conditional promises, it risks reigniting the same cycles of violence and exploitation that have defined the region for decades.

Peace cannot be manufactured through deadlines and ultimatums. Yet, when innocent lives and the freedom of captives are at stake, swift mediation and humanitarian action become moral imperatives. The international community, particularly the Muslim world and the United Nations, must prioritize humanitarian considerations over geopolitical calculus. They must ensure that any transitional phase in Gaza's governance is conducted under a lawful, transparent, and inclusive framework. Only then can reconstruction evolve into reconciliation and only through such integrity can the region move toward a durable and just peace. This moment is perilous, yet it also holds promise provided that the guarantees

Pakistan's Strength and India's Illusions: A Tale of Two Neighbors

contrast between noise and substance has never Pakistan's Power been clearer. Where New Delhi projects aggression through words, Islamabad responds with missiles or aircraft; it lies in national unity. calm confidence — a reminder that true power From soldiers on the borders to citizens in the lies not in provocation, but in discipline, clarity, cities, Pakistanis stand together in defense of and resolve. India's political leadership has long their homeland. The resilience shown by the relied on anti-Pakistan rhetoric to distract nation during times of tension reflects a deeper

approach or internal crises deepen, Pakistan becomes an easy target. Empty claims of "surgical strikes" and exaggerated battlefield tales dominate Indian headlines — but behind this spectacle lies insecurity, not strength. Pakistan, in contrast, has repeatedly shown restraint and maturity. The Pakistan Armed

Forces have demonstrated, both in words and in action, that the country seeks peace but will never tolerate violations of its sovereignty. The events of February 2019 remain a defining reminder: when Indian warplanes crossed into Pakistani airspace, Pakistan's Air Force responded with precision and professionalism, shooting down two Indian aircraft and capturing a pilot — only to return him safely in accordance with international norms. That incident exposed India's false bravado and reaffirmed Pakistan's credibility on the global stage. The Pakistan Armed Forces: A Symbol of Discipline and Deterrence India's refusal to engage in meaningful

dialogue. Pakistan, on the other hand, continues to pursue diplomatic and peaceful solutions. Through forums such as the United Nations, OIC, and regional dialogues, Pakistan

nce again, South Asia finds itself has consistently advocated for restraint, coexon the edge of tension. India's istence, and mutual respect. The international recent threats and inflamma- community increasingly acknowledges Islamtory rhetoric have reignited abad's responsible stance in contrast to India's fears of confrontation, yet the impulsive provocations. Unity — The Core of

Pakistan's real strength does not lie only in from domestic turmoil. Whenever elections truth — Pakistan's identity is rooted in faith,

courage, and dignity. Despite challenges, Pakistan's people believe in peace and progress. They seek stability not because they fear war, but because they value life, growth, and the future of their nation. Conclusion: Dignity Is the Highest

Form of Strength The world must understand

Muhammad Mahaz a simple truth: Pakistan does not boast, it proves. When India threatens, Pakistan responds with clarity. When India blusters, Pakistan stays composed. And when the moment demands action. Pakistan delivers with precision. True power lies not in shouting the loudest, but in standing firmest. Pakistan's calm, disciplined posture reveals the confidence of a nation secure in its principles and capable in its defense. India's bluster may dominate headlines, but Pakistan's composure defines reality. For lasting peace in South Asia, dialogue must replace drama, and respect must replace rhetoric. Until then, Pakistan will remain what it has always been - resilient, responsible, and

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Ambassador Dr. Jemal pays farewell call on First Lady of Pakistan

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: H. E. Dr. Jemal Beker Abdula, Special Envoy and Ambassador Extraordinary of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (FDRE) to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on Wednesday paid a farewell call on H. E. Bibi Aseefa Bhutto Zardari, First Lady of Pakistan at the President House in

 $The \,Ambassador\,expressed\,his\,deep$ gratitude to the First Lady of Pakistan for strengthening bilateral relations during his tenure as Ethiopia's first Ambassador to Pakistan. He said his focus had been on building lasting connections between the two nations, describing Pakistan as a strong partner in the evolving global landscape.

He briefed the Honorable First Lady about the comprehensive political, economic, social and legal reforms undertaken by Ethiopia under the leadership of Prime Minister H. E. Dr. Abiy Ahmed.

The Ambassador said Ethiopia is a gateway to Africa, offering extraordinary trade and investment opportunities for Pakistan.

He also briefed the Honorable First Lady on the Green Legacy Initiative of Prime Minister H. E. Dr. Abiy Ahmed,



highlighting its crucial role in enhancing afforestation and reforestation, ensuring food security and job creation and managing soil erosion through plantation of over 48 billion seedlings across Ethiopia.

The Ambassador invited the First Lady to visit Ethiopia and explore avenues of collaboration with the First Lady of Ethiopia, who has worked extensively for women, children, and environmental causes.

H. E. Bibi Aseefa Bhutto Zardari

appreciated the Ambassador's contributions toward promoting friendship between Pakistan and Ethiopia and recalled the visit of her grandfather former Prime Minister of Pakistan Zulfikar Ali Bhutto.

"It is now time to further strengthen these historic ties built on mutual respect and solidarity since the time of King Nejashi," she added.

The First Lady noted that Pakistan was among the top ten environmentally stressed countries and shared that largescale reconstruction and plantation activities were underway in her constituency for flood-affected communities.

She said Pakistan and Ethiopia could work together on climate-smart agriculture, renewable energy, and early warning systems under the Green Pakistan Initiative and Ethiopia's Green Legacy Initiative.

Congratulating Ethiopia on becoming a full member of BRICS, Bibi Aseefa Bhutto Zardari reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to expanding cooperation in trade, investment, agriculture, and climate action.

She also appreciated the growing economic linkages between the two nations, including the conclusion of the Bilateral Trade Agreement, the Single Country Exhibition in Addis Ababa taking place later this year, and the resumption of direct flights between Karachi and Addis Ababa which is contributing to greater connectivity and people-to-people contacts.

The First Lady wished Dr. Jemal Beker Abdula success in his future endeavours and expressed hope that the partnership between the two countries would continue to grow.

The Honorable Senator Sherry Rehman was also present during the

ICCI-Uzbek Embassy agree to deepen trade ties, enhance connectivity



ISLAMABAD: President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) Sardar Tahir Mehmood, along with Senior Vice President Tahir Ayub and Vice President Mohammad Irfan Chaudhry, paid a visit to the Embassy of Uzbekistan in Islamabad to discuss ways for strengthening bilateral trade and economic relations between Pakistan and Uzbekistan.

Upon arrival, the ICCI delegation was warmly received by the Ambassador of Uzbekistan, His Excellency Alisher Tukhtaev. During the meeting, the Ambassador highlighted the historic and friendly relations between the two brotherly countries and said there exists tremendous potential for enhancing trade in multiple sectors, including agriculture, textiles, sports goods, and surgical instruments.

The Ambassador noted that the current bilateral trade volume stands around USD 400-500 million, which is far below the actual potential. He emphasized the need to raise this figure to at least USD 2 billion within the next couple of years. He added that Uzbekistan is one of the leading importers of Pakistani goods among Central Asian Republics, while Pakistan imports a variety of products from Uzbekistan such as cotton yarn and fruits.

Discussing connectivity, the Ambassador underlined the importance of rail and air linkages to promote trade and investment between the two countries. He informed that Uzbekistan Airways is planning to double its weekly flights on the Tashkent-Islamabad-Tashkent route-from one to two per week. The addition of more flights, he said, would not only facilitate passengers but also strengthen business linkages, trade opportunities, and people-to-people contacts.

Speaking on the occasion, ICCI President Sardar Tahir Mehmood said that Pakistan offers immense potential for trade and investment, particularly in agriculture, manufacturing, and tourism. He expressed the business community's desire to develop strong trade relations with Uzbekistan and underscored the importance of collaboration between ICCI and the Tashkent Chamber of Commerce and Industry to promote bilateral trade through B2B engagements and joint ventures

Sardar Tahir Mehmood added that the growing partnership between Uzbekistan and Pakistan marks a new chapter in regional connectivity, economic cooperation, and shared prosperity.

Trade Counselor Alisher Duschanov, ICCI Senior Vice President Tahir Ayub and Vice President Irfan Chaudhry also shared their insights on

Chinese e-bike firms expand global investments, driving green mobility, job growth

NANJING: A self-driving electric moped at Yadea's product display center in Wuxi, east China's Jiangsu Province, showcased both the technological possibilities of autonomous two-wheelers and the company's expertise in designing and producing green mobility solutions.

Inside the showroom of this leading Chinese electric two-wheeler brand, a diverse range of electric motorbikes and e-bikes was on display. Among them, a portable, automatically foldable electric bike — almost the size of a handbag — caught the eye of journalists visiting the company's Wuxi headquarters.

As a global leader in annual sales of electric two-wheelers. Vadea offers a lineup of high-performance electric motorcycles, mopeds, bicycles and kick scooters. True to its slogan, "A wonderful journey for global users," the company strives to bring sustainable, green travel solutions to riders around the world.

A new chapter in strengthening Pakistan-Azerbaijan trade relations

跨 Spokesman Report

BAKU: The Azerbaijan-Pakistan Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (APJCCI) marked a distinguished presence at the 2nd Azerbaijan Halal Business (AZHAB) Forum 2025, held in Baku under a two-day international exhibition. The Chamber's stall emerged as one of the key attractions, drawing significant attention from local and international delegates, dignitaries, and business leaders.

During the exhibition, several notable figures visited the Chamber's stall, including Dr. Ahmed Kawesa Sengendo, Assistant Secretary General for Economic Affairs at OIC; Jordan's Moinuddin; MUSIAD Azerbaijan investment initiatives. Chairman Rasad Kabirli; and senior representatives from the Ministries of President Waqar Bakhtawari empha-Economy, Trade, Tourism, and Reli-sized the need for the Muslim Ummah gious Affairs of Azerbaijan, along with to actively participate in the USD 4



leading businesspersons and investors from various Muslim countries.

The visitors showed keen interest Ambassador Omar Nahar; SMEDA in the Pakistani delegation's presenta-CEO Socrat Aman Rana; Pakistan's tions on Halal food, textiles, trade Ambassador to Azerbaijan Qasim M. promotion, technology exchange, and

Speaking on the occasion, APJCCI

trillion global Halal industry market. He stated, "We must harness our collective strength, capital, and resources to advance this sector. Strengthening the Halal industry will Owais Satti, Malik Shabbir Awan, not only boost intra-Muslim trade but

stan continues to deepen, and the AZHAB Forum serves as an excellent platform for both countries' business communities to explore new opportunities for investment, partnerships, and joint ventures in the Halal sector.

The APJCCI stall received extensive coverage from Azerbaijani media, while multiple companies expressed interest in forming joint ventures with the Chamber.

Both countries' business leaders reaffirmed their commitment to advancing the Halal industry, bilateral trade, and industrial and technological cooperation among Muslim nations.

The Pakistani delegation included Chairman of the Chamber and UBG Secretary General Zafar Bakhtawari, Nasir Ali Raki, Mohsin Khalid Malik also open new avenues for economic Roheel Anwar Butt, Umer Khayyam self-reliance and employment gener-Abbasi, Shumaila Siddiqui, Malik Abdul Aziz, Abid Bakhtawari, Asad He further noted that trade coop- Aziz, Yousaf Rajput, Haris Bakhtaeration between Azerbaijan and Paki- wari, and Fatima Hassan.

Cappadocia's Ortahisar Among World's Most Beautiful Villages 2025

👺 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Cappadocia, one of the world's most extraordinary into a towering fairy chimney, the natural wonders, has received another global recognition with Ortahisar earning a place on one of the earliest multi-storey Forbes' 2025 list of The World's 50 Most Beautiful Villages. Known for its iconic fairy chimneys and hot-air balloon rides, Cappadocia continues to enchant travelers, and Ortahisar, a historic village just six kilometers from Ürgüp, is now in the spotlight as a must-visit destination blending timeless heritage with breathtaking landscapes.

its striking castle, believed to date back to the Hittite period. Carved castle's labyrinth of caves, dovecotes, and tunnels once made it settlements. Today, it remains one of the highest vantage points in the region, offering spectacular views of Cappadocia's volcanic terrain shaped over millions of years by wind, rain, and eruptions from Mount Erciyes, Hasanda, and Güllüda .

The village is also celebrated for its vernacular architecture

At the centre of Ortahisar rises Narrow stone alleys wind past apricot stalls and tea gardens, leading visitors toward valleys that once stored local produce in naturally cool cave cellars. The area is home to centuries-old churches and monasteries such as Sarıca, Cambazlı, Tav anlı, and Hallaç Deresi, reflecting Cappadocia's deep religious and cultural heritage.

Beyond Ortahisar, Cappadocia offers travelers a wealth of experiences, from exploring mysterious underground cities and rockcarved churches to staying in unique cave hotels that combine and authentic atmosphere. history with modern comfort.

Visitors can take horseback rides among dramatic rock formations, join pottery workshops, or unwind with spa treatments in luxury cave resorts. Cappadocian cuisine adds another dimension, with dishes slow-cooked in clay pots, regional fruits paired with tender meats, and drinks crafted from grapes grown in volcanic soil. The region's culinary excellence was recently recognized by the MICHELIN Guide, which placed Cappadocia on its Türkiye map, reinforcing its status as a premier cultural and gastronomic destination.

With Ortahisar's new accolade,



tion as one of the world's most where nature, history, and culture

Cappadocia reaffirms its posi- enchanting travel destinations,

seamlessly intertwine.

Pakistan's First Digital Panel Survey Reveals

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Institute of Development to 30 districts, now including Economics (PIDE) unveiled landmark findings from the Pakistan Lahore, Karachi, Hyderabad, Panel Household Survey (PPHS) and Peshawar. The 2024 round 2024—the country's only longterm, nationally representative household survey tracking economic and social change for more than two decades. The evidence-packed seminar titled "Pakistan Panel Household Survey (PPHS): Key Insights and Implications for Policymaking" featured Dr. Shujaat Farooq, Dean of Research at PIDE, and was moderated by Dr. Karim

Dr. Farooq announced that 76 percent of the households surveyed in 2010 were successfully re-tracked in 2024, an exceptional achievement in longitudinal research. Supported by RASTA-DDR and conducted division problems, highlighting

stan Bureau of Statistics (PBS), the PPHS expanded from 16 major urban centres such as covers 8,621 households nationwide and is the first fully digital survey, conducted via tablets for real-time monitoring and improved data quality.

in collaboration with the Paki-

The 2024 wave also introduced several new research modules, including learning poverty, care work, disability, financial literacy, and a detailed child well-being and parenting section, along with modernized Khan, Dean Academics at PIDE. consumption categories such as "eating out." Education data from PPHS 2024 reveal both progress and persistent challenges. While literacy rates have improved, 34 percent of Grade 3–8 students still cannot solve Grade-2 level

severe learning poverty. Affordability remains a key barrier, with 71 percent of parents citing financial constraints as the main reason for school dropout. Middle- and matric-level dropout rates stand at 34 percent and 21 percent, respectively, underscoring significant inequalities in learning outcomes.

On the health front, the survey highlights major progress. Antenatal care coverage has increased by 28.5 percentage points since 2001, reaching 80.9 percent, while skilled birth attendance rose by 69.5 points to 88.5 percent. Home births have dropped sharply to 11.6 percent—a decline of 57.5 points-and TT vaccination coverage reached 72.3 percent, marking a 35-point improvement. However, regional disparities persist, particularly in Balochistan, where access to maternal healthcare remains

Child malnutrition trends

show improvement, with stunting declining from 60 to 43 percent and underweight children dropping from 50 to 33 percent, although wasting increased slightly. Food insecurity, however, remains widespread. Only 19.5 percent of households can always afford desired meals, while 30 percent sometimes go without three meals a day. Inflation was identified by more than 60 percent of households as the most severe shock impacting their livelihoods.

The PPHS also paints a nuanced picture of poverty and inequality. Using the Cost of Basic Needs (CBN) method, Pakistan's poverty rate stands at 30.5 percent, 36.6 % in rural areas and 17.8 percent in urban areas. Rural poverty has declined from 46.1 to 37.5 percent, and urban poverty from 41.0 to 23.4 percent, yet income inequality has widened, with upper-income groups' consumption rising faster than that of lower-income panel households. Analysis indicates that, with better inflation control, the poverty rate could have been lower by around seven percentage

Social protection coverage has improved significantly. Around 22 to 23 percent of households now benefit from programs such as BISP and Zakat, up from 10 percent in 2010, while 10 to 11 and economic policy design. percent have access to microfinance networks. Additionally, around 60 percent of households report engaging in charitable giving, though mostly through informal channels.

Moderator Dr. Karim Khan commended the study's methodological rigor, emphasizing that its precise tracking of households and split families makes PPHS an invaluable source for policy analysis. He noted that the findings directly inform inclusive social



The seminar concluded with policy priorities centered on reducing learning poverty, expanding women's economic participation, strengthening social protection systems, improving iob quality, and investing in child well-being infrastructure such as playgrounds, libraries, and safe study spaces.

PIDE announced that the PPHS 2024 microdata will soon researchers and students, along-

side a 15-chapter, 200-page technical report prepared by RASTA. Dr. Farooq expressed optimism that this dataset will support "dozens of PhD theses and policy papers," contributing to Pakistan's evidence-based policy ecosystem.

As Pakistan's leading think tank, PIDE, through its RASTA program in collaboration with the Planning Commission, continues to promote rigorous, data-driven research that shapes the counbe made publicly available to try's development and inclusive growth agenda.

Bull & Bears PSX 100-Share

Index Fluctuation		
00-Share Index		
Prev. Close		
166,173.74		
High Day's Low		
165,109.84		
Change		
-907.00		
Time		
8 Oct, 2025		
4:30 pm		
E 100 Index		
Change		
+65.29		
Time		
8 Oct, 4:35 pm		
GMT+1		
ndustrial Averago		
Change		
+132.87		

46,735.85	+132.87		
Percentage	Time		
+0.29%	8 Oct, 1:06 pm GMT-4		
Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average			
Index Value	Change		
47,734.99	-215.89		

Index Value	Change	
47,734.99	-215.89	
Percentage	Time	
-0.45%	8 Oct, 3:45 pm GMT+9	
Open Market Forey Pates		

Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	185.4	190.4
Bahrain Dinar	746.8	754.3
Canadian Dollar	205.5	212.5
China Yuan	39.8	40.2
Danish Krone	44.55	45.15
Euro	331.9	335.4
Hong Kong Dollar	36.45	36.8
Indian Rupee	3.12	3.21
Japanese Yen	1.8760	1.9760
Kuwaiti Dinar	913.55	922.55
Malaysian Ringgit	67.3	67.9
NewZealand \$	164.85	166.85
Norwegians Krone	28.37	28.67
Omani Riyal	731.15	738.65
Qatari Riyal	77.32	78.02
Saudi Riyal	75.35	76
Singapore Dollar	216.8	221.55
Swedish Korona	30.05	30.35
Swiss Franc	355.12	357.87
Thai Bhat	8.73	8.88
U.A.E Dirham	76.95	77.95
UK Pound Sterling	380.7	383.7
US Dollar	282.7	282.8

ConnectHear & Ufone 4G Launch World's First AI-Based Early Warning System for the Deaf Community



Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: ConnectHear, Pakistan's leading social enterprise working for disability inclusion in the country using technology, in collaboration with Ufone 4G (part of the PTCL Group) today unveiled first of its kind AI-powered Early Warning System 'SUNO' designed to deliver life-saving alerts in sign language for the Deaf and hard-of-hearing community.

Hatem Bamatraf, President and Group CEO, PTCL & Ufone 4G, reaffirmed his commitment under the 'Dil Se' platform to harnessing technology for social good, saying, "Our collaboration with Connect-Hear reflects our belief that true digital inclusion leaves no one behind. Through our partner ConnectHear, we are using technology with purpose to create impact that truly matters."

Speaking at the launch, Azima Dhanjee, Co-founder of ConnectHear, said: "In an emergency, communication isn't just important, it's a matter of life and death. For far too long, Deaf individuals which also includes my parents have been cut off from urgent alerts, and they must rely on others during a disaster. We are deeply grateful to Ufone 4G for its partnership and commitment to making this vision a reality for the Deaf community."

Kimberly Brown, Head of Mobile for Humanitarian Innovation, GSMA, said"Inclusive innovation is key to ensuring that mobile technology delivers meaningful impact where it's needed most. I The launch event, held in Islamabad, demonstrated how technology and social innovation can come together to ensure that no one is left behind during times of crisis.

CCP slaps Rs1.5bn fine on two steel companies for price-fixing

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) has imposed a fine of Rs1.5 billion on two major steel companies for price-fixing and cartelization in the steel sector.

According to a CCP spokesperson, investigations revealed that the two companies illegally increased steel prices by up to 111% over the past three years, causing consumers losses worth billions of rupees.

A CCP report stated that the price of raw steel was artificially raised by Rs146,000 per tonne, with clear evidence of collusion and coordinated price manipulation between the

In its report, the commission said both companies consistently aligned prices between 2021 and 2024 to boost profits and create an artificial shortage in the market.



Acting on complaints filed by consumers and the builders' associations, an inquiry was launched in June 2024.

As part of the investigations, teams comprising CCP officials raided the offices of the two companies to obtain crucial evidence that led to the issuance of show-cause notices in March 2025.

The companies have been directed to deposit the fine within 60 days.

Failure to comply will result in an additional penalty of Rs100,000 per day of delay.

CCP Chairman Kabir Sidhu said that any form of cartelization or price-fixing would not be tolerated in any market.

He added, "Unfair profiteering in essential sectors like steel not only raises construction costs but also burdens ordinary consumers. The CCP will further tighten its oversight to prevent such practices."

Press conference

FAISALABAD: President Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FCCI) Faroog Yousaf addressing



SMEs of OIC Member States resolve to boost entrepreneurship, inclusive growth

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: The Small and Medium Enterprises States of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) have pledged to intensify collective efforts to promote entrepreneurship, industrialization, and inclusive economic development. The commitment was made at the inaugural meeting of the OIC Small and Medium Enterprises Network (OIC-SMENET), where participants unanimously adopted the historic Baku Declaration. Mr. Socrat Aman Rana, Chief Executive Officer of the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority (SMEDA) is representing Pakistan in this meeting on behalf of the Ministry

of Industries and Production, government of Pakistan. The event was organized under the coordination (SMEs) across the Member of the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC) and on the sidelines of the Azerbaijan Halal Business (AZHAB) exhibition.

Speaking on the occasion, CEO SMEDA said, the Baku declaration recognizes the vital role of SMEs as engines of economic growth, employment generation, innovation, and diversification, especially in addressing the pressing global challenges of digital transformation, climate change, and post-pandemic recovery.

Mr Rana also highlighted SMEDA's pivotal role as the apex institution mandated to facilitate SME development

Brain Designer Pakistan and USPICC to Host 1st Pakistan-USA Joint Business Conference



Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Brain Designer Pakistan and the US Pakistan International Chamber of Commerce (USPICC) have announced the 1st Pakistan-USA Joint Business Conference & Expo 2025, to be held on November 1, 2025, at Haveli by Eerkin in Springfield, Virginia, USA.

Organized in collaboration with the Rawalpindi Chamber of Small Traders & Small Industries and the Overseas Pakistan Foundation (OPF), the event is supported by

the Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC) and the National Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Tourism.

USPICC Chairman Muhammad Siddique Sheikh said the conference marks an important step toward

Brain Designer CEO Muhammad Rauf Raja said over 30 Pakistani companies from sectors including tourism, real estate, textiles, furniture, leather goods, pharmaceuticals, IT, and food will participate.

"This event provides a unique platform for Pakistani businesses to expand their foot-

print in the US market," he noted, adding that the delegation will also meet with the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce and other US chambers to explore bilateral trade and investment.

USPICC Secretary General Malik Sohail Hussain reaffirmed the Chamber's commitment to promoting trade and investment between the two countries, while Sardar Saqib Nasim, President of the Rawalpindi Chamber, said the forum would help SMEs connect with global partners and expand

Mobilink Bank Bags Four Awards at AMC-9 for Digital Innovation and Financial Inclusion



Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's leading digital microfinance bank, Mobilink Bank, has been honored with four distinguished awards at the 9th Annual Microfinance Conference (AMC-9), reinforcing its commitment to innovation, financial inclusion, and women's empow-

erment. At AMC-9, themed Renaissance of Microfinance", Mobilink Bank was recognized as the Top Microfinance Bank for Active Borrowers (Nanoloans), the Top Microfinance Bank in terms of M-Wallets, powered by JazzCash, and the Top Microfinance Bank for Innovation, while also being conferred with the Leading Microfinance Bank in terms of Women Borrowers. All these accolades highlight the Bank's leadership in expanding microcredit outreach, driving digital adoption, advancing gender equity, and pioneering sector-wide transformation, through inclusive, digitally powered

Aamir Ibrahim, Chairman Mobilink Bank, reflected on the achievement stating: "These awards reaffirm that meaningful financial inclusion isn't just about access, it's

about impact. At Mobilink Bank and JazzCash, we are combining technology with empathy to enable millions of Pakistanis, especially women, to participate confidently in the formal economy.

Commenting on this milestone, Haaris Mahmood Chaudhary, President & CEO of Mobilink Bank, said: "Winning four awards at AMC-9 is a proud moment for Mobilink Bank-a testament to our commitment to innovation, financial inclusion, and women's empowerment. Every day, we disburse over 150,000 nano-loans through JazzCash, that bring dignity, ease, and opportunity to underserved communities, strengthening Pakistan's socio-economic landscape. From supporting people through COVID-19 to standing by them during floods, we remain steadfast in delivering inclusive digital solutions with integrity and purpose."

As the sector undergoes a renaissance with renewed focus on technology, resilience, and inclusion, Mobilink Bank remains committed to its founding mission: advancing digital-first financial inclusion, empowering women, and charting new frontiers in microfinance for Pakistan's sustainable growth.

TCL steps forward with Alkhidmat Foundation to deliver relief to flood victims nology and innovation. Through our

Example 2 Commerce Desk

LAHORE: TCL, Pakistan's No.1 LED TV brand, has once again stepped forward with a strong commitment to corporate social responsibility by joining hands with Alkhidmat Foundation to support flood-affected families in Jalalpur Pirwala, Punjab.

As part of this initiative, TCL allocated PKR 1.5 million for relief activities, including the organization of a 7-day medical camp in collaboration with Alkhidmat Foundation. A dedicated team of 6 doctors and support staff provided free medical checkups, medicines, and treatments to thousands of patients battling water-borne and infectious diseases in the flood-hit region.



Alongside medical services, TCL also extended relief by distributing ration packs to needy families, ensuring they had access to essential food supplies during this difficult time.

Yang Li, Deputy General Manager at TCL Pakistan, stated, "TCL remains committed to the people of Pakistan beyond just tech-

medical aid and food relief to families affected by the recent floods in Jalalpur Pirwala. We will continue to stand with communities in times of need and contribute towards a better future through our CSR efforts." TCL has a strong legacy of giving back to society through impactful CSR activities. The brand consistently steps forward

partnership with Alkhidmat Founda-

tion, we were able to provide timely

in times of crisis, reflecting its commitnano-loans. ment to improving lives beyond technology. Over the years, TCL has taken the lead in community welfare activities, reinforcing its position not just as a technology leader but also as a socially responsible brand dedicated to making a difference

Punjab Sports Minister announces a cash prize of Rs 5 lakh for U-16 Volleyball team

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Provincial Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs Malik Faisal Ayub Khokhar has announced a cash prize of Rs 5 lakh for members of National Under-16 Volleyball team from Punjab at a ceremony held at the National Hockey Stadium on Wednes-

It may be mentioned here that Pakistan team edged out Iran by 3-2 in the Asian Men's U-16 Volleyball Championship final at Nakhon Phanom, Thailand to book a berth in FIVB U-17 World Championship scheduled to be organized in Qatar in 2026.

Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Muzaffar Khan Sial, Additional Secretary Sports Mian Usman Ali, Director Admin Abid Shaukat, Director Sports Rana Nadeem Anjum, Chief Sports Consultant SBP Hafeez Bhatti, and other officials were also present on this occasion.

Head Coach of National U-16 Volleyball team Kafayatullah, Coach Mohibullah, Captain M Irfan and players Faraz Ahmed, Azhar Mahmood, Talha and Asadullah were also present



on this occasion. The provincial minister for sports also presented the souvenir to all the players.

Talking on this occasion, Provincial Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs Malik Faisal Ayub Khokhar said that the members of National Under-16 Volleyball team from Punjab will be given Rs 70,000 per month for one year under Platinum Category of Punjab Sports Endowment Fund. "The members of National Under-16 Volleyball team will be provided all facilities for the prepa-

ration of FIVB U-17 World Championship 2026".

Provincial Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs Malik Faisal Ayub Khokhar said that the purpose of awarding cash prizes to young players is to encourage them for upcoming bigger event. "Punjab Sports Department will continue to extend every kind of support to top performing players".

The provincial minister for sports and U-17 World Championship 2026 is defi-level".

nitely a major development. He urged the members of National Under-16 Volleyball team to work hard and utilize their best abilities for the preparation of upcoming mega event.

Provincial Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs Malik Faisal Ayub Khokhar announced that the first volleyball complex will be constructed in Punjab at a cost of Rs 55 crore. "Multipurpose sports complexes will youth affairs said qualifying for FIVB also be built at the tehsil and village

Australia beat Pakistan in ICC Women's CWC

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Australia beat Pakistan by 107 runs in the ninth fixture of the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup at the R Premadasa International Cricket Stadium in Colombo on Wednesday evening.

This was Pakistan's third loss in as many matches in the event. They will now take on England at the same venue on October 15, said a press release.

After being put into bat, the defending champions struggled to score runs against Pakistan's bowlers as they lost seven wickets for just 76 runs and were 115 for eight after Kim Garth (11, 47b) fell to Diana Baig in the 34th over. At that stage, Beth Mooney was joined by Alana King and the pair put together a record 106-run partnership for the ninth wicket.

During the course of the stand, number 10 batter King brought up her maiden half-century and returned unbeaten on 51 off 49 balls, including three fours and as many sixes. The star for Australia was left-handed batter wickets each.



Mooney, who scored 109 off 114 balls, hitting 11 fours.

and Rameen Shamim picked up two

allowed Pakistan's batters to settle Megan Schutt claimed two apiece. For Pakistan, Nashra Sundhu was the and only Sidra Amin (35, 52b, 5x4s) most successful bowler, claiming three managed to make a notable contribu- overs (Beth Mooney 109, Alana King wickets for 37 runs, while Fatima Sana tion before the side were bowled out for 51, Alyssa Healy 20; Nashra Sundhu

114 in 36.3 overs. For Australia, Kim Garth took three Sana 2-49).

In reply, Australia's bowlers never wickets, while Annabel Sutherland and

Scores in brief: Australia 221-9, 50 3-37. Rameen Shamim 2-29. Fatima





Hamdard Foundation Honors Shaheed Hakim Mohammed Said on Martyrdom Anniversary

Continued from Page 3

He also said "The word Hamdard reflects his deep love for his homeland and his empathy for its people. Even on the day of his martyrdom, Hakim Said was on his way to treat hundreds of waiting patients when he was assassinated — at the very place where his mission of service began."

Professor Dr Hakim Abdul Hannan stated that the need for affordable alternative medicine is greater today than ever before. Thanks to Hakim Mohammed Said's efforts, the centu-

nition at the international level. It is because of his vision that Pakistan today stands among the few countries where the herbal pharmaceutical industry operates as an organised sector. Modernising Unani medicine and training physicians intellectually were among his remarkable contributions.

Young speakers of the Hamdard Naunehal Assembly — Maryam Fatima (Speaker), Ayesha Fawad (Leader of the House), Syed Shuja (Leader of the society that turns against its benefactors Opposition), and others — paid heart-

ries-old Tibb-e-Unani gained recog- felt tribute to Hakim Said. They said forever because he lived by the teachings of the Holy Prophet (peace be upon alive in the hearts and minds of the nation. His martyrdom was not merely the loss of one man — it was an attack on Pakistan's intellectual heritage. No can sustain itself, they added.

Faisal Nadeem, Chief Operating that Islam regards service to humanity Officer of Hamdard Pakistan, Dr as a form of worship, and Hakim Rizwana Ansari, member of Hamdard Mohammed Said's name will shine Shura, and others also addressed the ceremony. Renowned poet Huma Baig and Kaleem Chughtai, editor of him) and dedicated his life to serving Hamdard Historicus, presented poetic mankind. Though martyred, he remains tributes to Hakim Mohammed Said. Students of Hamdard Public School performed a stage sketch on the event's theme, while the programme concluded with "Dua-e-Said," recited by students of Hamdard Public and Hamdard Village

Coach House Candy Creates History at Lahore Kace Club



👺 Zafar Chishti

KAMALIA: In a thrilling display of speed and strength, Coach House Candy, a magnificent filly bred and owned by Bhutta Stud and Racing Kamalia, clinched victory in The Term Race Cup held at the Lahore Race Club. Competing against top contenders from some of Pakistan's most renowned studs, Coach House Candy showcased extraordinary performance and claimed the title in commanding style.

The two year old filly not only secured first place but also made a new track record, setting the fastest time ever recorded in her category in Pakistan's racing history. This remarkable achievement has brought pride to Bhutta Stud and Racing Kamalia, one of the country's leading names in horse breeding and racing. Experts at the Lahore Race Club praised Coach House Candy's speed, stamina and training excellence, describing her as a "rising star" in Pakistan's thoroughbred racing scene. Officials and spectators alike applauded the performance, calling it a landmark victory that underlines Bhutta Stud's reputation for producing high quality racehorses with international potential.

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

Sports Desk

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

The highlights of the days play was deadly bowling by slow left arm spinner Muzammil 5/27 and off Spinner Muhammad Hashir 5/29. Allround Performances by Darain Faraz first he scored 45 and then got 4/45 as right arm leg spiner, Abdul Aziz first he captured 4/34 and then accord 49.

Scores in Brief:

Standard Secondary School beat Major Zia uddin Abbasi Government Boys Secondary School by 10 Wickets at Annu

Major Zia uddin Abbasi Government Boys Secondary School 44 allout in 20 overs. Aaish Malik (ob) 4/13, Durrani Khan (

rlb) 2/4, Yahya Aslam (sla) 2/10. In reply Standard Secondary School 50/0 in 4.3 overs. Arbaz Naveed 24, Rayyan Khan 23 both not out.

In the 2nd Match Jamia Darul uloom Korangi beat Government Boys High School Hajirabad by 28 runs at Darul Uloom Korangi. Jamia Darul Uloom Korangi 142 allout in 31 overs. Muhammad Hassan 25, Hammad ullah 25, Muhammad Hashir 19. Muzammil (sla) 5/27. Muhammad Rehan (mf) 3/30.

In reply Government Boys High School Hajirabad 114 allout in 23 overs. Jan Muhammad 36, Intizar Hussain 17. Muhammad Hashir (ob) 5/29, Sami ullah (ob) 3/22.

In the 3rd Match Happy Palace School beat Anglo Oriental Government Boys Secondary School by 39 runs at IBA Ground. Happy Palace School 210 all-out in 35.3 overs. Shahveer Jalali 55 6x4 2x6, Darain Faraz 45 5x4, Shayan Khan 34, M. Azzam Abbasi 26. Abdul Aziz (sla) 4/34, Syed Nofil (mf) 4/45.

In reply Anglo Oriental Government Boys Secondary School 171 all-out in 31.4 overs. Abdul Aziz 49 5x4, Aswad Adnan 22. Darain Faraz (rlb) 4/34, S. Ali Hussain (mf) 2/30, M. Azzam Abbasi (rlb) 2/37.

FIFA World Cup Qualifiers: Laporte replaces Huijsen in Spain's squad

Aymeric Laporte has replaced injured Dean Huijsen in the Spain squad for the upcoming 2026 World Cup qualifiers due to a calf

Huijsen arrived with symptoms of muscular fatigue at the Spain national team camp on Monday night," said the Spanish football federation in a statement.

"On Tuesday he did not train... and on Wednesday he had a medical test confirming a muscular injury, which Real Madrid have been informed of. Real Madrid said Huijsen has suffered a "calf muscle injury

in his left leg", without specifying an expected recovery date. Follow us on our Official WhatsApp channel

Spanish media reported he is likely to return in 10-12 days, putting in doubt Huijsen being fit for Madrid's La Liga game at Getafe on October 19. The 20-year-old centre-back joined Real from Premier League

club Bournemouth this summer and made his Spain debut in March in the Nations League. Laporte, who recently rejoined Athletic Bilbao, was a key part

of the Spain squad that won Euro 2024.

Barcelona winger Lamine Yamal and Manchester City midfielder Rodri Hernandez had already withdrawn from the squad for the games against Georgia and Bulgaria on Saturday and October 14, respectively.

Corps Commanders Conference vows swift, decisive reply to any Indian aggression

Sontinued from Page 1

Such rhetoric conforms to the well-known Indian propensity of whipping up war hysteria for political benefits, it added.

The participants agreed that is likely to lead to heightened added. tensions and will endanger regional peace and security.

The Forum pledged to counter

swift and decisive response, shattering any perceived notion of India's relative safety accruing from geography.

Any imaginary new normal will be met with a new normal unwarranted warmongering of swift retributive response, it

> The participants expressed resolve to pursue comprehensive counterterrorism operations

any Indian aggression with a across all domains to continue to landmark Strategic Mutual dismantle the networks of Indian-sponsored terror proxies like Fitna Al Khawarij and Fitna Al Hindustan.

The participants acknowledged the significance of Pakistan's recent high-level diplomatic engagements and reaffirmed their commitment to global and regional peace.

The Forum welcomed the

Defence Agreement between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, aimed at strengthening strategic relations and enhancing multi-domain cooperation for a joint response to any external aggression.

This agreement underscores shared values, mutual respect, and a joint vision for peace and security in the Middle Eastern

ISPR added.

The Forum reiterated Pakistan's uncompromising support for the legitimate struggle of right to self-determination, as enshrined in relevant UN Security Council resolutions.

The Forum also reaffirmed Pakistan's unwavering support for the Palestinian cause and army chief instructed the sively.

and South Asian regions, the hoped for an early ceasefire and commanders to ensure the delivery of humanitarian aid to the people of Gaza.

The meeting reiterated Pakistan's principled stance on the response capability. the Kashmiri people for their Palestine issue, voicing support

tional preparedness, discipline, physical fitness, innovation and He expressed confidence

highest standards of opera-

for the two-state solution with that the Pakistan Army is fully an independent Palestinian state capable of meeting all forms of based on pre-1967 borders and threat — conventional, uncon-Al Quds Al Sharif as its capital. ventional, hybrid and asym-In closing remarks, the metric — effectively and deci-

New investment opportunities

ISLAMABAD: A Group Photo of delegation comprised leading Saudi business figures representing key sectors including minerals, energy, agriculture and livestock, construction, infrastructure, tourism & real estate and prominent representatives from Pakistan's, Pakistani ministers, senior officials, industry leaders, private sector and business enterprises participated in Saudi—Pakistan Joint Business Council Meeting organized by the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) and the Ministry of Commerce.



Saudi delegation explores new investment opportunities in Pakistan

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: A high-level Saudi trade delegation, led by Prince Mansour bin Mohammed Al Saud, attended the Saudi-Pakistan Joint Business Council meeting here on Wednesday.

The session focused on agriculture, expanding bilateral trade, construction, investment, and business partnerships across key sectors. Leading Pakistani serves as a formal platform economic sectors under the business figures and private to encourage private-sector Saudi Vision 2030 and Pakistan's investment-led growth framework, said a press

release issued here. The meeting was organ-

ized under the Saudi-Pakistan Joint Business Council Special Investment Facilita-Saudi delegation included tives from minerals, energy, ment's efforts to ensure translivestock,

infrastructure, tourism, and real estate enterprises also took part, highlighting mutual interest in enhancing economic ties between the two countries.

delegation on the counwith the support of the try's investment policies and reforms designed to attract tion Council (SIFC) and the foreign investors. They Ministry of Commerce. The shared details of opportunities in SIFC's priority sectors senior business representa- and emphasized the govern-

parent and predictable busi-

ness regulations. The Joint Business Council cooperation, joint ventures, and cross-sector partnerships between Saudi Arabia and and the Ministry of Commerce Pakistan. It aims to promote Pakistani ministers and consistent business engage-

senior officials briefed the ment and long-term economic linkages.

Mansour bin

Prince

Mohammed Al Saud acknowledged Pakistan's reform efforts to create an investor-friendly environment. He reaffirmed Saudi Arabia's commitment to deepening economic cooperation with Pakistan, noting that the country holds strong potential in energy, minerals, technology, agriculture, tourism, and real estate

arranged a detailed briefing for the Saudi delegation. The and national levels.

session outlined Pakistan's investment facilitation framework, regulatory improvements, and available opportunities in key sectors aligned with both nations' development priorities.

The delegation will also visit Karachi and Lahore, where meetings with provincial governments and major business groups are scheduled. These engagements aim to identify joint ventures and public-private part-As part of the visit, the SIFC nership projects in various fields, expanding investment connections at both regional

19 militants killed, 11 soldiers martyred in Orakzai operation

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Security forces carried out an intelligence-based operation in Orakzai district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on the night between October 7-8, killing 19 militants belonging to the India-backed Fitna Al Khawarij terrorist group, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said on Wednes-

According to the ISPR, troops acted on information and displayed "utmost courage and bravery," inflicting heavy losses on the enemy.

During intense exchanges of fire, Lieutenant Colonel Junaid Arif, 39, a resident of Rawalpindi, and his 33-year-old deputy, Major Taib Rahat martyred while leading the subedar Azam Gul, 38, resi- Tank; Lance Naik Sher Hussain, 32, resident of terrorism.



also killed in the action.



dent of District Khyber: Naik Khan, 31, resident of District The ISPR identified the District Kurram; Naik Gul Faraz, 32, resident of District also from Rawalpindi – were other martyrs as: Naib Ameer, 34, resident of District Mansehra; Lance Naik Irshad ongoing national effort against



Adil Hussain, 35, resident of Mardan; Lance Naik Talash

District Kurram; Sepoy Tufail Khan, 28, resident of District Malakand; Sepoy Aqib Ali, 23, resident of District Swabi; Sepoy Muhammad Zahid, 24, resident of District Tank.

The ISPR said a sanitisation operation is ongoing in the area to locate and detain or eliminate any remaining

India-backed militants. The Pakistan Army spokesperson vowed that the country's security forces remain determined to eradicate India-backed terrorism from Pakistan, and said the sacrifices of the fallen officers and soldiers strengthen the

nation's resolve. The ISPR appealed to the public to salute the martyrs' sacrifices and to stand with the armed forces in the

Funeral prayers of Shaheed Lt Col Junaid Tairq, Major Tayyab Rahat offered

RAWALPINDI: Funeral prayer of Lieutenant Colonel Junaid Tariq (age: 39 years, resident of District Rawalpindi) and Major Tayyab Rahat (age: 33 years, resident of District Rawalpindi) who were amongst those 11 brave sons of soil, embraced martyrdom in Orakzai District during an intelligence based operation against Khwarij belonging to Indian Proxy, Fitna al Khwarij, was offered here Wednesday at Chaklala Garrison.

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), HJ, Chief of Army Staff, Federal Ministers, military and civil officers and public attended the funeral, said a press release issued by Inter tary honours.



Services Public Relations (ISPR).

The PM while paying tribute to the 11 Shuhadas of Orakzai incident resolved that Pakistani nation stands resolute and firm against this menace of terrorism and the Shahadas' ultimate sacrifice is a reminder of the unwavering resolve of the Nation to defend the motherland at all costs, it further

Shuhadas will be laid to rest in their native towns with full mili-

ECP to issue Punjab LG elections schedule in Dec under existing law

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Wednesday announced its decision in the Punjab local government elections case, expressing strong displeasure over the three-year delay in conducting local polls and directing that the election schedule be issued in the last week of December 2025.

According to the 24NewsHD TV channel, in its written verdict, the ECP ruled that the local government elections in Punjab will be held under the existing law and that the process of fresh delimitation must begin immediately and be completed within two months.

The Commission observed that the Punjab government repeatedly sought extensions under the pretext of new legislation but failed to deliver, terming its be tolerated.

conduct "delaying and unconstitutional".

The verdict stated that the Punjab government had requested three months for legislation, but even after the grace period expired, no progress or response was made. The ECP added that the term of local bodies had expired in December 2021, vet no elections have been conducted even after three years, which constitutes a serious violation of constitutional obli-

Citing Supreme Court judgements, the Commission reaffirmed that local government elections cannot be delayed and reminded the Punjab administration that Article 220 of the Constitution obliges provincial governments to assist the Election Commission in carrying out its duties. The ECP warned that any violation of constitutional provisions will not

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PM lauds negotiations body's efforts; assures to address AJK people's concerns



B City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday appreciating the amicable resolution of the situation in Azad Kashmir, assured that all-out steps would be taken to address the concerns of the Kashmi-

The prime minister, in a meeting with members of the government's negotiating committee following the successful conclusion of the negotiation process in Azad Kashmir, appre- understanding and support for Kashciated their efforts for resolving the mir's development and prosperity.

matter amicably.

The meeting was attended by federal ministers Ahsan Iqbal, Muhammad Aurangzeb, Sardar Muhammad Yusuf, Dr. Tariq Fazal Chaudhry, and Ahad Khan Cheema, Adviser to PM Rana Sanaullah, Chairman of PM Youth Program Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan, Raja Pervaiz Ashraf and Qamar Zaman

The prime minister also praised the Joint Action Committee for showing

Pakistan, Jordon vow to further strengthen bilateral cooperation



👺 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Jordon have reaffirmed the commitment to further strengthen their bilateral ties through continued high-level engagement, and cooperation for regional peace and stability. The commitment was expressed during a conversation Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar with his to reach Pakistan tomorrow.

Jordanian counterpart Ayman Safa-

Ishaq Dar appreciated Jordan's role in receiving the Global Sumud Flotilla's released detainees and facilitating their return home. He also thanked Jordan for its assistance in enabling the return of Pakistan's former Senator Mushtaq Ahmad between Deputy Prime Minister and Khan to Amman, who is scheduled

Govt meets another IMF condition as FBR issues draft rules for civil servants' asset disclosure

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has fulfilled another major condition set by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) (FBR) issued draft amendments to the rules governing asset declarations of civil servants.

transparency and administrative clarity by replacing the term "civil servants" with "public servants."

including those serving in federal greater transparency in governance.

and provincial governments, autonomous bodies, and corpo-

rations. However, individuals exempted under the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) Ordinance 1999 will not fall

under this cate-

gory.

The draft proposes that officers from Grades 17 to 22 be required to disclose their assets to the FBR. The amendments have been framed as the Federal Board of Revenue under Section 237 of the Income Tax Ordinance 2001.

The FBR has invited feedback and suggestions on the draft within According to FBR officials, the seven days, warning that comments proposed changes aim to improve received after the deadline will not be considered.

Officials said the revisions are designed to strengthen the asset The new definition will cover declaration and information officers from Grade 17 and above, exchange mechanism, ensuring

