Barkat Rice Mills



Former senator Mushtaq returns home after release from Israeli custody

Former Senator Mushtaq Ahmad, who was detained by Israeli forces last week after joining a humanitarian flotilla bound for Gaza, arrived safely in Pakistan on Thursday. He reached Islamabad Airport, where he received a warm welcome from supporters, party workers, and well-wishers.



ECP declares PTI, Sunni Ittehad Council MPs as independents

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Funeral Prayer

RAWALPINDI: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, Federal Ministers, senior civil and military officials, and members of the public attended the funeral prayers of Major Sibtain Haider.



PM vows to crush terrorism perpetrated from across border

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif Thursday said the nation was Fitna al-Khawarij. united in its resolve to eradicate terrorism from the country and the government and armed forces will take all measures to crush the violence perpetrated from across the border.

In his opening remarks during Tayyab Rahat. the federal cabinet meeting here, he gave details of the recent army men who embraced family members of the martyrs

operations against terrorists of

He said he along with Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, high ranking military officers and Jawans on Wednesday attended the funeral prayers of Lieutenant Colonel Junaid Tariq and Major

They were among the eleven

martyrdom while conducting Fitna al-Khawarij, he added. He said Lt Colonel Junaid wrote a new chapter of brayery as during the operation led by him 19 terrorists of Fitna al-Khwarij were eliminated.

"During another operation against Fitna Al-Khawarij, Major Sibtain Haider embraced martyrdom," he said adding he talked to the parents and

incidents during which army martyrdom in Orakzai while who said their sons gave their. He said facilitators were officers and Jawans embraced fighting against terrorists of lives for the country and gained martyrdom.

He said brave officers and Jawans of Pakistan army were laying down their lives for the country during their operations against Fitna Al-Khawarij every

The martyrs were leaving behind their children as orphans while saving the future generations of the country, he

protecting the terrorists who were coming from across the

He stressed that the situation had reached a critical point and the terrorists will not be spared. The martyrs drew a line with their blood while defending their country and this line could not be violated, he continued.

"The sacrifices of the martyrs will be remembered forever," he remarked.

Funeral of Major Sibtain Haider held at Chaklala Garrison

👺 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The funeral prayers of Major Sibtain Haider, who embraced martyrdom di, on Thursday. during an intelligence-based operation against the Indian Public Relations (ISPR), Prime attended the funeral prayers.

proxy militant group Fitna Al Khwarij in the Daraban area of Dera Ismail Khan, were offered at Chaklala Garrison, Rawalpin-

Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Chief of Army Staff Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, Federal Minister for Information Attaullah Tarar, senior civil and military offi-According to the Inter-Services cials, and members of the public

Paying tribute to the martyred martyrs strengthens the nation's officer, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said that "the menace of Khawarij or any group promoting extremist ideologies will never be

allowed to succeed."

resolve to defeat every agent of chaos and safeguard Pakistan's sovereignty.

Major Sibtain Haider will be laid to rest with full military He added that the blood of honours in his native town.

Dar, US Envoy discuss bilateral cooperation, regional stability

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Thursday received U. S. Chargé d'Affaires Natalie Baker at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, where both sides reviewed the growing momentum in Pakistan-U.S. relations and discussed avenues to further enhance bilateral cooperation.

Senator Ishaq Dar expressed satisfaction over the recent positive trajectory in bilateral ties, citing productive high-level interactions held in New York and Washington, D. C, a DPM's Office news release said.

He reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to continued engagement with the United States to strengthen mutually beneficial partnerships.

Highlighting Pakistan's constructive role in promoting peace and stability in the Middle East and the wider region, the Deputy Prime Minister emphasized the importance of collaborative international investing in Pakistan's energy, critical efforts to address shared challenges.

Chargé d'Affaires Natalie Baker conveyed



minerals, and information technology sectors, noting the country's potential for the keen interest of U. S. companies in growth and innovation.

Both sides reaffirmed their resolve to maintain close dialogue and expand cooperation across diverse fields to further advance Pakistan-US relations.

PML-Nemerges strongest in National Assembly with 122 members

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Thursday released the latest party standings in the National Assembly, placing Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) in the lead with 122 seats.

According to the latest figures, the number of independent members is 79, while the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) stands third with 74 members.

In the National Assembly, the Muttahida Qaumi Movement Pakistan (MQM-P) has 22 members, Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI) has 10, Pakistan Muslim League (PML) has 5, and the Istehkam Pakistan Party holds 4 seats.

The Pakhtunkhwa Milli Awami Party, Balochistan National Party, and Majlis Wahdat-e-Muslimeen have one member each.

Army major martyred as forces eliminate seven India-backed militants

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: The security forces killed seven militants of the India-backed Fitna Al Khawarij group during an operation in the Daraban area of Dera Ismail Khan, the military's media wing said on

The Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said the operation was launched on the night of October 8 after intelligence confirmed the presence of militants belonging to Indian Proxy, Fitna Al Khwarij in the area.

Security forces cordoned off the area and carried out the operation after the militants opened heavy fire.

The ISPR said the troops returned fire and all seven militants were neutralised. A large cache of weapons and ammunition was recovered from the slain terrorist, the statement

During the operation, 30-year-old Major Sabtain



martyred while leading his unit, the ISPR said. The ISPR said the slain mili-

tants were involved in attacks on security forces, law-enforcement agencies and civilians, and were planning multiple terrorist operations inside the The military spokesperson

vowed that security forces remain committed to eliminating Indian-sponsored proxy terrorism. A sanitisation operation is

underway to eliminate any other Indian-sponsored terrorists found in the area, the statement said.

"The sacrifices of our brave sons strengthen the nation's resolve, and we will continue our struggle until the last of Haider of the Pakistan Army, these militants are eliminated," who hailed from Quetta, was the statement said.

President, PM praise security forces over successful operation against terrorists in DI Khan

跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday commended the officers and soldiers of Pakistan's security forces for a successful operation against Fitna-al-Khawarij terrorists in the Daraban area of Dera Ismail Khan, which resulted in the elimination of seven terrorists.

In separate statements, the president and the prime minister paid tribute to Major Sibtain Haider, who was martyred after bravely fighting during the operation, thwarting the nefarious designs of the enemy.

"Major Sibtain set a great example by sacrificing his life in defence of the country," President Zardari said, expressing heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family



Prime Minister Shehbaz

Sharif said the brave officers and soldiers of the Pakistan Armed Forces were working day and night to safeguard the country.

entire "The including myself, is proud of the courage and dedication of our armed forces," he said, reaffirming the government's commitment to continue the war until the complete eradication of terrorism from Paki-

He added that the nation stands shoulder-to-shoulder with the armed forces in their unwavering commitment to defend the homeland.

PM Shehbaz, Bilawal discuss political situation on phone call

跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari held a phone call on Thursday in which

they discussed the country's prevailing political situation amid PML-N and PPP war of words during the recent weeks.

The federal government coalition allies are trading barbs over how the PPP and PML-N have been providing aid to victims of the recent floods. The feud escalated to the point that leaders from both sides hold daily press conferences to take potshots



In a post on X, the PPP confirmed the telephone call had taken place and that the country's political situation, foreign policy and flood aid were among the topics of discussion. The war of words between the two sides expanded to water rights on the Indus River as Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif told the PPP leadership to keep its advice to itself.

An important meeting of PPP AJK held at Bilawal House

ISLAMABAD: An important meeting of Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Azad Kashmir was held at Bilawal House, Islamabad under the chairmanship of PPP Azad Kashmir President Chaudhry Muhammad Yasin. Former Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan, former President and Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir Sardar Yaqub Ahmad Khan, General Secretary PPP Azad Kashmir Raja Faisal Mumtaz, Rathore Party members were present at the meeting. Central officials of the state attended.

The meeting unanimously decided to secede from the present government. The final decision was taken by President of Pakistan and Co-Chairman of Pakistan People's Party Asif Ali Zardari. Pakistan People's Party Azad Kashmir could not afford to bear the burden of disappointing performance, failures and incompetence of Anwar-

The meeting highlighted the sincere



protests, civilians and victims of the October 8, 2005 earthquake.

The meeting paid tribute to the great rewards and dignity of police officers sacrifices and martyrs of the Armed who were martyred during the recent Forces of Pakistan. The meeting made

it clear that if India attempts any kind Party Azad Kashmir expressed full

of aggression, the Kashmiri people will confidence in the leadership of its stand on the shoulders of Pakistan's central leadership Shri Asif Ali Zardari, army and retaliate against the enemy. Shri Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and Shri At the meeting, Pakistan People's Faryal Talpur.

A high-level meeting

MUZAFFARABAD: A high-level meeting was held under the chairmanship of Khushal Khan, Chief Secretary, Azad Jammu and Kashmir to review the implementation of the agreement with the Joint Public Action Committee.



Four-Days Course For FCPS Part-II Exams concludes mock exam held



Kiran Asim

MULTAN: The four-day course for FCPS Part-II candidates organized by the Department of Gynecology, Nishtar Medical University, Multan Punjab participated as examiners. concluded yesterday. A mock exam

Khakwani, Vice Chancellor, Nishtar Medical University. Senior consultants from Nishtar Medical University, Multan Medical and Dental College, DG Khan Medical College and South

Postgraduate students termed

with other senior faculty members patronage of Professor Dr. Mehnaz cology, Nishtar Medical University gratitude for their efforts. Vice Chanizers.

as very useful and Vice Chancellor, cellor Nishtar Medical University Nishtar Medical University, Professor Professor Dr. Mehnaz Khakwani, Dr. Mehnaz Khakwani, Professor while speaking on the occasion, Dr. Syeda Ali, Professor Dr. Saima congratulated the organizers for Ashraf. Chief Organizer Associate organizing this wonderful program Professor Dr. Rashida Parveen, along and emphasized the need to organize such training programs in the future was held on the last day in which the the course and mock exam organ- and consultant gynecologists associ- as well and distributed certificates mock exam was organized under the ized by the Department of Gyne- ated with the department, expressed among the participants and organ-

National Wide Polio Campaign Start From 13 October

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: The district administration is launching a national campaign for the complete eradication of polio in Multan district from October 13. Deputy Commissioner Multan Waseem Hamid Sindhu formally inaugurated the campaign at Shahbaz Sharif Hospital. On this occasion, he administered polio drops to children and also presented them with gifts.

The Deputy Commissioner said that during this campaign, a target has been set to administer polio drops to more than 10,23,000 children under the age of five across the district.

To achieve this national goal, teams will go door to door to administer polio drops to children, while 4021 area in-charges will supervise the campaign. In addition, 230 Union Council Medical Officers and 148 $supervisory \, of ficers \, will \, take \, charge \, of \,$ monitoring the teams.

A total of 4399 teams will be active the chairmanship of Deputy Commis-



in every area of the district. A review sioner Waseem Hamid Sindhu, in departments participated. meeting of the arrangements for the which officers of the health departpolio campaign was also held under ment, in-charges of polio teams and in the meeting to make the campaign representatives of the concerned successful and it was emphasized that

An effective strategy was formulated

access to every house and every child in the district should be ensured so that no child is deprived of taking polio

Sindh Food Authority imposed a fine to Indus Hotel



Qayoom Sarohi

HYDERABAD: The Sindh Food Authority's Operations Wing conducted a raid on the well-known Three Star Hotel (Indus Hotel) located on Thandi Sarak in Hyderabad. The condition of the hotel kitchen was found to be extremely poor, with serious violations of hygiene regulations. Expired food items were recovered from the kitchen.

During the operation, the team also faced resistance, and cats were seen roaming inside the kitchen. The Sindh Food Authority team immediately disposed of all expired and fungus-affected items on the spot.

Deputy Director of the Sindh Food Authority Hyderabad, Dr. Asad Jahangir, imposed a fine of Rs. 500,000 on Indus Hotel for gross violations of health and safety standards.

Annual prize distribution ceremony held at Aziz Fatima Medical and Dental College



FAISALABAD: The annual prize distribution ceremony of Aziz Fatima Medical and Dental College was held. Commissioner Faisalabad Raja Jahangir Anwar attended as the special guest. While distributing medals and certificates among the doctors, he said that medicine is a great profession that places a heavy responsibility on the people associated with it. He said that the youth are the future of our beloved country and we have great expectations from them. He said that our youth are talented and they will take the country and society to the peak of development in the coming time. The Commissioner said that training along with education is very important and educational institutions should pay special attention to character building of students. The Commissioner also visited different departments of the Medical and Dental College and said that the overall performance of the hospital is commendable. CEO Mian Muhammad Idrees and other officials were also present.

LRBT's Gift On World Sight Day - 40 Years of Restoring Sight, Transforming Lives



KARACHI: As the world observes World Sight Day 2025, Layton Rahmatulla Benevolent Trust (LRBT) celebrates 40 remarkable years of service — four decades of restoring vision, dignity, and opportunity to those who need it most.

Reflecting on this historic milestone, Mr. Najmus Saquib Hameed, Chairman of LRBT, shared his sentiments on the occasion"It is heartbreaking to see families forced to make the impossible choice between putting a meal on the table or seeking treatment for blindness. No one should ever have to make such a choice. It is beyond words to describe the relief and joy of a beneficiary who regains their sight after receiving a free surgery. That moment — when someone sees again — is the true measure of LRBT's impact and the power of collective compassion."

Every single day, over 11,000 patients walk through LRBT's doors, and more than 1200 surgeries are performed — all free of cost. LRBT's model of compassionate, accessible healthcare has transformed the lives of millions, giving them not only the gift of sight but also the chance to live with dignity and purpose.

To commemorate World Sight Day 2025, LRBT has organized a series of activities nationwide. These include awareness campaigns through television and radio, free community screening camps, and schoolbased programs to educate families about the importance of regular eye check-ups, especially for children. LRBT is also using digital storytelling and media appearances to amplify the theme of this year's World Sight Day: "Inclusive, Accessible and Equitable Eye Care for All."

This World Sight Day, as LRBT celebrates 40 years of transforming lives, invites individuals, partners, and organizations to join hands in its mission. Together, we can ensure that no one in Pakistan loses their sight simply because they cannot afford care.

SSP Shoaib reviews security arrangements at Faizabaď

ISLAMABAD: In view of the prevailing law and order situation, SeniorSuperintendent of Police (SSP) Operations Muhammad Shoaib Khan visited Faizabad on Thursday to review the security arrangements and ensure effective coordination between Islamabad and Rawalpindi police.

An official told APP that during the visit, he was accompanied by senior officers of Islamabad Police as well as officials from Rawalpindi Police. SSP Shoaib directed that all security measures be made foolproof and that officers remain fully prepared to respond promptly to any untoward incident. He emphasized that the protection of citizens and maintenance

of public order are top priorities for Islamabad Police. He said that the rule of law will be ensured at all costs, and no one would be allowed to disturb peace or take the law into their own hands. He also directed police officials to maintain courtesy, professionalism,

and discipline during duty hours. The SSP further instructed senior officers to personally supervise their respective teams and remain present in the field to ensure swift action in case of emergencies.





SERVIC	ES
Namaz Tiı	mings
Fajr	4:45 am
Zohr	11:55 am
Asr	4:01 pm
Maghrib	5:42 pm

EMEDGENCY

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

Women Police Stations

Jlativiis		
Islamabad	9222596	
Rawalpindi	9270601-20	

ENQUIRY

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

HOSPITALS

CMH	5611
MH	5611
MH	5611
Cantt Hospital	9270907
DHQ	5556311
RGH	9290301
Holy Family	9290322
PIMS	9261170-7
Polyclinic	9218300-0

AbrarAhmed Khan welcomed the agreement between Hamas

and Israel



ISLAMABAD: The entire Muslim Ummah is bowing in gratitude before Allah over the peace agreement reached between Gaza and Israel. Infinite thanks to the Almighty for allowing us to witness this day. The land of Gaza has endured one of the most horrific periods of oppression in histo ry. Due to constant bombings targeting innocent children, women, and civilians, hospitals, educational institutions, and places of worship were reduced to rubble. Ultimately, peace has triumphed and oppres-

sion has come to an end. These thoughts were expressed by Abrar Ahmed Khan, President of the All Pakistan Private Schools Management Association (Northern Puniab). in a statement. Earlier, while addressing thousands of students and teachers participating in the Gaza March organized by NAFIEH in Islamabad, he said: Expressing solidarity with the oppressed people of Palestine is a moral and human duty. Sympathy with the suffering Muslims of Gaza is not merely based on religion, race, or language, but on the foundation of shared humanity. Humanity and human dignity have been violated in Gaza, which has deeply disturbed every conscientious individual.

Workers Welfare Fund celebrated for boosting global academic success of Pakistani students

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development, Chaudhry Salik Hussain, has said that the government is taking unprecedented initiatives within its institutions that will serve as a beacon of guidance for future generations.

He expressed these views while addressing the oath-taking ceremony of award-winning students at PBF International College, Islamabad, on Wednesday.

Secretary Workers Welfare Fund, Zulfiqar Ahmed, and Director General Radio Pakistan, Saeed Ahmed Sheikh, were also present on the occasion.

Speaking at the ceremony, the Federal Minister said that the Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development is setting new benchmarks across all its affiliated institutions — benchmarks that will inspire

Chaudhry Salik Hussain emphaits youth, whose hard work, honesty, and Sarah Mohsin, the teachers, parents, cated efforts, and prayed for Pakistan's

character will shape the country's future He lauded the Workers Welfare Fund and its Secretary for playing a key role in promoting education and providing high-quality learning facilities to the children of the working class.

He said that through the efforts of the Workers Welfare Fund, students have excelled not only at the national level but have also brought honor to Pakistan internationally.

Highlighting the importance of holistic education, Chaudhry Salik Hussain stated that it is essential to nurture a generation capable of competing globally. He added that education is not limited to textbooks, but also instills awareness, tolerance, and human values.

The Minister further said that it is imperative to focus on the moral and ethical development of the youth alongside their academic growth, so that they consider serving the nation as their life's

Chaudhry Salik Hussain paid sized that the nation's hopes rest upon tribute to PBF College Principal Ms. and the administration for their dedi-progress, stability, and prosperity.



Earlier, the Federal Minister also

planted a sapling at the college prem-

Security arrangement

RAWALPINDI: A view of heavy shipping containers placed alongside a road at Faizabad area for road block in connection with TLP protest march rally Faizabad to USA embassy against Israel, on Friday, in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online

CM Maryam Nawaz should hold those accountable for the injustice done to artists: Artists from the Twin Cities appeal

ISLAMABAD: A large number of artists from Rawalpindi and Islamabad, troubled by ongoing injustices, lack of rights, and political interference in the Rawalpindi Arts Council, have approached senior producer and director Ms. Asma Butt. They requested that their issues be heard and that a strategy be formulated in consultation with artists to resolve these problems — so that artists can continue their positive cultural activities freely and independently.

Yesterday, at the strong request of artists from the twin cities, an important meeting was held under the chairmanship of Ms. Asma Butt. During the meeting, artists expressed that the Rawal-



the passage of two and a half years, the still living in the PTI era.

pindi Arts Council is still being run under council has failed to take any practical the policies and regulations implemented steps for promoting artists, drama, and by the previous PTI government. Despite culture. They said it feels as though we are

Pakistan Makes History with Guinness World Record for the World's Largest Hair Care Lesson

Example 2 Commerce Desk

KARACHI: L'Oréal Pakistan has made history as it officially hosted the World's Largest Hair Care Lesson, a Guinness World Record-breaking event held at Bahria Auditorium, Karachi.

This first-of-its-kind event in Pakistan was led by renowned hair care expert Saman Nomani, who delivered an engaging, step-by-step session on scalp health, cleansing techniques, and hydration practices. The lesson was attended by 521 individuals taking part collectively, a milestone that earned Pakistan its place in Guinness World Records history, reinforcing L'Oréal's vision of making beauty a tool for empowerment, education, and

transformation. Speaking on the achievement,



Rehan Saeed, Chief Executive Officer is a reminder that beauty can be a cataand Executive General Manager of lyst for education, empowerment, and L'Oréal Pakistan said, "This milestone collective progress.

Trainer Saman Nomani said, "Leading this record-breaking lesson was an incredible opportunity to share practical, science-backed haircare knowledge with so many people at once. This record shows how education in beauty can be both empowering and transformative."

The World's Largest Haircare Lesson builds on L'Oréal's longstanding mission to champion women's empowerment, challenge stereotypes, and democratize access to beauty knowledge, making it accessible to everyone, everywhere. This achievement reflects L'Oréal's commitment to creating beauty that moves the world by using science and innovation to make beauty education more inclusive, while empowering women in Pakistan to shape a stronger, more confident future.

Suthra Punjab Kamalia Ensuring a Clean and Hygienic Environment: Muddasir Ehsan

👺 Zafar Chishti

KAMALIA: Under the ongoing cleanliness and sanitation drive, Suthra Punjab Kamalia is actively working to provide citizens with a clean and hygienic environment.

According to Project Manager Muddasir Ehsan, the staff of Suthra Punjab Kamalia are performing their duties with full dedication to ensure that every part of the city remains clean and pollution free. He stated that maintaining cleanliness is not just the government's responsibility but a collective duty of all citizens. He further said that Sutra Punjab Kamalia's



teams are working day and night to ensure waste collection, proper disposal and environmental safety. The project's primary focus is to protect the public from diseases caused by unhygienic conditions and to promote a healthy lifestyle for residents.

Muddasir Ehsan added that the cooperation of the public plays a vital role in the success of these cleanliness initiatives. He urged citizens to dispose of garbage in designated bins and keep their surroundings clean to make Kamalia a model city of cleanliness and public health.

MS, THQ Hospital Kamalia Dr. Adeel issued monthly performance report



TOBA TEK SINGH: The Medical superintendent of Tehsil Headquarters (THQ) Hospital Kamalia Doctor Adeel Arif has released its monthly performance report, highlighting significant progress in healthcare service delivery under the vision of Chief Minister Punjab, Ms. Maryam Nawaz Sharif. According to the report, a total of 30,292 patients received medical treatment at the hospital during the previous month. Out of these. 21,803 patients were examined in the Outpatient Department (OPD).

8,499 patients were treated in the Emergency Department. 2,067 patients were admitted to the indoor wards for further treatment. In the Gynecology Ward, a team of specialist lady doctors successfully performed 127 C-section surgeries and conducted 64 normal deliveries. Meanwhile, the General Surgery Department carried out 70 surgical operations during the month. Importantly, all medicines, surgical supplies and medical facilities including pre-operative, intra-operative and post-operative care were provided completely free of cost to all patients, in line with the directives of the Government of Punjab and the vision of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif to ensure accessible and quality healthcare for every citizen.

Furthermore, the report stated that, 55 patients were admitted to the Coronary Care Unit (CCU).573 dialysis sessions were conducted for kidney patients. These achievements reflect the dedication and hard work of the hospital's medical team, the efficient management strategy of the administration and the Punjab government's commitment to public health improve-

The THQ Hospital Kamalia continues to play a vital role in delivering quality healthcare services to the people of Kamalia and surrounding areas.

Group Chairman/Chief Editor: Almass Ayoub Sabir Vice Chairman:

Asim Nazir Ahmad Naveed Ahmad Khan Editor: Head Editorial Advisory Board: Amjad Mehmood

Bureau Chief Karachi:

Khurram Jaffrani (jaffrani@adpluse.pk Bureau Chief Lahore: Syed Afraz Ali Nazish (afrazalishah@gmail.com)

AIMS Building, Street No. 4, H-8/1, Islamabad. Head Office:

spokesmanislamabad@gmail.com Phone: +92 51 2227123, WhatsApp +92 346 5008408

Karachi office: A111, Block C, Gulsha-e-Jamal, PRECHS,

Karachi Phone:021-33399390 Email: spokesmankarachi@gmail.com

Lahore Office: 7-E, Samanberg, Johar Town.

spokesmanlahore@gmail.com

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Across China: World's tallest bridge brings local tourism to new heights

s the sunset glow blankets a remote village in southwest China's Guizhou Province, over a dozen photographers gather on a rented rooftop. The sounds of their cameras and drones fill the air, all striving to capture the perfect shot of the world's tallest bridge against the painted sky.

During China's eight-day National Day and Mid-Autumn Festival holiday ending on Wednesday, the newly opened Huajiang Grand Canyon Bridge, soaring 625 meters above the Beipan River, has become a major attraction.

As of Tuesday, estimates suggested the bridge and its surrounding area had welcomed over 100,000 visitors.

"From my spot, every shot is a masterpiece," said Xie Chaoqing, a content creator who rented the rooftop for its unobstructed view at a nearby village — Huajiang Village in Zhenfeng County.

Spanning the Huajiang Grand Canyon, the 2,890-meter-long bridge opened to traffic on Sept. 28, slashing travel time across the canyon from two hours to just two minutes after three years of construction.

Living just across the canyon, Xie has documented the bridge's progress, amassing 4.5 million likes and 276,000 followers online with his daily updates.

What moved me most was seeing the workers keep working high up there, whether under the scorching sun or in the biting cold," he recalled. Now, he is investing in a homestay to accommodate the influx of visitors and sustain the newfound interest.

Tourism functionality was integrated into the bridge's design from the very beginning of its construction. An area of over 50 square kilometers around the bridge site has been incorporated into the plan for a tourism zone that combines the bridge with tourism, featuring extreme sports, science education, sightseeing and vacations.

Beyond viewing platforms, thrilling experiences such as paragliding, bungee jumping, a high-altitude speed runway and a water-screen light show are also available.

At a local homestay, owner Lin Guoquan was exceptionally busy during the holiday.

He received thousands of online inquiries daily and had to turn down many bookings. Despite expanding his number of rooms, it was not enough. "I even set up six tents in my

A former chef who returned home for the bridge, Lin plans to hire more staff and upgrade his facilities to enhance ser-

In his spare time, Lin enjoys flying drones with his eightyear-old daughter. "I want her to know this bridge is our generation's dream, and it is her starting point."

Recognizing Israel: Ideological and Strategic Suicide for Pakistan

Muhammad Asif

has a long history filled with decisions that have been called "political suicide." During its previous term, the controversial changes to the oath regarding the Ahmadiyya community drew severe public backlash. Now, once again, Rana Sanaullah, Khawaja Asif, and Ishaq Dar sometimes explicitly, sometimes ambiguously are hinting at recognizing Israel and joining the Abraham Accords. This is a dangerous direction that not only goes against public sentiment in Pakistan but is also entirely contrary to the ideological, geographical, strategic, and diplomatic interests of the Pakistani state.

If Pakistan decides to recognize Israel, it will not merely be a diplomatic or political move it will be a fundamental mistake that will inflict irreparable damage on Pakistan's ideological identity, security, foreign policy, and global standing. The debate over establishing relations with Israel cannot be viewed solely through the lens of foreign policy, as its effects will extend beyond Pakistan's geographical position, deeply and dangerously impacting its ideological existence, internal stability, and international relations.

However, the second and perhaps more dangerous aspect of this issue is its strategic impact. Israel's global role is not merely that of a Zionist state but of a militaristic ideology actively working to weaken other regional countries, incite civil wars within them, and cripple their sovereignty. From attacks on Iraq's Israel is a close defense ally of India. For raf's era when Pakistan joined the U.

nist Kurdish groups in Turkey, Syria, and Iraq, toppling Libya's government, and undermining Egypt's democratic rule, Israel's role has always been sinister. It never wants to see states strong enough to challenge its military dominance or geographical interests.

To assume that Israel would ever trust Pakistan is a grave delusion. In reality, Israel views Pakistan's nuclear assets as an "Islamic bomb" and will continue striving to weaken or eliminate them-whether through

global or economic pres-

sure, cyberattacks, or

covert operations.

Recognizing Israel would, in effect, mean surrendering to pressure from the U.S. and its Arab allies. If Pakistan takes this step, it will not only be bargaining away its sovereignty but also distancing itself from its most crucial strategic ally China. China, Pakistan's trusted partner, the architect of CPEC, and its greatest hope in security, economy, and technology, will lose trust in Pakistan if it recognizes Israel under American pressure. Given Pakistan's sensitive position, China will never risk the possibility that Pakistan, under U. S. pressure, might grant access to sensitive Chinese technology or intelligence. This could lead

to the cessation of defense and technical

cooperation with China.

relations based on advanced weaponry, intelligence sharing, and joint military exercises. Israeli drones, missile systems, and cyber technology are actively used by Indian forces in Kashmir. In such a scenario, even if Pakistan recognizes Israel, it will never achieve the same level of relations as India. Consequently,

Pakistan's foreign policy will remain trapped in perpetual uncertainty, ambiguity, and internal contradictions neither fully part of the American camp, nor a trusted friend of China, nor a representative of the Muslim world.

Another severe consequence of recognizing Israel would be the damage to relations with Iran. Iran and Israel are now open enemies. If Pakistan recognizes Israel, Iran could respond with strong diplomatic, economic, and potentially strategic repercussions, with the most significant impact being felt in the sensitive region of Balochistan. Instability there already fueled by separatist elements could multiply.

Beyond these external repercussions, the domestic backlash would be even more intense. The Pakistani public, religious circles, student organizations, and civil society strongly support the Palestinian cause. Recognizing Israel could trigger widespread distrust, protests, and even potential rebellion similar to the It is also essential to remember that public outrage during Pervez Mushar-

akistan's current leadership nuclear program to supporting commu-years, the two nations have maintained S. war in Afghanistan. The country is already suffering from political instability; an unpopular foreign policy decision could spark a new crisis.

Similarly, Pakistan's reputation in the Muslim world would suffer immensely. While a few Arab governments have established relations with Israel, their people remain overwhelmingly sympathetic to the Palestinians. Pakistan, seen as a powerful and principled Islamic nation, would lose its unique standing if it recognized Israel. Muslims worldwide would view Pakistan as just another "opportunistic," "duplicitous," and "treacherous" country that betrayed the Palestinians.

Most importantly, Pakistan would gain nothing in return for recognizing Israel no major trade benefits, no military technology, no concessions on Kashmir, no special status at the UN, and no lasting diplomatic success. The only reward would be the formal approval of the U.S. and its allies temporary, conditional, and uncertain at best. Countries like Sudan and Morocco, which recognized Israel in recent years, serve as living examples of what little they gained and how much they lost.

The conclusion is clear: if Pakistan recognizes Israel, it will enter a realm of isolation, pressure, vulnerability, and uncertainty on all fronts.

Therefore, recognizing Israel would not only be ideological suicide for Pakistan but also a march toward strategic ruin bringing no benefits, only losses.

The writer is senior analyst and he can be reached at sirasif786@gmail.com



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

The Power of a Listening State

Qudsia Imran

en governments are willing to respond, adapt, and amend, that is true resilience. The Joint Awami Action Committee's (JAAC) 38-point charter shows exactly this: the people of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) rose, not to revolt, but to demand justice. Their voices were never against Pakistan or its institutions; rather, they were calling for fairness in representation, accessibility in governance, and equality in development. Much of the Indian commentary, however, deliberately twisted these protests into a narrative of rebellion. Yet, the facts demonstrate otherwise: what unfolded in AJK was an exercise in negotiation, correction, and governmental flexibility, not a coup against the state.

On 29 September 2025, Kashmiris under the JAAC banner initiated widespread protests, a territory-wide shutter-down and wheel-jam campaign, to draw attention to 38 specific demands that spanned political representation, administrative reform, social welfare, and infrastructural development. Among these were the elimination of elite privileges, the re-examination of 12 reserved assembly seats for refugees from Indian-administered Kashmir, the call for free education and healthcare, and the demand for transparent revenue-sharing from hydropower resources. These demands, rooted in everyday life and economic justice, were aimed at reform and inclusion, not separation or

Likewise, the Pakistani federal and AJK governments demonstrated political maturity by refusing to meet unrest with unvielding force. Instead, they sent negotiation teams, initiated multiple rounds of dialogue, and agreed to implement many of the JAAC's demands. They further committed to forming

review committees for disputed issues and universal human rights. Every nation whether to ensuring inquiry and compensation for affected citizens. Therefore, rather than suppressing voices, the government chose accommodation—an act that displayed the strength of democratic flexibility. The signing of the agreement on 4 October, as reported by Dawn and Al Jazeera, signified the power of a government that listens.

Moreover, government responsiveness should not be mistaken for weakness. True resilience lies in acknowledging mistakes, correcting them, and rebuilding public trust. As the International Public Policy Association notes, "policy responsiveness, when genuine and transparent, enhances state legitimacy and reduces future conflict." In this sense, the Pakistani state showed prudence and foresight, recognizing that consent cannot be coerced, it must be earned through justice and inclusion.

Therefore, the events in AJK remind us that the strength of a democracy depends not on its capacity to control dissent but on its ability to engage with it constructively. Governments gain legitimacy not merely by maintaining order but by responding ethically to their citizens' voices. Likewise, citizens strengthen democracy when they express dissent through structured, peaceful, and purposeful mobilization. These two forces, citizen participation and governmental responsiveness, form the twin pillars of any resilient political order.

Furthermore, false narratives, such as branding calls for justice as acts of rebellion, are dangerous. They not only delegitimize civic agency but also normalize authoritarian reflexes. History has shown that silencing people's voices never brings stability; it only deepens alienation. When governments choose to listen instead of dismiss, they build bridges of trust that last longer than any show of force. Hence, resilience in governance is best demonstrated not through rigid control but through flexibility, humility, and dialogue. to hear, to act, and to transform protest into Likewise, justice, equality, and peace remain

in South Asia or beyond must recognize the right of its citizens to demand these values. Suppressing legitimate dissent contradicts the essence of democracy. As political theorist John Dewey once wrote, "Democracy begins in conversation." The Pakistani and AJK governments, by engaging in dialogue rather than confrontation, exemplified this democratic truth.

At the heart of every democracy lies a simple principle: rulers are servants of the people. Asking for justice is not betrayal; it is an act of citizenship. When governments ignore grievances, they risk breeding alienation and resentment. However, when they listen, adapt, and reform, they emerge stronger and more legitimate. The JAAC's 38 points, therefore, should not be misread as rebellion but embraced as a roadmap toward better

In this context, the Pakistani government deserves recognition for its willingness to negotiate, for its acceptance of reform, and for its understanding that governance must evolve with the people's aspirations. The challenge ahead lies in implementation—ensuring transparency, delivering compensation, clarifying constitutional matters, and restoring faith in state institutions. These are the steps that will transform temporary peace into asting stability

Ultimately, as democratic theory teaches, people have a duty to protest injustice, and governments have a duty to listen. This is not merely a Pakistan-India issue; it is a universal principle. Across the world, every nation must protect the right of its citizens to demand justice, equality, and peace. Governments that can listen, reform, and respond will endure. Those that cannot, will inevitably lose their legitimacy. Thus, the power of a listening state is not in its might but in its moral courage

From Ceasefire to Survival: A Case of Environmental Justice for Gaza-I

Syed Munir Ahmed

poisoned air, dead soil, and toxic seas will keep killing long after the ceasefire. Without environmental justice, peace will remain only a pause between disasters.

As negotiators in Doha, Cairo, and New York race against time to secure a durable ceasefire between Israel and Hamas, the fate of Gaza hangs on more than just the silencing of guns. The truce talks have entered yet another fragile phase — a patchwork of diplomatic language promising "pause,"

"withdrawal," and "humanitarian access." Yet beneath these cautious words lies a deeper crisis that no ceasefire can automatically heal: the environmental devastation that has turned Gaza into one of the most toxic, uninhabitable places on Earth. Even if the war stops tomorrow, the poisoned water, polluted soil, and mountains of rubble will continue to kill silently for decades.

For months, the global gaze has been fixed on human casualties, displacement, and the moral and legal arguments over genocide. But few have reckoned with Gaza's environmental death — the slow, suffocating fallout of relentless bombardment that has annihilated essential ecosystems and life-support systems. As the world negotiates peace, Gaza's very earth, air, and sea cry for justice.

The United Nations, the World Bank, and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) have now quantified the devastation in a grim accounting. The joint World Bank-UN-EU assessment released earlier this year estimates Gaza's reconstruction and recovery needs at \$53 billion, with 41 to 47 million tonnes of rubble littering the landscape — an environmental time bomb. More than 80% of Gaza's population lacks access to safe drinking water, according to WHO and OCHA reports, while 90% of wastewater flows untreated into the Mediterranean Sea. In some areas, heavy

exceed WHO's safe exposure levels.

UNEP's environmental review concluded bluntly: "The situation is going from bad to worse." The destruction of water, sanitation, and energy infrastructure has set off a chain reaction of ecological collapse - aquifers contaminated with sewage and fuel, soil laced with explosive residues, and coastal waters blackened by untreated waste. What began as an armed conflict has mutated into an environmental war against an already exhausted land. Even if a ceasefire halts the bombs, Gaza's envi-

> Sewage continues to seep into the sea; desalination plants, crippled by fuel shortages, lie dormant; the very dust from the rubble is laden with asbestos and toxic metals. The environmental fallout does

not stop at the Gaza fence — it travels through marine currents and wind, affecting coastal waters of Egypt, Israel, and beyond. This

ronment remains under siege.

is no longer a local tragedy; it is a regional ecological crisis.

Many human-rights experts have begun using the term "ecocide" alongside genocide, arguing that the systematic destruction of ecosystems that sustain civilian life is not an unintended consequence but a deliberate extension of violence. OHCHR statements and UN human-rights experts have warned that depriving civilians of water, food, fuel, and medicine may amount to collective punishment acts that fall within the legal scope of genocidal

Whether or not courts ultimately rule this as genocide, the empirical reality is clear: Gaza is being deprived of the natural foundations of life. The poisoned wells, destroyed farms, and toxic ruins ensure that even after the guns go silent, survival itself becomes a daily act of defiance. As one UN rapporteur put it, "starvation and environmental collapse are now the instruments of war."

To be continued

The Embassy of Egypt Celebrated Armed **Forces Day**



Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif has said that Pakistan and Egypt enjoy excellent brotherly relations based on mutual respect, shared faith, and deep-rooted historical ties. He addressed to gathering as Chief

anniversary of the Victory and Egypt's Armed Forces Day hosted by Embassy of Egypt Islamabad in Serena Hotel.

H. E. Dr. Ihab Mohamed Abdelhamid Hassan, Ambassador of Egypt to Pakistan, and Defense Attache of Egypt Air Commodore Ahmed Halal warm Gust on the occasion of 52nd welcome to guests. The large



number of Defense Attaches of Different countries, High officials of Government of Pakistan, media persons and friends of Egyptian embassy were attended the event.

Khawaja Asif lauded Egypt's role in promoting regional stability and cooperation in the Muslim world. Referring to the ongoing conflict in Gaza, he termed the killing of innocent civilians as "tragic and unacceptable," and called for immediate steps toward peace and justice in

He reaffirmed Pakistan's unwavering support for the Palestinian cause and emphasized the need for unity among Muslim countries to address common challenges.

In his address, Defense Attache of Egypt Air Commodore Ahmed Hallal, emphasized that the October Victory will forever remain a symbol of the strength and unity of the Egyptian people, as well as a testament to the deep friendship and cooperation



people's pride, and the Egyptian

military's grandeur".

has lasted for more than 118 years.

He said "It is a great pleasure and honor today, on the anniversary of glorious days immortalized in the conscience of the Egyptian people, to extend to you my thanks

between Egypt and Serbia that and appreciation for your pres-The ceremony concluded with reaffirmations of strengthening ence and participation in our celebration of the 52nd anniversary bilateral defence and diplomatic of the glorious October Victory, cooperation between Pakistan which restored Egypt's dignity, the and Egypt.

Photos: Online by Sultan **Bashir**

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Speaker National Assembly Syed Ghulam Mustafa Shah in a group photo with participants of Launch ceremony of the Book "The History of Patriotic War: Personality Factor" jointly organized by the National Assembly of Pa-



Delegation Led by Waqar Bakhtawari Meets Leila Mammadova

Spokesman Report

BAKU: A high-level delegation of Pakistan's business community, led by Waqar Bakhtawari, President of the Azerbaijan-Pakistan Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry, met with Madam Leila Mammadova, Deputy Chief of the Presidential Administration of the Republic of Azerbaijan. The delegation also included the Chamber's Chairman Zafar Bakhtawari, Abid Bakhtawari, and Haris Bakhtawari.

The meeting was held in a cordial atmosphere, during which both sides held detailed discussions on various aspects of promoting trade, economic, and cultural relations between the two brotherly countries.

Madam Leila Mammadova strengthening relations with Pakistan, saying that Azerbaijan considers Pakistan a close friend and a reliable



expressed deep interest in further taking practical steps to elevate bilateral cooperation to new heights.

Highlighting opportunities, she said there are vast prospects for Pakimarket, stating that Pakistan is a partner. She said it was encouraging to stani investors in Azerbaijan's energy, rapidly developing economy offering see the private sectors of both nations tourism, agriculture, and technology tremendous opportunities for Azer-

Waqar Bakhtawari, in his remarks, gave a detailed briefing on Pakistan's

baijani investors in industrial, energy, IT, pharmaceutical, and agricultural sectors. He added that enhancing business-to-business linkages will not only increase bilateral trade but also strengthen regional economic cooperation.

He further said that the Azerbaijan-Pakistan Joint Chamber will continue to play an active role in strengthening ties through business delegations, trade exhibitions, and investment conferences.

Madam Leila Mammadova appreciated the Chamber's efforts and assured that the Government of Azerbaijan will extend all possible support to give practical shape to the economic partnership between the two brotherly

On this occasion, a commemorative shield of the Chamber was presented to Madam Mammadova, and both sides expressed their shared commitment to ushering in a new era of Azerbaijan-Pakistan relations.

Al-Shifa Trust urges action on genetic and lifestyle eye diseases

RAWALPINDI: Due to consistent and coordinated efforts by public and private stakeholders, including Al-Shifa Trust (AST), the prevalence of blindness in Pakistan has decreased significantly, from 1.78 percent in 1990 to 0.5 percent currently. However, experts warn that urgent policy attention is needed to address new challenges, mainly genetic and lifestyle-related causes of



vision loss. This should concern us all and motivate us to act. Talking to the media men at the World Sight Day, prominent ophthalmologist Prof. Tayyab Afghani highlighted that genetic diseases are increasingly becoming a significant cause of blindness in Pakistan. To address this, AST has established the country's first ophthalmic genetics centre, focused on early detection through community health.

Governor Gilgit-Baltistan Attends Seerat-un-Nabi (PBUH) Conference in Attock



Raza Nagvi

ATTOCK: Governor of Gilgit-Baltistan, Syed Mehdi Shah, attended the Seerat-un-Nabi (PBUH) Conference organized by the Sir Syed Educational Foundation in Hasan Abdal as the chief guest.

In his address, Governor Mehdi Shah emphasized the importance of following the teachings of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) for promoting peace, unity, and moral development

The conference was also addressed by Chairman Board of Governors Professor Dr. Sarfraz Khan, former Provincial Assembly candidate Sardar Zulfiqar Hayat Khan Advocate, Foundation President Tahir Durrani, Project Director Qazi Zahoor-ul-Haq, CEO District Education Authority Dr. Azhar, Mufti Jahangir, and Maulana Qasmi.

During the event, two students were awarded Umrah tickets through a lucky draw, and participants appreciated the foundation's efforts for promoting religious and moral education among the youth.

Resilience in the Deluge



👺 Qudrat Ullah

the monsoon floods hit Punjab this vear, villages were washed out and millions were displaced, forcing the province to face another natural disaster. This time, though, the response showed real signs of preparedness, coordination, and leadership. Leading the way was the Livestock & Dairy Development (L&DD) Department, guided by Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif. Her focus on fieldwork and discipline played a key role in shaping an effective response.

For rural families in Punjab,

an asset; it is their safety net against poverty. When floods come, people risk losing both their homes and the animals that support their livelihoods. This year, the L&DD Department's efforts across floodprone districts helped prevent these losses.

The L&DD Department had prepared early. Before the rivers breached their banks, its teams were placed on alert and field resources deployed. A total of 430 flood relief camps were established, with 3,052 paravets sent into affected areas. The extensive field operation was not confined to static offices; mobility was its defining feature. As roads disappeared underwater, 148 Motorised Veterinary Dispensaries, 32 Mobile Veterinary Laboratories, and 2,258 motorcycles carried veterinary officers and supplies deep into the affected

Strong logistical planning supported these efforts. Each camp and mobile unit carried 36 essential veterinary items, such as antibiotics, antipyretics,

livestock is more than just antiseptics, and anti-protozoals. Vaccines were also fully stocked according to the official immunisation schedule, covering diseases like haemorrhagic septicaemia, black quarter, foot-andmouth disease, and peste des petits ruminants. This preparation made a difference: 569,258 animals received treatment during the floods, and 2,221,681 were vaccinated.

Such figures represent more than bureaucratic efficiency. They reflect an administrative system that anticipated the problem and moved quickly to prevent secondary crises such as disease outbreaks, which often devastate livestock long after the waters recede. Field officers were also embedded in district survey teams to monitor mortality and coordinate feed supply, ensuring that the relief effort adapted to local needs in real time.

The scale of operations was extraordinary. Around 4.8 million animals were affected, and roughly 2.2 million were safely evacuated to higher ground. To sustain them, the L&DD Department distributed

1,897 tons of vanda, 2,326 tons of silage, 507 tons of wheat straw, and 4,088 tons of green fodder across the province. Green fodder was made available in 344 relief camps, ensuring that livestock not only survived but remained healthy throughout the displacement period.

A round-the-clock command structure supported this operation. The Provincial Flood Monitoring Cell, based at the Director General (Extension) office in Lahore, worked in three shifts to keep coordination with field teams. Designated veterinary officers and focal persons led these efforts. Senior officials were assigned to supervise specific divisions, creating a decentralized system that kept field operations connected to provincial leadership.

The difference this time was not only bureaucratic organisation but political direction. Under Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, the provincial government placed emphasis on early preparedness and on-ground visibility. Her directives to ensure fodder, veteri-

nary care, and evacuation facilities across the worst-hit districts including Sahiwal, Gujrat, Bahawalpur and Jhang gave clear political weight to livestock protection, a sector often overlooked in disaster management in the past. Her visits to flood-affected areas underscored a strong message of relief & support that filtered down through the field administration.

The government's decision to launch its largest-ever livestock survey in collaboration with the PDMA, agriculture, and revenue departments further strengthened coordination. Data from more than a thousand livestock owners is now feeding into assessments of mortality, losses, and compensation, an important step toward a more transparent and evidence-based recovery process

The L&DD Department's preventive approach also deserves notice. Alongside treatment and vaccination drives, hygiene campaigns and fogging operations were carried out in camps and feed storage areas to prevent vector-borne and water-

borne diseases. These measures, often neglected during emergencies, helped avert secondary health crises that have historically followed floods in Punjab's low-lying districts.

There is still a long road to recovery. The mortality survey continues, and affected farmers will need sustained support to rebuild their herds, restore fodder supplies, and repair damaged shelters. Compensation mechanisms will be fully transparent and timely to ensure that recovery does not stall once moves from relief to rehabilithe cameras leave. But if the flood response demonstrated anything, it is that with focused leadership and institutional readiness, even large-scale disasters can be managed with effi-

ciency and compassion. The experience also highlights a broader governance lesson. Effective disaster management and coordination still matter, and depends less on extraordinary interventions and more on ordinary systems working well, coordination between departments, real-time monitoring, empowered field teams, and leadership that stays engaged. Under CM

Maryam Nawaz Sharif's direction, the L&DD Department's performance showed that the public sector can deliver when guided by clear priorities and sustained oversight.

Punjab's rural economy depends on livestock for both income and food security. By protecting this vital sector during the floods, the province did more than save animals: it safeguarded livelihoods and strengthened public confidence in the state's capacity to respond. As Punjab tation, the challenge will be to maintain this momentum, translating emergency success into long-term resilience.

In a country where climate disasters are a big challenge, the Puniab model this monsoon offers a simple but powerful lesson: preparedness, leadership, when they come together, even the fiercest floods can be met with resilience, not despair.

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

Friday, October 10, 2025



" Index Fluctuation		
Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index		
Current	Prev. Close	
164,530.80	165,266.74	
Day's High	Day's Low	
166,729.97	164,306.76	
Index Value	Change	
37,078,795,159	-735.94	
Percentage	Time	
-0.45%	9 Oct, 2025 4:30 pm	
Europe: FTS	E 100 Index	
Index Value	Change	
9,509.40	-39.47	
Percentage	Time	
	0.00t 1:25 pm	

-0.41%	9 Oct, 4:35 pm GMT+1	
USA: Dow Jones I	ndustrial Average	
Index Value	Change	
46,315.95	-285.83	
Percentage	Time	
-0.61%	9 Oct, 1:06 pm GMT-4	

	GIVIT 1	
Asia Pacific: Nikk	ei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change	
48,580.44	+845.45	
Percentage	Time	
+1.77%	9 Oct, 3:45 pm GMT+9	

Open Market Forex Rates

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	185.5	190.5
Bahrain Dinar	746.9	754.4
Canadian Dollar	205.6	212.6
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	282.8	282.9

FCCI President Pledges Media *Partnership* to Drive City Development and Export Growth

Abdul Majid ■

FAISALABAD: Like the business community, journalists are also important partners in the country's economy and we, through the platform of Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry, will not only solve the problems faced by industry and trade together, but also make efforts for the comprehensive and systematic development of the city.

This was said by the newly elected President of Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Farooq Yousuf Sheikh, while addressing the representatives of electronic, print and digital media and cameramen at his first official introduction ceremony. He said that as the largest elected trade body of the city, where Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry has its own importance, its responsi-

bilities also increase. He added that we will struggle together with journalists to solve national



will be visible to everyone. He said that he appreciated the gift of thirty buses by Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz to Faisalabad and said that the remaining 60 buses should also be provided as soon as possible so that the people of Faisalabad could benefit. He appreciated the administrative skills and methods of the new Faisalabad Commissioner Raja Jahangir Anwar and said that we will work together for the betterment of the

Farooq Yousuf Sheikh also answered questions from journalists, while Senior Vice President Naveed Akram Sheikh and Vice President Engineer Asim Munir were also present on the occasion.

CM Maryam unveils interestfree loans up to Rs30 million for farmers

Spokesman Report

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister provided interest-free loans of up to Rs30 Maryam Nawaz on Thursday launched million for the purchase of modern agriculthe Hi-Tech Farm Mechanisation Financ-

ing Programme's digital portal, announcing that farmers across the province will be tural machinery.



Speaking at the launch ceremony, the chief grace period, and repayments would be made minister said the initiative would mark the beginning of an agricultural revolution modernise farming practices through technology and innovation.

types of high-tech agricultural machinery. Each loan would come with a six-month

in quarterly instalments over five years.

He added that farmers, service providers, in Punjab, as the government sought to and agri companies could apply for the loans through the newly launched digital portal.

Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz also paid Briefing the chief minister, the Secretary of tribute to the security forces for killing Agriculture said that under the programme, seven Indian-sponsored militants during farmers would be able to obtain loans for 12 an operation in Daraban, Dera Ismail Khan, commending their sacrifices for national

Meeting

ISLAMABAD: A strategic meeting between the Federal Minister for IT & Telecommunication, Ms. Shaza Fatima Khawaja, and the delegation from Amazon's Project Kuiper was held, on 9th October



Customs Laboratory Becomes Operational at Azakhel Dry Port

Example 2 Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Customs has established a new Customs Laboratory at Azakhel Dry port for facilitating trade. The laboratory is equipped with basic instruments sufficient to conduct testing of fabrics, plastic, plastic related products, and edibles and dyes.

Earlier, samples were referred for testing to laboratories at Karachi, Lahore, and Faisalabad which took several days and increased costs. Now around 80 % of the samples would be tested at the local laboratory. By establishing a customs laboratory at Azakhel, a long-standing demand of the importers has been met and they expressed their satisfaction over operationilzation of the laboratory welcoming the initiative as it would reduce delays in clearance and decrease cost leading to decrease in dwell time.

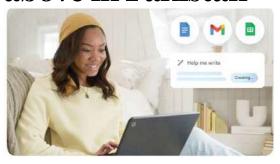
President Sarhad Chamber of Commerce Mr. Junaid Altaf also appreciated the establishment of lab. The Customs controls shall also improve by ensuring integrity of the



Another state of the art laboratory shall Border station under the ITTMS Project.

soon become operational at Torkham

Google announces free one-year Google AI Pro Plan for students 18 and above in Pakistan



Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Google today announced that students aged 18 and over in Pakistan can get access to a free one-year subscription to Google AI Pro plan. The offer is designed tries in the Asia-Pacific to help students enhance their learning, research, and creativity through can sign up here to get free advanced AI tools-at no

This offer is part of most advanced AI tools.

Google's broader mission to empower every student with the AI tools they need to advance their learning

and unlock their creativity. The Gemini AI Pro Plan for students is now available across multiple counregion, including Pakistan. Eligible university students access for up to 1 year and start exploring Google's

Pakistan, IMF agree to continue policy talks for staff-level deal

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) have agreed to continue policy-level discussions aimed at finalising a staff-level agreement, the Finance Ministry said, following the conclusion of the second review under the ongoing loan programme.

According to a joint statement, the IMF mission acknowledged Pakistan's several areas and termed the implementation of reform conditions as strong.

The mission chief said notable headway in struc- initiatives.

tural reforms across multiple

The IMF also agreed to a downward revision of tax collection targets, sources The statement noted that

discussions covered reducing

the size of state-owned enterprises, improving transparency, and liberalising commodity markets. Both sides agreed on

regular tariff adjustments and broader reforms to significant progress in restore sustainability in the energy sector. IMF

expressed satisfaction with Pakistan's efforts toward the authorities had made climate resilience and reform

NIC Islamabad Hosts Annual Investors Summit 2025

Example 2 Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's top investors and venture capitalists gathered at the Nation-Islamabad for the Annual Investors Summit 2025, where NIC's homegrown startups took the stage to present bold, problem-solving innovations shaping the country's future.

Organized under the Ministry of IT & Telecom and Ignite - National Technology Fund, the summit featured an exclusive lineup of NIC Islamabad startups, including EZGyser, Pani Express, Chrio, EKKO, EPO, EMR, Carboncap, Your Munshi, and Bio Nano. The event served as a bridge between innovation and investment, connecting major step toward improving visionary founders with the urban living standards. investors driving Pakistan's entrepreneurial growth.

pitches was EZGyser, a startup tackling one of Pakistan's everyday challenges —

winters. With power outages and rising gas prices, households face constant hassle and safety risks from repeatedly al Incubation Center (NIC) relighting geysers. EZGyser's smart, energy-efficient system offers an affordable, safe, and sustainable solution that transforms how families experience comfort at home. Another highlight was Pani

Express, solving the problem of unreliable and informal water supply in urban Pakistan. Millions of households depend on inconsistent tanker services with no transparency or delivery assurance. Pani Express brings order to this chaos through a techdriven platform that ensures timely, transparent, and reliable access to clean water — a

Meanwhile, Chrio captured investors' attention with its Among the standout cutting-edge AI solution revolutionizing cricket broadcasting. By automating realtime video analysis and visual

access to hot water during rendering, Chrio eliminates the need for expensive broadcast tools and large crews, making professional-level insights accessible for every match and league — a true leap for Pakistan's sports-tech

The summit also featured an engaging panel discussion titled "The Deal Room: What Would It Take for Us to Write a Check Today?", where investors shared candid insights into what makes a startup investment-ready.

The panel of judges included Abaiz Bin Abdullah (Fatima Gobi), Kamil Aziz (Zayn VC), Sumraiz (Indus VC), Usman Khalid (GroundUp), Moiz Waseem (sAi Ventures), Nayab Baber (PSF), Qamar Malik (Pak Angels), Ms. Janine Rohwer erate Prosperity), among (German Embassy), Kabri others. Naqvi (Abhi Micro Finance), Quratulain Chaudhary (MMBL), Haris Shah (Abhi Micro Finance), Sikandar

Labeeb and Ayaz Khan (Accel-



Abaiz Bin Abdullah (Fatima Gobi Ventures) shared, "NIC Islamabad continues to produce startups that are not Khan (22Ventures), Rohma only innovative but deeply

today could transform entire

As the summit concluded, NIC Islamabad presented appreciation shields to investors and partners in recogrelevant to Pakistan's reali- nition of their continued

ties. The solutions we've seen support. The event ended with a lively Networking High Tea, reinforcing NIC Islamabad's commitment to connecting innovation with opportunity and building a stronger, more inclusive entrepreneurial ecosystem.

Broadcast details announced for Pakistan v South Africa **Cricket Series: PCB Official**

Asim Tanveer

ISLAMABAD: South Africa's former Test captain Shaun Pollock will return to Pakistan to call action for the two Test-match series between Pakistan and South Africa commencing from 12 October. The first Test will be played at the Gaddafi Stadium from 12 to 16 October, while the second Test will take place at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium from 20 to 24 October.

Pollock, who visited Pakistan in 1997 and 2003 and featured in five Tests here, will be joined by former Pakistan Test captains Aamir Sohail, Ramiz Raja, Waqar Younis and former Test cricketer Bazid Khan.

The Test series, also part of the ICC World Test Championship 2025-27 will see PCB's PitchSide Studio, hosted



viewers expert analysis during pre- and post-match shows.

For the three-match T20I series to be played in Rawalpindi and Lahore, followed by three ODIs to be staged at the Iqbal Stadium in Faisalabad, Aamir Sohail and Ramiz Raja will be joined by by presenter Zainab Abbas, providing former Pakistan women's team captain the action live on Willow TV (North Stadium, Faisalabad.

Urooj Mumtaz. From South Africa, it America), Super Sport (sub-Saharan will be JP Duminy and Vernon Philander for the white-ball series set to take place from 28 October to 8 November.

Zainab Abbas will continue to work as presenter during the white-ball series. Meanwhile, the High-Definition Stadium, Lahore broadcast coverage will include 28 will enhance the viewing experience of pindi the fans within and outside Pakistan.

Technology. Cricket fans in Pakistan will be able to witness the action of the series in high-definition on A Sports and Ten Sports; while livestreaming for viewers in Pakistan will be available on Tapmad

of the Decision Review System (DRS)

and Tamasha. Viewers around the world can watch

Africa), Dialog TV (Sri Lanka), TSports (Bangladesh) and Cricbuzz (Middle-East and North Africa).

Series schedule:

12-16 October - First Test at Gaddafi

20-24 October - Second Test at cameras, which along with buggy cam, Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium, Rawal-

28 October - First T20I at Rawalpindi HawkEye and UltraEdge will be part Cricket Stadium, Rawalpindi

31 October - Second T20I at Gaddafi Stadium, Lahore

1 November - Third T20I at Gaddafi Stadium, Lahore

4 November - First ODI at Iqbal Stadium, Faisalabad

6 November – Second ODI at Iqbal

Stadium, Faisalabad 8 November - Third ODI at Iqbal

Quaid-e-Azam Trophy opening round ends in draw

Sports Desk

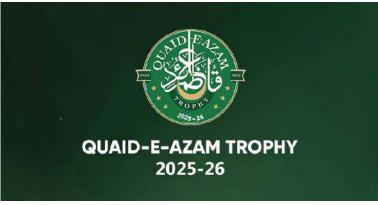
ISLAMABAD: The opening round of the Quaid-e-Azam Trophy 2025-26 ended with all five games culminating in draws in Abbottabad, Islamabad, Peshawar and Rawalpindi on Thursday, 9 October.

The next round will begin on Sunday. Mohammad Rizwan and Mohammad Haris struck centuries to lead Peshawar to a declaration score of 376-5 in 102.4 overs on day four against Sialkot after resuming from overnight score of 154-4 at the Imran Khan Stadium, Peshawar.

Rizwan - who brought up his 15th first-class century – struck 123 not out off 203 balls hitting 13 fours and one six, while Haris - who registered his maiden first-class ton – remained unbeaten on 100 off 113 balls inclusive of 11 fours and

In turn, Sialkot were 156-3 in 29 overs, when the game ended in a draw. Mohsin Riaz (67, 56b, 9x4s, 2x6s) and Azan Awais (52 not out, 78b, 4x4s, 1×6) put on 111 for the third wicket before debutant Sufyan Mogim remove the in a draw. former bagging his maiden first-class scalp.

lpur's Muhammad Imran



wreaked havoc with the ball against Abbottabad as he took 5-26 in 14 overs to skittle Abbottabad for 166 all out in 44.3 overs after they had resumed from their overnight score of 23-0 at the Abbottabad Cricket Stadium. Mohammad Azam snapped three wickets.

Abbottabad – who incurred a 233-run first innings deficit - were made to follow on by Bahawalpur and they replied with 155-3 in 43 overs before the game ended

Shahzaib Khan chipped in with a 48 team shook hands.

duo gathered 80 runs together for the second wicket.

At the Shoaib Akhtar Cricket Stadium in Rawalpindi, the fixture between Lahore Whites and Islamabad also ended in a stalemate after Hussain Talat's unbeaten century (106 not out, snapped 4-31 in 11 overs taking his 161b, 9x4s, 2x6s) led his team to 301 all out from overnight score of 152-3.

In turn, Islamabad reached 158-3 in Skipper Fakhar Zaman scored a the help of Abdul Faseeh's half-century team managed 354 all out in 92.4 overs. half-century (61, 79b, 4x4s, 5x6s) and (75, 88b, 9x4s, 2x6s) before both the For Blues Mir Hamza and Mushtaq

In the drawn contest between FATA and Multan, Bismillah Khan's 138 off 158 balls including 16 fours and four sixes, remained one of the highlights at the Diamond Cricket Ground, Islamabad. Multan fell for 394 in 102.5 overs after resuming from 88-3 on last day as Bismillah's ton handed them a 121-run first innings lead.

For FATA, Zahid Mehmood bagged 5-99 in 29.5 overs, while Shahid Aziz and Sameen Gull picked up two wickets each. In turn, FATA were 39-1 in nine overs before the time ran out.

Karachi Blues were 296 runs ahead of Faisalabad in their second innings off 103 balls hitting eight fours. The when the game ended in a draw at the Shoaib Akhtar Stadium in Rawalpindi. Blues had added 173 runs for the fall of six wickets to their first innings lead of 123 with the help of another half-century from Saim Ayub (79, 84b, 9x4s, 3x6s).

For Faisalabad, Ahmed Safi Abdullah match tally to 7-133. Earlier, Faisalabad's opening batter Hasan Raza converted his overnight 73 not out into 172 off 239 42 overs - 113 ahead of Whites - with balls hitting 22 fours and two sixes as his Ahmed picked up three wickets each

Tamasha breaks record with 32m users during Asia Cup 2025

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Tamasha, Jazz's premier streaming platform, has set new records for digital sports viewership during the Asia Cup 2025, registering over 32 million Monthly Active Users (MAUs) and 14 million peak Daily Active Users during the much-anticipated final between Pakistan and India.

The platform, along with its partner network, expanded Pakistan's digital live sports audience from 33 million to 43 million — a 30 percent surge in market size, said a press release. Viewers collectively watched more than 2.2 billion minutes of live cricket, generating 326 million views, further consolidating Tamasha's position as the country's leading digital entertain-



During the Pakistan-India final, Tamasha saw over 3 million app downloads in a single day, underscoring the the top-performing platform for brand growing shift toward digital sports streaming in Pakistan.

Tamasha also delivered strong returns for advertisers, emerging as visibility and engagement during the Asia Cup campaign.

HBL, one of Pakistan's leading banks and title sponsor of the Pakistan Super League, partnered with Tamasha as the title sponsor of The DugOut — the app's flagship cricket analysis show featuring Shoaib Akhtar, Muhammad Hafeez, Sohail Tanvir, and Sana Mir. The show drew 8.4 million unique users, recorded 29 million views, and logged 38 million minutes of watch time.

With 4.3 billion ad impressions and 11.2 million clicks generated over 28 days, Tamasha reaffirmed its position as the go-to platform for live sports, expert analysis, and fan engagement in Pakistan.

Powered by advanced streaming technology and interactive features, Tamasha continues to redefine how Pakistanis experience sports online. providing fans with an immersive, front-row digital experience.

De Klerk stars as South Africa edge India in Women's World Cup

were in sight of their third consecutive win until Nadine de Klerk's late onslaught in the final overs helped South Africa edge past the hosts in a close finish here on Thursday.

Set 252 in the 10th fixture of the ICC Women's World Cup 2025, South Africa sealed victory in the second last over, losing seven wickets in the process.

The Proteas had a poor start as they lost opener Tazmin Brits and Sune Luus departed in the first five overs.

Following the early hiccup, Marizanne Kapp and Laura Wolvaardt added 39 for the third wicket. Kapp scored 20

from 25 balls. However, Kapp's dismissal sparked a mini-collapse and left South Africa reeling 81-5



Yet, skipper Laura Wolvaardt, who made 70 from 111 balls with the help of eight fours, held South Africa's innings together with a string of partnerships.

But it was Nadine de Klerk's 84 from 54 balls, striking five sixes and eight fours, which took them over the line.

For India, Sneh Rana and Kranti Gaud picked up two wickets each.

Earlier, after being put into bat, India were bowled out for 251 in 49.5 overs, thanks to Richa Ghosh's rescuing act.

She made 94 from just 77 balls, studded with 11 fours and four sixes. India were in deep trouble at 102-6 in 26 overs when Gosh arrived.

For South Africa, Chloe Tryon remained the standout bowler, picking up three wickets.

Aliyan Asif Hits Ton in PCB Talent Hunt Programme for School Cricket Championship (Karachi Region)

Sports Desk

KARACHI: Two 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 brilliant Century 104 by Aliyan Asif and deadly bowling by right arm leg spinner Muhammad Hassan 5 for 14 runs. Muhammad Hassan and Aliyan Asif declared as Man of the Match.

Scores in Brief:

Grace Academy School beat Darul uloom Korangi by 196 runs at Darul Uloom Korangi Ground. Grace Academy School 260 all out in 39.4 overs. Muhammad Khan 47 4x4 2x6 Muhammad waheed 41, Masood Ali 31, Arshiman Riaz 26, Asad Ullah 21, Muhammad Hassan 21. Aabish (mf) 3/38, Owais Sohail (lb) 2/32, Abdullah Dawood (ob) 2/34, Yousuf Masood (mf) 2/40.

In reply Darul Uloom Korangi 64 all-out in 20 overs. Muhammad Yousuf 16. Muhammad Hassan (lb) 5/14, Muhammad Khan (lb) 3/10.

Muhammad Hassan declared Man of the Match.

In the 2nd Match Government Boys Secondary School Model Haqani beat Army Public School by 193 runs at IBA Ground. Government Boys Secondary School Model Haqani 321/6 in 40 overs. Aliyan Asif 104 10x4 5x6, Muhammad Anas 89 10x4 7x6, Abdullah Ehsan 41, Azaan Masroor 21. Ch. M. Rafay (ob) 3/40, M. Basim Khurram 2/79.

In reply Army Public School 128 all-out in 27.5 overs. Ch. M. Rafay 40 7x4, Hasnain Azam 35. Faisal Akhtar (lb) 4/30, Aliyan Asif 2/11, Muhammad Rujab 2/35.

Aliyan Asif declared Man of the Match.

Pakistan, Afghanistan match ends in goalless draw



Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: The highly anticipated AFC Asian Cup Saudi Arabia 2027 Qualifier match between Pakistan and Afghanistan ended in a stalemate, with neither team able to find the back of the net here at the Jinnah Stadium on Thursday.

Despite creating scoring opportunities, both sides were unable to capitalize, resulting in a goalless draw.

The two teams will face each other again on October 14, in Kuwait, where the away leg of the qualifier will take place.

National Track Cycling C'ship next month

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Cycling Federation (PCF) has announced that the 70th National Track Cycling Championship 2025 will be held in Lahore from November 15 to 17.

The championship will feature male and female cyclists in both senior and junior categories, representing affiliated units from across the country. The event aims to promote competitive cycling, identify new talent, and further strengthen Pakistan's standing in the sport, said a press release.

President of the Pakistan Cycling Federation, Syed Azhar Ali Shah, said that all affiliated units have been advised to make necessary preparations and organize training camps ahead of the event. "The National Track Championship is a key fixture in our annual calendar, and we look forward to a spirited participation from all provinces and departments," he said.

The PCF will release the detailed event schedule and technical guidelines in due course. All participants are required to ensure that their cycling licenses are valid and updated prior to the championship.

Solano proud of Pakistan's fighting display against Afghanistan

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan football team head coach Nolberto Solano has lauded the national team and their fighting spirit following their AFC Asian Cup 2027 Qualifier clash against

Pakistan ended its eight-match losing streak in a goalless draw with Afghanistan here at the Jinnah Stadium on Thursday. Pakistan dominated throughout the match; however, Otis

Khan missed a vital chance, squandering a penalty in the 65th minute, which denied them all three points at the end of the game Green Shirts will now travel to Kuwait for the away fixture against Afghanistan on October 14. The winner of the group advances to the tournament finals in Saudi Arabia.

Speaking in the post-match press conference, Solano mentioned the delayed arrival and praised the players' performance, particularly in the second half of the match.

"First of all, I'm really pleased with the team, with all the boys. With all the small issues we had, especially with some players arriving a little late, it's not easy," he told reporters.

But I was very pleased with their attitude today, especially when the players came on in the second half."

He rued the missed chance and heaped praise on players for showing determination. "I believe we dominated the match for most parts of the game

and were a very solid team. Like the players, I'm disappointed we couldn't take all three points not just because of the missed penalty, but because we had other chances as well. Honestly, these guys are doing their best, and I'm proud of

them," Solano continued.

"It's not easy for these guys traveling 15, 19, or even 20 hours to arrive in Pakistan a day before the match. They didn't have much time to train together, but I had confidence in them," he explained.

Nolberto Solano aimed for a strong showing in Pakistan's next away encounter against Afghanistan while mentioning the pride of players on representing their country.

"We'll prepare in the same way. We need to check how the boys are physically and mentally after traveling from different parts of the world.

I was very impressed with most of them, especially as it was my first time seeing some of them play. We'll build on this performance for the next match on Tuesday," he concluded.

The Spokesman

Meeting ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Ishaq Dar, Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, and Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi in Nawabshah on Thursday.

Brigadier (R) Rashid Naseer Wins Landmark Defamation Case in London High Court

Chaudhry Tabraiz Aurah million.

LONDON: In a landmark ruling, the London High Court has ruled in favour of Brigadier (Retired) Rashid Naseer in his defamation case against YouTuber and former Pakistan Army officer, Major (Retired) Adil Raia.

The court found that Adil Raja had made false, baseless, and highly defamatory allegations against Brigadier (Retd) Rashid Naseer, causing serious damage to his reputation.

Delivering the judgment, Justice Richard Spearman £50,000 in damages (approximately PKR 20 million) and bringing the total financial

The court further directed Adil Raja to publish a summary of the judgment on all his social media platforms, acknowledging that his allegations were false and defam-He was also instructed

not to repeat the same allegations in the future. Brigadier (Retd) Rashid Naseer had approached the London High Court after Adil Raja published nine defamatory posts on Twitter, Facebook, and YouTube, accusing him of political manipulation, bribery, KC ordered Raja to pay and interference in Pakistan's judiciary and elections.

claims, which included allegapenalty to nearly PKR 130 tions of controlling the Lahore as false and unfounded.



High Court, influencing elections, bribing politicians, and engaging in "horse trading" on behalf of former Army Chief General (Retd) Qamar Javed Bajwa. Justice Spearman also dismissed Raja's claims linking The High Court ruled that Brigadier (Retd) Naseer or £300,000 in legal costs Raja had failed to provide any Pakistan's intelligence agency, (around PKR 110 million), credible evidence to support his ISI, to the killing of journalist Arshad Sharif describing them

The judge noted that the official fact-finding report into the killing did not hold ISI responsible. The court clarified that the case was not against ISI, but specifically concerned defamatory statements made against a retired officer.

Raja's three witnesses -Hussain — also failed to defamation.

substantiate any of the allegations, with the court observing that their testimonies did not support Raja's defence in any meaningful way.

Following the verdict, Brigadier (Retd) Rashid Naseer hailed the decision as a victory for truth and accountability, stating" This judgment is a reminder that whether in Pakistan or elsewhere, truth always prevails over falsehood."

He added: "This is not just my victory, but a victory for every individual who has been maliciously targeted through lies and propaganda."The hearings in the defamation case were held at the London High Court between 22 and 27 June 2025, with today's judg-Shaheen Sehbai, Shehzad ment marking a significant Akbar, and Sved Akbar legal precedent against online

President Zardari discusses national, global issues with **Ishaq Dar**

NAWABSHAH: President Asif Ali Zardari discussed security and political situation with Deputy Prime Minister/ Foreign Minister Senator Ishaq Dar and Speaker of the National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq.

The leaders called on the president's residence in Nawabshah. Federal Minister for Interior and Narcotics Control, Mohsin Naqvi, was also present during the meeting.

The report said that the leaders discussed matters pertaining to the overall security and political situaregional and international develop- media account.

Earlier, President Zardari had called the interior minister to Karachi to discuss about the rising tensions between the Sindh and Punjab governments, run by the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N),

respectively. "Zardari spoke to Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi over the phone to discuss the recent tensions between the Sindh and Punjab governments. The President has called the Interior Minister to Karachi for an urgent meeting in this regard," read a post tion in the country, as well as recent by the President of Pakistan's social

Governor KP meets NA Speaker, discusses political affairs



News Desk

Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi, met with Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq on Thursday, where they discussed the country's political and provincial situation, as well as relations between the Federation and the

During the meeting, both leaders exchanged views on the current ation among political parties and political landscape, the need for enhanced parliamentary coopera- Federation and the provinces.

tion, and the importance of building national consensus. They also held consultations on the political situation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The two leaders reviewed the dynamics between their allied political parties and agreed that strengthening the democratic system, promoting parliamentary traditions, and addressing public issues require close cooperimproved coordination between the

MoU between NAZAHA, KSA and National Accountability Bureau Pakistan

👺 City Desk

Islamic Republic of Pakistan and Royal Kingdom of Saudi Arabia have signed today a land mark agreement to strengthen cooperation concerning anti-corruption, anti-money laundering and recovery of stolen assets. The MoU was signed by his excellency Mazin bin Ibrahim Al-Kahmous, President of the Oversight and Anti-Corruption Authority of the Kingdom of the Saudi Arabia (Nazaha) and Lt. General (Rtd) Nazir Ahmed, Chairman National accountability Bureau (NAB) Pakistan. The MoU was signed during the inaugural session of Asset Recovery Interagency Network



Jeddah KSA from 8-9 October, through the exchange of

for MENA region being held at strengthen collaboration information related to corrup-Under this MoU, both tion and money laundering.

a common area of interest. Furthermore, the MoU envisions mutual cooperation in matters related to mutual requests prior to their submission through diplomatic chan-

Speaking on the occasion, his excellency lauded NAB efforts in global drive against corruption, especially the innovative reforms that have yielded unprecedented recoveries of 6.4 trillion Pakistani Rupees equivalent to 23 billion USD in a short span of time. He particuagencies have agreed to Asset tracing and recovery larly praised Chairman NAB's brotherly ties

of proceeds of crime is also address to the MENA ARIN forum that objectively covered the challenges faced by all states in curbing corruption. Lt General Nazir Ahmed. legal assistance (MLA), and lauded Saudi leadership in extending technical support taking successive anti-corrupfor the preparation of MLA tion initiatives that has rejuvenated regional anti-corruption efforts. He particularly praised the recent land mark defence agreement between the two countries that will further augment the brotherly ties between the two countries. Chairman NAB extended invitation to HE Mazin bin Ibrahim Al-Kahmous, the president of Nazaha to visit Pakistan to further cement bilateral cooperation and

Tarar calls PTI 'gang of miscreants' facilitating terrorism in Pakistan



跨 City Desk

PM calls Gaza peace deal a 'historic

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Attaullah Tarar on Thursday called the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) a "gang of miscreants" who are involved in disrupting the law and order in

the country for petty political gains. Addressing a news conference alongside Prime Minister's Coordinator for Information and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Affairs, Ikhtiar Wali Khan, the minister recalled the abolduring the previous tenure of the PTI's government.

"We achieved successes through God willing," he added.

Operation Zarb-e-Azb and Operation Radd-ul-Fasaad and forced the terrorists to retreat which eventually restored peace in the country. But a person, who is sitting in jail, and his party, during their tenure, brought back and settled the very same terrorists, and continues to facilitate them to this day.

He called the PTI a facilitator of terrorists, citing an old interview of its founder who said that "these (terrorists) are very good people, we should talk to them, we should bring them back and settle them." On the other hand, these elements carried out bombings in markets, mosques, commercial centers, and above all the schools to spill the blood of innocent children.

The minister said the State of Pakistan came into existence on the night ishment of the National Action Plan of the 27th of Ramazan. "This is the state which established in the name of the Kalma, and it will remain forever,

Ahsan Iqbal calls for economic reforms to make Pakistan an 'Asian Tiger' by 2047

👺 Bureau Report

KARACHI: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal has said that Pakistan must adopt China's economic model and continue structural reforms to emerge as a strong regional economy by the time the country completes 100 years of independence.

Speaking at a panel discussion during the Leadership Conference organized by the Management Association of Pakistan, Ahsan Iqbal said Pakistan's focus should shift firmly toward economic development to realize the vision of becoming an

government has undertaken several reform initiatives despite limited resources, much like the institutional reforms introduced by former Prime during his first tenure.

Citing Pakistan's nuclear program as an example of national commitment, the minister said that success came because every successive government pursued the same goal with determination. "If we show Pakistan from moving forward," he the same consistency in economic concluded. reforms, we can achieve remarkable progress," he added.

Ahsan Iqbal also highlighted Pakistan's growing strategic importance hzad, former minister Mushahid in the region, particularly after the Hussain, and other prominent He noted that the incumbent recent conflict with India, which he leaders.

referred to as Maarka-e-Haq. "Pakistan's strategic position is very strong, and we will maintain it," he said.

Emphasizing the role of youth in Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif national progress, he said integrating young people into the mainstream, especially in the IT and emerging technology sectors, would be key to driving the country's growth. "If we continue with reforms and empower our youth, no one will be able to stop

Other participants in the panel included Advisor to the Federal Finance Minister Khurram Sche-

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday calling the Gaza peace agreement between Israel and Hamas a "historic opportunity" for lasting peace in the Middle East, praised

the leadership of US President Donald Trump and mediation efforts by leaders of Qatar, Egypt and Turkiye. "The announcement of an agreement that will bring an end to the genocide in Gaza is a historic opportunity to secure lasting peace in the Middle East. Pres-

ident Trump's leadership throughout the process of dialogue and negotiations reflects his unwavering commitment to world peace," the prime minister wrote on his X timeline. He also applauded the "resolute

and wise" leaders of Qatar, Egypt and Turkiye for their untiring efforts to negotiate a deal.

"Most of all, we must all pay tribute to the Palestinian people—who have President Trump to reduce tensions and event happen," he wrote on Truth Social. Published by: Almass Ayoub Sabir from Zero Point Printers Rawalpindi



opportunity'; praises Trump, other leaders

suffered in an unprecedented manner, one that should never, ever be repeated," he remarked.

Prime Minister Shehabz also noted with grave concern, and strongly condemned, the recent provocations at

Masjid Al Aqsa. "The world must hold the occupiers and illegal settlers to account and

pave the way for lasting peace," he added. The prime minister resolved that Pakistan would continue to work with partners, friends and the leaders of brotherly nations to ensure that peace, security and dignity for the Palestinian people were established in accordance with their wishes and UN resolutions.

Earlier, US President Trump announced that Israel and Hamas had signed off on the first phase of the peace plan under which all of the hostages would be released very soon, and Israel would withdraw their troops to an agreed upon line.

"All parties will be treated fairly! This is a great day for the Arab and Muslim World, Israel, all surrounding nations, and the United States of America, and we thank the mediators from Qatar, prevent any further actions that under- Egypt, and Turkey, who worked with us mine the enormous efforts made by to make this historic and unprecedented