ي. ( صحيح بخاري: حديث نبر 5985) **Barkat Rice Mills** 

China successfully launches new test satellite

China successfully launched a new test satellite into space from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in northwest China. The Shiyan-31 test satellite was launched at 6:00 p.m. (Beijing Time) aboard a Long March-2D carrier rocket and entered the preset orbit successfully. This satellite will be mainly used to verify new optical imaging technologies.

This launch marked the 599th flight mission of the Long March carrier rocket series.



**IGP Dr Usman visits Mayo Hospital,** meets injured police officer, cops

spector General of Police (IGP) Punjab Dr. Usman Anwar visited Mayo Hospital Lahore to meet police officers and personnel injured in firing by miscreants in Muridke. On the occasion, IG

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Rabius Sani 21, Wednesday, October 15, 2025

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#### Review Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a review meeting on Jinnah Medical Complex and Research Centre



# Pakistan likely to seal \$1.2bn IMF staff-level deal this week: Aurangzeb

**Reuters** 

WASHINGTON: Pakistan is poised to sign a preliminary deal on a review of its loan programme with the International Monetary Fund this week, Finance Minister Mohammed Aurangzeb said, a key step required to pave the way for another \$1.24 billion payout from the lender.

An IMF mission left Pakistan last week without signing a so-called staff-level agreement on the second review of the Washington-based lender's \$7 billion Extended Fund Facility and the first one on its \$1.4 billion Resilience and Sustainability Facility, agreed in 2024 to shore up the economy after a severe financial



ground for a couple of weeks, we had very constructive dialogue with them around the quantitative benchmarks, the structural benchmarks, and we've been week, we're hoping that we can having some follow-up discus- get the SLA done."

"The mission was on the sions," Muhammad Aurangzeb said during an interview on the sidelines of the IMF/World Bank annual meeting.

"During the course of this

Countries under IMF lending programmes need to pass regular reviews, which - once signed off by the Fund's executive board, trigger a payment of the next tranche of IMF funding.

The IMF programme agreed in September 2024 helped shore year. up Pakistan's economy, which was engulfed in an economic crisis with inflation spiralling to record highs, a depreciating currency and a bulging external deficit.

Aurangzeb expected the government would launch a green Panda bond - the first one denominated in Chinese yuan for Pakistan - before year-end and return to international markets next year with a bond sale of at least \$1 billion, though details were still to be decided.

"Euro, dollar, Sukuk, Islam Sukuk - we're keeping our options open," he said.

Meanwhile, the privatisation push was expected to gain traction in the fiscal year to end-June after disappointing results last

"This is something which is very important as part of our economic roadmap," he said.

A previous attempt collapsed last vear after a single lowball offer was received, but the government has since drawn interest from five domestic business groups, including Airblue, Lucky Cement, investment firm Arif Habib and military-backed Fauji Fertilizer.

Final bids are expected later this year.

# **PM directs** transparency, timely completion of Jinnah Medical Complex

跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday directed the relevant authorities to ensure complete transparency at all stages of the construction of the Jinnah Medical Complex (JMC). He also emphasized strict adherence to the established timelines for the hospital's development.

He issued these directives while chairing a review meeting on the Jinnah Medical Complex and Research Centre.

The prime minister said that the Jinnah Medical Complex would be a state-ofthe-art facility, providing highquality medical treatment to the public.

During the meeting, the was informed that the design senior officials.

consultant for the complex had been selected, while the contract process with the Pakistan Engineering Council was currently underway.

The meeting was also informed that advertisements for the selection of experts for third-party validation would be issued soon. Additionally, the federal cabinet has already approved the appointment of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the complex.

The meeting was attended by Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal, Minister for Economic Affairs Ahad Khan Cheema, Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar, Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar, Minister of State for National prime minister was briefed on Health Services Mukhtar the progress of the project. It Ahmed Bharath, and other

### Millions including Indian currency notes recovered from TLP chief Saad Rizvi's house



👺 Bureau Report

LAHORE: Law enforcers conducted a raid at the residence of Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) chief Saad Rizvi, leading to the recovery of large amounts of cash, gold, and other valuables.

According to the official statement released by Punjab Police on Monday, the operation resulted in the seizure of Rs114.4 million cash and PKR 6.34 million gold.

The police also reported the recovery of 50,000 Indian rupees, along with other precious items from the TLP leader's home.

Authorities have stated that the recovered assets have been taken into custody for further investigation.

The police added that details regarding the source and ownership of the recovered items will be determined during the inquiry

### **AJK Information Minister** resigns due to 'unavoidable reasons'

Majeed Tahir

Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) Minister for Information Pir Mazhar Shah on Tuesday tendered his resignation due to unavoidable reasons days after he returned from participating in the Global Sumud Flotilla campaign. Addressing a press conference

at the PID Complex in Muzaffarabad, Pir Mazhar expressed gratitude to the Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir, Anwarul Haq, for the trust reposed in him.

He also thanked journalists and officers of the Information Depart-"I am grateful that you <code>[journalists]</code> all have supported me since May 2024 till today. I also thank the Prime Minister who trusted me," he

unavoidable reasons, I am submitting my resignation from the office of the Ministry of Information."

In its letter, the minister expressed gratitude to the premier for allowing him to fulfill the responsibilities of the Ministry of Information.

"With all my possible abilities, I have tried my best to serve the state and national interests, a transparent information system. and a positive representation of the government. I have done my best," he wrote.

Addressing a press conference, the minister ment for their cooperation during his tenure. clarified that his resignation was not driven by

"I have no complaints or differences with the Prime Minister. I am resigning purely due to unavoidable reasons," he stated, adding that Saeed also sent a resignation to the AJK he hoped to remain associated with the media Prime Minister, stating that "due to some fraternity even after leaving office.

# NA body recommends immediate release of USC employees salaries

ISLAMABAD: The National five months. Assembly Standing Committee on Industries and Production on Tuesday recommended that the Ministry of Industries and Production take immediate action to release five months' worth of unpaid salaries to employees of the Utility Stores Corporation (USC).

The committee met here under the chairmanship of Member National Assembly (MNA) Syed Hafeezuddin, said a news release.

While the report of the Sub-Committee of the Standing Committee on Industries and Production was presented by its Convener, MNA Ms. Romina Khurshid Alam, before the and adoption, it was pointed out that the salaries of the employees of the Utility Stores Corporation

The Committee expressed grave concern over the prolonged non-payment, stressing the severe financial hardship it is causing to hundreds of families.

The Committee was of the view that it is unacceptable that the employees of the USC have been deprived of their rightful earnings for such an extended period.

However, the Committee recommended that the Ministry of Industries and Production should take decisive action to release these five months' salaries immediately.

After detailed deliberations on the tractor manufacturing companies that are operational in the committee for its consideration province of Sindh, the Committee recommended that EDB may issue import authorization and manufacturing certificate for one year to have not been released for the last the firm operating in Sindh.

# Foreign envoys briefed on Pakistan-Afghanistan border skirmishes

跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Foreign envoys received a detailed briefing on the latest situation along the Pakistan-Afghanistan border at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

According to details surfaced on Tuesday, Foreign Secretary Amna Baloch outlined Pakistan's position on recent tensions and border incidents. She drew attention to the rising number of terrorist attacks in Pakistan originating from Afghan territory and explained that Pakistan's responses were taken under the right to self-defence.



The foreign secretary emphasised that Pakistan remains committed to the principle of peaceful neighbourliness.

Additional Secretary Syed Tahir Andrabi, Syed Ali Asad Gilani and other senior officials also took part in the briefing.

Wednesday, October 15, 2025

# Shaukat Javed Mir will brief the media on the anniversary of the Karsaz tragedy

**Bureau Report** 

MUZAFFARABAD: Shaukat Javed Mir will brief the media on the anniversary of the Karsaz tragedy. 19th October 2007 under the directives of Chairman of Pakistan People's Party Bilawal Bhutto, Chairperson of Political Affairs Ms. Faryal Talpur Former Prime Minister of Pakistan Benazir Bhutto's return from long exile was welcomed by millions of people at a rally in honor of the worst suicide bombers.

October 19 will be celebrated with utmost devotion and respect ideological enthusiasm in Azad Kashmir across the country. Pakistan Army, Shahdaye Slabab, Shahdaye Kashmir to pay tribute to the victims of Kashmir and party's Founding Chairman Quaid Awam Shaheed Zulfigatr Bakhtur Ali Bhutto Field Marshal Hafiz Syed Asim



Munir addresses a party of national security agencies on the achievements of the army in the attacks on the side of Afghanistan and the fitna al-Khwarij.

Chaudhry Muhammad Yasin Speaker Chaudhry Latif Akbar Senior Central Leader Chaudhry Riyaz Secretary General Faisal Rathore Yesterday, party central deputy secretary information candidate Assembly candidate Seven Lipa Valley Shaukat Javed Mir told journalists to inquire about the ongoing development.

He said that Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto took care of scattered Shiraza, broken Pakistan Under worldwide foreign policy, maintain strong foundations of diplomatic relations and establish his beloved Islamic Republic of Pakistan He held the first Islamic summit conference for the sake of the gifts of the nuclear program.

#### Waiting for customers

ISLAMABAD: A view of the passenger buses along the Karnal Sher Khan Shaheed Road as trying to hire passengers and earn daily wages for their expenditure as due to the closures of roads and stations of Faizabad from several days because of the protest rally of religious party, common people are suffering a lot economically in twin cities .



# Suthra Punjab continue efforts to create clean and healthy environment in TT Singh

👺 Zafar Chishti

TOBA TEK SINGH: The Suthra Punjab project is making continuous efforts to create a cleaner and healthier environment across Toba Tek Singh. According to the Details, Project Manager Suthra Punjab Toba Tek Singh Muhammad Adeel talking to media representatives in his office, said that the initiative is focused on improving sanitation conditions and ensuring a sustainable waste management system.

He added that the main goal of Suthra Punjab is to provide the citizens of Toba Tek Singh and its adjoining areas with a clean and hygienic atmos-



phere. Teams are actively working in all zones to collect waste, clean streets, and raise public awareness about the importance of cleanliness.

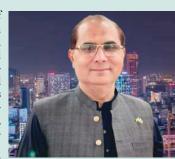
Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Muhammad Adeel further emphasized that public cooperation plays a vital role in achieving the project's objectives. He urged residents to dispose of garbage properly and support the Suthra Punjab teams in maintaining the city's cleanliness.

He reaffirmed that the district administration and Suthra Punjab are jointly committed to making Toba Tek Singh one of the cleanest districts in Punjab by ensuring modern sanitation facilities and effective cleanliness management.

### Pakistan Calls for UN-Backed Resolutions to Address Gaza and Kashmir Crises

**MULTAN: Coordinator Chief** Minister Punjab Chairperson Directorate Complaints and Monitoring. Inspection Cell and Crime Surveillance Feedback Umar Farooq Bhatti said that whenever Pakistan starts to develop, the enemies of Pakistan both internal and external, become active in their conspir-



The whole world recognizes

the pleasure that Prime Minister of Pakistan Mian Shahbaz Sharif Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir has given to India and its brother Afghanistan within this five-month period, as a result of which he played an important role in ending the Israeli terrorism that has been going on in Palestine for almost two years. Those who used to spread the news of Pakistan defaulting are ashamed today.-istan has this importance all over the world. Yesterday, in the Egyptian city of Sharm el-Sheikh, the heads of the United States and Arab countries greeted Prime Minister of Pakistan Mian Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif and praised Pakistan. US President Trump was forced to praise Prime Minister of Pakistan Shehbaz Sharif and Field Marshal General Syed Asim Munir on this matter. This is the biggest success of Pakistan. The entire nation should know about their Prime Minister of Pakistan Mian Shahbaz Sharif and Field Marshal General Syed Asim Munir. Marshal Chief of Army Staff Syed Asim Munir should be proud of the fact that due to whom a war agreement was reached in this region, especially in Gaza. For two years, Muslims were being massacred in Gaza, which was followed by peace due to the ceasefire, but in our country, some anarchists, supporters of the Hindustani Khawarij al-Hindustan, TLP, Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan and Mehrang Baloch, enemies of the country, have come together to destroy peace and order in Pakistan under the pretext of expressing solidarity with Gaza.

#### DC Umar Abbas Mela chairs CM Khelta Punjab program

**Zafar Chishti** 

TOBA TEK SINGH: Under the vision of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif's "Khelta Punjab" initiative, a meeting was held under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Umar Abbas Mela to promote sports activities across the district. The meeting was attended by the Additional Deputy Commissioner (General), CEO Education, District Sports Officer, and other officials. The District Sports Officer briefed participants on the annual sports calendar, which includes competitions in badminton, kabaddi, table tennis, football, club volleyball, and club hockey. The Deputy Commissioner directed that all events be organized strictly in accordance with the annual calendar. He also instructed the CEO Education to finalize the Inter-Schools Sports Plan within a week, featuring athletics, badminton, cricket, hockey, football, and volleyball.

DC Mela emphasized that under Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif's "Khelta Punjab" vision, all institutions must play an active role in promoting discipline, self-confidence, and teamwork among youth through healthy sporting activities.

#### IESCO announces annual power distribution system maintenance program

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad tric Supply Company the schedule for temporary power shutdowns under its Annual System Maintenance Program for the maintenance and



balancing of power distribution infrastructure.

According to an IESCO spokesperson, maintenance and balancing work will be carried out on over 114 grid stations where power and distribution transformers are installed. In addition, maintenance of more than 1,300 11 kV feeders and tree trimming near feeders will also be undertaken to ensure safe and reliable power supply, said a press release issued on Tuesday.

The shutdown schedule will be uploaded in advance on IESCO's official website and social media pages for public awareness.

As per the spokesperson, the GSO, Construction, and Operation Directorates' maintenance shutdowns will begin from October 15, 2025.

The IESCO management clarified that the annual power distribution system maintenance program is essential to ensure uninterrupted electricity supply, especially during the summer season, and to address issues such as overloading, tripping, and faults. The program also aims at system upgradation, load balancing of 11 kV feeders and transformers, and ensuring a more stable and efficient distribution network. The spokesperson said that IESCO management has always prior-

itized timely and proactive communication with its valued consumers. Complete information regarding the temporary power shutdown schedule under the annual maintenance program has been uploaded on the official IESCO website: www.iesco.com.pk.

Consumers can also stay informed by following IESCO's official social

For further information, consumers may contact the IESCO Helpline 118 or the Complaint & Monitoring Cell at 051-9252933 and 051-9252934.

# From Diagnosis to Protection — The Journey of Breast Cancer

**Quratulain Hashmi** 

Changes in breast skin (dimpling,

Nipple inversion or discharge (espe-

Redness or changes in skin color

puckering, or uneven surface)

cially blood-stained)

Swelling or lumps

reast cancer is the most tration is ongoing, and the first report found among women Cancer Awareness Month, a campaign cases were diagnosed in women and that officially began in 1985 through the American Cancer Society.

This year, the World Health Organization (WHO) has given the theme for breast cancer awareness as "Every story is unique, Every journey matters." This means that every patient's experience with breast cancer is different and outcomes all vary. Therefore, early diagnosis and quality treatment are crucial for every patient. Breast cancer doesn't affect only one woman; it impacts her entire family emotionally, financially, and psychologically.

According to global statistics from 2022, around 2.3 million women Azad Kashmir, and Gilgit, collectively were diagnosed with breast cancer, treating over 80% of cancer patients and approximately 600,000 women died from the disease.

In Pakistan, cancer patient regis-

common type of cancer published in an international journal revealed that since 2019, there has worldwide. October is been a significant increase in cancer recognized as Breast cases. The report showed that 56% of 44% in men — with breast cancer being the most common, particularly

The Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC), established in 1956, has played a major role not only in nuclear energy but also in healthcare. Under PAEC, 19 cancer their emotions, struggles, treatments, medical centers across Pakistan are actively involved in cancer diagnosis, research, and treatment. These centers are located in Islamabad, Karachi, Lahore, Gujranwala, Faisalabad, Multan, Bahawalpur, Larkana, Jamshoro, Quetta, Dera Ismail Khan, Peshawar, Bannu, Abbottabad, Swat,

> **Common Symptoms of Breast Cancer** A painless lump or mass in the breast

in the armpit or neck among women aged 20 to 39 years.

If any of these symptoms appear, essential consult a qualified doctor immediately for examination and diagnosis. Causes

Risk Factors and

Several factors can increase the risk of breast cancer: Advancing age

Overuse of hormonal or contraceptive medications without medical

Early onset of menstruation (before age 12) or late menopause (after age 55) Radiation exposure to the chest before age 30

Family history of breast cancer Not breastfeeding Obesity

Smoking or alcohol consumption At Minar Cancer Hospital, around 3,500 cancer patients

were registered in 2024 - 60% women and 40% men. Among them, 40–45% of female cases were

breast cancer. **Stages and Treatment** 

Success Like all cancers, treatment depends on the stage of the disease:

Stage 1-2 (Early Stages): 98%

Stage 3: Around 80% of patients

recover

Stage 4 (Advanced): 20-30% of cases can be controlled

Women undergoing breast cancer treatment are usually advised to avoid pregnancy for 2-3 years after treatment. Instead of hormonal contra-

ceptives, they should use alternative methods such as condoms or cervical caps, and consult a gynecologist for guidance.

**Importance of Screening Programs** Screening is vital for early detection

and prevention. Women aged 40-44 should begin learning about breast health and consider mammography.

Women aged 45-54 should have a mammogram once a vear.

Women 55 and older should get one every two years.

Women should also practice Self-Breast Examination (SBE) regularly after learning the correct method from their doctor. Any unusual change should be promptly reported to a

healthcare provider. Diagnosis and Treatment at Minar

**Cancer Hospital** Minar Cancer Hospital provides comprehensive diagnostic and treat-

ment facilities, including: FNAC (Fine Needle Aspiration Cytology)

Mammography Ultrasound

The hospital's skilled staff, including lady doctors, are dedicated to patient

**Treatment options include:** 

Surgery

Chemotherapy

Radiotherapy (using advanced INAC machines) Biological or Targeted Therapy —

modern medicines in injection, tablet, or capsule form with fewer side effects.

After completing treatment, patients are advised to continue follow-up checkups for at least five years, as the chances of recurrence are higher during this period.

#### Conclusion

Breast cancer can be defeated — but only through early detection and timely treatment. Women must actively participate in screening programs to control and overcome this disease.

Writer is Oncologist at Minar Cancer Hospital Multan

..5:35 pm



# **Namaz Timings**

#### ... 6:58 pm **EMERGENCY**

Maghrib

LIMITION I
Rescue (Police) 15
Bomb Disposal 15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/
Islamabad1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance 1122 &
& Rescue Services 4451122
Motorway Police9266044
Motorway Police9270601-20

#### **Women Police Stations**

...... 9222596 .. 9270601-20 Islamabad

#### **ENOUIRY**

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

#### **HOSPITALS**

CMH	5611111
MH	561116
MH	561116
Cantt Hospital	9270907-11
DHQ	5556311-4
RGH	9290301-7
Holy Family	9290322-7
PIMS	9261170-79
Polyclinic	9218300-09
Shifa International	4603666

#### **DEPARTMENTS**

CDA	9221334-43
CDA	9208301-04
Met Office	9250360-6
RDA	5555864
TMA	5770886

#### Sindh to develop an 80 acre city for differently-abled persons: Saeed Ghani

KARACHI: Sindh Minister for Labour, Human Resources and Social Protection, Saeed Ghani, on Tuesday announced that the Sindh government is set to establish a unique city for differently-abled persons on 80 acres along Shahrah-e-Bhutto in Karachi.

It is the state's foremost responsibility to provide its citizens with access to health, education and employment and this obligation becomes even greater when it comes to persons with disabilities, he underscored while sneaking at a ceremon marking the International White Cane Safety Day, organized by the Pakistan Association of the Blind Sindh, said a statement issued here.

Ghani said that special persons demonstrate exceptional resilience and capabilities despite facing physical challenges. While such individuals may have certain limitations, he added, Allah has blessed them with unique talents and strengths that are often

not found in others. Highlighting the Sindh government's initiatives for welfare of differently abled individuals, the minister urged the special persons to develop skills and competence to secure employment opportunities in the private sector. He also cited the inspiring example of Saima Saleem, a visually impaired Pakistani diplomat currently representing the country at the United Nations, who has made Pakistan proud internationally through her achievements.

# CM Maryam meets Speaker Türkiye's Grand National Assembly

#### Bureau Report

LAHORE: Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif warmly welcomed visiting parliamentary delegations from Türkiye and Azerbaijan, led respectively by Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye, H. E. Professor Dr. Numan Kurtulmuş and Speaker of Azerbaijan's Milli Majlis, H. E. Ms. Sahiba Gafarova. She while extending heartfelt greetings on behalf of the people of Punjab, conveyed message of goodwill to the leadership of both brotherly nations. She lauded Türkiye and Azerbaijan for their unwavering support to Pakistan, particularly for their principled stance on Kashmir issue and their strong condemnation of recent Indian aggression.

Chief Minister Punjab expressed her deep appreciation for Türkiye and Azerbaijan for consistently extending unconditional support to Pakistan on global platforms. She emphasized that the trilateral partnership of Pakistan, Türkiye and Azerbaijan goes beyond diplomacy which encompasses bonds of shared faith, history and values.

Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif said while highlighting salient features of rich historical and cultural city. Overall governance system in Punjab,"We have

 $introduced \, KPI\text{-}based \, governance \, model$ in Punjab inspired by Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan's visionary leadership. Our 'Suthra Punjab' (Clean Punjab) initiative is the largest integrated solid waste management program in the world." She said while commenting on Punjab's rich historic and cultural heritage,"Historical landmarks like Badshahi Mosque, Lahore Fort, Shalimar Gardens and Wazir Khan Mosque are shining symbols of Muslim civilization and spiritual heritage. Lahore has a deep-rooted spiritual identity and we are further embellishing it to be declared the ECO Tourism Capital for 2027."

Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye, H. E. Professor Dr. Numan Kurtulmuş said while sharing his remarks on the occasion,"We stand firmly by Pakistan. We are ready to cooperate in every sector, including education. We profoundly thank Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif for extending her warm welcome and outstanding hospitality." Speaker of the Milli Majlis of Azerbaijan, H. E. Ms. Sahiba Gafarova said,"Punjab, especially Lahore, is a beautiful region. We are delighted to pay a visit to this development in Punjab, particularly in Assembly, Malik Muhammad Ahmad baijan is highly promising while Speaker distinguished visiting delegations.



health and education sectors is highly Khan said that trilateral relations National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq impressive." Speaker of the Punjab between Pakistan, Türkiye and Azer- also extended a warm welcome to the

#### Life's Restore

ISLAMABAD: Workers of local administration are busy in removing the containers at D-Chowk after several days of closures in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

# Sindh Moves to Regulate Poultry Sector Under Minister Malkani's Leadership

#### 👺 Zainab Hyder

KARACHI: The Sindh government has announced plans to introduce legislation for the poultry sector, aiming to make the province self-sufficient in poultry production. The decision was made during a high-level meeting chaired by Provincial Minister for Livestock and Fisheries, Muhammad Ali Malkani, along with Chief Minister's Special Assistant on Public Health, Saleem

Key officials from the Livestock Department, including Secretary Kazim Hussain Jatoi, Poultry Dr. Munawar Rana, and other poultry stakeholders were present.

Minister Malkani empha-



sized the government's commitment to fast-track legislation and attract investment DG Dr. Nazir Khuhro, DG into the poultry industry. He announced the formation of a Poultry Registration Authority, with stakeholders and relevant which will issue licenses to investors across Sindh. A one-month

licensing timeline was proposed to streamline the process.

He also highlighted that the Poultry Production Act 2025 has been drafted in consultation departments, and will be finalized after further legal review.

Once approved, it will be implemented to ensure timely investment opportunities in the sector.

The move is seen as a significant step toward boosting poultry production, creating jobs, and ensuring food security in Sindh.

# Riphah International University Co-Organizes ICME-IMEC 2025 at IMU, Malaysia

#### City Desk

KUALA LUMPUR: The Joint International Conference on Medical Education (ICME-IMEC 2025) concluded successfully at the International Medical University (IMU), Malaysia, marking yet another milestone in global collaboration for the advancement of medical and health professions education.

Co-organized by Riphah International University, Pakistan, and IMU Malaysia, the prestigious international event brought together a vibrant community of educators, researchers, policymakers, and students from around the world. With the theme "Globalization of Health Professions Education: Strategies, Stakeholders and Sustainability," the



and future-ready systems of learning

ICME-IMEC 2025 served as a conference emphasized collective powerful reminder of how academia

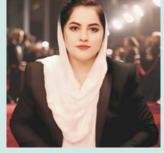
evolving needs of healthcare education worldwide. For Riphah International University, the conference also reaffirmed its legacy as a pioneer in and international partnerships.

efforts to create innovative, equitable, can transcend borders to address the health professions education reform, championing ethical, patient-centered, and sustainable medical education through research, innovation,

### Nadra Noor strongly condemns Afghanistan's unprovoked aggression

#### Quratul Ain Asim

MULTAN: The entire nation stands with the Pakistan Army. Afghanistan's provocation is a threat to the peace and stability of the region. We strongly condemn Afghanistan's unprovoked aggression on the Pakistan border. These views were expressed by Nadra Noor, Advocate High Court, in a statement. She said that she pays great tribute to the Pakistan Army for giving a befitting reply to the Afghan aggression. The firing of Afghan forces on the



civilian population is a clear violation of international laws and human rights. Afghanistan's provocation is a threat to the peace and stability of the region. The entire nation stands with the Pakistan Army like a leaden wall. She said that no one will be allowed to attack the integrity and sovereignty of Pakistan. The Pakistan Army is ready at any moment to defend the motherland. Pakistan has always supported a peaceful, stable and prosperous Afghanistan. Pakistan has been hosting more than four million Afghan refugees for more than four decades. Nadra Noor, Advocate, said that Pakistan is a peaceful country and has no aggressive intentions against anyone.

# Afghan government's infiltration against Pakistan is highly condemnable: Haji Hassan

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

TAKHT BHAI: Industrialist and social personality Haji Hassan Muhammad Khan said that the Afghan government's aggressive intentions and cross-border incursions against Pakistan are highly condemnable. He stated that the people of Pakistan have always stood by their Afghan brothers in every difficult time, hosted



them generously, and even shared their food with them. For the past forty years, millions of Afghans have been living in Pakistan and have enjoyed equal rights and facilities as Pakistani citizens. Despite this, the Afghan government has now shown its true colors and initiated heinous actions against Pakistan. While speaking to the media, Haji Hassan Muhammad Khan said that the recent actions of the Afghan government have not only violated the principles of friendship and good neighborliness but also endangered regional peace. He added that Afghanistan's efforts to establish ties with India, a hostile country to Pakistan, are a matter of grave concern and deep regret. Furthermore, Hassan Muhammad revealed that in 2007, in the presence of NDMA Chairman General Farooq, Brigadier Anwar Khan, and Major Arshad, he had provided forty mobile ambulances to the Afghan government's ambassador, Majnoon Gulab, on humanitarian grounds. These ambulances, imported from Thailand, were equipped with modern hospital-level facilities to help improve healthcare services for the Afghan people.

#### Pakistani Politician Hails Army's "Lesson" to India, Warns Afghanistan Against Modi's Policies

#### 👺 Raza Nagvi

ATTOCK: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) leader and former candidate for the Provincial Assembly constituency PP-4, Malik Riyasat Ali Sadhryal, has said that India has been taught a lesson once again, and that the Pakistan Armed Forces have once again proved their professional excellence. He stated that Pakistan's military has sent a clear message to the enemy that it possesses full capability to effectively respond to any aggression

He said that by effectively ending the series of terrorist activities being carried out against Pakistan from Afghanistan under India's patronage, the Pakistan Armed Forces have foiled the enemy's conspiracies. Malik Riyasat warned Afghanistan not to trust Narendra Modi's hypocritical policies, adding that history bears witness to India's double-dealing with its allies. He cited India's so-called friendship with Iran, which the world has seen turn into hypocrisy.

He warned that if any attempt is made—at India's behest—to create further instability in Pakistan, the Pakistan Armed Forces are fully capable of giving a strong and effective response. Malik Riyasat Ali Sadhryal further stated that Pakistan's enemies should face reality instead of living in a fool's paradise.

Wednesday, October 15, 2025

Group Chairman/Chief Editor: Almass Ayoub Sabir

Vice Chairman: Editor:

Head Editorial Advisory Board: Amjad Mehmood

Bureau Chief Karachi: Bureau Chief Lahore:

**Asim Nazir Ahmad Naveed Ahmad Khan** Khurram Jaffrani

(jaffrani@adpluse.pk 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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#### **Sharm El-Sheikh** summit shows **Palestinian** nationalism is alive

or a brief moment just a few weeks ago, it seemed like the joint Israeli-American effort to suppress Palestinian nationalism was succeeding. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had arrogantly dismissed the idea of Palestinian statehood, while US President Donald Trump and his secretary of state appeared to echo that position.

Palestinians holding passports issued under the US-sponsored Oslo Accords were suddenly denied entry to America. Even more absurdly, Washington sought to silence the official Palestinian voice at the UN. President Mahmoud Abbas and members of his delegation, formally invited to attend the UN General Assembly, were denied entry visas, in clear violation of the UN-US headquarters agreement.

This Israeli-inspired move by the Trump administration was clearly intended to derail both international recognition of Palestine and efforts by the Palestinian leadership to engage with world

Yet, less than a month later, on Monday, the tables had turned. Abbas and his aides were in Sharm El-Sheikh, at the invitation of Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, who was hosting none other than Trump himself. Trump even posed for a photo with Abbas and publicly welcomed him, along with other attendees.

According to the official Palestinian news agency WAFA, President Abbas held a series of bilateral meetings with world leaders. Among those he met were Bahrain's King Hamad bin Isa Al-Khalifa, Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev, German Chancellor Friedrich Merz, Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez, Norwegian Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Store, Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis, Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed Shia Al-Sudani, Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney, Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, and Omani Foreign Minister Badr bin Hamad Al-Bu-

In sharp contrast, not a single Israeli official was present. Whether Netanyahu was not invited or if he chose to avoid the gathering due to the war crimes charges he faces, his absence was striking and symbolic.

For world powers that have already recognized the state of Palestine, the Sharm El-Sheikh summit was more than a diplomatic event. It was a reminder that recognition must translate into a genuine political partnership — one that advances the goal of lasting peace between Israel and Palestine.

The meeting's timing was also significant. It came as the war in Gaza reached its official conclusion, with regional and international actors beginning the difficult process of establishing a multinational (including Arab and Islamic) force to stabilize Gaza.

One of the most delicate questions ahead concerns the future of armed groups in Gaza. The leaders of Hamas and Islamic Jihad have reportedly expressed willingness to hand over their offensive weapons to a joint Palestinian-Egyptian committee but insist on keeping their defensive arms. Their reasoning is rooted in painful history: after the Sabra and Shatila massacre in Beirut 43 years ago, few Palestinians are willing to trust that they can remain defense-

# Pakistan and Afghanistan: From **Tensions to Trust?**

Muttaqi, the Taliban's acting foreign minister, arrived in New Delhi in October 2025, his message to Pakistan resonated with both challenge and invitation. Speaking in Urdu at moments an echo of time spent within Pakistani linguistic and cultural space he proclaimed that Afghanistan seeks peaceful ties with all neighbors but would not accept interference. He claimed the Taliban regime had cleansed its soil of terror groups and demanded Pakistan reciprocate. Behind his words lay the centuries-deep entanglement of Pakistan and Afghanistan: geography, religion, culture, trade, and social contact all wound together.

Yet Islamabad heard not conciliation alone, but a rebuke. For years, Pakistani security forces and civilians have paid a steep cost to militant violence, particularly from the Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP). In 2023 alone, nearly 1,000 Pakistanis were killed in terrorist attacks, including security personnel, police, and civilians. In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan, ACLED recorded 754 and 416 security-incidents respectively in 2023. The TTP's attacks have surged, tripling between 2021 and 2023. In 2024, militant bombings and gun attacks claimed over 1,600 lives—both civilians and uniformed personnel.

This perpetual mutual bloodletting underscores the futility of purely kinetic solutions. Both sides claim legitimacy: Pakistan through constitutional and through scriptural and revolutionary

hen Amir Khan legitimacy. Neither accepts the other's to modern industry. claim, and so reconciliation becomes a chimera. Yet if one could shift from exclusivity to cooperation, from confrontation to construction, that cycle might and military bases on foreign soil. Such be broken. A shift toward shared infrastructure, trade, civil institutions, and education holds the power to cancel out destructive divergence.

In this regard, China offers a potent

of military intervention, regime change attempts, and kinetic intrusion, China's long game has been investment, noninterference, and resource diplomacy. Instead of toppling governments, Beijing builds roads, structures, mines, and connectivity. Its

approach in Afghanistan underscores this philosophy.

China's engagement with the Taliban regime is growing, although not without constraints. It continues to insist on noninterference in Afghan domestic politics, preferring to negotiate trade, investment, mining rights, and connectivity rather than dictate internal governance. Beijing has offered tariff-free access to Chinese markets for Afghan goods. It has negotiated BRI/ China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) integration with Afghan alignment. In January 2023, a \$540 million contract was agreed for oil extraction in the Amu Darya basin, in partnership with a Chinese firm (CAPEIC). China institutional authority; the Taliban openly discusses mining of rare earths, copper, lithium-strategic minerals vital

By contrast, U.S. interventions often  $came\ with\ regime\ change\ doctrine, drone$ strikes, "nation-building" campaigns, methods provoke backlash, resentment, proxy insurgencies, and dependency. China's hands-off posture—sovereign engagement rather than regime dominance—has thus gained deeper  $model.\,Unlike\,the\,United\,States' pattern \quad traction\,among\,regimes\,suspicious\,of$ 

Western coercion. Pakistan itself has benefited from Chinese nonassertive but persistent infrastructure investment under CPEC, turning strategic roads, energy, and ports into national assets rather than zones of domination.

Pakistan could draw lessons from China's approach in this theatre. It could ease off dictating ideology and instead channel its strength into bridging—building trade corridors, supporting Afghan industrial zones,

aiding civil institutions, promoting educational exchange, and partnering in mineral processing. If Afghanistan's economy, transport, natural resource sectors, and human capital become intimately tied to Pakistan, Kabul's tolerance for hosting anti-Pakistan militants would decline. Islamabad could then shift from

enforcing security to shaping stakes. Within this framework the conciliatory elements in Muttaqi's New Delhi President (Rtd), Former Press Minister, address carry fresh potential. His invocation of mutual respect, shared history, and noninterference could become the basis for a Pakistan-Afghanistan part-

nership, rather than grudging recrimination. But Pakistan's swift diplomatic rebuke—warning Kabul against interference in its internal affairs—missed the chance to lay the foundation for constructive engagement.

To move forward, Islamabad must integrate three strategic pillars: security, economics, and narrative. Security cannot be abandoned—but kinetic force must be complemented with institutional channels for dialogue, track II diplomacy, and mechanisms to separate hardline factions from moderate elements. Economy cannot be constrained by suspicion-Pakistan must initiate cross-border trade, joint investment in mining and infrastructure, transit corridors, and cross-training in governance. And narrative cannot be dominated by zero-sum theological certitude-it must shift toward shared destiny, mutual elevation, and overlapping interests.

Absent such a pivot, the consequences are grim. Pakistani soldiers, militants. and civilians will continue to bleed. Families will remain fractured. The border will stay a trench of ideology and death. But if Pakistan can adopt a China-style posture-noninterference, investment, cooperation-the negative torque of theological divergence can be neutralized. Two neighbors, bound by history and faith, might then lean not toward perpetual war, but toward a future of shared prosperity and peace.

The writer is Press Secretary to the Embassy of Pakistan to France, Former Press Attaché to Malaysia and Former MD, SRBC. He is living in Macomb, Michigan, USA



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

### Oct 27: The Day Kashmir was enslaved

in the collective memory of the Kashmiri people as the darkest day of their history—a day when their dreams of freedom and self-determination were shattered under the boots of Indian occupation. On this date. India, in complete disregard of the principles of the Partition Plan and international law, airlifted its troops into the State of Jammu

state, geographically, culturally, and emotionally inclined toward Pakistan. The natural aspiration of its people was accession to Pakistan, yet their hopes and aspirations were brutally crushed as India imposed its military presence and turned a free state into a land of bondage.

This occupation was neither legal nor moral. It was the

rights, and systematic persecution of the Kashmiri people. From the very outset, Kashmiris resisted this usurpation, raising their voices and standing firm for their right to self-determination. India, instead of honoring the will of the people or respecting the United Nations resolutions that followed in 1948, chose the path of tyranny. The result has been one of the longest-standing conflicts in modern history, marked by bloodshed, displacement, and untold human suffering.

India's actions have not been limited to physical violence alone. A deliberate strategy of dispossession and demographic engineering has been pursued. Lands and properties have been confiscated, jobs denied, and entire communities economically strangulated. After the unilateral revocation of Artistripped Jammu and Kashmir of its special of resistance, reaffirming their commitment to

in the region. In the years since, hundreds of thousands of non-residents have been issued domicile certificates in a clear attempt to dilute the Muslim majority character of the state. This demographic assault represents not only a violation of international law and UN resolutions but also an existential threat to the very identity of Kashmir.

The scale of militarization in occupied and Kashmir under the cover of night. At Kashmir defies comprehension. With nearly that time, Kashmir was a Muslim-majority one million troops deployed, it is the most mili-

tarized zone in the world. Every street, every village, and every household lives under the shadow of guns. Families endure midnight raids, enforced disappearances, and arbitrary detentions. Women face harassment and indignity, while the sanctity of homes and the privacy of families are violated under the pretext

beginning of decades of oppression, denial of of "search operations." Children grow up surrounded by barbed wire and bunkers, their innocence stolen by the ever-present fear of violence. Justice, in such an environment, is not merely denied; it is unimaginable.

**Mushtaq Ahmad Butt** 

The Kashmiri people are, in effect, prisoners in their own homeland. The entire region has been converted into an open-air jail, where freedom of expression is crushed, the press is silenced, and political voices are muzzled. There is no accountability, no recourse, and no protection for civilians against the unchecked power of the occupying forces. The cries of mothers searching for their disappeared sons, the silence of blinded children, and the grief of families mourning their loved ones testify to the cruelty of this occupation.

Yet, despite all this, the spirit of the Kashmiri people has not been broken. Generation cles 370 and 35-A in August 2019, India after generation has carried forward the torch

ctober 27, 1947, remains etched status, paving the way for outsiders to settle the right of self-determination. Their resilience stands as a testament to the power of hope against oppression. But hope alone cannot be a substitute for justice.

> This tragedy is not confined to South Asia; it is a challenge to the conscience of the international community. The United Nations has passed multiple resolutions affirming that the people of Jammu and Kashmir must be allowed to decide their future through a free and impartial plebiscite. Seventy-eight years later, those resolutions remain unimplemented, gathering dust in the archives of history, while India continues to act with impunity. The silence of the global powers has emboldened New Delhi, but it has also eroded trust in international institutions that claim to uphold justice and human rights.

> October 27 is more than a date—it is a stark reminder of an unfinished agenda of freedom, justice, and accountability. It asks a pressing question of our times: how long will the cries of an oppressed people be ignored? How long will the principles of human rights and international law be sacrificed at the altar of political expediency?

> The time has come for the world to move beyond expressions of concern and take concrete action. Ending India's unlawful occupation, restoring the rights of the Kashmiri people, and facilitating a just and lasting solution through dialogue and international commitment is not only a moral obligation but a necessity for peace and stability in the region.

> For the people of Kashmir, October 27 is a day of mourning-but for the world, it must serve as a call to conscience. Justice delayed is justice denied, and the denial of justice in Kashmir has lasted far too long. The international community must rise to its responsibility, not only to end the suffering of millions but also to preserve its own credibility as a guardian of human rights and peace.

The writer is Secretary Information APHC

### 'Historic peace agreement marks possible end to Gaza War'

less war and human tragedy in Gaza finally taken a historic step toward peace. On October 9, 2025, both sides agreed to a U. S.-brokered ceasefire, and by October 13, all surviving Israeli hostages were freed after nearly two years in captivity. This development has brought new hope across the Middle East and revived global calls for lasting stability.

The war that began in October 2023 had turned Gaza into a graveyard. Israeli airstrikes flattened entire neighborhoods, hospitals, and schools. More than 67,000 people were killed, including thousands of women and children. Over 105,000 were injured, and millions were displaced. Gaza's population suffered acute shortages of food, water, and medicine, forcing the world to confront one of the worst humanitarian crises in recent history.

Under the peace agreement, Hamas released all 20 remaining Israeli hostages, while Israel freed nearly 2,000 Palestinian prisoners, including many detained without trial. Israeli forces began withdrawing from densely populated areas, though some military units remain near the border due to security concerns. The Rafah crossing has reopened under international monitoring, allowing the flow of humanitarian aid and limited civilian travel.

The agreement includes the creation of an international mechanism to oversee Gaza's reconstruction. Billions of dollars in aid have been pledged by the United States, the European Union, and Arab states to rebuild homes, hospitals, and schools destroyed during the war. The United Nations will supervise these efforts to ensure transparency and fair distribution. However, aid agencies warn that supplies entering Gaza are still far below the required level, and the humanitarian situation remains extremely fragile.

Disarmament remains the most contentious

fter more than two years of relentissue. Israel demands that Hamas fully surrender its weapons, while Hamas insists on maintaining security forces to prevent internal chaos. Reports from Gaza suggest that Hamas has already redeployed police and armed units in several areas vacated by Israeli troops. This move has raised concern in Israel and among mediators that the ceasefire could be

jeopardized if tensions escalate.



could undermine the peace process before it fully takes root.

Despite these challenges, the Sharm El-Sheikh Summit has offered new momentum. For the first time since 2023, hundreds of aid trucks have entered Gaza, hospitals are being restocked with medicines, and displaced families are beginning to return to their homes. Global reactions have been largely positive. President Trump described the deal as "a triumph of humanity over hatred," while the United Nations called it "a fragile but historic moment of hope." Egypt, Qatar, and Turkey hailed the agreement as proof that diplomacy can still succeed where force has failed.

Yet, uncertainty persists. Both sides remain deeply mistrustful, and any violation of the terms could reignite fighting. The wounds of war run deep, and rebuilding Gaza—physically and emotionally will take years. For now, the guns are silent, the skies are clear, and a faint hope has returned to the region. This peace may be fragile, but it represents a longawaited chance to restore dignity and stability to a land that has endured unimaginable suffering. Writer can be reached at aahsan210@gmail.com

# Pakistan, Vietnam launch talks on preferential trade agreement to boost economic ties

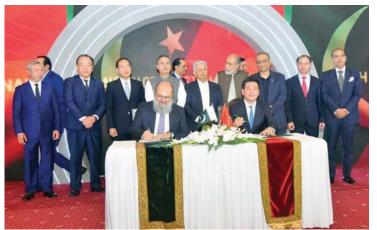
Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Vietnam on Tuesday formally launched negotiations for a Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) aimed at expanding trade, investment and connectivity between the two countries, the commerce ministry said following the Pakistan-Vietnam Business Forum in

The two Asian nations have maintained diplomatic ties since 1972, with relations strengthening in recent years through growing defense, trade and cultural cooperation. Bilateral trade currently stands at around \$800 million, dominated by textiles, seafood, rubber, and chemicals. Officials on ministers announced that negotiations both sides have expressed the desire to double it in the coming years.

Pakistan is currently pushing to grow trade diplomacy in Southeast Asia, as it seeks to diversify exports and deepen regional partnerships.

Pakistani Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan and Vietnam's namese delegation and business Minister of Industry and Trade H. E. community. "There are vast oppor-Nguyen Hong Dien jointly addressed Tuesday's business forum, which brought together dozens of business leaders, investors and government representatives from both nations. The



on the PTA would begin immediately, with the goal of finalizing and signing the agreement by the end of 2025.

"The longstanding and friendly relations between Pakistan and Vietnam are growing stronger," Jam Kamal Khan said while welcoming the Viettunities for cooperation in textiles, leather, pharmaceuticals, agriculture, food processing, and information tech-

"enhance market access and trade diversification," adding that both sides had agreed to strengthen collaboration in trade, investment, technology, connectivity and tourism.

"The Business Forum marks the beginning of a new chapter in Pakistan-Vietnam economic relations," he said. "Meetings and B2B sessions will play a vital role in promoting bilateral

The commerce minister also invited Vietnamese firms to invest in Pakistan's key growth sectors, noting that Khan said the planned PTA would the country offered a young workforce

ment. He said Pakistan sought to learn from Vietnam's experience in industrial growth and value-added manufacturing, and expressed optimism that sustained cooperation would generate long-term partnerships between the two private sectors.

During the forum, the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan and Vietnam's Ministry of Industry and Trade delivered presentations on investment potential and export opportunities. Both ministers urged the private sector

and cross-border projects.

Vietnam's Minister of Industry and Trade said the PTA would pave the way for sustainable and mutually beneficial growth, creating new opportunities for ousinesses in both nations.

access and diversify trade," he said, emphasizing that closer cooperation would help the two economies grow together.

The meeting also explored prospects for expanding religious and cultural

and an attractive business environ- to take an active role in joint ventures tourism. The Vietnamese minister described Buddhist heritage sites as destinations for "spiritual journeys," while the two sides agreed to promote collaboration in faith tourism.

> Pakistan, home to the ancient Gandhara and Taxila civilizations, reaffirmed "The PTA will enhance market readiness to facilitate Vietnamese visitors seeking to explore Buddhist heritage sites. Khan also invited the Vietnamese business community to participate in the Food and Agriculture Expo to be held in Karachi in

# Gillani reaffirms Pakistan's unwavering support for Palestinian statehood

**Spokesman Report** 

ISLAMABAD: The Ambassador of the State of Palestine to Pakistan, Dr. Zuhair Mohammad, held an important meeting with Chairman of the Senate of Pakistan, Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani, at the Senate Chairman's residence. Islamabad property listings

During the meeting, Ambassador Zuhair expressed gratitude for Pakistan's consistent and unwavering support for Palestine at all international forums. He praised Pakistan's principled stance and the deep-rooted relationship between the two brotherly nations.

Senate Chairman Gillani, a historic figure in Pakistan's political leadership with vast diplomatic experience, reaffirmed Pakistan's firm position on the Palestinian cause



He stated "Pakistan has always tine — it is, and it will remain. Pakistan carries all its national responsibilities." recognized Palestine since it was Pales- carries the cause of Palestine just as it He emphasized that support for

Palestine is part of Pakistan's moral, political, and diplomatic commitment and will continue unchanged.

In a significant gesture of parliamentary collaboration, Chairman Gillani extended an invitation to the Speaker of the Palestinian National Council to participate in a special international conference of Heads of National Councils from various countries.

The meeting also included the presentation of the official emblem (slogan) of the Senate of Pakistan to Ambassador Zuhair, symbolizing mutual respect and strengthening bilateral

Both sides agreed to enhance parliamentary, diplomatic, and humanitarian cooperation in support of justice and peace in Palestine.

This engagement reflects Pakistan's historic solidarity with Palestine and its ongoing role in promoting unity and

#### President Abbas: Peace Summit a key step, Gaza reconstruction a priority

**₩AFA** 

RAMALLAH: President Mahmoud Abbas affirmed that the peace summit, co-sponsored by the United States and Egypt, is an important step in advancing the Palestinian cause.

He noted that the summit primarily addressed the initial issues, including the ceasefire, prisoners, humanitarian aid, and Israeli withdrawal. In an interview with Russia's Sputnik channel, Abbas

said, "We want to complete this process with two important matters, the first is working to rebuild Gaza, which is important and requires international and Arab efforts. The second is peace-building peace afterward through an international conference held for this purpose.

#### Pakistan marks historic success at Expo 2025 Osaka

**Spokesman Report** 

OSAKA: Pakistan's participation in Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan, concluded on Tuesday with the closing ceremony, celebrating the nation's outstanding contributions to the six-month-long Expo. Section Commissioner General of Pakistan at

Hameed, Ambassador designate of Pakistan to Japan, Muhammad Naseer, Project Director, Expo 2025/Senior Director General, Trade Development Authority of Pakistan, and Madiha Ali, the Trade and Investment Counsellor, represented Pakistan at the closing ceremony.

Expo 2025 Osaka, held under the theme "Designing Future Society for Our Lives," featured 158 countries presenting innovations, cultural heritage, and visions for the future. The Pakistan Pavilion curated by Noor Jehan Bilgrami welcomed over 1.8 million visitors, setting a record for the highest attendance by a Pakistani Pavilion at any World Expo.

The closing ceremony, held at EXPO Hall "Shining Hat," featured remarks from Crown Prince Akishino, Prime Minister Ishiba Shigeru, Osaka Governor Hirofumi Yoshimura, and Ishige Hiroyuki, Secretary-General of the Japan Association for the 2025 World Exposition.

Prime Minister Ishiba announced that Expo 2025 had attracted over 28 million visitors. The ceremony concluded with the symbolic handover of the BIE flag to host city of the upcoming World Expo 2030 Riyadh.

At Pakistan Pavilion, a ceremony was held to celebrate the two prestigious awards won by Pakistan. The Section Commissioner General awarded certificates of appreciation to the Pakistan Pavilion's ushers, volunteers and staff in recognition of their dedication. Pakistan's participation successfully showcased the nation's cultural richness, mineral resources, innovative spirit, and international trade potential, leaving a lasting impression on global audiences and reinforcing Pakistan's growing role in shaping discussions on sustainable future societies.

## Awaam Pakistan Party Balochistan Urges FBR to Extend Income Tax Return Filing Deadline

**Example 2** Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Sved Aman Shah, The Provincial Convener of Awaam Pakistan Party Balochistan, has proposed to the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) to extend the deadline for filing income tax returns for the Tax Year 2025 - currently set to expire on October 15, 2025 - to October 31, 2025.

Sved Aman Shah emphasized the importance of a taxpayer-friendly approach



and urged the FBR to take many taxpayers are struggling that to facilitate taxpayers in Pakistan Party Balochistan has filing deadline. This extension is expected to provide muchneeded relief to taxpayers businesses are facing difficulgrappling with these genuine constraints.

Provincial Convener of Awaam Pakistan Party

prompt action to address to gather necessary financial these concerns. He stressed records due to procedural and logistical bottlenecks as fulfilling their legal obligations FBR's online portal has been without undue stress, Awaam reported to experiencing slow performance and technical urged the FBR to extend the glitches - hindering smooth submission of returns.

Syed Aman Shah said that ties in aligning their Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) systems with the FBR's digital invoicing requirements; which Balochistan highlighted that is causing delays in compliance

# ICCI Delegation Visits Sri Lankan High Commissioner to Discuss Strengthening Bilateral Trade and Cooperation

ISLAMABAD: A delegation from the the establishment of secretary-level Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), led by Sardar Tahir Mehmood, President ICCI, along with in the pharmaceutical, agriculture, Zafar Bakhtawari, Secretary General of the United Business Group (UBG), Tahir Ayub, Senior Vice President ICCI, and Choudhry Irfan, Vice President ICCI, visited the High Commissioner of Sri Lanka to Pakistan, H. E. Fred Senevirathne, to extend congratulations on his appointment and discuss avenues for enhancing bilateral economic and

During the meeting, Ambassador Fred Senevirathne briefed the delegation on Sri Lanka's recent economic and political developments. He noted that the country faced significant challenges following the 2019 Easter bombings, the COVID-19 pandemic, and governance issues, which collectively led to an economic crisis. However, he added that with the new government's anti-corruption measures and economic reforms, Sri Lanka's situation has now stabilized, and its political and economic conditions are improving.

The High Commissioner empha-

Pakistan and Sri Lanka. He proposed and ministerial-level dialogues to strengthen cooperation, particularly potato, rice, and cutlery sectors, and to explore new opportunities for trade enhancement.

He also encouraged ICCI to organize a business delegation to Sri Lanka, highlighting potential opportunities in the finance, agriculture, and manufacturing sectors. He assured that the Sri Lankan High Commission would facilitate connections between Pakistani and Sri Lankan businesses and promote B2B, cultural, and political exchanges.

Ambassador Senevirathne also shared that two direct flights between Karachi and Lahore have already started operations, and work is underway to launch a direct flight from Islamabad in the near future. He said this initiative would further strengthen connectivity, tourism, and business relations between the two countries.

Sardar Tahir Mehmood, President ICCI, appreciated the High Commissioner's efforts to strengthen bilateral relations and said that both countries sized the need to revitalize the Free have immense potential to expand trade

in the agricultural sector, particularly in the export of potatoes and other farm products. He mentioned that Pakistan's economy and stock exchange are showing positive growth trends and emphasized the need to overcome existing trade barriers for mutual benefit. He also invited the High Commissioner to visit the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry to meet Pakistani entrepreneurs and explore joint ventures.

Zafar Bakhtawari, Secretary General of UBG, lauded the historic friendship between Pakistan and Sri Lanka, recalling that Sri Lanka was the first country to send its cricket team to Pakistan when international teams had suspended tours. He said this gesture reflected the deep-rooted friendship and mutual trust between the two nations. He further expressed hope that bilateral trade volume could reach up to USD 1 billion in the near future, emphasizing that both countries should work together more closely to achieve Tahir Ayub, Senior Vice President

ICCI, highlighted the importance of strengthening agricultural collaboration and exploring export opportunities. He noted that Pakistan's economy



is showing signs of improvement and through enhanced trade partnerships. eral trade, economic cooperation, and both the public and private sectors.

stressed that both nations can benefit commitment to further promote bilat-

The meeting concluded with a shared cultural ties between Pakistan and Sri Lanka through active engagement of

Wednesday, October 15, 2025

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

Index Fluctuation		
Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index		
Current	Prev. Close	
165,476.02	158,443.42	
Day's High	Day's Low	
165,866.77	160,821.72	
Index Value	Change	
44,827,878,166	+7032.60	
Percentage	Time	
+4.44%	14 Oct, 2025 4:30 pm	
Europe: FTS	E 100 Index	
Index Value	Change	
<b>Index Value</b> 9,452.77	<b>Change</b> +9.90	
9,452.77	+9.90	
9,452.77 Percentage +0.10%	+9.90 <b>Time</b> 14 Oct, 4:35 pm	
9,452.77 Percentage +0.10%	+9.90 <b>Time</b> 14 Oct, 4:35 pm GMT+1	
9,452.77  Percentage +0.10%  USA: Dow Jones I	+9.90 Time  14 Oct, 4:35 pm GMT+1  ndustrial Average	
9,452.77 Percentage +0.10% USA: Dow Jones I	+9.90 Time  14 Oct, 4:35 pm GMT+1  ndustrial Average Change	

Percentage	Time	
-2.58%	14 Oct, 3:45 pm GMT+9	

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average

+0.76%

**Index Value** 

46,847.32

-2.58%	14 Oct, 3:45 pm GMT+9	
Open Market Forex Rates		

GMT-4

Change

-1,241.48

Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	185.6	190.6
Bahrain Dinar	746.9	754.4
Canadian Dollar	205.6	212.6
China Yuan	39.95	40.35
Danish Krone	44.7	45.3
Euro	331.95	335.45
Hong Kong Dollar	36.55	36.9
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	77.38	78.08
Saudi Riyal	75.4	76.05
Singapore Dollar	216.85	221.6
Swedish Korona	30.10	30.40
Swiss Franc	355.12	357.87
Thai Bhat	8.73	8.88
U.A.E Dirham	76.9	77.9
UK Pound Sterling	380.75	383.75
US Dollar	282.75	282.95

### Affordable Brilliance: The TCL P8K QLED TV has it all



Commerce Desk

LAHORE: TCL, Pakistan's No. 1 LED TV brand, proudly introduces its latest innovation, the TCL P8K QLED TV, combining flagship-level performance with accessible pricing to make a luxury home entertainment experience accessible to all.

Majid Khan Niazi, Director of Marketing at TCL Middle East and Africa, shared, "The P8K represents our vision of democratizing premium technology. It's designed for those who seek a high-per $formance\,QLED\,experience\,without$ compromise, proving that cutting-edge entertainment doesn't have to come with an extravagant price tag."

The TCL P8K QLED TV is now available nationwide at TCL flagship stores, authorized retailers, and online at www. tclpakistan.com.

# Aurangzeb meets IMF Director, reaffirms commitment to Pakistan's reform agenda

#### **Spokesman Report**

WASHINGTON: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb had a busy first day of his official visit to the United States with a series of high-level meetings on the sidelines of the Annual Meetings of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank Group (WBG) in Washington.

The minister and his delegation had a key meeting with Jihad Azour, Director of the IMF's Middle East and Central Asia Department, and his team, a news release

Both sides exchanged views on Pakistan's reform agenda and reaffirmed their shared commitment to sustaining the current momentum of reforms, a news release said.

The meeting reviewed progress under the Second Review of the Extended Fund Facility (EFF) and acknowledged the importance of maintaining macroeco-



Senator Aurangzeb also attended the Commonwealth Finance Ministers' Meeting where he underscored the importance of prioritizing concrete actions to advance a resilient and prosperous Commonwealth.

He voiced support for the operationalization of the Commonwealth Infrastructure and Financial Resilience Hub, as well as the Technical Assistance Fund for peer review and capacity building.

The finance minister reiterated the central importance of climate financing for developing countries like Pakistan and emphasized the urgent need to operationalize mechanisms such as the Loss and

In another meeting, Senator Aurangzeb had extensive engagement with Axel van Trotsenburg, Senior Managing Director of the World Bank Group.

He expressed appreciation for the World Bank's continued commitment to Pakistan's national development agenda.

### Earning livelihood

ISLAMABAD: A Street vendor is selling fancy nests of birds and wooden stools on his bicycle along-



## AMC-9 concludes with vision for inclusive finance, policy reform, and rural transformation

#### S Commerce Desk

KARACHI: The 9th Annual Microfinance Conference (AMC-9), organized by the Pakistan Microfinance Network (PMN) in collaboration with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) under the Poverty Alleviation and Inclusive Development Across Rural Sindh (PAIDAR) programme funded by the European Union, concluded with a strong call for innovation, resilience, and inclusive growth to define the future of Pakistan's financial inclusion landscape.

The conference opened with an inaugural session focused on repositioning microfinance as a transformative engine for equitable prosperity. In his welcome address, Mr. Amir Khan, Chairman PMN, highlighted the need for renewed partnerships and innovation to strengthen the sector's role in inclusive growth. Mr. Muneer Kamal, CEO & Secretary General



of the Pakistan Banks Association, reflected on the evolution of microfinance in Pakistan and the need for deeper collaboration to address current economic challenges.

Speaking on behalf of the European Union, Mr. Carlo De Rosa, Development Advisor for Rural Development and Nutrition, underscored the EU's long-standing commitment to advancing equitable growth in Pakistan.

A regulatory dialogue with the Commissioners of the Securities and Exchange

Commission of Pakistan (SECP) Mr. Zeeshan Khattak and Mr. Mujtaba Lodhi, reaffirmed the regulator's commitment to promoting inclusive financial services, enhancing microinsurance, and supporting innovation through flexible regulatory frameworks.

A fireside chat between Mr. Amir Khan, Chairman PMN, and Mr. Saleem Ullah, Deputy Governor State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) underscored the need for adaptive financial solutions for smallholder farmers, microenterprises, and climate-affected

The closing day was attended by Mr. Jameel Ahmad, Governor, State Bank of Pakistan and Syed Murad Ali Shah, Chief Minister Sindh.

AMC-9 concluded with a shared commitment from all stakeholders to implement the conference's recommendations and accelerate financial inclusion.

# **CCP Fines Goods Transport Associations for Freight Rate Fixing**

#### **E** Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) has imposed a penalty of PKR 5 million each on the Transporters of Goods Association (TGA) and Local Goods Transport Association (LGTA). Both associations violated Section 4 of the Competition Act, 2010, which prohibits agreements that fix prices or restrict competition. They have been directed to deposit the penalty within thirty (30) days.

The Bench, comprising Chairman Dr. Kabir Sidhu and Member Bushra Naz, found that the associations had engaged in rate-fixing through collective deliberations and circulars, thereby restricting independent pricing decisions of individual transporters.

While determining penalty, the Bench applied the Guidelines on Imposition of Financial Penalreflect both the seriousness as a deterrent to future violaconsidered the financial position of the respondents and

the gravity of the offence.

The CCP's inquiry revealed that the associations enforced fixed freight rates from Port Qasim to destinations across the country, including Sindh, Balochistan, and adjoining areas, causing spillover effects across supply chains and increasing costs for multiple sectors such as textiles, cement, chemicals, and food. The associations had

argued that their members lacked awareness of competition law and sought leniency. The CCP rejected this plea. reaffirming that "ignorance of law is no excuse" and that all commercial entities are bound to comply with the Competition Act.

The order further warns that failure to pay the penalty will attract an additional fine of PKR 10,000 per day and possible criminal proceedings under Section 38 of the Act

Chairman Dr. Kabir Ahmed Sidhu urged all trade associations to refrain ties, which require that fines from price coordination and sharing of sensitive commerof the infringement and act cial information, emphasizing that such conduct tions. The Commission also undermines fair market competition and harms

#### **PCDMA Demands FBR Extend Tax Return** Deadline to Nov 30 **Amid Portal Woes**

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

KARACHI: The Pakistan Chemicals & Dyes Merchants Association (PCDMA) has called on the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) to extend the income tax return filing deadline from October 15 to November 30, 2025, citing persistent technical issues with the IRIS portal and delays in the issuance of the tax return form.

In a statement, PCDMA chairman Salim Valimuhammad highlighted that the current deadline is impractical due to ongoing procedural and logistical "Taxpayers challenges. are grappling with unresolved technical glitches and frequent slowdowns in the FBR's IRIS portal and persistent internet disruptions, which severely hamper the smooth submission of returns," he said.

# PPL announces Strategic Offshore Partnership with Turkish Petroleum Overseas Company

#### Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Pakistan Petroleum Limited (PPL) is pleased to announce a major milestone in the farm-out process of the Eastern Offshore Indus Block-C, marking the beginning of a strategic collaboration with Turkish Petroleum Overseas Company (TPOC), a wholly owned subsidi-Ortaklığı (TPAO), the national oil company of Turkiye.

high-level engagements between operations. the governments of Pakistan and Turkiye, aimed at deep-

Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in Pakistan's offshore exploration

As part of this strategic initiative, and in the spirit of strengthening the brotherly ties between the two nations, PPL has transferred the operatorship of the block to TPOC, subject to regulatory approvals. This step reflects a ary of Türkiye Petrolleri Anonim broader government-level understanding and aims to incorporate international best practices into This partnership is the result of Pakistan's offshore exploration

In parallel, PPL engaged Oil & Gas Development Company ening bilateral cooperation in Limited (OGDCL) and Mari

gies) in the farm-out process. Both companies conducted thorough due diligence, leading to the successful execution of a farm-out agreement among PPL, TPOC, OGDCL, and MariEnergies.

Under the farm-out agreement, PPL will assign 25 percent Participating Interest (PI) and operatorship to TPOC, and 20 percent PI each to OGDCL and MariEnergies. PPL will retain the remaining 35 percent PI and will continue to play a key role in the block's development.

This collaboration marks a significant step toward unlocking



Pakistan's offshore hydrocarbon potential and sets the foundation for long-term strategic energy cooperation between Pakistan and Turkiye.

#### Pakistan is South Africa First Cricket Test Match Of 3rd Day Play

# Noman Ali double strike puts Pakistan on top as South Africa chase 277

**Asim Tanveer** 

LAHORE: The first cricket test match between Pakistan and South Africa to be played at the Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore has entered the decisive phase. South Africa is 51 runs for the loss of two wickets in the second innings and needs 226 runs to win the first cricket test match against Pakistan. While Pakistan needs 8 wickets of South Africa to win the match.

In the second innings, the Pakistani batting line-up flopped very irresponsibly, the Pakistani cricket team was bowled out for only 167 runs in the second innings.

South Africa's devastating bowling by Senor Muthu-Sammy and Simon Harmer turned the tide of the match in South Africa's favor.

On the third day of the first test at first innings lead could not finish out for 167 runs in its second innings and took a lead of 276 runs against Africa have scored 51 runs for the loss of 2 wickets in the second innings and they need 226 runs to win the match with 8 wickets remaining. South Africa's second innings did not start well either. Captain Aiden Markram was total score of 13 runs. Wian Mulder was out for zero and Nauman Ali caught him by Salman Agha. At the end of the third day's play, Ryan Rickelton was on 29 runs and Tony de Zorzi was on for 269 runs in its first innings. In the first innings, Pakistan got a lead of 109 end of the game. Earlier, on the third day of play, when South Africa started its innings at 216 runs for 6, Pakistani



the Gaddafi Stadium, Pakistan was all the innings which is 109 runs. Tony de Zorzi gave a lot of support to the South African batting and managed South Africa. In response, South to score a century on a challenging wicket. He scored 104 runs with the help of 10 fours and 2 sixes, Harmer was 19 and Rabada was not out on zero. In the bowling of Pakistan, left-arm leg-spinner Noman Ali dismissed 6 South African players, while Sajid bowled by Nauman Ali for 3 runs on a Khan took three and Salman Ali Agha took one South African player. At one point, it seemed that Pakistan would be able to score maximum runs by putting pressure on the South African bowling by showing a brilliant perforthe wicket with 16 runs. Earlier, the mance in the second innings, but this South African team was bowled out did not happen. Pakistan started their second innings against South Africa with a lead of 109 runs. Abdullah runs, which became 276 runs at the Shafiq and Imam-ul-Haq came in to open. Pakistan did not start well. In the second over of the innings, Imamul-Haq was stumped by wicketkeeper bowlers Nauman Ali and Sajid Khan Verini on a Harmer ball and returned did not allow South Africa to score a to the pavilion without scoring any big score and also destroyed the rest runs, which put the Pakistani batting of their batting line. Thus, the South line under pressure. In the 10th over, African team was bowled out for 269 captain Shan Masood was dismissed runs in its first innings and Pakistan's for 7 runs. At that time, Pakistan's total



score was 33 runs. Abdullah Shafiq, who failed in the first innings, batted well today and significantly increased the Pakistani score. He adopted an aggressive style and played short and was caught by bowler Senoren Muthu Sami. He scored 41 runs, including 6 fours. Abdullah Shafiq and Babar Azam had a partnership of 31 runs. Babar Azam also added well to the Pakistani score. He scored 42 runs with the help of 5 fours and was LBW

off Rabada's ball. When the total score reached 150 runs, Saud Shakeel scored 38 runs. Muthu was caught on the boundary by Stubbs off Sammy's ball. Mohammad Rizwan also played irresponsibly and was bowled by Harmer, Shaheen Afridi was caught on the ball by Milder off Sammy's ball. The Pakistani batting line-up's irresponsibility could not be stopped. Salman Agha was bowled by Muthu. Soon after him,





His performance was followed by Sajid third day's play in their second innings Khan who also played short in an irresponsible manner and was caught by Brewes off Harmer on the boundary. Pakistan performed poorly in the second innings against South Africa and restricted the team's score to only 167 runs. South Africa's Senor Muthu Sammy played a key role in flopping the Pakistani batting line in the second innings, taking 5 wickets, while Seaman Harmer took 4 and Rabada took 1 wicket. And thus the Pakistani team was bundled out for 167 runs. Pakistan's lead is 276 runs. In response, South

and they have 8 wickets left. The fourth day's play is very important for Pakistan and South Africa. Pakistan has to dismiss 8 South African players to win the first Test match against South Africa, while South Africa needs 226 runs to win the first Test match against Pakistan. The first session of the match until the lunch break on the fourth day is very important for both teams.

The match officials are scorers Azhar Hussain, Muhammad Arif, and media scorers Najam-ul-Saeed and Zahoor Alam and the match referee is Sri Noman Ali was bowled lbw by Muthu. Africa scored 51 runs at the end of the Lankan Ranjan Madugalle.

### Sports Spirit Ignited at NTU as Textile and Materials Departments Launch Intra-Departmental Games

👺 Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: The cricket ground of the National Textile University (NTU) was brimming with energy and anticipation today as it hosted the grand Opening Ceremony of the Intra-Departmental Sports for the Department of Textile Engineering & Technology and the Department of Materials.

The event was officially inaugurated by the university's Rector, Prof. Dr. Rashid Masood, who ceremoniously kicked off the festivities, marking the beginning of a series of competitive sporting events designed to foster camaraderie and a healthy competitive spirit among the

The ceremony was attended by a distinguished gathering of faculty deans, chairmen, and staff, underscoring the institutional importance of sports along-



Engineering & Technology (SET), who graced the occasion as a chief guest.

They were joined by the heads of Muhammad Qamar Khan, Chairman Jawad Naeem, and lecturers Muzammil healthy lifestyle go hand-in-hand.

side academics. The guest list included (Clothing), and Dr. Usman Zubair, Dr. Zulifiqar Ali, Dean of the School of Chairman (Materials). The event also saw the presence of a significant number of esteemed faculty members, including NTU's commitment to the holistic devel-Dr. Zubair Khaliq, Dr. Asif Hafeez, Dr. the participating departments, Dr. Zakariya Zubair, Dr. Zuhaib Ahmad, Dr.

Mehmood, Iqra Abdul Rashid, Ayesha Afzal, and Farooq Azam.

The university's sports administration was well-represented by Mr. Waqar Ahmed, Deputy Advisor Sports, along with Sports Officers Mr. Imran Ali and Mr. Parvaiz Akhtar, who are instrumental in organizing and overseeing

the sporting events. The opening ceremony sets the stage for what promises to be an exciting season of intra-departmental competitions. The initiative aims to provide students with a platform to showcase their athletic talents, promote physical well-being, and build team spirit outside the classroom. The presence of such high-ranking officials highlights opment of its students, emphasizing that academic excellence and an active,



FAISALABAD: Akmal Ali, who won the Umrah ticket in the Milad event organized by the Professional Photographers Association Registered Faisalabad, is being given cash for the ticket by Khizar Hayat (Khizar Camera Center), Chairman Sved Tanveer Hussain Zaidi, President Muhammad Ahmed, General Secretary Sheikh Qaswar Munir Goreja, Vice Chairman Muhammad Shahid, Senior Vice Presidents Saeed Ahmed, Muhammad Asif, Vice President Muhammad Afzal, Joint Secretary Muhammad Ramzan, Finance Secretary Khurram Shahzad, Information Secretary Abdul Majid, Tahir Hafeez, and others are also present.

### Usman Wazeer sets sights on 18-0, defends WBC OPBF Silver title in Pakistan

**Sports Desk** 

LAHORE: Pakistan's undefeated home crowd. Reflecting on that welterweight sensation Usman title-winning performance, the Wazeer is all set to defend his WBC OPBF Silver Champion-sity of the challenge. "It was a ship title on home soil in the 10-round fight and the first three last week of November 2025. The bout will mark a significant step forward not just in Usman's career, but in Pakistan's presence on the global boxing stage.

Wazeer, who clinched the WBC OPBF Silver belt earlier and 22 seconds in the tenth," this year in Thailand by defeating he said. The bout was broad-Indonesia's top-ranked boxer cast live on DAZN and watched

return to the ring in front of his 24-year-old recalled the intenrounds were tough because of his experience, over 50 fights. But I trusted my stamina and game plan. I gained control from the fourth round onwards and knocked him out at 2 minutes

growing attention on his promising career.

Now preparing for what will be his 18th professional fight, Wazeer carries a perfect record of 17 wins without defeat. "I'm confident about defending my title. I want to make history on Pakistani soil and raise the national flag with pride," he working hard to prepare me for this challenge, and I'll be aiming

A key part of Usman's

Stevie Ferdinandus, is eager to in 168 countries, a proof of the journey has been the support of ACTIVIT, a sports and health initiative led by Rd. Rizwan Aftab Ahmed, who is also the Director of National Hospital DHA Lahore. "ACTIVIT has fully sponsored my last four international fights, which I won. Their backing, from financial aid to medical support for me and my family, has been said. "My coach and team are a major morale booster," he noted. "They've created a family-like environment for athletes, and their belief in me keeps me focused and motivated."

stan, Wazeer's rise in boxing is nothing short of inspirational. With limited sporting infra- in Islamabad. structure in his hometown, he initially moved to Islamabad debut in 2019 in Dubai, and by for football trials, but fate redirected him towards boxing. He began his journey in 2015 at a local boxing club, became Islamabad champion in his debut World Youth title and also said. "With my team behind amateur year, and went on to win gold at the HEC All-Pakistan Championship in 2017. His performance in the 2018 Punjab includes wins over opponents for Gilgit-Baltistan, but for all Games caught the eye of Brit-

Born in Astore, Gilgit-Balti- ish-Pakistani boxing star Amir Tanzania, and Malaysia. Khan, who invited him to train at the Amir Khan Boxing Academy

Wazeer made his professional 2021 had already claimed the WBC Middle East title. In 2022, first Pakistani to win the WBO secured the WBA Asia Welter-

The talented Pakistani boxer is now gearing up for what could be the most significant fight of his career, defending his title in front of a home crowd. "This fight is not just about me. It's about raising the Pakistani flag he made history by becoming the on our own soil and showing the world what we're capable of," he me, I'll correct my weaknesses weight Championship the same and aim for perfection. I want year. His growing list of victories to make history again, not just from India, Indonesia, Thailand, of Pakistan."

# National junior tennis championship begins at Aitchison

**Sports Desk** 

LAHORE: National Junior Tennis Championship 2025 started at the historic Aitchison College here on Tuesday.

The National Junior championship is being held under the auspices of Punjab Lawn Tennis Association (PLTA) and boys and girls in different age categories will participate from across the country.

Principal Aitchison College Dr. S. M. Turab Hussain was the chief guest at the opening ceremony

pursue their tennis journey with number of coaches, players, performances. passion and discipline, aiming to become future ambassadors of the sport and a source of pride for Pakistan.

Dr. Hussain also hailed tireless efforts of Mr. Rashid Malik. Senior Executive Vice President PLTA, for his continued dedication to promoting tennis throughout the country.

Other notable attendees included Waqar Nisar, Finance Secretary PLTA, Sohail Malik, Sajjad Rasool, Tournament Referee, Faheem Siddiqui, Tourand encouraged the players to nament Coordinator and a large

parents, and tennis enthusiasts who gathered.

The championship kicked off with intense matches in the boys U-18, U-14, and U-12 categories. In the boys U-18 first-round action, Abubakar Talha and Asad Zaman dominated their respective matches with commanding narrowly edged Salal Bugti in a 6-0, 6-0 victories. Zohaib Afzal Malik, Amir Mazari, and Hamza Ali Rizwan also showcased their skill with convincing wins. Meanwhile, Abdullah Pirzada,

Abdullah Sajjad, and Aryaan

Hassan progressed after solid

In the boys U-14 category, several matches stood out. M Shayan Afridi, Muhammad Daniyal, and Zayd Mansoor cruised through with clean 4-0, 4-0 wins. Zohaib Amjad staged a comeback victory against M Faizan, while M Musa Ali

thrilling 4-2, 2-4, 5-4 encounter. The boys U-12 round also delivered impressive performances. Muhammad Muaz of Fatima Group began his campaign strongly, winning both his U-14 and U-12 matches



Raahim included

convincingly. Other winners Mustafa Zia, Mustafa Uzair all advanced to the next rounds Faisal, Rana, and Nameer Ahsan, who with straight-set victories.

Meeting

of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Tuesday.

wrapping up his visit to Egypt



Photo: PID

Peace Summit.

after a breakthrough ceasefire agree- him off at the airport.

### Dar meets US Secretary of State Marco Rubio, Türkiye FM Hakan Fidan



#### Mews Desk

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar held a candid exchange with US Secretary of State Marco Rubio and Türkiye's Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan on the margins of the Gaza Peace Summit in Egypt on Monday.

WHO: More than

15,000 cases require urgent medical evacuation in Gaza

supporting efforts that led to the ceasefire and in advancing the shared goal of lasting peace and stability in the region.

He emphasized the importance of continued international engagement and humanitarian support for the people of Gaza and Palestine, and reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to Dar appreciated the role of a just and durable resolution of the the United States and Türkiye in Palestinian cause.

#### **E** City Desk On the occasion, the prime ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister minister attended the historic agree-Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Tuesment signing ceremony besides, held day, arrived here after concluding interactions with different world his two-day visit to Egypt where leaders who had arrived to particihe attended the Gaza Ceasefire and pate in the summit at Egyptian Red Sea resort town of Sharm el-Sheik, Egyptian President Abdel Fattah PM Office Media Wing said in a press al-Sisi and his US counterpart release. Donald Trump co-chaired a gath-Earlier, the prime minister had ering of the world leaders in "the departed from Sharm El Sheikh Summit for Peace" to ensure the end for Islamabad. Egyptian Minister of a more than two-year war in Gaza of Culture Ahmed Fouad Heno saw

# Bilawal lauds PM Shehbaz's diplomacy, says BISP obtains global recognition

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate, Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani in a meeting with Ms. Sahiba Gafarova, Speaker of The Mili Majlis

ISLAMABAD: PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has lauded the foreign policy of federal government and prime minister Shehbaz Sharif who was admired by US President Trump during Gaza peace agreement.

Addressing a book launching ceremony in Karachi on Tuesday, Bilawal hoped that Gaza peace will continue as per the agreethe middle east. He said Raza Rabbani's book on people of Gaza is worth reading. He said people of Pakistan stands has ranked Sindh among ciated.

hoped that Gaza peace accord will coninue as per the agrement reached between two

He lauded Qaim Ali Shah who is former CM and senior PPP leader for his meritorious services. He said Qaim Shah set up special economic zone in Khairpur which is state of the art.

He said PPP will compete with the world as Sindh government has no comparison with other province. He ment and there will be no said PPPP's public private attempt to derail this peace in partnership concept is praise worthy as under this initiative Sindh set up such institutions.

He said Times Magazine with the people of Gaza. He the global list and place it at



no 7. He said entire country support Programme has should join hands to compete global recognition and it was the world. He said if some being copied in several coungovernment is doing excellent work, it should be appre-

tries. He said BISP had given unexpected benefits to the government as people can He said Benazir Income help victim and people. He

houses for flood victims under Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah. Bilawal said Sindh government was providing ownership rights to women. He lauded Raza Rabbani for writing a book on Gaza children.

Addressing Paktunkhaw Governor, Bilawal urged Mr Kundi to reach Peshawar and look into the affairs as per law.

said during coronavirus, BISP

which was rename as Ehsas

Programme worked effi-

ciently. He said during floods,

BISP programme was used by

Shehbaz Sharif to support the

He said Sindh govern-

ment was building 2 million

poor people.

# Supreme Court judges spar while hearing pleas against 26th Amend

#### 👺 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: An argumentation took place between Justice Jamal Mandokhel and Justice Avesha A. Malik of the constitutional bench of the Supreme Court (SC) on Tuesday when the former said that the Supreme Court (SC) rules had been made in the presence of 24 judges of the apex court.

These remarks during the hearing of 36 petitions filed against the 26th Amendment irked Justice Ayesha who said not all judges were present at rules. "I had penned down a meeting, adding all judges had ings in the case until and unless each other. Justice Muhammad



note in this regard," she added. Justice Mandokhel then



been asked to give their input. He further said that there the time of the making of these asked for minutes of the would be no further proceed-

the matter was cleared.

The attorney general of Pakistan said that since it was an internal matter, therefore, it should not be discussed in the court. Justice Mandokhel replied

that he had been called a liar. "I am speaking to a lawyer, not to you," the judge said

angrily to Justice Ayesha. Justice Mandokhel insisted that he would not allow the

proceedings to continue until and unless he was finished. Justice Musarrat Hilali urged both the judges to exercise restraint and don't shout at

Ali Mazhar remarked that the rules had been made through circulation. "Some of the judges had given their output, while others did not."

Justice Aminuddin Khan asked whether the chief justice had the power to form a full court comprising all judges of the constitutional bench.

Abid Zuberi, counsel for the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA), replied that the chief justice had the power to form a full court. "A direction can be given to form a full court," he added.

The case's hearing was adjourned until tomorrow.

# **PHC directs** KP governor to administer oath to CM-elect Sohail Afridi today

#### 👺 Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: The Peshahas directed Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi on Tuesday to Minister-elect Sohail Afridi today at 4pm.

PHC Chief Justice (CJ) S. M. Attique Shah issued the directive, further for the newly elected Chief instructing that KP Minister to take over the Assembly Speaker Babar office. Saleem Swati should administer the oath if the Governor of Khyber Pakhgovernor Kundi did not.

short notice directed KP

#### Assembly will administered the oath.

The decision on the petiwar High Court (PHC) tion was announced by Chief Justice of Peshawar High Court SM Atiq Shah. The brief order said Ali administer the oath to Chief Amin Khan Gandapur announced his resignation on the assembly floor. After which a new Chief Minister was elected. It is necessary

The PHC order said the tunkhwa has a fixed time PHC Chief Justice in his according to which the oath-taking should be done. Governor to administer The Governor of Khyber oath tomorrow by 4pm. Pakhtunkhwa should take He said if Governor fails the oath of office from the to do so then Speaker KP Chief Minister immediately. eradicated," he resolved.

# PM reaffirms polio-free Pakistan as vaccination team attacked in Swat

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday strongly condemned the terrorist attack on the polio vaccination team in Swat's Matta area, in which a security official was martvred.

The prime minister, in a statement, expressed grief over the martyrdom of Levies personnel Abdul Kabeer, who was on duty to safeguard the polio vaccination team.

Praying for peace for the martyred soul and patience for the bereaved family, he said that the attack on those serving the important cause of polio eradication was intolerable.

"The government committed to the complete eradication of polio from the country. Despite such resistance from terrorists, the antipolio campaign continues with full momentum and will go on until the disease is completely Published by: Almass Ayoub Sabir from Zero Point Printers Rawalpindi





GAZA: The World Health Organization (WHO) warned of the deteriorating health situation in the Gaza Strip, confirming that more than 15,600 patients require urgent medical evacuation for treatment outside the Strip.

recent war, calling for enhanced continue.

monitoring of disease and viral outbreaks due to the deteriorating health situation and damaged infrastructure

The WHO stressed the need to reopen medical corridors out of the Gaza Strip to ensure patients' access to specialized treatment centers and emergency medical care, warning The organization explained that of the worsening humanitarian more than 15,000 people have had and health crisis if the closure and limbs amputated as a result of the delays in providing medical support