

# ABC Rectified The Spokesman

Barkat Rice Mills



# Pakistan's Nayyab Ali becomes first transgender woman shortlisted for UN special rapporteur role

In a landmark development, Nayyab Ali, a renowned Pakistani human rights defender and policy expert, has been officially shortlisted by the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) for the position of UN special rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights Defenders.



FBR extends deadline for filing income tax returns until Oct 31

A Leading National Daily

The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) on Wednesday again extended the deadline for submitting income tax returns. According to a notification issued by the FBR, the deadline extended by 16 days, now set for October 31, 2025.

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Rabius Sani 22, Thursday, October 16, 2025



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### Meeting

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari in a meeting with Chief of Army Staff, Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, on



# Pakistan, Afghanistan agree to 48-hour ceasefire amid border tensions

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: The Foreign Office (FO) announced on Wednesday that Pakistan and Afghanistan have agreed to a 48-hour temporary ceasefire following recent border clashes.

According to the FO statement, "A mutual agreement has been reached between the Government of Pakistan and the Afghan Taliban regime to observe a 48-hour ceasefire starting from 6 p.m. today, upon the Taliban's request."

sides will make genuine efforts to resolve the ongoing tensions province and capital Kabul amid through constructive and peaceful



dialogue, the statement added. Earlier, Pakistan's armed forces During this period, both carried out targeted precision strikes in Afghanistan's Kandahar

the two nations, state broadcaster PTV News reported on Wednesday.

According to security sources quoted by PTV, the Pakistan rising border tensions between Army launched retaliatory oper-

ations against Afghan Taliban sites were "carefully selected, aggression, destroying key militant strongholds in Kandahar. "Afghan Taliban Battalion No. 4 and Border Brigade No. 6 were completely eliminated, resulting in the deaths of numerous foreign and Afghan fighters," the statement said.

The sources added that Pakistan's military possesses the full capability to respond decisively to any external aggression. PTV later confirmed that additional strikes were carried out in Kabul, where "the leadership of Fitna al-Hindustan" - a term used for militant outfits in Balochistan - was

also targeted. The statement noted that all

isolated from civilian areas, and successfully destroyed."

Earlier, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said that Pakistani forces had repelled an Afghan Taliban assault along the Balochistan border, killing between 50 militants after attacks at four locations in the Spin Boldak area.

According to a statement issued by the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the Afghan Taliban's brutal assault in Spin Boldak was foiled after Pakistani forces launched a strong retaliatory operation, eliminating several militants.

Continued on Page 7

# Mohsin Naqvi visits house of martyred Lt-Col Junaid in Rawalpindi



#### 👺 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi and Minister of State for Interior Talal Chaudhry visited the house of martyred Lieutenant Colonel Junaid in Rawalpindi on Wednesday. Mohsin Naqvi and Talal Chaudhry met with the mother, family and children of martyred Lieutenant Colonel Junaid.

Mohsin Naqvi and Talal

Chaudhry expressed their heartfelt sympathy and condolences to the bereaved family and prayed for the elevation of the ranks of martyred Lieutenant Colonel Junaid.

Mohsin Naqvi's tribute to the courage of the mother and family of martyred Lieutenant Colonel Junaid.

Talking to mother the martyred Lieutenant Colonel Junaid, Mohsin Naqvi said seeing the courage of a courageous

mother like you, our courage has increased.

Mohsin Naqvi said every drop of the blood of martyrs is a guarantee of the protection of the homeland. Martyrs sacrificed their lives and crushed the ambitions of terrorists, Mohsin Naqvi said.

On the occasion Talal Chaudhry said martyrs are the pride and wealth of the nation.

He said the nation will never forget the sacrifices of its heroes.

# Senior PPP leader Agha Siraj Durrani passes away

#### **Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: Senior PPP leader and former Sindh Assembly Speaker Agha Siraj Durrani breathed his last at a hospital in Karachi on Wednesday. Agha treatment at Dr Ziauddin Hospital for the last three weeks.

Agha Siraj Durrani was born on October 5, 1953, in Garhi Yasin, Shikarpur district. He belonged to a prominent polit-

ical family of Sindh. His father Agha Saddruddin and uncle Agha Baddruddin had also served as the provincial assembly speakers.

Expressing deep grief and shock over the demise of Siraj Durrani had been under Durrani, President Asif Ali Zardari has expressed deep sorrow over the passing of former Speaker of the Sindh

Assembly, Agha Siraj Durrani. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday expressed

grief over the death of former Sindh Assembly Speaker Agha Siraj Durrani. The prime minister, in a state-

ment, paid tribute to late Agha Siraj Durrani for his services as the Sindh Assembly speaker, saying that his contributions to politics and public welfare would always be remembered.

He prayed for the forgiveness of the deceased soul and strength for the bereaved family to bear



### President Zardari, Field Marshal Asim **Munir discuss** Afghanistan situation, national security

#### Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari met with Field Marshal Sved Asim Munir. during which they discussed the situation in Afghanistan and matters of internal and external security.

Field Marshal Asim Munir briefed the President on ongoing operations along the Afghan border and the military's response to Afghan aggression.

President Zardari expressed full confidence in the preparedness, capabilities, and bravery of the armed forces, praising their vigilance and professionalism in thwarting border attacks and defending

that Pakistan will defend its repelled by Pakistani forces.

security at all costs.

Meanwhile, the Pakistan Army successfully repelled coordinated attacks by the Afghan Taliban and the militant group Fitna al-Khawarij in Chaman's Spin Boldak area, killing around 50 Afghan Taliban fighters.

According to a statement issued by the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the Afghan Taliban's brutal assault in Spin Boldak was foiled after Pakistani forces launched a strong retaliatory operation, eliminating several militants.

On the morning of October 15 (Wednesday), the Afghan Taliban carried out cowardly attacks at four locations in Balochistan's Spin Boldak, The President reaffirmed all of which were effectively

### President, PM condemn cross-border attack from Afghan soil



跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif have strongly condemned the unprovoked cross border attacks on Pakistani border posts from the Afghan territory.

In a statement, the president said these are a blatant violation of Pakistan's sovereignty. He said such attacks harm regional peace and friendly relations. The President paid tribute to the bravery and professionalism of the armed forces. He said Pakistan Army effectively repulsed attacks in Spin Boldak and Kurram sector.

He said the Afghan Taliban violating the Doha Agreement. He said Afghan Taliban condemnable.

are providing safe havens to terrorists, who are becoming a threat to countries across the region. The President called upon the Afghan authorities to ensure their territory is not used for terrorism and anti-Pakistan activities.

In a statement Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif also voiced concerns over provocations at Pakistan-Afghanistan border by the Afghan Taliban, Fitna-al- Hindustan and Fitna-al-Khawarij. He said Pakistan Army gave a strong response to the unprovoked aggression by the Afghan Taliban. He said the country's sover-

eignty will be defended at all costs. He said the use of government is continuously Afghan soil for terrorist incidents in Pakistan is highly

#### SC's Justice Mazhar says CB has power to hear 26th Amendment case

#### 跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar of the constitutional bench (CB) of the Supreme Court (SC) said on Wednesday that the bench could hear the 26th Amendment case. During the hearing of 36 petitions filed against the 26th Amendment, the judge remarked that if need arose, all judges could be included in the bench. "I am surprised that you are asking for the judges of your choice," he said while addressing the Supreme Court Bar Association's (SCBA) lawyer Abid Zuberi.

An eight-member bench, headed by Justice Aminuddin

Khan, heard the petitions. Zuberi said that the consti-

tutional committee had the power to form constitutional Addressing the judges, he

said that they all had judicial

powers, which could not be

taken away from them. Justice Ayesha Malik asked Zuberi the reason for his demand for the formation of

a full court. She asked whether an order could be given to the judicial commission. "Or should we assume that the commission is

superior than the apex court?" she questioned. The case's hearing was adjourned until October 20.

# AJK PM calls for immediate administrative reforms to strengthen public services

#### 👺 Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: An extraordinary meeting chaired by Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq reviewed the overall administrative and governance framework with particular focus on enhancing public service delivery and strengthening the governance structure.

During the meeting, the AJK Prime Minister directed all departments to promptly address public issues and ensure that citizens are kept informed about government initiatives through social media plat-

Speaking on the occasion, Prime Minister Haq said that work was He added that all officials must take the administrative structure."Wherever there's urgent need for action, it will be taken without delay.

will be run strictly in accordance with evolves with time." the Rules of Business," he asserted.



remarked."Reforms are introduced

functioning of the system," he said.

underway to introduce reforms in responsibility and play their part with sincerity and dedication.

"We must move forward with passion, ensuring administrative Whatever commitment we have improvement and reforms in the made must be fulfilled under all conduct of governance," he said, circumstances. The affairs of the state adding that an efficient system

The evolution of an effective work with dignity and exemplary to improve governance.

system is not just a one-day affair; commitment. it requires time," the Prime Minister

A deliberate policy of confrontation only leads to destruction." Describing to bring political and administrative the bureaucracy as the backbone of improvement and to ensure smooth governance, he said it was the prime responsibility of the state's bureau-Highlighting the need for fostering crats to keep the system functional. a sense of discipline at all levels, he The present coalition government, said, "Administrative officers should he said, will take every possible step

#### Last Press Conference

Muzaffarabad: Last slights of Peer Mazhar Saeed Shah ex Minister of Azad Kashmir Government during the announcement of resignation from cabinet slot in the PID Complex flanked by DGPR Raja Amjad Hussain Minhas Director Informa-



# Maryam Idris calls on British Lord Shafaq

### Mohammad **Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: (PML-N) Central Vice President of Women's Sector Maryam Idris held an important meeting with Member of House of Lords Lord Shafaq Mohammad in Islamabad.

They discussed various issues including role, education rights, health and economic strengthening. It is an honor that you have made the name of not only Kashmir but Pakistan internationally bright.

Highlighting the issue of Kashmir at the global level also deserves your praise. Your struggle and continuity of hard work is a torch for today's

young generation.



Mariam Idris said that if women are educated and

empowered, they will not only be able to play their best role in the construction of a dysfunctional society but also their abilities to lead will be more effective.

Idris's political struggle, women's rights, Kashmir and Palestine issues have been raised effectively on every forum. Keep moving forward with a determination to fight for the rights of women like you. You are the pride of society and give hope to the new generation.

Lord Shafaq Mohammad said that the government should immediately invest in solar energy in Pakistan to overcome the energy crisis.

## Muslim Conference Marks 93 Years, Reaffirms Commitment to Kashmir's Accession to Pakistan

#### 👺 Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: On the occasion of the 93rd Foundation Day of the All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference, the Central Chairperson of the Women's Wing and ticket holder for Valley-6, Samia Sajid, stated that the Muslim Conference is the heir and guardian of the Kashmir freedom movement, which has always upheld the political identity, national unity, and ideology of accession to Pakistan for the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

She said that on this day, we pay rich tribute to the founders and workers of to the cause of Kashmir's freedom. Muslim Conference has always stood



this great party who devoted their lives Samia Sajid emphasized that the

firmly with the refugees of Jammu and Kashmir. She noted that a committee for the rehabilitation of Jammu and Kashmir refugees was established with the signatures of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, and that the then President of the Muslim Conference, Chaudhry Ghulam Abbas, served as its head, while the governors of

Pakistan's provinces were its members. She further mentioned that in 1970, Mujahid-e-Awal Sardar Muhammad Abdul Qayyum Khan secured the right of dual voting and increased the number of seats for refugees after negotiations with then-President General Muhammad Yahya Khan. The Muslim Conference has always

played a guiding role at every stage of the freedom movement and has kept the Kashmiri people united on one platform.

She highlighted that under the leadership of Rais-ul-Ahrar, Quaide-Millat Chaudhry Ghulam Abbas (RA), the Muslim Conference, on 19 July 1947, passed the Resolution of Accession to Pakistan, thereby providing a clear destination for the Kashmiri people. Later, in the 1970s, Mujahid-e-Awal Sardar Muhammad Abdul Qayyum Khan gave the slogan "Kashmir Banega Pakistan" (Kashmir will become Pakistan), providing ideological and intellectual guidance to the nation.

# Dengue war continues in Azad Kashmir including Muzaffarabad

#### Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: Dengue virus has once again turned dangerous in Azad Jammu and Kashmir. During the last 24 hours on Sunday, 21 more people were confirmed with the dengue virus, taking the total number of infected patients to 2,803. According to the Dengue Control Room, the worst affected district is Muzaffarabad, where 2,108 cases have been reported. Mirpur recorded 458 cases and Zillabagh recorded 115 cases. Elsewhere, the situation is also worrying: 16 in Jhelum Valley, 33 in Neelam, 3 in Siddhanti, 6 in Haveli, 40 in Poonch, 13 in Kotli and

Currently, 14 patients are undergoing treatment in various government and private hospitals, while an additional 386 patients have been discharged home after recovering. Medical experts appeal to the public to take health and hygiene precautions, avoid standing water and ensure the use of protective spray to prevent the spread of dengue.

### Indian agencies launch neverending series of raids in occupied Kashmir: Mushtaq Ahmad But



#### Abdul Majeed Tahir

Information Secretary of All Jamaat Hurriyat Conference (Azad Kashmir and Pakistan Branch) Mushtaq Ahmad Butt spoke at length The constant raids on the homes of representatives and ordinary citizens are strongly

They said these inhuman actions have created an atmosphere of fear, terror and insecurity across the valley. Indian forces have turned occupied Jammu and Kashmir into a siege where every aspect of life is under the shadow of military surveillance and repression.

Mushtaq Ahmad Butt said that to mislead the international community, India is claiming that there is peace and stability in the valley, even though the reality is quite the opposite.

The deployment of more than ten lakh military personnel in the state is clear evidence of the fact that Kashmir near India is not a political issue but a military campaign. They said that the actions of Indian forces are not merely to suppress

political opposition but to erase the collective consciousness, identity and resolve of the Kashmiri people.
Finally, Mushtaq Ahmad Butt said that the Kashmiri people have lit

the candle of freedom with their blood and they will not let it burn under

### CM Task Force on prisons Rana Manan Khan visits TT Singh district jail



#### **Zafar Chishti**

TOBA TEK SINGH: In line with Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif's good governance vision, reform and welfare measures across the province's prisons are being accelerated. Chairperson of the Chief Minister's Task Force on Prisons, Rana Manan Khan, paid a detailed visit to the District Jail Toba Tek Singh on Tuesday, accompanied by Deputy Commissioner Umar Abbas Mela.

During the visit, the chairperson inspected the jail hospital, women's barracks, kitchen, general barracks and other sections of the facility. He interacted with inmates and inquired about the quality of food, healthcare, and living conditions. Rana Manan Khan reviewed the food preparation process in the jail kitchen and directed the administration to ensure nutritious and hygienic meals for prisoners.

He said that Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif is taking practical and effective measures for the welfare and rehabilitation of inmates. The chairperson added that industrial units are being introduced in prisons to help inmates learn skills and secure employment after release. He also emphasized education, vocational training, and psychological rehabilitation as key components of prison reform.

Certificates were distributed among prisoners who completed the air-conditioner mechanic course. Rana Manan directed jail authorities to ensure strict compliance with the Jail Manual and further improve medical facilities for inmates.

#### SSP Poonch Khawar Ali Shaukat left for USA for receiving the International Award

#### 👺 Bureau Report

MIRPUR: Senior Superintendent of Police Ponchkhawar Ali Shaukat of Azad Kashmir Police left for USA to receive the International Award where he will attend the International Police Inter-Annual Conference held on October 21 in Kolarawood, USA. The International Association of Chiefs of Police (IAS) has 40 police officers from around the world to provide high professional services to the police, eradicate crime



from society and implement a police system that meets international standards. SSP Khawar Ali Shaukat from Azad Kashmir who is currently posted in Poonch has been nominated. Provide high quality and professional services in the police system in an optimal manner to establish security, eradicate crime from society and eradicate other social evils including drugs. His nomination for the International Award is a great honor for Azad Kashmir and Pakistan. SSP Khawar Ali Shoukat left for Colorado, USA, where he attended the International Police Conference to receive the award.





SERV	<b>ICES</b>
Namaz 1	Timings
Fajr	
Zohr	11:54 am
Asr	3:54 pm
Maghrib	5:34 pm
Isha	6:57 pm

#### EMEDGENCY

EMERGENC	. T
Rescue (Police)	15
Bomb Disposal	15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/	
Islamabad	1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance	1122 &
& Rescue Services	4451122
Motorway Police9	266044
Motorway Police927	0601-20

#### **Women Police Stations**

Jtutiviis		
Islamabad	9222596	
Rawalpindi	9270601-20	
FNA	IIIBV	

ENQU	JIRY
Edhi Ambulance	
PIA Flight Info	114
PIA Cargo	9280979
Railway Inquiry	
Railway Exchange	
WASA Rawalpindi	5555489

#### HOSPITALS

5611111
561116
561116
9270907-11
5556311-4
9290301-7
9290322-7
9261170-79
9218300-09
4603666

CDA	9221334-43
CDA	9208301-04
Met Office	9250360-6
RDA	5555864
TMA	5770886
Cantonment Board	9270151-3
Islamabad Metropo	litan
Corporation	9209224
Potohar Town	9209224
Rawal Town	5773343

**DEPARTMENTS** 

#### **COMPLAINTS** Water Tanker Service

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

#### Attock police arrested drug dealers

👺 Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: Excellent action by Attock Police: Two drug dealers arrested — 1300 grams of heroin and 1100 grams of hashish recovered, narate cases registered

According to details, during patrol duty, Sub-Inspector Nauman Zia of Police Station Injra recovered 1300 grams of heroin from Naseer Ullah, son of Doran Khan, resident of Nakka Afghana, Tehsil Jand. Meanwhile, Assistant Sub-Inspector Shehzad Ali of Police Station Hazro, during patrol, arrested Muhammad Ashraf, son of Muhammad Aslam, resident of Kalu Kalan, Tehsil Hazro, District Attock, after recovering 1100 grams of hashish from his possession.

Both suspects were sent behind bars, and separate cases have been registered against them.

# Selling contaminated water in Kautchary Multan, action demanded against lawyer-owned company

#### Special Correspondent

MULTAN: A shocking revelation has surfaced in District Courts Multan, where ordinary tap water is reportedly being sold under the guise of mineral water. The issue was exposed by the Vice President of the District Bar Association Multan, Advocate Khalid Khan Baloch. Khalid Khan personally inspect- $\stackrel{-}{\operatorname{ed}} a \, stall \, inside \, the \, \stackrel{-}{\operatorname{court}} \, premises \, where \,$ bottled water under the brand name



"Nalson" was being sold. According to are lawyers themselves, which is why the him, the bottles contained visible particles floating in the water, clearly indicat- vant departments have avoided taking ing that it was unsafe and substandard. He further stated that he had received multiple complaints alleging that this water was being sold as fake mineral water. Upon investigation, it was discovered that the brand has been supplying water to the court premises for the past three years. Advocate Khalid Khan revealed that the owners of the company bility regarding its sale.

Punjab Food Authority and other releaction. He added that dozens of lawyers and visitors consume this contaminated water daily. Highlighting alleged corruption, the Vice President claimed that a portion of the revenue from the sale of this water is shared with the Bar President and Secretary General, which has prevented any restrictions or accounta-

Khalid Khan Baloch has urged the Deputy Commissioner Multan and the Director of the Punjab Food Authority to take immediate notice, collect laboratory samples, and initiate legal proceedings against those responsible.

He strongly condemned the practice. saying that playing with public health within such a key government institution is both disgraceful and a blatant violation of law which must not be tolerated under any circumstances.

#### Calls on

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Turkmenistan Atadjan Movlamov calls on Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture Division Aurangzeb Khan Khichi here on Wednesday.



## **GCWUF** Hosts Inspiring Seminar on Literacy, Knowledge & Youth Leadership

FAISALABAD: Majid)Under the Vice Chancellor's flagship Young Leaders Program, the Learning Resource Center (LRC) organized an engaging seminar titled "Literacy & Knowledge Enrichment" under the Developing Young Leaders Program, in collaboration with the Society of Reading & Knowledge (SRK), Literary Society, and Reading Club.

The seminar promoted reading culture, critical thinking, and leadership among students through essay and speech competition

Mr. Asif Ch, Director General FDA, graced the event as Chief Guest, emphasizing the vital role of educated youth in national progress and praising the SRK Reading App for advancing digital literacy.

In her address, Prof. Dr. Kanwal Ameen encouraged students to adopt purposeful reading habits that shape character and broaden perspective highlighted the transformative heads of academic departments responsible young leaders.



towards life and the world. prominent speakers, including Mr. Rana Muhammad Abid Khan, Mr.

Rammy, and Mr. Adnan Baig,

power of reading, creativity, and advisors of student societie and intellectual engagement.

Prof. Dr. Saima Akram,

The event concluded with the distribution of souvenirs Convener Library Committee, and certificates, reaffirming Tariq Khan Niazi, Mr. Waheed delivered the welcome note. GCWUF's commitment to The session was attended by nurturing enlightened and

# Commissioner Multan Amir Kareem Khan Meets Chairman of Old City Authority Baku

腾 Kiran Asim

BAKU: Commissioner Multan Division Amir Kareem Khan held a significant meeting with Mr. Rufat Mahmud, Chairman of the Board of the Administration of the State Historical-Architectural Reserve Icherisheher (which means "Old City") in Baku, Azerbaijan. The meeting focused on strengthening cultural ties, promoting shared heritage, and exploring avenues of mutual cooperation between the two historic cities.

During the meeting, Commissioner Amir Kareem Khan highlighted the deep historical, architectural, and cultural

Referring to the Multani Caravanserai located in Baku — originally built in the at the Multani Caravanserai, to show-14th century by the rulers of the Shirvanshah dynasty for merchants from Multan who traded along the ancient welcomed and approved the proposal, Silk Route — he said that the site stands acknowledging it as a meaningful step as a powerful symbol of historic friendship between the two regions.

The Commissioner proposed the



connections between Multan and Baku. establishment of a "Multani Corner" within the museum being developed case the cultural and artistic heritage of Multan. Chairman Rufat Mahmud toward deepening cultural collabora-

The Multani Corner will feature

blue pottery, camel-skin art, traditional mango crafts, and historic souvenirs, along with displays highlighting the religious and spiritual identity of the City of Saints — Multan. Exhibits will include depictions of Sufi shrines, calligraphy, devotional music, and ancient craftsmanship, offering visitors a vivid experience of Multan's rich spiritual and artistic traditions.

The meeting also discussed organizing a Mango Festival in Baku in collaboration with the Multan Chamber of Commerce, aimed at enhancing people-topeople contact, trade, and cultural exchange.

Commissioner Amir Kareem Khan further suggested naming a square or park in Multan as "Baku Square" or "Baku Park", while proposing a reciprocal gesture by establishing a "Multan Square"or "Multan Park" in Baku. Chairman Rufat Mahmud appreciated the idea and assured that it would be considered in consultation with relevant authorities.

Both sides agreed that all proposed initiatives will be implemented following the formal approval of competent authorities from both countries.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Commissioner Amir Kareem Khan extended an invitation to Chairman Rufat Mahmud to visit Multan and witness the city's historical landmarks, vibrant culture, and centuries-old



ISLAMABAD: Mrs. Wang Ping and Mrs. Saboohi Kamal Pasha sign an MoU to strengthen Pakistan-China trade and investment ties, under the collaboration of Digital Nexus and PACH International.

#### CEO Health Visits THQ Hospital Kamalia



Zafar Chishti

TOBA TEK SINGH: Chief Executive Officer Health, District Health Authority Toba Tek Singh, Dr. Kashif Nadeem, paid a visit to Tehsil Headquarters (THQ) Hospital Kamalia today. During the visit, Medical Superintendent (MS) THQ Hospital Kamalia, Dr. Mian Adeel Arif, gave a detailed briefing to the CEO regarding the hospital's administrative and medical affairs.

Dr. Kashif Nadeem also inspected the polio counter established for the ongoing anti-polio campaign. He interacted with the staff present there and inquired about the process of administering polio drops to children.

The CEO Health further visited the outdoor laboratory, outdoor pharmacy, and various departments of the hospital. On the occasion, Dr. Kashif Nadeem directed the MS to ensure that, in line with the vision of Chief Minister Punjab, Ms. Maryam Nawaz Sharif, all patients visiting the hospital receive the best possible basic healthcare facilities.

He emphasized that all available resources should be utilized to provide medicines, diagnostic tests, and essential medical services so that people can have quality healthcare at their doorstep.

Administrative Officer Ali Tasaram, Ms. Sarah, Waseem Dogar, DMS Dr. Ghulam Abbas and Senior Child Consultant Dr. Habib-ur-Rehman were also present during the visit.

#### ADCGAttock ensure price stability

👺 Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: Additional Deputy Commissioner (General) Attock, Aneel Saeed, has said that the district administration will utilize all

available resources to ensure price stability of essential commodities. He expressed these views while presiding over a meeting of the Price Control Committee held at the DC Office, Attock. The meeting was attended by all Assistant Commissioners of the district, DO IPWM Rabia Naseem, committee members, and Price Control Magistrates.

The ADCG Attock directed all Price Control Magistrates to ensure during their market visits that essential commodities are sold strictly at the rates fixed by the government. He emphasized that legal action will be taken against violators.

The ADCG further stated that every possible step will be taken to control the prices of essential items in the open market. During the meeting, new prices for essential commodities were also determined.

#### Five injured in oil depo fire incident in Karachi

KARACHI: Five persons were injured in a oil depo fire incident that took place near Shair Shah area of Karachi, tv channels quoting Rescue sources reported on Wednesday.

According to initial reports, five persons including a woman were injured when oil depo caught fire in a house located at Shair Shah colony area of Karachi. Rescue team after receiving reports rushed to the site and shifted the persons to nearby hospital for treatment of burn injuries.

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#### WHO calls for urgent focus on brain health

he World Health Organization called for urgently scaling up care for neurological conditions, which impact more than three billion people globally, insisting many could be prevented or treated with the right services.

Neurological conditions affect more than 40 percent of the global population, while disorders claim more than 11 million lives each year, the WHO said.

The top 10 neurological conditions contributing to death and disability include stroke, migraine, Alzheimer's disease and other dementias, meningitis, and idiopathic epilepsy, according to the latest numbers, from 2021.

But structural, financial and social barriers are hindering progress against such conditions, while widespread prejudice and misconceptions are preventing people from seeking treatment, the UN health agency warned.

"WHO is calling for urgent, evidence-based and coordinated global action to prioritise brain health and expand neurological care," it said.

Only 63 countries have a national policy on neurological disorders, while only 34 report having dedicated funding.

"With more than one in three people in the world living with conditions affecting their brain we must do all we can to improve the health care they need," said WHO assistant director-general Jeremy Farrar.

"Many of these neurological conditions can be prevented or effectively treated, yet services remain out of reach for most — especially in rural and underserved areas, where people too often face stigma, social exclusion and financial hardship."

The WHO report found that low-income countries have more than 80 times fewer neurologists than high-income

"This shortage means that for many patients, timely diagnosis, treatment, and ongoing care are simply out of

The WHO said chronic underfunding of research, particularly in low- and middle-income countries, was hampering the creation of effective policies on neurological

The Geneva-based agency said only 46 countries offered carer services and just 44 had legal protections for carers — resulting in informal carers having no recognition or means of support.

"Without action, the burden of neurological disorders

will continue to rise," said the WHO.

It urged countries to make the topic a priority through sustained investment, and to expand access to care, promote brain health and strengthen monitoring to help improve decision-making.

# A Strong Message from Pak Army to the Ungrateful Afghan Government

relationship is woven with threads of deep historical, cultural, ethnic, and religious commonality, creating an entanglement that is profound, multifaceted, and long-standing. Despite both nations grappling with immense internal challenges, pervasive economic limitations, and relentless, intense geopolitical pressures, Pakistan has consistently and fundamentally demonstrated an extraordinary, often unreciprocated, profound generosity toward Afghanistan. This sustained support has been channeled primarily through the state apparatus and, critically, through the unwavering efforts, resources, and sacrifices of the Pakistan Army. This commitment transcends mere expedient diplomatic policy, instead reflecting a genuine human concern, a powerful sense of Islamic brotherhood, and a clear understanding of regional responsibility and stability. Pakistan's pivotal, decadeslong role has been demonstrably crucial to Afghanistan's fundamental survival and a modicum of stability during its most difficult and tumultuous periods, encompassing the sustained hosting of millions of refugees for over four decades, the meticulous facilitation of crucial peace talks, the large-scale delivery of substantial humanitarian and material aid, and active, often quiet, assistance in rebuilding vital Afghan infrastructure

and institutional capacity. One of the most remarkable and Pakistani generosity is its sustained and massive operation in hosting Afghan

he complex tapestry of by international bodies as one of the only within Pakistani territory but also mate neighbor with deep historical and the Pakistan-Afghanistan largest and longest-running displace- swiftly across the borders and deep into ethnic ties to serve as a vital bridge for ment operations in contemporary global Afghan territory to provide immediate history. Following the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in 1979, Pakistan immediately and unconditionally opened its borders, providing sanctuary to millions civilians and soldiers to specialized Pakiof displaced Afghans without imposing stani military and civilian hospitals for

> return or demanding sufficient and reciprocal international financial support commensurate with the burden. At its demographic peak, Pakistan accommodated well over 4 million Afghan refugees, a massive influx for a developing economy.

Even now, with political shifts and voluntary repatriations, current official and unofficial estimates still place the number of Afghan residents between 1.3 and 1.7

In addition to these extensive civilian and governmental efforts, the Pakistan Army has been consistently instrumental in providing direct aid, especially during periods of acute regional crisis and natural calamity. The Army has reliably and rapidly deployed its substantial logistical and human resources for disaster response, whether in the face of massive natural disasters like the devastating 2005 and 2010 earthquakes or for ongoing, relentless humanitarian emergencies across the border regions. During these major earthquake disasconcrete testaments to this enduring ters affecting difficult border areas, fully equipped Army field hospitals, essential medical supplies, helicopters, and highly refugees, an effort widely recognized trained rescue teams were deployed not

relief. Over the years, military medical teams have treated many thousands of Afghans, even flying critically injured formal, restrictive conditions for their advanced, often life-saving, care. This

widespread, empathetic humanitarian outreach has been consistently conducted quietly, often under arduous and dangerous conditions in difficult terrain, and largely without the commensurate widespread international recognition or financial

assistance that such an undertaking

**Abdul Basit Alvi** 

warranted. Beyond immediate emergency aid, the Pakistan Army has engaged in significant, long-term capacity building, recognizing the deep institutional voids in the neighboring state. This has included providing structured training, discipline, and comprehensive education in its esteemed military academies to hundreds of Afghan military cadets, police officers, and civil administrators. Furthermore, Pakistan played a crucial and often quiet behind-the-scenes role in mediating between various warring Afghan factions, particularly during and following the 2001 US-led invasion. Despite frequently finding itself caught amid conflicting international, geopolitical, and regional political agendas, Pakistan remained a key facilitator in the intricate peace process, leveraging its unique position as the proxi- and blankets.

dialogue between the Afghan Taliban, the then-recognized Afghan government, and the United States and NATO forces.

Pakistan's economic assistance has also been notably substantial and strategically impactful, even in the context of its own persistent fiscal constraints and severe economic challenges. It has offered significant aid packages, trade concessions, and essential transit rights through its ports to its landlocked neighbor, which is existentially reliant on access to the Arabian Sea through Pakistan. Pakistan has financed the construction of critical infrastructure projects, including specialized hospitals like the Nishtar Kidney Center in Jalalabad, built essential roads connecting trade hubs, and developed various educational facilities across the eastern provinces. Pakistani universities have consistently accepted thousands of Afghan students on generous scholarships, thereby fostering and training a new generation of doctors, engineers, and professionals crucial for Afghanistan's long-term future development. Even in the immediate current climate, Pakistani institutions remain a primary and accessible educational destination for a significant number of Afghan students, underscoring a continuous, uninterrupted commitment to future generations.

The support did not cease with the radical political change in Kabul; in the post-2021 scenario following the Taliban's return to power, Pakistan has meticulously maintained a necessary and continuous flow of humanitarian aid, with the Army and government dispatching convoys of food, medicine,



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

# From Silent Suffering to Conscious Awakening: The Global Message of Mental Health

serves as a reaffirmation of being as much as physical health. It is not merely very foundation of overall human well-being. world, this day urges us to pause and reflect to ities, and strengthen rehabilitation networks.

ask whether, amid our material pursuits, we have neglected our emotional and psychological balance.

According to the World Health Organization, mental health is not merely the absence of illness, but a state in which an individual realizes their abilities, copes effectively with the normal stresses of life, works productively,

and contributes positively to their community. This definition underscores that mental health represents a balanced, active, and creative way of living. A person's mental state profoundly influences their decisions, relationships, performance, and even physiological systems. Scientific research has shown that mental stress triggers hormonal changes in the body, weakens the immune system, and contributes to numerous ailments such as hypertension, diabetes, gastric disorders, and cardiovascular diseases.

In developing countries like Pakistan, mental health remains a serious yet often neglected

orld Mental Health Day, degree of psychological distress. Sadly, mental observed every October, illness is still perceived as a sign of weakness or lack of faith, discouraging people from humanity's commitment seeking help. Moreover, the country faces to valuing mental well- a severe shortage of mental health professionals with roughly one psychiatrist available a day of awareness against mental illness but a for every 200,000 individuals. To bridge this profound reminder that mental health forms the gap, collaboration among government institutions, private sectors, and NGOs is essential In a fast-paced, competitive, and pressure-filled to promote awareness, expand treatment facil-

International research reveals that organizations prioritizing their employees' mental well-being experience higher productivity, creativity, and overall job satisfaction. The World Economic Forum estimates that stress and mental health issues cost the global economy approximately one trillion dollars annually due to absenteeism and reduced

performance. Encouragingly, many Pakistani public and private institutions have begun introducing Employee Well-being Programs to provide counseling, recreational spaces, and emotional support for their staff.

Dr. Muhammad Tayyab

Khan Singhanvi

Promoting mental health requires collective effort at the individual, familial, and societal levels. Schools, colleges, and universities should hold discussions, seminars, and workshops to raise awareness. Counseling centers must be established where issues can be addressed confidentially and respectfully. Media outlets can play a crucial role by sharing issue. Studies indicate that nearly 25 to 30 real-life stories, expert opinions, and positive tribute for helping others heal, rediscover hope, percent of the population suffers from some portrayals of recovery. Parents, teachers, and and reclaim happiness.

peers must recognize that mental illness is not a matter of shame, but a treatable condition. Acts of worship, meditation, reading, and reconnecting with nature help restore inner peace and emotional stability.

The treatment of mental disorders extends beyond medication. Modern scientific studies confirm that psychotherapy, especially counseling, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT), and mindfulness produces significant benefits. Additionally, exercise, a balanced diet, quality sleep, and healthy social connections all contribute to improved mental well-being. The World Health Organization's campaign "Mental Health for All" emphasizes that psychological care should be integrated into general healthcare systems to ensure equitable access for everyone.

It is vital to acknowledge that mental health is not just an individual concern but a matter of social justice, human rights, and sustainable development. A society that ignores the mental peace of its citizens cannot achieve genuine prosperity or collective growth. Therefore, it is imperative to include mental health education in school curricula, encourage organizations to adopt stress management policies, and allocate government funding to this critical sector.

Let us work together to build an environment where discussions about mental health become a normal and respected part of everyday life where no one feels the need to hide their emotions, and where seeking help is seen not as a weakness, but as a mark of strength and awareness. All those who dedicate their lives to  $this\ cause, doctors, psychologists, social\ workers,$ teachers, and volunteers deserve the highest

### The Digital Shift in Immigration: The New Era of Consular Service

#### **Wahid Bukhsh**

he increasing usage of AI chatbots and other tools facilitates communication, connecting the world through video conferences, animated films, various major advance in immigration and consultancy, improving efficiency in counseling procedures, including data collection, security risks, paperwork reduction, cost savings, and time management. Digitalization has transformed consulting firms, making immigration-related information easily accessible online.

Traditional mode: Traditional immigration and consulting methods were challenging, costly, and lengthy. Candidates submitted paperwork and original documents while visiting embassies, leading to processes that took 2 to 4 months due to a lack of consultation. This created a significant administrative burden on embassies and increased expenses for both candidates and embassies.

Transformation: In the early 2000s, digital methods became operational in embassies, accelerating over the following decade. Developed countries created online applications and tracked them in real time, utilizing web apps for vouchers and incorporating fingerprint and facial recognition in data accumulation.

Drawbacks: Challenges remain in implementing digitization, especially in third-world countries like Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, and Sub-Saharan Africa, where internet infrastructure and digital literacy are lacking. Developed countries, by contrast, have abundant internet access and smartphones. Concerns about cybersecurity include personal, financial, biometric, and facial recognition data, as ensuring security in the digital world is challenging. The USCIS experienced a severe cyberattack

in 2020. Transitioning immigration systems is costly, with third-world countries unable to afford expensive servers, technical teams, and IT infrastructure to ensure privacy for domestic and international applicants. Countries such as Nigeria, Zimbabwe, and Nepal face financial constraints that hinder digital applications. Additionally, many nations do games, and several apps. Digitalization is a not accept digital copies of original documents. presenting legal challenges. Technical issues and biometric processing can cause delays in registration or visa procedures. Sensors may fail to scan under various conditions, such as inadequate internet access or insufficient infrastructure, especially for applicants with dark complexions or traditional clothing, and sometimes impair data matching for applicants with physical disabilities.

Conclusion: The extensive use of technology across sectors boosts job efficiency while offering opportunities for innovation. Digitalization provides significant benefits in immigration, including increased efficiency, time savings, and lower costs for applicants. This innovation streamlines the visa application process, tracking, and changes to travel limits and requirements. The system collects substantial data and verifies it against reputable sources. However, the system is also hackable, raising privacy concerns. A lack of internet access and digital infrastructure exists in many parts of the world, with over 70% of the population in third-world countries unable to use current apps or websites. In the future, digitization is likely to become routine. Investigating a successful immigration system in the 21st century is critical. This technology has the potential to strengthen global connections, impacting diplomatic and economic conditions in various states.

The writer is student of BS International Relations (7th Semester) in University of Management and Technology, Lahore

# HRH Crown Prince Announces 'King Salman Gate' Project in Makkah

MAKKAH: His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Crown Prince, Prime Minister and Chairman of the Board of Directors of RUA AlHaram AlMakki Company, announces the launch of King Salman Gate, a transformative multi-use development in the Holy City of Makkah.

Spanning up to 12 million sqm Gross Floor Area adjacent to AlMasjid AlHaram, the project marks a major milestone in the development of Makkah and its central area, establishing it as a global benchmark in modern city planning.

King Salman Gate's urban development and infrastructure transformation will contribute to enhancing access to AlMasjid AlHaram, elevating service quality, and enriching every visitor's journey, in alignment with the goals of the Pilgrim Experience Program.

Strategically located next to AlMasjid AlHaram, the integrated mixed-use destination will prioritize further elevating the levels of currently provided services, while offering residential, hospitality, commercial and cultural experiences. With capacity for around 900,000 indoor and outdoor praying spaces.

With its seamless connection to public transportation networks, King Salman Gate will ensure easy access and comfort, and will pay homage to Makkah's identity, blending its rich architectural heritage with worldclass modern living to create a truly unique experience. It will also restore and develop approximately 19,000 sqm of heritage sites, preserving Makkah's cultural and historical legacy to enrich every visitor's journey. The project will contribute to Saudi Vision 2030's goals of economic transformation through





by RUA AlHaram AlMakki Company, AlHaram to establish Makkah as a through innovative solutions that create is committed to global best practices in

generating more than 300,000 jobs a PIF Company. The company aims to global benchmark for real estate devel- a positive impact on residents, pilgrims support PIF's strategy by advancing opment. The company is committed and visitors while preserving Makkah's King Salman Gate is being developed urban development around AlMasjid to sustainable resource management cultural fabric. RUA AlHaram AlMakki

real estate development and ensuring exceptional experiences.

Note: Photos are for illustration purpose only.



### Pakistan's IT Minister visits Huawei booth at GITEX Global 2025

**Spokesman Report** 

DUBAI, UAE: On the third day of GITEX Global 2025, one of the world's largest and most influential technology exhibitions, Pakistan's Federal Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication, Ms. Shaza Fatireaffirming the strategic partnership between Pakistan and Huawei in driving digital transformation.

Huawei's booth, themed "All Intelcomprehensive tour of the booth.

Fatima Khawaja praised Huawei's contributions to Pakistan's ICT ecosystem, stating: -

"Huawei has played a pivotal role in expanding Pakistan's digital infrastructure and empowering our youth through technology. We value this partma Khawaja, visited the Huawei booth, nership and look forward to deeper collaboration in AI, cloud, and smart governance to realize our vision of a truly inclusive Digital Pakistan."

Mr. Ethan Sun, CEO of Huawei empowers every citizen." ligence," showcased its latest innova- Pakistan, shared: -"This visit reflects cloud platforms, smart city technol- the Government of Pakistan. We are

During the visit, Minister Shaza help shape a truly inclusive digital economy.

Mr. Ahmed Bilal Masood, CEO of AI and Cloud Business at Huawei Technologies, added: -"We are honored to welcome Pakistan's Minister of IT to our GITEX showcase. Huawei remains deeply committed to supporting Pakistan's digital future through innovation, local partnerships, and technology transfer. Together, we can build a smarter, more connected society that

Huawei demonstrates how collabotions in AI-powered infrastructure, the strength of our collaboration with ration between technology leaders and the Middle East and Central Asia international organizations can accelogies, and cybersecurity solutions proud to support national priorities erate this transformation regionally media interaction and photo opportutailored for public sector moderniza- such as connectivity, cloud adoption, and globally, bridging the digital divide, nity, symbolizing mutual intent to scale tion. The Minister was welcomed by and digital skills development. Huawei empowering educators, and equipping innovation and connectivity across the senior Huawei executives and given a Pakistan will continue to invest in local students with the skills they need to innovation and capacity building to thrive in the digital economy.

Huawei, as a Platinum Sponsor of GITEX GLOBAL 2025, will introduce its newest advancements in AI-driven networks, storage, cybersecurity, cloud technologies and more, underscoring company's continued commitment to advancing intelligent infrastructure and its position as a preferred partner in digital transformation. Throughout the event, Huawei will connect with customers, partners, policymakers, and technology leaders to exchange ideas and explore partnerships for accelerating intelligent transformation across

The visit concluded with a id

region. GITEX Global 2025 runs from



October 13-17 at the Dubai World itors, 2,000 startups, and more than

Trade Centre, hosting over 6,800 exhib- 180,000 attendees from 180 countries.

## UN Women, FAO, and KP Government Promote Women's Leadership in Agriculture

跨 Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: To mark World Food Day and the International Day of Rural Women, UN Women, in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the Agriculture Department of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), hosted a provincial event titled "Seeds of Change: Women Shaping Agriculture in KP - Empowering Farmers, Enriching Communities, Transforming Futures." The event, held at the Directorate General of Agriculture Sumera Shams, Chairperson Research in Peshawar, aimed to celebrate and strengthen the role of women farmers in of Women, reaffirmed the advancing sustainable agriculture, enhancing food security, inclusive development. "The and promoting gender equali- Government of Khyber Pakh-



tv in rural communities Speaking at the opening, Dr. of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Commission on the Status government's commitment to

tunkhwa remains committed to supporting inclusive growth, where rural women tions, market exclusion, heavy have equal access to resources, decision-making, and opportunities. We are working closely with government institutions and civil society

in Khyber, Bajaur, Mohmand, clusive agricultural policies in and other merged areas are not left behind," she said.

Zainab Qaiser Khan, Head of Sub-Office, UN Women Pakhtunkhwa, highlighted UN Women's continued dedication to advancing gender equality in

Ms. Akmatbek Kiyal, Head of FAO-KP, emphasized the critical role of women in agriculture while acknowledging the challenges they continue to face, including limited access to resources, mobility restricworkloads, and vulnerability to climate shocks

Two panel discussions focused on inclusion, innovation, and empowerment. to ensure that women farmers 
The first explored gender-in-

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, while the second featured women farmers from the merged districts sharing how UN Women and FAO's initiatives on digital literacy, financial inclusion, and market access have transformed their live-

A vibrant exhibition of 15 stalls showcased agricultural produce and value-added products by women farmers from Khyber, Mohmand, and Bajaur, including dried fruits, vegetables, oils, and honey. The display highlighted interventions under the Livelihood and Food Security Support Activity, aimed at strengthening agricultural value chains through training and market

# **Chief Officer Musharraf** Baig transferred, Chaudhry Khawar Gujjar took charge

B Ch Muhammad Anwar Chohan

KHARIAN: Municipal Committee

Jattan and Municipal Committee Jalalpur Jattan Chief Officer Khawar Javed Gujjar was transferred to Kharian. After four years of posting in Kharian, Khawar Javed Gujjar was transferred to Jalalpur Jattan a year ago and Musharraf Baig was transferred to Kharian.

Chief Officer Musharraf Punjab's program, Clean Punjab Program,

district administration, Musharraf Baig was playing a commendable role for the beauty of the city of Kharian with Kharian Chief Officer Musharraf Baig limited resources and personal relationwas transferred from Kharian to Jalalpur ship with the citizens who love the city.

Before that, Mr. Khawar was posted as Chief Officer for four years. His performance was commendable. He was familiar with the people of Kharian. During his tenure, he played his role in brightening the face of Kharian. Today, where the people of Kharian

Chief officer are bidding farewell to Ch Khawar Gujar the Chief Officer, he has Baig implemented the Chief Minister recently changed. The people warmly welcome Chief Officer Khawar Javed. The people of Kharian are exemplary in and showed the beautiful face of Kharian to the citizens. On the instructions of the hospitality. You are an example to others.



News Desk

Zindigi, powered by JS Bank, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Pakistan financial inclusion through

**Education Endowment Fund** (PAK-EEF) to digitalize the Scholarship Fund Disbursement System marking a significant milestone in advancing

### Fund Partner to Empower Students Through Digital Scholarship Disbursement technology and innovation.

The initiative aligns with PEEF's core mission of offering scholarships to talented and deserving students across Pakistan who face financial challenges in pursuing higher education. Through this partnership, scholarship funds will be transferred digitally to beneficiaries, ensuring transparency, efficiency, and accessibility for thousands of students nationmony, Mr. Atif Ishaque, Chief Business Officer, Zindigi, stated:

"Education is one of the most powerful tools for national transformation. This partnership will help us ensure that financial support reaches deserving students seamlessly, allowing them to focus on learning and preparing for a successful future, In Shaa

Syeda Hajra Suhail, Chief

Speaking at the signing cere- Executive Officer of PAK-EEF, ensuring that every rupee other public sector programs. expressed appreciation for this reaches the right student at collaboration and highlighted the right time. PEEF remains its significance in strength-

Zindigi and Pakistan Education Endowment

ecosystem: "This partnership with tion of Pakistan's leaders." Zindigi represents a transformative step toward a digital future into our scholarship disbursement process, we are not only improving efficiency but also ency and accountability for academic aspirations.

committed to creating equitable to empowering Pakistan's youth ening the education-finance access to higher education and through digital innovation, empowering the next genera-

Murad Khan, Secretary PEEF, also PAK-EEF continues to play a for educational support in Paki- commended the partnership, crucial role in fostering human stan. By integrating technology emphasizing that digital scholarship disbursement would serve as a model of transpar-

The collaboration reflects Zindigi's ongoing commitment reinforcing its vision of a financially included and digitally Shuaib connected nation. Meanwhile, capital development by enabling students from underprivileged backgrounds to pursue their

ISLAMABAD.:

Thursday, October 16, 2025



Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index		
Current	Prev. Close	
165,686.38	165,476.02	
Day's High	Day's Low	
167,561.69	165,357.20	
Index Value	Change	
56,074,924,033	+210.36	
Percentage	Time	
+0.13%	15 Oct, 2025 4:30 pm	
Europe: FTSE 100 Index		
Indev Value	Change	

Europe: FTSE 100 Index		
Index Value	Change	
9,424.75	-28.02	
Percentage	Time	
-0.30%	15 Oct, 4:35 pm GMT+1	

USA: DOW Jones Industrial Average		
Index Value	Change	
46,364.09	+93.63	
Percentage	Time	
+0.20%	15 Oct, 12:31 pm GMT-4	
Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average		

Index Value Change	
47,672.67 +825.3	5
Percentage Time	
+1.76% 15 Oct, 3:45 GMT+9	

#### **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	

#### foodpanda launches welfare and development program for riders



#### Commerce Desk

KARACHI: foodpanda has announced a significant partnership with Al Qadir Welfare to enhance the well-being and provide long-term support for its rider community across Pakistan. This collaboration introduces a comprehensive welfare initiative, including the provision of free bike restoration services and the distribution of bikes at no cost to deserving riders, ensuring greater mobility and reduced operational burdens. Beyond physical assets, the partnership extends to critical areas such as healthcare support and skill development programs, all with the objective of empowering riders with enhanced financial stability and improved quality of life. This strategic collaboration highlights the company's commitment to directly investing in the future and overall success of its core fleet.

#### *CCP announces* crackdown on toxic whitening creams

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

ISLAMABAD: The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) has launched a nationwide probe against companies involved in making, marketing, and selling mercury-laden skin whitening creams. The move aims to protect consumers from serious health risks and to ensure fair competition in the cosmetics market.

The CCP's Office of Fair Trade and Market Intelligence Unit found that several popular whitening products sold in markets and online contain dangerously high levels of mercury. Many of these products falsely claim to be safe and effective while hiding mercury content from their ingredient lists.

#### > Visit of Sri Lankan Envoy at RCCI

# Desires for expanding economic opportunities between Pakistan and Sri Lanka

#### **Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: H. E. Rear Admiral (Retd.) Fred Senevirathne, High Commissioner of Sri Lanka to Pakistan visited the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) and had a meeting with the business community and members of RCCI. He was accompanied by Mr. Christy Ruban, Deputy Head of Mission.

In his welcome remarks, RCCI President Usman Shaukat gave a short summary of RCCI activities and added that Pakistan and Sri Lanka have enjoyed strong diplomatic relations since 1948. Both countries are active members of SAARC and the Commonwealth of Nations, yet the full potential of their trade partnership remains largely untapped. "Tourism and pharmaceuticals are key sectors for cooperation," he noted.

The meeting was attended by RCCI Vice President Fahad Barlas, members of the Executive Committee, and a large number of RCCI

Rear Admiral (Retd.) Senevirathne in his address highlighted the country's improving economic indicators, the envoy noted that foreign exchange reserves, the national currency, and tourism have all stabilized. "Key ports including boasts a skilled workforce and is well-connected sioner also delivered a detailed presentation on eral collaboration could bring mutual benefits.

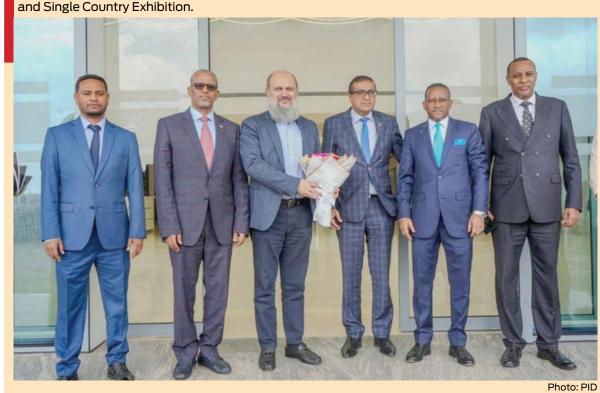


are among the busiest in the region. Sri Lanka also tation networks," he added. The High Commiscators, and priority sectors where enhanced bilat-

Colombo, Hambantota, Galle, and Trincomalee globally through robust international transpor- Sri Lanka's economy, key reforms, growth indi-

#### Group Photo

ADDIS ABABA: Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan arriving at Addis Ababa Bole International Airport, warmly received by H.E. Mr. Burhanu Tsegeye, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, and Mr. Abdul Hakim Mulu, Minister of State for Trade and Regional Integration of Ethiopia, along with Pakistani embassy officials, ahead of the 5th Pakistan-Africa Trade Development Conference



# Dubai Islamic Bank and Fauree Tech Launch Pakistan's First Multi-Product Shariah-Compliant Digital Supply Chain Finance Platform

#### Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Dubai Islamic Bank Pakistan Limited (DIBPL), one of the country's leading Islamic banks, has partnered with Fauree Tech (Pvt.) Ltd., Pakistan's pioneering digital supply chain finance platform, to launch the nation's first-ever multi-product, fully Shariah-compliant Digital Supply Chain Finance (DSCF) platform.

The signing ceremony took place in Karachi in the presence of senior leadership from both organizations. Dubai Islamic Bank was represented by Mr. Muhammad Ali Gulfaraz, Chief Executive Officer; Mr. Mujahid Zuberi, Head of Corporate & Investment Banking; and Mr. Zaka Ur Rehman, Chief Digital Officer. Fauree Tech was represented by Mr. Azhar Tasadduq, Chief Executive Officer; Mr. Suhaib Dar, Ezaaz Waseem, Head of Projects.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. support economic growth in Pakistan.



Muhammad Ali Gulfaraz, CEO, Dubai Islamic Bank Pakistan, said: "Supply chain financing is an important focus area for us. This partnership with Fauree reflects our commitment to driving digital transformation and expanding access to Shariah-compliant supply chain financing solu-Director & Chief Business Officer; and Mr. tions for corporates and SMEs. Enabling more financing for SMEs is necessary to

Mr. Azhar Tasadduq, CEO, Fauree Tech, added: "This agreement with Dubai Islamic Bank marks a major milestone in Pakistan's journey toward digital, Shariah-compliant financing. Fauree's platform ensures transparency, compliance, and scalability, offering banks the tools to expand their financing portfolios, while enabling SMEs and exporters to seamlessly access liquidity."

### **PIDE Seminar** Critically Reviews Policy Loan Reforms in Pakistan's Power and Tax Sectors







Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Institute of Develop-RASTA (PIDE & Planning substantial Commission Competitive—their outcomes a webinar titled "Reform lived. Programs under Policy and Tax Administration" at PIDE. The event featured Dr. Mahmood Khalid, Senior Research Economist at PIDE, and Ms. Afia Malik, Senior Research Economist at PIDE, while Dr. Ali Salman, CEO of the Policy Research Institute of Market Economy (PRIME), moderated the

Opening the discussion, Dr. Ali Salman emphasized the importance of evaluating Pakistan's reform programs implemented under policy loans from developmultilateral ment partners. He noted that while such loans have shaped the country's fiscal and energy reform agenda for decades, their effectiveness and long-term sustainability careful through local research and

evidence-based dialogue. Presenting his findings on "Policy Loans for Revenue Mobilization," Dr. Mahmood Khalid stated that Pakistan's tax-to-GDP ratio declined from 10.1% in 2023 to 9.6% in 2024, compared to an OECD average of 34%, while interest payments now major donor-funded initia-

tives such as TARP (2004-2010), TAGR (2015-2019), and the Pakistan Raises Revenue Project ment Economics (PIDE), (PRR, 2019-ongoing), in collaboration with observing that despite funding, s have been Research Grants), hosted limited and often short-In her presentation

Loans in the Power Sector on "Policy Loans and Reforms in the Power Sector," Ms. Afia Malik analyzed four completed loan programs since 1994 aimed at restructuring and improving efficiency in Pakistan's power sector. She explained that while these loans targeted governance enhancement, financial viability, and private sector participation, their implementation failed to achieve commercial independence or efficiency. Privatization efforts, such as those of KAPCO and K-Electric, delivered mixed results, with improvements in corporate governance offset by persistent inefficiencies and tariff distortions.

Summing up the discussion, Dr. Ali Salman highlighted that Pakistan's require repeated reform cycles reassessment under donor guidance point to a deeper governance and ownership challenge. He called for reforms that are homegrown, context-specific, and institutionally anchored, emphasizing that sustainable progress requires aligning incentives, strengthening accountability, and building domestic policy capacity consume over 75% of total rather than relying on tax revenues. He reviewed externally designed frameworks.

### Pak-Qatar Asset Management Company earns positive outlook from PACRA Reflecting Consistent Growth and Performance

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

tion earned through the company's sector.

hard work, consistency, and unwavering commitment to excellence ment, Mr. Farhan Shaukat, Chief KARACHI: Pak-Qatar Asset in Islamic fund management. The Executive Officer of PQAMC, said: Management Company Limit- upgrade reflects PQAMC's strong ed (PQAMC) has achieved an governance framework, disciplined upgrade to AM2 with a Positive investment approach, and sustained Outlook from Pakistan Credit growth momentum within Paki-Rating Agency (PACRA), a recogni- stan's Islamic asset management

Commenting on the develop-"The upgraded outlook by PACRA and our exceptional growth performance are both reflections of our team's commitment to excellence and the trust placed in us by our investors. At PQAMC, we remain

ment opportunities built on transparency, performance, and ethical wealth creation."

As part of the Pak-Qatar Group, Pakistan's premier and pioneer PQAMC continues to expand mance track records.

focused on delivering sustain- its footprint by offering a diverse able, Shariah-compliant invest- range of Shariah-compliant funds and investment plans catering to both retail and institutional investors. These include Equity, Income, Money Market, and Asset Allocation Funds, all maintaining strong Islamic financial services group, PACRA ratings and stable perfor-

#### Pakistan vs South Africa First Cricket Test Mach

# Pakistani bowlers Nauman Ali and Shaheen Shah Afridi crushed the South African batting line-up

**Asim Tanveer** 

LAHORE: Chasing 277 runs. South Africa cricket team was bowled out for 183 runs. The devastating bowling of Nauman Ali and Shaheen Shah Afridi played an important role in the victory of the Pakistani cricket team during the first cricket test match against South

Nauman Ali was declared the player of the match, Nauman Ali took 10 wickets in both innings of the first cricket test match. Pakistan cricket team's participation in the first test match against South Africa was congratulated by Pakistan Cricket Board Chairman Mohsin Naqvi and said that Pakistan cricket team has made Pakistan famous all over the world by defeating world test champions South Africa in the first test cricket

Pakistan Cricket Board Chairman Mohsin Naqvi further said that he hopes that the Pakistan cricket team will perform brilliantly in the second test starting from October 20 in Rawalpindi. According to details, Pakistan defeated South Africa by 93 runs after the lunch break on the fourth day of the first cricket test match at Gaddafi Gaddafi Stadium Lahore.

The devastating bowling of Noman Ali and Shaheen Afridi played an important role in Pakistan's victory. Chasing 277 runs, the entire South African team was bundled out for 183 runs. Noman Ali was adjudged the player of the match wickets in the first innings and 4 wickets





Shaheen Afridi took 4 and 2 wickets the batting line-up, but the Pakistani against South Africa.

for his brilliant performance. He took 6 in the second innings. At one point, the bowlers performed brilliantly in South match was tipped in South Africa's favor Africa's second innings and led the Pakidue to the irresponsible performance of stan cricket team to a stunning victory





day of play. Earlier, when South Africa resumed their second innings at 51 for 2, their batsmen had to face devastating

The match was decided on the fourth bowling from Shaheen Afridi right from the start.

Shaheen took Tony de Zorzi, who had scored a century in the first innings, as

diately after this, Tristan Stubbs was caught by Salman Agha off the ball of Noman Ali. 4 South African players were out for 55 runs.

Dewald Brewis adopted an aggressive approach as soon as he came in and started increasing South Africa's score rapidly. Brewis, adopting a T20 style, hit fours and sixes with free strokes but was eventually bowled clean by Noman Ali.

Brewis completed his half-century with the help of six fours and two sixes. He supported his team by scoring 54 runs. After him, South Africa's valuable batsman Ryan Rickelton. He was caught out by Salman Agha off Sajid Khan's ball and returned to the pavilion. He scored 45 runs. South Africa's score at lunch was 137 runs with 6 players out. When the game started after lunch, South Africa's total score was 144 runs when Senoran Muthusamy scored 6 runs and was LBW off Sajid Khan's ball.

Shaheen Afridi was in full form and took the last two wickets of South Africa in one over. Shaheen got South Africa's last hope, wicketkeeper Kelly Vereni LBW for 19 runs in the same over and showed the way to the pavilion by getting Rabada LBW for zero.

Chasing 277 runs, South Africa's second innings ended at 183 runs. Thus, Pakistan won the first Test match by 93 runs and took a one-row lead in the Test series. The second and final Test match of the series will start from September 20 at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium. The on-field umpires in the first Test match were Chris Bryan and Rod Tucker, while the TV umpire was Sharafuddin and the match referee was Ranjan Madugalle.

#### Medicam Trophy U-19 Inter Zonal Cricket Tournament

### Zone-III Whites, Zone-VII Whites and Zone-III Blues won their Matches

**Sports Desk** 

KARACHI: Three more matches decided in the Medicam Trophy Under-19 Inter Zonal Cricket Tournament played at various grounds of the City.

The highlights of the days play was all-round Performance by Salman Sarwar 2/14 and Scored 76, Deadly Bowling by slow left arm leg spinner Nadir Ali 6/10 and Brilliant Century 120 by Parshant Ravi.

The Tournament is being organized by Regional Cricket Association Karachi with the collaboration of Medicam Group of Companies. Scores in Brief:

Zone-III Whites beat Zone-I Blues by 6 wickets at Annu Bhai Park. Zone-I Blues 179 allout in 37.3 overs. Ashfaq Khan 66 11x4, Muhammad Mustufa

Sarwar 2/14, Muhammad Raza 2/38. In reply Zone-III Whites 182/4 in 23.5 overs. Salman Sarwar 76 12 x4 1x6, Noor ul Irfan 39, Jawwad Ahmed

23. Arman Hussain (sla) 4/33, Salman



35. Salman Sarwar of Zone-III Whites declared Medicam Man of the Match.

In the 2nd Match Zone-VII Whites beat Zone-V Blues by 6 Wickets at KCCA Stadium. Zone-V Blues 117 all-out in 39.1 overs. Abdullah 37, Ahmed Ali 22. Nadir Ali (sla) 6/10,

In reply Zone-VII Whites 120/6 in 6.1 overs. Anas Patel 33. Zohaib Khan 32. Rafay Taj 228.

After the end of the Match Nadir Ali Zone-VII Whites declared Medicam Man of the Match.

In the 3rd Match of the day Zone-III Blues beat Zone-V Whites by 57 runs at Landhi Gymkhana. Zone-III Whites 210/4 in 40 overs. Parshant Ravi 120

14x4 2x6, Shaheryar Asif 46 8x4. In reply Zone-V Whites 153 all-out in 33 2 overs. Abdullah 60 10x4 1x6, Rayyan Chohan 42 6x4 not out. Abdul Hadi (ob) 4/14, Muhammad Saad ullah (ob) 3/38, Adnan Shah 2/15. After the end of the Match Parshant Ravi declared Medicam Man of the Match.

# 'Our focus is on consistency, improvement' said by Shan Masood

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: Pakistan Test captain Shan Masood said in the press conference that i will give the credit to whole our team who showed disciplined performance but acknowledged areas for improvement. "Our focus has always been on improving the team," Shan said in his post-match press conference. "We're playing good cricket and have made a strong start in the Test Championship, but now the real challenge is to keep winning consistently.'

Shan admitted Pakistan made



several mistakes in their second innings collapse. "In one innings, we lost five wickets for 16 runs; in the other, six wickets for 17 — that's a lesson for us," he said.

Discussing team composition ahead

changes had been finalized yet. "We'll decide after seeing the pitch. If there's room for two seamers, then Hasan and while South Africa will be desperate to Shaheen will be our go-to options," he level it.

Shaheen Afridi for their reverse swing and also lauded Nauman Ali's gamechanging spell. "Nauman's consistency and control were exceptional. The Lahore pitch reminded me of the Rawalpindi Test against England — it

demanded patience and skill," he added. Both captains now turn their attenawaits cricket fans.

of the Rawalpindi Test, Shan said no tion to the second Test in Rawalpindi, starting October 20. Pakistan, leading the series 1-0, will aim to seal the series,

'The World Test Championship The captain praised Hasan Ali and is played in different conditions and against different teams," Shan reminded. The key is adaptability — whether it's England, West Indies, or Bangladesh, every environment tests your character."

At last he said we expected in Rawalpindi to offer similar conditions, another gripping contest between bat and ball

# Asad, Ahtesham, Amir, Zohaib excel in Aitchison College Junior National Tennis

腾 Tahir Amin Malik

The Aitchison College Junior National Tennis Championship continued in full swing at Aitchison College, Mall Road, Lahore, featuring a series of thrilling pre-quarterfinal matches across multiple age categories. Young tennis players from across the country showcased their skill, consistency, and competitive spirit in front of an enthusiastic audience.

In the Boys Under-18 pre-quarterfinals, Asad Zaman produced a commanding performance, defeating Abdur Rehman Pirzada 6-0, 6-0, while Ahtesham Humayun displayed excellent control to

beat M Umar Ali 6-2, 6-0, Amir Mazari (Aitchison) cruised past Zohaib Amjad 6-0, 6-1, Zohaib Afzal Malik registered an impressive 6-0, 6-2 victory over Ohad-

In a gripping three-set contest, Ruhab Faisal edged out Abdullah Pirzada 5-7, 6-0, 6-3 while Hussain Ali Rizwan overpowered Aryaan Hassan 6-0, 6-1 and Hamza Ali Rizwan outclassed Abdullah Sajjad Wahla 6-0, 6-0 to secure his place in the next round.

The Boys Under-14 pre-quarterfinals also witnessed impressive displays of young talent. M Shayan Afridi defeated Muhammad Daniyal (KPK) 4-1, 4-1,

Fatima Group eased past Ahmad Fareed Yawar 4-0, 4-1, and M Ibrahim Gill 4-1, 2-4, 4-0 in a hard-fought battle. Ohad-e-Mustafa was in fine form as he blanked Zayd Mansoor 4-0, 4-0, while Zohaib Amjad defeated Ahmad Khuda Bakhsh 4-0, 4-2. In other matches, M Hassan with a 4-0, 4-0 scoreline. Umar Ali beat Ali Yousaf 4-2, 4-2, and M Ayan Khan triumphed over M Musa Ali 4-0, 4-2.

In the Boys Under-12 pre-quarterfinals, emerging players continued to impress with dominant wins. Muhammad Muaz advance to the quarterfinals.

while Muhammad Muaz prevailed over of Fatima Group outclassed Raahim Moazam Babar 4-0, 4-1. M Ayan of Faisal 4-0, 4-0, while Mustafa Uzair Rana recorded an identical 4-0, 4-0 victory against Mustafa Zia. M Ibrafought back to overcome Syed Abdullah heem Hussain Gill defeated Syed Suffyan 4-0, 4-1, and M Ehsan Bari overcame M Mamnoon Bari 4-0, 4-1. Meanwhile, M Faizan blanked Murtaza Manoo 4-0, 4-0, and Ashtar Alam Khan eased past Wali M

In the Girls Under-18 category, Eesha Rabi showcased exceptional control and precision, defeating Sahib Jamal 6-0, 6-0, while Ayza Anum displayed confidence and consistency to beat Alizay 6-1, 6-1 and

#### Aiden Markram played first test match in Pakistan



👺 Tahir Amin Malik

South African cricket team Captain Aiden Markram said in a press conference that the victory of Pakistan's 93-run victory in Lahore caused due to the good bowling. Markram praised the hosts' batting partnerships and expressed optimism about turning things around in the upcoming Rawalpindi Test.

"If Ryan Rickelton had stayed a little longer, the result could have been different," Markram said, emphasizing how the momentum slipped away in the final innings. "Pakistan's batsmen built a very good partnership in the first innings, which made a big difference."

Markram satisfied with team's effort

The South African skipper maintained that he was satisfied with his team's overall performance, insisting the match was far from one-sided.

We fought hard in patches. The bowlers kept us in the game, and the batters showed glimpses of fight," he noted.

Markram added that he expected similar playing conditions in Rawalpindi and said the team would make tactical adjustments accordingly. "We'll try to win by playing better cricket in Pindi. At the end he said the surface there might resemble Lahore's, so we'll prepare accordingly.

#### Morocco beat Congo to set new record 16-match winning run

Morocco set a new world record of 16 consecutive international victories with Tuesday's 1-0 FIFA World Cup 2026 qualifying success over Congo in Rabat.

Fenerbahce forward Youssef En-Nesyri scored the only goal of the game for the Atlas Lions, who had already secured World Cup qualification earlier this month with a 5-0 trouncing of Niger.

"Record-breaking. Our National Team makes HISTORY with 16 CONSECUTIVE WINS," the Moroccan national team said on its official X account.

"Unstoppable Lions," it added.

#### Pakistan, Afghanistan agree to 48-hour ceasefire amid border tensions

Sontinued from Page 1

On the morning of October 15 (Wednesday), the Afghan Taliban carried out cowardly attacks at four locations in Balochistan's Spin Boldak, all of which were effectively repelled by Pakistani forces.

ISPR reported that these assaults were organized through local settlements without regard for civilian lives or property. Afghan forces also opened unprovoked fire on civilian areas in Chaman, prompting a swift and effective response from Pakistan.

Read also: 50 militants killed as security forces repel Afghan Taliban attacks in Spin Boldak

This confrontation marks the third major clash within a week between Pakistan and Afghanistan, following earlier skirmishes

in Kurram and other border The ISPR reported that 23

Pakistani soldiers were martyred and 29 injured during the hostilities, while intelligence assessments indicated that over 200 Taliban and allied militants were neutral-

Afghanistan, however, claimed the recent assault was a "retaliatory action" against alleged Pakistani air strikes, though Islamabad neither confirmed nor denied involvement, reiterating its right to self-defence.

Pakistan has long urged Kabul to prevent militant groups from using Afghan soil to launch crossborder attacks — an issue that has repeatedly strained bilateral ties. The latest escalation has further deepened tensions.

# The Spokesman

# **ECNEC** meeting ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar chaired a meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) on Wednesday.

# Pakistan Army slams Indian military's provocative propaganda under political pressure

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Army has slammed Indian military leadership's fabricated, delusional and provocative propaganda under political pressure in the run-up to the state elections.

Wednesday, Pakistan military's media wing, Inter Services Indian public and interna-Public Relations (ISPR), said: "It has been noted with grave concern that five months after Maarka-e-Haq, in the run-up to elections in Bihar and West Bengal, Indian military lead- chest-thumping and unwar- Indian army presser are so of cross-border terrorism concluded.

ership has started parroting the same delusional, fabricated and provocative propaganda that they regurgitate before every state election in India.

"It is saddening to see the military leadership of a nuclear-armed country issuing irresponsible statements under In a statement released on immense political pressure.

> "The lies being fed to the tional audience have turned Indian military machine into a laughing stock.

"Any professional soldier Asia. would know that unnecessary



ranted statements might initiate a cycle of jingoism and lead to serious consequences for peace and stability in South

evident that they should not and the epicentre of regional be dignified with a response. Evidently, the Indian leadership is attempting to mould history to its liking by inventing outlandish, Bolly-

wood-style scripts. "It appears that Indian army and the political leadership has not been able to reconcile with the idea that they have been decisively beaten in Marka-e-Haq, and that their falsehoods have will be dealt with a swift, been fully exposed.

"The world now recog-"The contradictions in the nises India as the true face

instability, bent upon adventurism and hegemonism to the detriment of its people and its neighbours.

"The Indian armed forces and its political masters must realise that Pakistan's people and its Armed Forces are fully capable and committed to defend every inch of our territory with full resolve.

"Every act of aggression resolute and intense response that will be remembered by posterity," the ISPR statement

# Khawarij infiltration bid foiled, 30 killed in Mohmand, 7 in North Waziristan: ISPR

👺 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Army has killed 30 Khawarij in Mohmad district of Khyber Paktunkhawa on Wednesday, Army also foiled infiltration bid in North Waziristan and killed seven terrorists in Abakehl area. According to ISPR, Pakistan Army's harsh retaliation has forced Afghan Taliban to rely on Fitna al-Khawarij. The security sources said Pakistan Army foiled Afghan Taliban's attempt to send Khawarij to Mohmand district.

Pakistan Army's timely action killed 30 Khawarij members of the formation, security sources said. The purpose of sending the formathrough infiltration from the said.



Turkmanzai border area of tion was to spread terrorism Mohmand, security sources

This incursion was a failed of the Pakistan Army's strong attempt by Afghanistan counter-attacks. Taliban to avenge the defeat

ation continued in area and there are reports of more Khawarij being killed, security sources.

Earlier Pakistan Army foiled infiltration bid in North Waziristan and killed seven terrorists in Abakehl area. According to ISPR press release, Pakistan Army conducted a successful operation against terrorists in Abakhel, North Waziristan on October 14. During the successful operation, 7 Khawarij were killed while

targeting a terrorist group. The Khawarij who were killed by the Pak Army, were planning a terror attack in the area. The security sources said Pak Army and security forces were determined to eradicate the scourge of terrorism from the country.

# NHA to expedite efforts on air ambulance: Aleem Khan

**Example 2** Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Communications Abdul Aleem Khan has directed the National Highway Authority (NHA) to expedite efforts for the early launching of an Air Ambulance Service on Motorways and Highways to ensure the immediate transfer of accident victims to the hospitals.

He emphasized that in the first phase, the heli-service should commence with two helicopters while helipads should also be constructed in the hospitals to facilitate emergency landings as helicopters require minimal space for operation.

He made these remarks while chairing a high-level meeting at NHA Headquarters, attended by the Federal Secretary for Communications, the Chairman of NHA and other senior officers, said a press release issued on Wednesday.

Abdul Aleem Khan stated that effecto address road accidents on Motor- must be ensured and that prompt



He stressed that speed control, tive measures are being implemented vehicle fitness and driver training

to protecting citizens' lives and to tutions.

medical assistance to accident victims pursue the Air Ambulance initiative can help save precious lives. He called with a sense of national responsibility, upon officers to remain committed in collaboration with relevant insti-

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## **ECNEC** approves 12 projects worth Rs 380 bn

👺 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) on Wednesday approved 12 development projects worth over Rs 380 billion. The meeting of the committee was held here Minister of Punjab, Sindh's Minister under the chairmanship of Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar.

The projects span agriculture, education, health, infrastructure, and climate resilience - covering Punjab, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa,

Balochistan and Gilgit Baltistan.

During the meeting, the deputy PM reaffirmed the government's commitment to inclusive and sustainable national development.

The meeting was attended by the Minister for Planning, Senior for Irrigation & Food, KPK's Advisor on Finance, Chief Secretary GB, Federal Secretaries Cabinet, Planning, and senior officials from Finance, Energy and concerned federal & provincial departments.

# Dar receives message from Qatar's Minister, regarding regional situation

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Wednesday received a message from Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Qatar Dr. M. Abdulaziz Al-Khulaifi regarding the regional situation.

Dr. Al-Khulaifi appreciated Pakistan's constructive engagement in fostering regional peace and security, a press release issued by the Foreign Office Spokesperson said.

The DPM/FM thanked him for Qatar's consistent support and its positive role in advancing peace in the region and beyond.

### **Crackdown on TLP** intensifies as police prepare list of 4,500 leaders and workers



LAHORE: The government has intensified its crackdown against Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) leaders and workers with lists of key members prepared.

Sources said the lists contained names of around 4,500 TLP leaders and prominent workers, compiled

from across Punjab. Inspector General (IG) Punjab Dr Usman Anwar has sent these lists to the CCPO Lahore and all regional police officers (RPOs) in the prov-

directed to immediately arrest TLP leaders and workers. In Lahore alone, lists of about 1,350 leaders and workers have been handed over to the CCPO.

In Sheikhupura Division, lists of around 350 members have been given to the RPO; 330 from Sahiwal Division and 450 from Gujranwala Division.

Similarly, 430 names from Faisalabad Region have also been included. The IG Punjab has instructed all

officers to ensure the swift arrest of TLP leaders and workers.

# Pakistan elected to UN Human Rights Council for 2026-2028 term



👺 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan was elected, by an overwhelming majority, to the United Nations Human Rights Council on October 14, 2025, for a three-year term beginning in 2026.

This marks Pakistan's sixth election to the 47-member council since its establishment in 2006.

The Geneva-based council's mission is to promote and promote and protect human rights around the world.

Members of the Human Rights Council (HRC) are elected by a majority of the UN General Assembly members, requiring at least 97 votes member states for their support

out of the 193 member states.

All five UN regional groups had clean slates, where the number of candidates is equal to the number of vacant seats.

In the 4-seat Asia-Pacific group, Pakistan polled 178 votes. Others elected in this group were India, with 177 votes, Iraq (175) and Vietnam

"Pakistan's election is a recognition of its strong credentials and contributions in strengthening the global human rights framework," Senator Ishaq Dar, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, said on X, thanking