Barkat Rice Mills

SG of World Muslim League calls on PM

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday said that the Muslim World League was playing a highly significant role at the global level in promoting the true image of Islam and advocating for the collective interests of the Muslim Ummah. The prime minister welcomed the Secretary General on his visit to Pakistan and extended a warm reception.



Section 144 imposed across Punjab till Saturday amid security concerns

The Punjab government on Thursday imposed Section 144 across the province till Saturday (October 18) to maintain law and

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Rabius Sani 23, Friday, October 17, 2025



www.dailyspokesman.net



(a) @daily spokesman



Daily Spokesman Vol: 19, Issue: 182 Price Rs. 25.00 Pages 8

Meeting

ISLAMABAD: A delegation led by Chairman Pakistan People's Party Bilawal Bhutto Zardari meets Prime Minister



Pakistan wants permanent end of terrorism originating from Afghanistan: PM

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif Thursday said Pakistan wanted a permanent resolution of the issue of terrorism originating from Afghanistan to maintain peace between the coun-

Speaking at the start of the federal cabinet meeting here, he said people of Afghanistan were brothers and sisters of Pakistanis and both countries shared a border of 2000 kilo-

Pakistan hosted four million issues, adding, Pakistan and Afghan- stan, under the leadership of Field

did whatever it could for them within its limited resources, he added.

He said but unfortunately terrorists who were operating from across Afghanistan were given free hand by the Afghan government and they carried out acts of terrorism, martyring Pakistani army officers and Jawans, law enforcement and police officials and citizens.

He said Pakistan's Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister went

come and they have to resolve their issues with mutual consultation to maintain peace and start new era of progress.

Despite all the efforts made by Pakistan, the terrorists continued attacks on the Pakistani soil on the instigation of India, he remarked, adding, when the Afghan Foreign Minister Muttaqi was in Delhi, the terrorists kept attacking.

As Pakistan's patience ran out, its to Kabul multiple times to talk to armed forces forcefully responded the Afghan government to resolve to the aggression from Afghani-

Afghans for decades and sincerely istan were neighbours for all times to Marshal Syed Asim Munir, the Prime Minister told.

He said Pakistan on Wednesday agreed to a temporary ceasefire of 48 hours on a request made by the Afghan government.

If Afghanistan accepted Pakistan's just conditions then Pakistan was ready to resolve issues on a sustainable basis, so now the ball was in the court of Afghan government, he added.

He mentioned that Qatar was seriously trying to resolve the issue between Pakistan and Afghanistan. Continued on Page 7

34 terrorists killed in K-P IBOs, says ISPR

跨 Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Security forces killed 34 Khwarij linked to Indian Proxy Fitna Al Khwarij in multiple operations across Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa from October 13 to 15.

According to a statement from the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), an intelligence-based opera-

tion (IBO) was conducted in the general area Spinwam, North Waziristan, which led to 18 terrorists were sent to hell after an intense exchange of fire.

uses to refer to the proscribed militant outfit Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) since the war with India in May 2025.

Another IBO in South Waziristan district resulted in eight terrorists being neutralised, while a separate encounter in Bannu District killed eight more, the

The ISPR added that sanitization operations are ongoing to eliminate any remaining terrorists in the area.

The operations form part of Pakistan's Fitna al-Khawarij is the term the state continued counter-terrorism campaign under the vision "Azm-e-Istehkam," aimed at eliminating foreign-sponsored terrorism from the country.

Operation Azm-e-Istehkam aims to eradicate terrorism and extremism, coordinating armed forces and law enforcement efforts while addressing public concerns to curb extremist tendencies.

President, PM laud security forces for killing 34 terrorists in KP

跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday commended the armed forces and security agencies for successful operations in various areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, killing several Indian-backed Fitna-al-Khawarij terrorists.

PM Shehbaz Sharif said the security forces liminated 34 Indian-backed terrorists in Spinwam, South Waziristan and Bannu.

He said the government was committed to completely eliminate terrorism from the country. "Successful operations against the terrorists in North and South Waziristan and Bannu are a matter of pride for the nation,"

President Zardari said, noting that the timely actions of the security forces helped improving

the law and order situation across the country.

Reaffirming Pakistan's firm reso eliminate terrorism in all its forms, President Zardari stated that operations under the "Azm-e-Istehkam" campaign will continue with full force to their logical end as the security forces defeat terrorists and the nation defeats terrorism.

PPP leaders raise concerns over non-implementation of power-sharing formula in Punjab

City Desk

Peoples Party (PPP) delegation has Dar and agreed to maintain contact raised concerns over the non-im- with the Pakistan Muslim Leagueplementation of the power-sharing Nawaz (PML-N). formula in Punjab.

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan met Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq

Moreover, the PPP delegation

the sources said. Concerns were expressed over legislation relating to local government elections in Punjab.

The PPP delegation said it was

According to details surfaced informed the government team regrettable that no consultation on Thursday, the PPP's leadership of its concerns regarding Punjab, had taken place despite being allies. Furthermore, the deputy prime minister assured the delegation he would convey the concerns to the party leadership, sources

Negotiations were held with TLP until last moment, says Mohsin Naqvi

👺 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi said on Thursday that negotiations with the Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) continued until the marchers left for Islamabad.

Addressing a press conference in the federal capital Islamabad, Naqvi said that government's representatives told the protesters that no action would be taken against them if they choose to go back.

He said the protesters continued to add to their demands and they demanded release of murderers from jails. He said that action was taken only against those who took up arms. He dispelled the impression that talks were not held with the TLP.



"What's the reason that a big protest is necessary every 15 days?" he asked. "We only got the road cleared from violent people. The demand was made for the release of a terrorist. People's vehicles were taken at gunpoint and forced to join the protest," he said. He said there is footage of TLP protesters forcing vehicle owners to join their march at gunpoint.

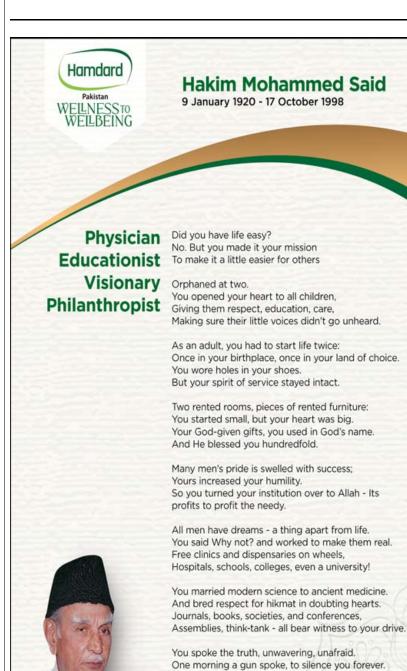
CM Sohail Afridi not allowed to meet Imran Khan in Adiala Jail

跨 City Desk

RAWALPINDI: Newly-elected Khyber Pakhtunkhawa Chief Minister Sohail Afridi was not allowed to meet PTI founder Imran Khan in Adiala Jail on Thursday resultantly CM went back from Dehgal Checkpoint after waiting for

Talking to media, CM Afridi said that he can speak about his cabinet after meeting PTI founder Imran Khan. He thanked party workers and leaders who visited Adiala jail with him. CM Afridi said Prime Minister contacted him and congratulated him on assuming CM charge. The CM said he requested PM Shehbaz to allow him to meet Imran Khan.

He said KP government had contacted Centre and sought permission for meting but he was not given positive response. He said Pakistan come firsts and all others items come after it.



O, vain attempt! Your words, your works live on.

The gun but gave you a martyr's immortality!

A tribute from Khaula Yasmin Qureshi

Hamdard Laboratories (Wagf) Pakistan • Hamdard Foundation Pakistan • Hamdard University

President AJK welcomed the growing interest of foreign investors AJK

ISLAMABAD: President Azad Kashmir (AJK), Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry, has welcomed the growing interest of foreign investors in the liberated territory, noting that the region offers vast opportunities for investment across multiple sectors including hydropower, tourism, and minerals.

President Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry expressed these views during a meeting with Mr. Xin Jiang, Marketing Director for Asia at China Railway Bureau Group (Pvt) Ltd, held at Kashmir House Islam-

He invited overseas investors to come forward and assured them that the AJK government would extend full cooperation and provide all necessary facilities to promote investment and economic growth in the region.

During the meeting, Mr. Xin Jiang other countries.



briefed the President on his companv's objectives and its ongoing and completed projects in Pakistan and

exploring investment opportunities in Azad Kashmir.

He also expressed keen interest in the President assured that the Government of Azad Jammu and Kashmir would facilitate and support all inves-Welcoming the company's interest, tors willing to invest in the region.

Winter preparations

ISLAMABAD: A man is carrying tree branches on his shoulder for domestic use on his way at a road, in the Federal Capital.

A high-level meeting held chairmanship of PM Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq

A high-level meeting held here today under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq reviewed kev matters related to the Department of Electricity in detail.

Secretary Electricity Irshad Qureshi, on the occasion, briefed the Prime Minister on the status of power transmission lines, feeder upgradation, transformer repair and the overall condition of grid stations. He also highlighted the technical and financial challenges faced by the department.

Addressing the meeting, Prime Minister Haq issued immediate directions for the early repair of transmission lines, resolution of low-voltage issues, and upgradation of outdated feeders and transformers on a priority basis.

He said that restoring power supply in remote and underdeveloped areas, installing new transformers, and enhancing grid station capacity are among the government's top priorities. The Prime Minister assured that the government will take all possible measures to ensure uninterrupted electricity supply while improving the overall power infrastructure in Azad



Kashmir.

He instructed the Department of Electricity to identify all areas requiring improvement and take prompt action using available resources to provide maximum relief to the public.

The Prime Minister emphasized Minister Col. (R) Waqar Ahmad Noor, Qureshi.

the importance of strengthening Minister for School Education Diwan public trust in the government and formulating a comprehensive strategy to address the challenges facing grid stations and electricity distribution.

The meeting was attended by Senior

Ali Khan Chughtai, Minister for Public Works Chaudhry Azhar Sadiq, Minister for Health Nisar Ansar Abdali, Principal Secretary Zafar Mehmood Khan, and Secretary Electricity Irshad

Photo: Online

Azad Kashmir PM Slams Afghan FM's Kashmir Remarks: Lacks Understanding of Facts'

Beroue Report

MUZAFFARABAD: Prime Minister Azad Kashmir, Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq, has strongly rejected the recent remarks made by the Foreign Minister of Afghanistan in New Delhi, in which he appeared to endorse India's position on the Jammu and Kashmir dispute. In a statement, the Prime Minister, while referring to the UNSC resolutions regarding Kashmir, made it clear that Jammu and Kashmir is an internationally recognized dispute awaiting final settlement. He said that India continues to propagate a false narrative regarding the situation in Jammu and Kashmir; however, the international community has not accepted New Delhi's baseless claims. Prime Minister Haq stated that the Afghan Foreign Minister's comments reflect a lack of understanding of historical facts and ground realities. He emphasized that India's military occupation of Jammu and Kashmir is unlawful and stands rejected by the Kashmiri people, who continue their peaceful struggle for freedom and self-determination. He further recalled that prior to the creation of Pakistan the people of Jammu and Kashmir had expressed their collective will to align their fate with Pakistan by adopting the historic Accession to Pakistan Resolution on 19th July in 1947. The Kashmiri people, he said, have since been rendering unparalleled sacrifices for the realization of this objective. Prime Minister Haq said that the United Nations Security Council resolutions explicitly acknowledge the Kashmiris people's fundamental right to decide their political future through a free and impartial plebiscite.

Muslim Conference Marks 93rd Anniversary, commits to Mujahid e Awwal's Vision Under Sardar Attique's Leadership



RAWALPINDI: Secretary General of All Jammu Kashmir Muslim Conference and former Member Legislative Assembly and Deputy Speaker Legislative Assembly He said that the interference of Pakistani political parties in Azad Kashmir has weakened the Muslim Conference which has created anxiety, hatred and confusion among the people of the state. Under the ideological vision of Mujahid e Awwal Sardar Muhammad Abdul Qayyum Khan and the leadership of party president Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan, we are moving towards our destination.

Ms. Mehran-un-Nisa expressed these views during a cake cutting ceremony on the occasion of the 93rd Tasis of All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference at the party secretariat here on Thursday.

On this occasion, Central leader Major (R) Sardar Nasrullah Khan, Muslim Conference Secretary Finance Muhammad Sajid Qureshi Advocate, Muslim Conference Central Vice President Abid Razzaq Khan, Syed Rehmat Ali Salak Sarwal Shah Bukhari, Asim Zahid Abbasi, Vice Chairman Publicity Wing Raja Muhammad Zareen Khan, Secretary Dr Muhammad Abid Abbasi, Muslim Conference Deputy Secretary Finance Sardar Mohammad Ajmal Nakyalvi, Tehreek-e-Insaf Kashmir (PTI) Chairman PK Naqshbandi, Vice President Rawalpindi Islamabad Circle Abdul Sattar Abbasi, Mohammad Zubair Abbasi, Central Office Secretary Rana Ghulam Hussain, Youth Wing Islamabad President Amir Noor Abbasi, Azhar Abbasi Ejaz, Azhar Abbasi Ejaz Nazakat Abbasi and others participated.

Petroleum Division issue the ordered an inquiry against DG

ISLAMABAD: Petroleum Division has ordered an inquiry after officials of the Directorate General (Oil), Policy Wing, headed by Imran Ahmed who also holds the additional charge of Acting Director General Petroleum Concessions (DGPC), allegedly provided incorrect information about outstanding dues of Cnergyico Pakistan Limited.

According to sources familiar with the development, the inquiry was initiated after a contradictory statement emerged regarding the outstanding dues of Cnergyico Pakistan Limited, one of the country's leading oil refining and marketing companies. During an internal briefing at the Secretary Petroleum's Office, DG (Oil) officials reported that no outstanding amount was pending against the company. However, during a subsequent presentation at the Prime Minister's Office, the same officials claimed that Rs 5 billion were outstanding against Cnergyico.

World food day seminar held at TTSingh

Zafar Chishti

TOBA TEK SINGH: In connection with World Food Day 2025, the Punjab Food Authority (PFA) Toba Tek Singh organized a seminar at the University of Agriculture, Toba Campus, focusing on the importance of food safety and nutritional awareness.

The event was attended by Deputy Director Operations Yasir Mushtaq, nutrition experts, master trainers, and the staff of Punjab Food Authority. According to the spokesperson of the Punjab Food Authority, ensuring food safety, preventing nutritional deficiencies, and promoting healthy eating habits are among the authority's top priorities. The spokes person $\,$ emphasized that for a healthy diet and a better future, collective efforts from every segment of society are essential. "We must pledge to support the Punjab Food Authority in its mission to ensure the availability of safe

He further highlighted that food is not merely a means to fill hunger, but rather the foundation of good health, proper growth, and longterm development of future generations. The theme of World Food Day 2025 revolves around the idea that food safety is a national and collective responsibility.

and healthy food," the spokesperson stated.

Muslim Conference Marks 93rd Anniversary: Commemorates Legacy and Future of Kashmiri Struggle

👺 Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: The 93rd anniversary of All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference is continuing with enthusiasm across the country particularly Azad Kashmir refugeesresidinginPakistan and overseasKashmiris in abroad.

In Azad Kashmir Central ceremony was held at Dhirkot President of Muslim Conference Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan cut a birthday cake with the senior officials at

ence party office Dhirkot today. Members of District Council Bagh and large number of party senior officials attended the cere-

Muslim Conference President and former Prime Minister Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan congratulated the party workers on its 9th birthday. He said that our Islamic people founded the Muslim Conference in the Stone Mosque (Pather Masjid)of Srinagar with the aim of

Dhirkot Muslim Confer- Muslims with the religion of God in Jammu and Kashmir. He said that today we pay tribute to our ancestors, participants, organizers, speakers and workers who expressed their dedication to the Kashmiri Muslims in this historic and important gathering. The Muslim Conference has fulfilled its responsibilities in establishing the religious, ideological and political diagnosis of the state since its inception. There were many storms inside and outside the state against the relistrengthening the attachment of gious diagnosis, but the Muslim

Conference did not let this storm derail. He said that after its establishment, the Muslim Conference adopted the Annexation to Pakistan Resolution on July 19, 1947 under the leadership of Rais-e-Harar Quaid Milt Chaudhry Ghulam Abbas. In the 1970s, Mujahid e Awwal Sardar Muhammad Abdul Qayyum Khan shouted the slogan "Kashmir will become Pakistan". Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan said that the Muslim Conference has been engaged in the struggle for freedom and completeness of

Pakistan since its establishment. An atmosphere of uncertainty and chaos was created and an attempt was made to condemn the Muslim Conference to attack from Kodivar under an organized programe.

Allah that by the grace of Allah, congregation was founded are Muslim Conference is still the achieved. biggest ideological political force in Jammu and Kashmir. He said stability of the congregation and reaches its logical completion he renew this covenant to continue added.

He said that we are thankful to until the goals set out when the

He said that this movement will continue till Azadi Kashmir



SERV	CES
Namaz T	imings
Fajr	
Zohr	11:53 am
Asr	3:53 pm
Maghrib	5:33 pm
Isha	6:56 pm

EMERGENCY

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

Women Police Stations

Rawalpindi	9270601-20
ENQ	UIRY
Edhi Ambulance	
PIA Flight Info	114
PIA Cargo	9280979

Railway Inquiry9270831-5 Railway Exchange WASA Rawalpindi **HOSPITALS**

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

DEPARTM	ENTS
CDA	. 9221334-43
CDA	9208301-04
Met Office	. 9250360-6
RDA	5555864
TMA	5770886
Cantonment Board	9270151-3
Islamabad Metropolit	an
Corporation	9209224
Potohar Town	9209224
Rawal Town	5773343

COMPLAINTS

Water Tanker Service G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, H-8 ..9266316 Wapda Islamabad......9217579-80

Nestlé **Pakistan** delivers strong growth in 23 2025

Example 2 Commerce Desk

LAHORE: Nestlé Pakistan delivered a strong growth of 19.2% for the third quarter ended September 30, 2025, benefiting from a lower comparative base implementation of sales tax on majority of the portfolio effective from 1st of July 2024. This resulted in nine-month sales of PKR 150.8 billion, reflecting an increase of 1.1% compared to the corresponding period last year.

A favorable product mix and value chain optimization initiatives led to an improvement in gross and operating profit margins. Furthermore, reduced borrowing coupled with reduction in interest rate led to lower finance cost, aiding an improvement in

net profit. The results were announced following a meeting of the Board of Directors at the Company's Head Office.

On the back of relatively stable macroeconomic situation and low inflation, management maintains a cautiously optimistic outlook on business performance for the remainder of the year, while keeping its focus on opportunities to drive efficiency across the value chain and delivering quality products to our consumers.

IIUI wins landmark legal case protecting its institutional identity

跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The International Islamic University Islamabad (IIUI) has decisively secured its legal and copyright rights over its official initialism and logo after a trademark opposition case that had earlier been challenged by Ibadat International University, Islamabad. In a ruling reinforcing the earlier decision issued by the Trademark Registry earlier this year, the Registry has once again upheld IIUI's opposition (Nos. 5381/2022, 5382/2022, and 5383/2022), thereby reaffirming IIUI's exclusive rights to its institution-

The ruling confirms that the initialism

Islamic University Islamabad, is the exclusive legal property of the University. It prohibits Ibadat International University, Islamabad, from using the same or any similar mark, thereby safeguarding IIUI's name, insignia, and institutional distinction. It also prevents any institution affiliated with Ibadat International University, Islamabad, from using IIUI's initialism or logo for publicity purposes.

President of the International Islamic University Islamabad, Professor Dr. Ahmed Saad Alahmed, warmly congratulated the Legal Section on this remarkable achievement. He lauded the legal team — Mr. Muhammad Ramzan Khan, Advocate Supreme Court and Legal Advisor to the President IIUI, and Mr.



for their professionalism, dedication, and unwavering commitment to safeguarding the University's interests. The President particularly commended Mr. Muhammad Ramzan Khan for his "IIUI," representing the International Naseer Ahmad, In-House Lawyer, IIUI tireless efforts and legal acumen that

matter conclusively and reaffirms IIUI's rightful claim to its institutional identity and heritage."

This victory is being celebrated across international levels.

culminated in this decisive judgment. the university community as a defining He noted that the ruling "resolves the moment in IIUI's history, as it reinforces the University's integrity, credibility, and commitment to upholding the values and vision it represents at both national and

Cultural exchange program

ISLAMABAD: Director and Producer of the documentary "From Xi'an to Gwadar Port Mr Bai Zhijun exchange file with Director International Relations, PTV Muhammad Ramzan Ali after signing the Season Two production agreement between PTV and Shaanxi Zhongshan Culture Media Co at PTV Headquarters as Cultural Counselor of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China Chen Peng, and Federal Secretary of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting Ambreen Jan also present on the occasion.



UN Women Designates Hania Aamir

跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: UN Women Pakistan is delighted to announce the designation of Hania Aamir, renowned actor, advocate, and public figure, as its National Goodwill Ambassador. In this role, she will use her platform to raise awareness, inspire action, and amplify the voices of women and girls across Pakistan, reflecting her strong commitment to advancing gender equality, women's empowerment, and social justice.

Hania Aamir succeeds Muniba Mazari, who held this prestigious role until August 2025 and continues to be a global voice for women's



as National Goodwill Ambassador

empowerment, inclusion, and social justice.

Speaking about her desig-

voices often go unheard. I hope to inspire change, champion equality, and ensure that women and girls have the opportunity, resources, and confidence to shape their own

National Goodwill Ambas-

sador. This is more than a title

– it is a responsibility to repre-

sent women and girls whose

Jamshed M. Kazi, Country Representative of UN Women Pakistan, congratulated Hania Aamir, stating, "Hania's designation marks a significant milestone for UN Women as we celebrate 30 years of the landmark Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action aimed at advancing women's rights and gender equality globally.

Mobilink Bank Wins Best in Industry - Banking' at Best Place to Work Pakistan Awards 2025



Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's leading digital microfinance bank, Mobilink Bank, has been recognized as the 'Best Place to Work' in Pakistan's banking industry at the Best Place to Work Pakistan Awards 2025, one of the most prestigious & celebrated awards in Pakistan's HR fraternity. The awards are an initiative of the Pakistan Society of Human Resource Management (PSHRM), powered by Engage Consulting.

Commenting on the achievement, Haaris Mahmood Chaudhary, President & CEO, Mobilink Bank, said, "This award belongs entirely to our people: the driving force behind Mobilink Bank's purpose and progress. We've always believed in a people-first approach as it forms the foundation of a truly great workplace, and this recognition reaffirms that we're on the right path. Being named the best in the industry only strengthens our resolve to keep raising the bar."

Aleena Tanvir, Chief People Officer, Mobilink Bank, said, "This award stands as proof of the culture we've built together, anchored in trust, empathy, and inclusion-where every individual has the space to grow and belong. When people feel seen and supported, excellence

Takht Bhai Press Club members' recreational visit to the beautiful place of Fishing Hut

Tariq khan Yousafzai

TAKHT BHAI: The members of Takhte Bhai Press Club (Registered) went on a one-day recreational trip to the scenic location of Fishing Hut, where both senior and junior journalist members stayed at the Lawari House Fishing Hut, a private rest house owned by a former federal minister belonging to the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP). The participants enjoyed the beautiful scenery, pleasant weather, and sightseeing during the trip. Among those who took part in the recreational tour were senior journalists and members of the press club, including President Muslim Khan Sabir, Fazal Hadi, Haji Murad Ali Murad, Wahab Yousafi, Haji Wazir Zada Amjad, Izzat Muhammad Khpalwak, Ibrahim Syed Yousafzai, Javed Alam Mohmand, Muhammad Shahid Khan, Matiullah, Pamir Jan, Zahid Shah, Iftikhar Usmani Khail, Jan Alam, Imtiaz Takker, Zafar Iqbal, and Zahid Rahman. Also present were former president of Shergarh Press Club Jamil-ur-Rehman Shaheen, President of Dargai Malakand Press Club Zahir Shah, and journalist Najeem Zaman, who all enjoyed the recreational outing together.

Global Experts at AKU Conference Declare Raising Children a 'Societal Imperative'

👺 City Desk

KARACHI: A critical global conversation on safeguarding and shaping the future of the next generation began today as the 13th International Conference on 'Raising Children in Our Times,' hosted by the Aga Khan University's Institute for Educational Development (IED), opened in Karachi.

Sindh, who declared the proper raising of children to be the "fundamental

the future is built not in parliaments to raise flourishing individuals. or factories, but in the "nurturing, protected, and enlightened spaces we create for our children today".

This urgency was echoed by Dr. Farid Panjwani, Dean of IED, who noted that we often put the onus of raising kids solely on parents, as if it was a private and individualistic responsibility.

Keynote speaker Dr Lynne Wolbert, Chief Guest Syed Sardar Ali Shah, Associate Professor, Vrije University Minister for Education and Culture, Amsterdam, captured this ethical dilemma by questioning how humans, having contributed to so many of the challenge of our era". He asserted that world's problems, can justifiably aim

nation, Hania Aamir said,

"I am deeply honored to be

designated as UN Women

Day one moved quickly to address these on-ground challenges. A thought-provoking panel discussion on "Raising Resilient Learners in a Digital and Divided World" brought together experts like Haroon Yasin, CEO of Taleemabad, and Bronwen McGrath, Global Programme Manager at the Aga Khan Foundation, to explore concrete ways education systems and families can nurture resilience, empathy, and critical thinking.

Following this, the panel "Beyond Survival: Shaping Safe and Supportive



Spaces for the Modern Child" addressed including Omair Ahmed, CEO of Interim Chair Department of Psychidisability inclusion and supportive NOWPDP, and renowned educationist atry and Dr Fozia Parveen, Environ-

environments, featuring panellists Dr Mehmood Mughal, Dr Nargis Asad, mental Scientist at AKU.

Group Chairman/Chief Editor: Almass Ayoub Sabir

Vice Chairman:

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

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

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

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

Karachi office: A111, Block C, Gulsha-e-Jamal, PRECHS, Karachi Phone:021-33399390

Email: spokesmankarachi@gmail.com

Lahore Office: 7-E, Samanberg, Johar Town. spokesmanlahore@gmail.com

Daily The Spokesman available only on annual subscription

Pakistan fully supports China's Global **Governance Initiative** at SCO Roundtable

mbassador Sohail Mahmood, Director General of the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI), on Thursday voiced Pakistan's full support for China's Global Governance Initiative (GGI) during the 2025 Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Roundtable Dialogue held in Beijing.

The event, co-organized by the China International Communications Group (CICG), the SCO Secretariat, and the China Institute of International Studies, gathered over 150 representatives from various international organizations, think tanks, and media outlets to discuss global governance and multilateral coopera-

In his remarks, Ambassador Mahmood acknowledged the pressing challenges facing the international community and emphasized Pakistan's commitment to the core principles of the

He noted that the initiative's call for a more inclusive, democratic, and efficient global governance system aligns closely with Pakistan's values and strategic interests, particularly in fostering a fairer world order that benefits the Global South.

The GGI, first introduced by Chinese President Xi Jinping at the "SCO Plus" meeting in Tianjin, aims to address the deficiencies in current global governance frameworks by focusing on multilateralism, the upholding of international law, and prioritizing the needs of developing nations.

The initiative advocates for stronger cooperation, peaceful coexistence, and a more equitable international order.

Ambassador Mahmood underlined that Pakistan fully supports China's push for global governance reforms, especially those that seek to enhance the representation of developing countries and strengthen international institutions.

He called on SCO member states to lead the charge in implementing the GGI, ensuring that multilateral frameworks, such as the United Nations, are revitalized to address the pressing issues

Chang Bo, President of China International Communications Group (CICG), emphasized the importance of the SCO's role in fostering global peace and cooperation. He highlighted Chinese President Xi Jinping's Global Governance Initiative (GGI), which calls for a more inclusive, democratic, and efficient inter-

SCO Secretary-General Nurlan Yermekbayev and other officials, reiterated the SCO's commitment to multilateralism and international law. The initiative advocates for a people-centered approach to global governance, prioritizing peaceful coexistence, equitable development, and stronger international collaboration.

The dialogue also focused on five key areas of collaboration between SCO member states: strengthening UN-centered multilateralism, reinforcing a normative framework for security, empowering the Global South, fostering innovation partnerships, and promoting cultural dialogue.

When Childhood Becomes Labor: Pakistan's Grave Ordeal

Khan Singhanvi

factories, or as domestic servants is one of the most complex and tragic chapters of Pakistan's economy and society. Its causes are not merely the byproduct of poverty; they are an amalgam of concentrated class structures, political frailty, entrenched social customs, and global dynamics. The phenomenon dubbed "dream-stripping domestic toil" is, in essence, a harrowing portrait in which children surrender the remaining shards of their childhoods, their education, their self-esteem, their very hopes for the future.

Constitutionally, Pakistan proscribes slavery, forced labor, and human trafficking (Constitution of Pakistan, Article 11). Article 25-A further enshrines the right to education as an obligation of the state. Nevertheless, laws against child labor, especially domestic child labor have not been uniformly executed at the pragmatic level. Different provinces operate under distinct legal frameworks, and enforcement is weak.

Internationally, child domestic work is a well-recognized problem. Estimates suggest roughly 17.2 million children worldwide are engaged in domestic work, most between the ages of five and fourteen, and a majority are girls.

Pakistan is not immune to this crisis. The state is party to international instruments such as the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and various ILO conventions. There are also multilateral collaborations for example, the ILO's Asia Regional Child Labour initiatives that partner with Pakistan to curb child exploitation.

Yet international pressure and legal

when internal institutional capacities are fortified, transparency is enhanced, and public consciousness is elevated.

The Problem's Complexity and Obsta-

1. Lack of visibility. Domestic work largely transpires behind closed doors within households and in unregistered settings so official statistics are fragmentary and incomplete. There is scant systematic measurement of concealed child labor and governmental surveillance often fails to detect it.

delays. Filing complaints, pursuing cases, procuring witness testimony, and obtaining verdicts are protracted processes. Victims and their families seldom possess the resources to navigate protracted legal battles.

3. Social acceptance and indifference. Frequently, the very families who send their children to work regard it as ordinary and do not lodge complaints. A pervasive rhetoric of "consent" between parties often serves as a rationalization for exploitation.

4. Resource scarcity and social protection gaps. Absent comprehensive safety nets, financial assistance, scholarships, food security, and healthcare, vulnerable households lack plausible alternatives to sending children to work. Without state intervention to fill these lacunae, child labor is unlikely to recede.

5. Policy incoherence. Legal heteroge-

enforcement and diminish policy efficacy.

In Karachi's underprivileged neighborhoods where domestic child labor is a routine practice stories like Armeenah's are commonplace. Child domestic work is not merely an urban malaise: it is wide-

spread in rural Sindh and other metropolitan areas alike. One study estimated that around 20 percent of children in Sindh engage in work, influenced by rural backgrounds, illiteracy, and limited public services.

Dr. Muhammad Tayyab Organizations such as SPARC and other NGOs

2. Judicial and administrative emphasize that "this is not cheap labor but modern slavery," and their characterization rings true. If a girl leaves home at dawn to toil all day and returns late at night, her life is not a brief phase; it becomes an unremitting struggle.

In recent years the government has taken some steps, investigations and prosecutions related to human trafficking and child exploitation have intensified. For example, in recent months, Pakistani authorities investigated 2,688 suspects and secured convictions for 805 indi-

However, such measures are only a beginning; they are not a panacea. Legislative action and enforcement are necessary but insufficient structural and systemic reforms are indispensable.

Future Prospects and a Policy Agenda: 1. Legal harmonization and reform. Standardize child labor laws across provinces, establish a federal oversight body, and that would be an existential misery.

hild labor whether in fields, instruments are only intermittent neity across provinces and the absence and strengthen penalties and enforcesupports. Lasting success will occur only of a unifying federal statute complicate ment mechanisms to raise compliance

> 2. Complaint and monitoring infrastructure. Create accessible hotlines, district-level complaint centers, socialworker networks, and neighborhood monitoring systems to facilitate reporting and local oversight.

> 3. Economic assistance and social protection. Provide conditional cash transfers, scholarships, debt relief, and microenterprise opportunities to low-income households so they are not compelled to rely on child labor.

> 4. Educational strengthening. Make free education genuinely accessible and of sufficient quality; incentivize school attendance and prioritize reintegration programs for out-of-school children.

> 5. Public awareness and cultural change. Use media, religious leaders, teachers, community workers, and parent education programs to reframe child labor as a grave human-rights violation rather than a benign convenience.

> A child enmeshed in dream-stripping domestic toil is not the one who leaves for school in the morning and opens books in the evening. That child is the one who returns home with dust on her hands, who spends the day sweeping and washing, whose ambition is reduced to enduring the next day's light. If Pakistan aspires to genuine progress, if we truly want the next generation to be empowered, self-reliant human beings then now is the time to expose this hidden servitude, to unite against it, and to eradicate it completely. Otherwise we risk becoming a nation whose comforts are built on the exploitation of its own joy



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

Economic Crisis in Pakistan: Causes, Impacts, and Solutions

akistan is currently going through one of the most severe economic crises in its history. Inflation, unemployment, currency depreciation, trade deficit, mounting debt, and political instability have shaken the very foundations of the country's economy. The life of an ordinary citizen is becoming increasingly difficult, as basic necessi-

have gone beyond the reach of the common man. This crisis is not merely a temporary outcome of global conditions; rather, it is the result of decades of policy failures, corruption, institutional weaknesses, and a lack of continuity in decision-making. The worst sufferers of this situation are the youth the very segment considered the future of the nation. Approximately 64% of Pakistan's

population consists of young people. This group is a tremendous force that, if guided properly, can put the country on the path of prosperity. Unfortunately, the current economic conditions have turned their energy and potential into frustration, uncertainty, and helplessness.

The second major reason is the persistent devaluation of the Pakistani rupee, which increases the cost of imports and fuels inflation. Since Pakistan's economy and industries heavily depend on imported raw materials, the depreciation of the rupee affects every sector. As a result, inflation $keeps\ rising, and\ the\ purchasing\ power\ of\ ordinary$ citizens continues to decline. Essential commodities such as food, medicines, petroleum products, and even services like education and healthcare have become unaffordable for many.

The third cause is political instability and lack of policy continuity. Every new government discards the plans of its predecessor and introduces new policies, creating uncertainty in the economy.

declines, and the business community, uncertain about the future, limits its activities.

The fourth major cause is the energy crisis. Load-shedding, gas shortages, and high electricity costs have increased the production expenses of industries, making Pakistani exports less competitive in the global market. Consequently, the trade ties such as flour, sugar, electricity, gas, and petrol deficit continues to widen. This economic turmoil

has had devastating effects on the people. Unemployment is on the rise, and citizens are being deprived of basic rights such as access to education and healthcare. Inflation has crushed the middle and lower classes, pushing many toward psychological stress, crime, and social unrest. Meanwhile, the country's international credibility and

sovereignty are also under threat, as the conditions set by the IMF and other financial institutions grow increasingly stringent.

Muhammad Asif

Among all segments, the youth are the most affected by this crisis. Educated young people, degrees in hand, wander in search of employment. The high unemployment rate has led to frustration, anxiety, and depression among them. Thousands of skilled and educated young people are migrating abroad for better opportunities, weakening the nation's intellectual and economic potential. On the other hand, many are forced to work in informal sectors for meager wages, where there is neither job security nor social protection.

However, despite all these challenges, Pakistan's youth possess immense talent, creativity, and resilience. Through the digital economy, freelancing, startups, and social entrepreneurship, many young people are not only becoming self-reliant but also generating employment for others. In rural areas, young farmers are introducing modern agricultural techniques, while in urban centers, youth

Investors lose confidence, foreign investment are making Pakistan's name shine in the field of technology worldwide.

The state and society have a vital responsibility to support and empower the youth. Education must be aligned with market demands; entrepreneurial opportunities, financial assistance, and vocational training programs should be provided. The vouth should be included in the policymaking process, and corruption and nepotism must be eradicated to establish a merit-based system.

Pakistan's economic crisis is not temporary, it is structural in nature. To overcome it, the youth must be made the center of reform and progress. The younger generation is not merely a victim of the crisis; they can also become the solution, provided they are given opportunities for education, employment, and empowerment. These young people are the true guarantee of Pakistan's economic stability and a prosperous future.

To escape this situation, urgent reforms are required. The tax system must be overhauled to increase revenue. Dependence on loans should be reduced by promoting exports and strengthening domestic industries. Subsidies should be offered to the agriculture and industrial sectors to boost local production and reduce imports. Alternative energy sources such as solar and wind power should be expanded. Above all, political stability and policy continuity are essential to restore investor confidence and provide a steady direction to the economy.

Pakistan's economic crisis is not merely an economic issue, it is a multidimensional challenge linked to political, social, and national security concerns. If immediate and consistent measures are not taken, Pakistan may face even more serious challenges in the coming years. The time has come for the nation to move toward economic self-reliance, eliminate corruption, and put national interest above political gain.

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

Without Egypt, There Is No Bridge to Gaza

Mujtaba Qayyum

n the long and tragic story of Gaza, one reality has remained constant: Egypt is the hinge on which much of the humanitarian and diplomatic effort turns. From managing aid routes to setting political boundaries, Cairo's role is often underappreciated, yet it remains central to keeping humanitarian network would struggle to functhe situation from sliding into total collapse.

When limited ceasefires began to take shape in early 2025, Egypt helped translate negotiations into actual relief on the ground. Over just two weeks in August, nearly a thousand aid trucks carrying more than 14,000 tons of food, medicine, and essential supplies crossed into Gaza through the Rafah border, according to the Egyptian Red Crescent. Around 800 of those trucks reached their destinations under coordination with the United Nations and partner agencies. Earlier in the year, during a truce mediated in Cairo alongside Qatar and the United States, Egypt oversaw one of the main supply routes into Gaza. The arrangement introduced daily aid targets to push more convoys through Rafah and ease the pressure on Gaza's collapsing hospitals and shelters.

The Qur'anic call to support the oppressed and uphold justice gives this struggle a dimension that goes beyond borders. Egypt's insistence on dignity for Palestinians reflects that shared obligation to stand with those under siege.

Egypt's position is both influential and difficult because it sits at the crossroads of multiple, often conflicting roles. It is at once a mediator, a host, a neighbor, and a potential refuge. Cairo has worked with Qatar, the League partners to arrange ceasefires, coordinate hostage exchanges, and sustain humanitarian access. These efforts, however, come with heavy burdens. Even when crossings open, layers

of security procedures and political conditions delay deliveries. Some convoys wait for days, while others are diverted or held at checkpoints. Egypt also faces the constant risk of instability at its own borders if violence spreads or if large numbers of displaced people attempt to cross into Sinai. Balancing these pressures requires quiet, continuous diplomacy.

Without Egypt's engagement, Gaza's fragile tion at all. Aid convoys would lose one of their few reliable routes, and the diplomatic table would lose one of its most credible conveners. Cairo maintains communication with almost every stakeholder, including Hamas, Israeli intermediaries, Arab governments, and international donors. Its leverage is built not only on geography but also on consistency. Egypt's steady coordination of aid, its mediation between rivals, and its clear rejection of forced displacement have positioned it as more than a neighbor; it is the bridge that connects global diplomacy to the daily survival of Gazans.

For that bridge to hold, Egypt will need the world's support. Crossings like Rafah and Kerem Shalom must open more predictably, and cooperation with UN agencies must remain transparent so that supplies reach those in need. International partners should help Egypt shoulder the cost of sustaining these lifelines, both financially and politically. Above all, the principle of keeping Palestinians on their land must remain at the heart of any future recon-

struction effort. In a conflict where so much lies beyond control, Egypt's choices remind the Muslim world what principled steadiness can look like. Its patience and persistence continue to deter-United States, the United Nations, and Arab mine whether Gaza receives aid, whether negotiations endure, and whether hope survives at all. Without Egypt, there truly would be no bridge

The writer is Geopolitical Commentator

Attaullah Tarar Praises President Mirziyoyev's

Vision

New Book Offers Insight into Uzbekistan's Reforms

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar on Thursday termed the recently published Urdu translation of Uzbekistan President Shavkat Mirziyoyev's book 'Uzbekistan: The Third Renaissance-Concept of the Future' a valuable contribution by the author Muhammad Abbas Khan who is a senior journalist and businessman as the book will help the readers understand Uzbekistan's people, culture, traditions and values.

Tarar was addressing as Chief Guest the launching ceremony of the book at the Marriott. The book-launch was jointly organized by the Embassy of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Daily Ittehad Media Group.

First Deputy Director of the Mirzo Ulugbek Institute for the Study of the Development of New Uzbekistan (formerly National University of Uzbekistan), Tashkent, Mr Abdulaziz Adbullaev who had travelled all the way from Uzbekistan to attend the launching ceremony of the book was the Guest of Honour on the occasion. Another guest of honour who spoke about Uzbekistan's rich cultural diversity, common linkages with Pakistan and ancient





President Asif Ali Zardari, Mr Murtaza Solangi.

The hosts at the launching ceremony, President of Daily Ittehad Media Group, Tahir Farooq and Ambassador Alisher Tukhtaev along with the staff of heritage was Spokesperson to the embassy, author/translator the 446-page book provides a

Abbas Khan, Deputy E-in-C, Daily Ittehad Maarij Faroog and Executive Editor Moiz Farooq welcomed the guests upon arrival.

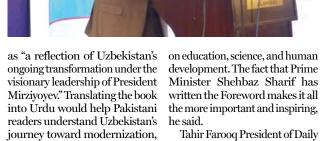
Tarar in his brief but candid address paid rich tributes to Uzbekistan's leadership and said

Ittehad xistan: The Third ncept of the Fu

complete recipe of how nations attain greatness. The book in fact gives us an overview of the reforms undertaken by President Mirziyoyev in social, political, economic and infrastructure sectors. Above all, connectivity is a vital point of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev's foreign policy, he said. President Mirzivovev is not only a man of ideas but also a man of action; a

ment his ideas, Tarar concluded. Mr Abdulaziz Adbullaev on behalf of the government and the people of Uzbekistan congratulated the author Abbas Khan for undertaking a gigantic task of translating President Mirzi-yoyev's book "Uzbekistan: Third Renaissance."

In his remarks, Ambassador Tukhtaev highlighted the imporman who knows how to imple- tance of the book, describing it intellectual awakening centered other countries of the region.



reform, and openness, he said

represented not only economic

progress but also a cultural and

Tahir Farooq President of Daily Ittehad Media Group said Uzbekadding the Third Renaissance istan in many way can become a source of inspiration and motivation for Pakistan as well as many



Jahangir Tareen Inaugurates Science and Modern Computer Labs in Government Schools of Khanewal

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Jahangir Khan Tareen inaugurated newly established Science and Modern Computer Laboratories at Government Girls Higher Secondary School Kacha Khoh and Government Boys Model Higher Secondary School Khan-

Addressing the inaugural ceremony, Tareen emphasized the importance of adapting Pakistan's education system to the rapidly changing global landscape.

"The world is evolving at an unprecedented pace. This is the age of information technology, if we do not modern education so they transform our educational can compete confidently on and Research) in Lodhran, Model High School Khanmodel accordingly, we will be a global stage.



left far behind," said Jahangir Khan Tareen. "Our goal is has already established to equip our children with TICER (Tareen Institute

He highlighted that TEF for Computer Education

advanced IT training.

Deputy Commissioner Khanewal, Dr. Salma Suleman, praised the initiative, stating that TEF has established six Science and Computer Labs in government schools across the

Akbar Khan, Chief Executive Officer of TEF, noted that Jahangir Khan Tareen has invested billions of rupees in educational projects over the past 15 years.

To promote environmental awareness, Jahangir Khan Tareen and Deputy Commissioner Dr. Salma Suleman also planted trees at the Government Boys

Welcoming New Horizons: Orientation Ceremony at The Women University Multan

👺 Quratul Ain Asim

MULTAN: Directorate of Student Affairs at The Women University Multan (WUM) organized a vibrant Orientation Ceremony to welcome the newly admitted students for the academic year. The event aimed to introduce the fresh graduates to the academic environment, university culture, and diverse opportunities offered at Women's University Multan.

Prof Dr Kalsoom Pracha, Vice of character-Chancellor of The Women University Multan, graced the occasion as Chief Guest. In her inspiring address, she congratulated the new students on joining Women's University Multan.



ment. She emphasized the importance curricular opportunities.

The event also featured an encouraging address by Dr. Adeela Saeed, Director Student Affairs, who welcomed the new batch with warmth and enthusiasm. She briefed A leading institution dedicated to the students about university rules, where students are receiving ewal as part of the ceremony. women's education and empower-student support systems, and extra-

The ceremony was attended by Heads of Departments, faculty members, and administrative staff. The event concluded with an orientation session introducing academic programs, societies, and campus facilities, followed by an interactive Q&A with the students.

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has reaffirmed its commitment to promoting safe, and Human Resource Development orderly, and inclusive labour mobility Chaudhry Salik Hussain during his through stronger regional partnerships

with Iran, Bangladesh, and Kuwait. This commitment was expressed by Federal Minister for Overseas Pakistanis

Pakistan Strengthens Labour Cooperation with Iran, Bangladesh, and Kuwait

Employment Brigadier General retired Dr. M Sakhawat Hossain, the Labour Advisor of Iran, and the Secretary of Labour and Manpower of Kuwait, on the sidelines of a regional meeting in

Zulfiqar Ahmad also attended the meet-

During discussions with Iran, both sides agreed to enhance cooperation in separate interactions with Bangladesh's labour, employment, and social protec-

emphasized strengthening the Joint Working Group, collaboration in skills development, social welfare, and social

In talks with Bangladeshi representative, the two sides agreed to expand Secretary Workers Welfare Fund collaboration on labour migration, skills certification, and migrant welfare, and explore establishing a Pakistan–Bangladesh Joint Working Group on Labour and Migration.

Chaudhry Salik Hussain offered to

Adviser for Shipping and Labour and tion under the existing MoU. They host an Expert-Level Meeting to define joint priorities.

The Bangladesh side accepted Pakiboth countries' commitment to sharing expertise and strengthening bilateral

Meeting the Kuwaiti Secretary of employment across member states. Labour and Manpower, Chaudhry Salik Hussain discussed enhancing manpower cooperation, noting that the MoU with Kuwait is being reviewed and that both sides are preparing a compre-

hensive action plan for the Pakistani

The Iranian Labour Advisor also stan's invitation for a visit, underscoring expressed gratitude for Pakistan's support during the Israel conflict and urged the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) to prioritize youth

> All three countries recognized Pakistan as a key force within the Muslim Ummah, committed to advancing social justice, the dignity of work, and migrant welfare through active labour diplomacy.

AlHuda CIBE Organizes an Exposure Visit to the Turkish Islamic Finance Market

AlHuda CIBE connects global experts with Türkiye's thriving participation finance ecosystem

of Islamic Banking and Economics (CIBE) successfully organized a four-day Exposure Visit and Executive Training Program on Islamic Banking, Takaful, and Islamic Microfinance in Istan- this ongoing journey, providing bul, Türkiye, from October 7 to 10, 2025. The initiative brought together senior bankers, financial experts, and policymakers from across various countries. to exchange knowledge, share best practices, and strengthen international collaboration in the Islamic finance industry.

continues to set benchmarks in capacity building and knowledge sharing within the Islamic finance industry. The Türkiye visit marks another milestone in participants with the opportunity to learn directly from one of the world's fastest-growing Islamic finance markets.

The comprehensive program creating an excellent platform combined executive-level classroom sessions, industry exposure visits, and cultural immersion experiences. The training sessions were held at Crowne With the legacy of organizing Plaza Hotel Istanbul - Harbive, international exposure visits where participants engaged in

its prohibition, Islamic banking modes such as Mudarabah, Musharakah, Murabahah, and Ijarah, as well as Takaful, Islamic microfinance, and Sukuk. The sessions were led by AlHuda CIBE's Managing Director and CEO, Mr. Muhammad Zubair Mughal, along with other experts in Islamic financial systems.

The exposure visit component allowed delegates to explore Turkey's vibrant Islamic finance ecosystem through meetings with leading financial institutions. The group visited Ziraat Katılım Bankası, where they observed practical applications

DUBAI - UAE: AlHuda Centre across continents, AlHuda CIBE detailed discussions on Riba and of Shariah-compliant banking sustainable financial system. operations, and Armor Katılım Sigorta ve Reasürans Brokerli i A. ., where they learned about Islamic insurance and reinsurance frameworks. The delegation also held discussions with the Participation Banks Association of Türkive (TKBB) on industry regulation and development, and visited the Islamic Credit Guarantee Fund (KFK) to understand SME financing support mechanisms under Islamic principles. These engagements provided delegates with a first-hand understanding of Turkey's experience in fostering Islamic finance as a viable and

Turkey has emerged as one of the most promising markets for Islamic finance globally. The country's Islamic financial system, commonly referred to as the Participation Finance Industry, includes six full-fledged participation banks, multiple Takaful and re-Takaful operators, Islamic investment and leasing companies, and robust regulatory frameworks supported by bodies such as the Participation Banks Association of Türkiye (TKBB) and the Banking Regulation and Supervision Agency (BRSA). As of 2025, participation banking assets in Türkiye

account for nearly 8.5% percent of the national banking sector. The total assets of participation banks have exceeded USD 100 billion, underscoring the government's commitment to promoting financial inclusion, innovation, and ethical finance rience first-hand how Islamic

through Islamic principles. With its strong regulatory framework, supportive environment, and rapid digital transformation, Türkiye continues to establish itself as a key hub for markets seeking to strengthen Islamic finance in the Eurasian their Islamic finance ecosystems."

Mr. Muhammad Zubair Mughal, Managing Director and CEO of AlHuda CIBE, said: "This exposure visit to Türkive provided our participants with a unique opportunity to expefinance is implemented in a dynamic and well-regulated environment. Türkiye's participation banking model presents valuable lessons for developing

Friday, October 17, 2025



Index Fluctuation		
Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index		
Current	Prev. Close	
164,444.71	165,686.38	
Day's High	Day's Low	
166,864.89	164,261.65	
Index Value	Change	
34,332,495,788	-1241.67	
Percentage	Time	
-0.75%	16 Oct, 2025 4:30 pm	
Europe: FTSE 100 Index		
Index Value	Change	
9,436.09	+11.34	
Percentage	Time	
-0.12%	16 Oct, 4:35 pm GMT+1	
HOA. Daw James I		

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average		
Index Value	Change	
46,075.80	-177.51	
Percentage	Time	
-0.38%	16 Oct, 1:43 pm GMT-4	
Acia Pacific: Nikkoi Stocke Average		

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average		
Index Value	Change	
48,277.74	+605.07	
Percentage	Time	
+1.27%	16 Oct, 3:45 pm GMT+9	

Open Market Forex Rates

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	185.5	190.5
Bahrain Dinar	746.7	754.2
Canadian Dollar	205.5	212.5
China Yuan	39.85	40.25
Danish Krone	44.6	45.2
Euro	331.8	335.3
Hong Kong Dollar	36.5	36.85
Indian Rupee	3.13	3.22
Japanese Yen	1.8762	1.9762
Kuwaiti Dinar	913.4	922.4
Malaysian Ringgit	67.25	67.85
NewZealand \$	164.8	166.8
Norwegians Krone	28.3	28.6
Omani Riyal	731	738.5
Qatari Riyal	77.3	78
Saudi Riyal	75.35	76
Singapore Dollar	216.75	221.5
Swedish Korona	30.05	30.35
Swiss Franc	355.02	357.77
Thai Bhat	8.7	8.85
U.A.E Dirham	76.8	77.8
UK Pound Sterling	380.65	383.65
US Dollar	282.65	282.85

SECP Roundtable on The Future of Takaful in Pakistan'



KARACHI: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) organized a roundtable discussion in Karachi titled "The Future of Takaful in Pakistan." The event was part of the SECP's 'Insured Pakistan' fiveyear strategic plan. The half-day session brought together Shariah advisors, international insurance brokers (AON and Guy Carpenter), and insurance industry representatives to promote the development of the Takaful sector.

Led by the SECP's Insurance Division under the guidance of Commissioner Mr. Mujtaba Ahmed Lodhi, the initiative aimed to identify policy and regulatory measures to enhance the Takaful industry's market share and promote Shariah-compliant financial inclusion, thereby contributing to economic growth and ongoing regulatory reforms.

In his welcome address, Mr. Mujtaba Ahmed Lodhi, Commissioner of Insurance, appreciated the participants' active engagement and emphasized the importance of collective ownership in driving the transition toward Takaful. He reaffirmed the SECP's commitment to providing a facilitative regulatory environment and extended full support to the industry for implementing the future roadmap.

Mr. Mufti Ehsan Waqar, a member of the SECP's Shariah Advisory Board, highlighted the importance of transitioning to Shariah-compliant insurance in light of recent constitutional reforms. He outlined key industry challenges and urged both the SECP and market participants to collaborate on developing clear guidelines to facilitate this transition.

PTCL Group and **PPAF** Announce Expansion of 'Ba-Ikhtiar' Initiative at **GITEX Global 2025**

Commerce Desk

DUBAI/ISLAMABAD: PTCL Group, in viation Fund (PPAF), announced the expaninitiative, Ba-Ikhtiar, during GITEX Globbetween Hatem Bamatraf, President and

inclusive development and digital empowerment across Pakistan.

'Ba-Ikhtiar', a social initiative jointly collaboration with the Pakistan Poverty Alle-piloted by PTCL Group (PTCL & Ufone 4G) and the Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund sion of its flagship women empowerment (PPAF) to empower 100 underprivileged women entrepreneurs in Haripur, Khyber al 2025 in Dubai. The agreement was signed Pakhtunkhwa, is now being expanded to 23 flood-affected cities across the country Group CEO, PTCL & Ufone 4G, and Nadir following its resounding success. The Gul Barech, CEO, PPAF, marking another extended program aims to up-skill over 2,300



entrepreneurial capabilities to enhance their livelihoods and drive upward social mobility.

Speaking on the occasion, Hatem Bamatraf, President and Group CEO, PTCL & Ufone 4G, said, "PTCL Group leverages its digital expertise and infrastructure to enhance the well-being of underprivileged

milestone in PTCL Group's commitment to women by equipping them with digital and "The expansion of the Ba-Ikhtiar program empowerment and self-reliance.

marks a significant milestone in our journey to empower women from vulnerable communities

The Ba-Ikhtiar program represents a shared vision of building a digitally inclusive Pakistan, where women are empowered through knowledge, technology, and opportunity. The initiative is now set to bring thou-CEO PPAF, Nadir Gul Barech, added, sands more women into the fold of economic

Empowers students

The STEM Go-Karts Project, a collaboration between Team Envision and Nixor College, empowers students to design, build, and race electric go-karts, blending hands-on STEM learning with innova-



China Mobile Global Partners Conference 2025-Unveiling Four Major Cooperation Initiatives



Example 2 Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: China Mobile's held its Global Partner Conference in Guangzhou, China. Since 2013, annually China Mobile has been hosting the Global Partner Conference to showcase the latest achievements of the company and its partners in technological innovation and digital-intelligent transformation. At this year's conference, Yang Jie, Chairman China Mobile delivered a keynote titled "Carbon-Silicon Symbiosis: Co-Creating the AI+ Era."

aims to bring the "Chinese Solutions" showcased at the Conference to Pakistan, reinforcing its vision to becoming an Excellent Information Services & Technology Innovation Company.

During its annual conference, China Mobile unveiled four major initiatives spanning Artificial Intelligence (AI), International Branding, Quantum Communications, and Digital-Intelligent Living. The company launched the upgraded "AI+ Action Plan" and the "AI+ Ecological Alli-

ance," reinforcing its role as an AI supplier, aggregator, and operator while working with partners to develop innovative AI business models and applications.

On the global front, China Mobile introduced "CMobile" as its new international brand, marking a significant step in its global strategy. The brand embodies the "4C" strategic direction — Customer, Cooperation, Creation, and Connection — and was launched alongside a comprehensive brand renewal and the establishment of the International Ecological Alliance.

Telenor Pakistan **Sweeps Three Top** Honours at Best Place to Work Awards 2025 by Engage Consulting and PSHRM



Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Telenor Pakistan has been recognised with three prestigious accolades at the Best Awards Gala 2025, organand the Pakistan Society of Human Resource Management (PSHRM). The in 2008. company was honoured as Commenting on the the Best in Industry Award

recognition platform, celeare redefining employee meaningful impact."

engagement, promoting inclusive cultures, and leading with purpose. This year marked a recordbreaking participation, with over 260 company Place to Work Pakistan nominations received and more than 155 companies ised by Engage a consulting participated from across Pakistan — the highest since the initiative began

awards, Areei Khan, Chief Winner 2025 in the Tele- People Officer at Telenor com Sector, the Best Place Pakistan, said, "These to Work Award 2025 in the awards reaffirm our belief large company category, that a people-first culture and the coveted Best of the drives innovation, growth, Best Company 2025 Award. and sustainable success. At The Best Place to Work Telenor Pakistan, we are Pakistan Study & Awards proud to create an inclusive is the country's largest HR environment where every individual is empowered brating organisations that to learn, lead, and make a

CCP Hosts Lecture on Economic Equality

跨 Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: As part of its ongoing Lecture Series on Competition Law, the Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) hosted an Dr. Ali Salman, Chief Executive Officer of PRIME Instion "Level Playing Field for Businesses in Various Sectors of the Economy in Pakistan."

The session, held at the CCP Headquarters, was presided over by Chairman Dr. Kabir Ahmed Sidhu, and attended by Members, Director Generals, and senior officers of the Commission.

Dr. Salman discussed the concept of a "level playing field" from an economic and regulatory perspective,

emphasizing that equal opportunity and equal rules are not synonymous. He argued that while opportunities are inherently unequal, it is the responsibility of regulators to ensure equal rules insightful session featuring and non-discriminatory policies across all markets.

Chairman Dr. Sidhu tute, who delivered a lecture thanked Dr. Salman for his thought-provoking lecture, noting that such academic and policy-oriented engagements enrich CCP's ongoing efforts to promote competitive markets and informed economic policymaking.

The Lecture Series is part of CCP's advocacy and capacity-building initiatives aimed at enhancing understanding of competition law and economic governance among professionals and policymakers.

Better Food, Brighter Future: S. M. Group's Commitment to Global Health

Example 2 Commerce Desk

MULTAN: October 16 is celebratcollective effort, sustainable agricul- every individual.

tural growth, and the promotion of safe and nutritious food systems.

We must recognize that better food ed globally as World Food Day -a is not only the key to good health day to reaffirm our commitment to but also the foundation of a brighter eliminating hunger, malnutrition, and more secure future. By fostering and the challenges of poor-quality collaboration among industry, agrifood. This year's theme, "Hand in culture, science, and technology, we Hand for Better Foods and a Better can build a system that ensures safe, Future," symbolizes the spirit of high-quality, and nutritious food for

S. M. Group of Industries has always been dedicated to improving food quality, ensuring transparency in production processes, and promoting sustainable development aligned with international standards.

Let us all join hands to strengthen this commitment — to lay the foundation of a healthier, prosperous, and brighter future through better food



Asia Pacific Goalball Championship 2025 kicks off

55 Tooba Khan

ISLAMABAD: The Asia Pacific Goalball Championship 2025, a vibrant and exhilarating competition, has commenced with a bang.

The opening matches saw thrilling victories for Iran, Thailand, China, and the Chinese women's team.

Federal Secretary IPC, Mr. Mohyuddin Ahmad Wani, graced the opening ceremony and appreciated the efforts of the Pakistan Blind Sports Federation for empowering visually impaired athletes through sports.

Mr Wagas Choudhari, Pres-



Liaquat Gymnasium Islam- the colourful Islamabad fall

ident, Pakistan Blind Sports a spectacular sport event as Federation, warm welcome to well as a unique atmosphere in the 2025 IBSA Goalball Asia the Pakistan Sports Complex, Asia / Pacific Goalball Cham-Pacific Championships at Islamabad. Memories of our pionships in Islamabad. This the Pakistan Sports Complex beautiful Pakistani nature and allows us to continue the great

time will last a lifetime. We He said Our goal is to create would like to thank IBSA for this honor and great opportunity to organize the 2025 IBSA



tradition of goalball events in Pakistan.

According to details, in the men's category, Iran edged past Saudi Arabia 6-4, while Thailand dominated Iraq 14-4.

over Pakistan, triumphing 17-7. The Chinese women's team also started strong, defeating Pakistan 13-3.

The championship, organ-

China secured a convincing win ized by the Pakistan Blind Iraq, and Uzbekistan. China,

Sports Federation, features the defending champion, tries, including Kazakhstan, winning note. Iran, Japan, Thailand, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Australia, Faizi

teams from 11 coun- has begun its campaign on a

▶ Photos by Imtiaz Ahmad

Punjab Sports Minister reviews progress on sports projects in North and South Punjab

LAHORE: Punjab Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs Malik Faisal Ayub Khokhar has chaired an important meeting at National Hockey Stadium on Thursday to review the progress of ongoing sports projects in North and South Punjab. The officials of the Project Management Unit (PMU) and other officers of the department attended the meeting.

The PMU officers gave a detailed briefing to Punjab Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs Malik Faisal Ayub Khokhar on the ongoing and proposed sports projects across the province. The provincial minister was informed that several sports development schemes of international standards are being developed across all divisions of Punjab province.

Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs Malik Faisal Ayub Khokhar said that are being constructed in Multan, Bahasions. "These state-of-the-art sports

ng the meeting. Puniah



modern sports complexes and grounds walpur and Dera Ghazi Khan Divi- complexes are being built as part level competitive sports events".

of Punjab Chief Minister's vision to promote sports culture and provide world-class facilities to athletes".

Punjab Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs Malik Faisal Âyub Khokhar further said that Punjab government is taking effective measures to make sports a foundation for a stronger economy and a healthier society. He directed the PMU officers to ensure transparency, quality, and timely completion of all development projects and in this regard, no delay or negligence will be

Punjab Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs Malik Faisal Ayub Khokhar said that Punjab government is striving hard to establish modern sports infrastructure in every district of the province so that young athletes can exhibit their talent in international sports events. "All ongoing sports projects are being equipped with state-of-the-art facilities so that Punjab's talented athletes can flourish their talent properly for top

35th National Games

Trials for men's and women's Sepaktakraw teams of Sindh to be held in Hyderabad on Sunday, October 19

₿ Sports Reporter)

KARACHI: Sindh Sepaktakraw Association has announced trials for all divisions Hyderabad, Mirpurkhas, Karachi, Benazirabad, Larkana and Sukkur to form men's and women's Sepaktakraw teams participating in the 35th National Games.

The trials will be held in Hyderabad on Sunday, October 19. Sindh Sepaktakraw Association has formed a selection committee for the trials under the leadership of Dr. Muhammad Arif Hafeez, in which Muhammad Arif Hafeez (Chairman) while Shabbir Ahmed, Muhammad Saleem, Babar Kerrio, Muhammad Khalid, Akhtar Ali.

Rehana Asif and Humaira Rajput will be members. Male and female players from all divisions Karachi, Hyderabad, MirpurKhas, Larkana, Benazirabad and Sukkur will participate in the trials to be held in Hyderabad.

All Sepaktakraw players are informed to contact their division secretaries or in-charge trials camp Muhammad Khalid (phone number 03005836577) regarding the trials. Noushad Ahmed Khan, District Sports Officer Hyderabad Maryam Kerrio, DSO Benazirabad Abdul Rahim will participate as

Pakistan wants permanent end of terrorism originating from **Afghanistan: PM**

Continued from Page 1

The Prime Minister said in play his role to mediate between Pakistan and Afghanistan.

He said Afghanistan should not allow use of its territory for terrorism and Fitna al-Khawarij should be eliminated.

The Prime Minister said he offered funerals of the army men who were martyred while fighting terrorism, adding the fathers and mothers of the President Donald Trump and martyrs told him that they were proud of their sons who laid down their lives in defence United Arab Emirates, Jordan,

wipe out terrorism.

He recalled that terrorism was eliminated from the Sharm El Sheikh he met Amir of country in 2018 but the menace Qatar who said that he wanted to resurfaced when the previous government allowed thousands of terrorists to come back to the country.

Talking about Palestine, he said 74000 women, children, elders and vouths were martyred in Gaza and even schools and hospitals were not

He commended the US Islamic countries particularly Saudi Arabia, Turkiye, Qatar, of the country and asked him to Egypt and Indonesia for

playing their role for achieving ceasefire in Gaza and stopping the horrific bloodshed.

The people of Gaza had celebrated the ceasefire, he noted. He criticized the elements who did politics on the issue

of Gaza and said they were not

able to stop the bloodshed but only did politics. He stated in the next phases, steps should be taken for establishment of a state of Palestine and grant of rights to the Pales-

Nations resolutions. He praised the ministers for the staff level agreement with International Monetary Fund

tinians according to the United

He said it should be Pakistan's last programme with the IMF as the country should be financially independent to achieve its status as an econom-

world. He urged that everyone should strive hard for progress of the country and for achievements in fields such as science

ically strong country in the

and technology Pakistan should be developed as a country envisioned by Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, he said adding tens of thousands of people sacrificed their lives at the time of independence for the dream of a better country.

AB de Villiers, Matthew Hayden back cricket's new format 'Test Twenty'

Cricket legends AB de Villiers, Sir eight overs across the match. Clive Lloyd, Matthew Hayden, and Harbhaian Singh have endorsed the game's fourth format, called Test

Test Twenty, a hybrid format, is set to be launched next year, designed for youth cricketers aged Matches will be played in

whites with the red ball, featuring four innings of 20 overs each, all wrapped into a single day. The format introduces a few

notable adjustments to balance the two cricketing styles.

Each team is allowed one fourover PowerPlay, while the follow-on can be enforced if a team batting brings to the party," he said. second trails by 75 or more runs after the first innings.

five bowlers, with each restricted to

Notably, a game can end in a win, loss, tie, or draw, giving players the chance to experience multiple outcomes within a single-day

AB de Villiers, Sir Clive Lloyd, Matthew Hayden, and Harbhajan Singh form part of the advisory board for this innovative new format.

WhatsApp channel

Follow us on our Official

De Villiers highlighted the creative opportunities Test Twenty will

"What excites me most is the real creative freedom that this format

"It lets players completely express themselves but also think differently Teams may use a maximum of and take the kind of risks that make cricket so beautiful. Beyond that, it

also teaches balance. You need to have the ability to survive across two

innings. Sir Clive Lloyd praised the combination of spectacle and endurance.

"T20 cricket is an exhibition, and Test cricket is an examination. You're now combining these two things into one. I'm sure it will be a success," the legendary West Indies' captain stated.

Meanwhile, Harbhajan Singh underlined the importance of engaging the audience.

"It is the crowd that makes any game famous, whether it is cricket, hockey, or even football in Australia," the spinner said.

"These games are big because crowds get behind them, they endorse them. The best thing we can do is simplify it so that people can understand and connect with it."

Aurangzeb seeks deeper investment

Continued from Page 8

He congratulated Azerbaijan on successfully hosting COP29 and highlighted the Pakistan-Azerbaijan Preferential Trade Agreement (January 2025) and Transit Trade Agreement (December 2024) as key platforms to diversify bilateral trade beyond oil and rice into textiles, pharmaceuticals, chemicals, machinery, and agricultural products.

Aurangzeb also met with Executive Vice President expressing appreciation for Pakistan's commitment to safeguarding both investor confidence and national interests.

welcomed MIGA's finance facility to ensure access

fertilizer, energy, and essential machinery, and emphasized the importance of its timely implementation. He also acknowledged MIGA's continued support for Pakistan's power transmission and distribution At the Borrowers' Forum

to critical imports such as food,

Roundtable, the Finance Minister discussed the crucial balance between servicing high debt obligations and financing essential social sector investof MIGA, Hiroshi Matano, ments. He commended the establishment of the Forum as MIGA's support in ongoing arbia valuable platform for collectration matters and reaffirming tive action, knowledge sharing, and policy coordination among debtor nations.

He stressed the importance of improved debt management, proposal for a short-term trade enhanced technical capacity, and better access to sustainable

finance for climate resilience and infrastructure development.

The Minister also met with members of the Pakistan Bank Fund Staff Association (PBFSA) and briefed them on recent fiscal, monetary, and external sector progress and referenced the country's upgraded sovereign credit ratings.

He reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to fiscal responsibility, energy reforms, privatization, social protection, and inclusive green growth while responding to participant

The minister also held a senior management of Standard Chartered Bank, acknowledging the long-standing partnership between the Bank and Pakistan.

During the discussions,

the Minister highlighted the

external validation of the country's ongoing economic reforms by international rating agencies. He briefed the team on Pakistan's recent Panda Bond issuance and plans to tap international capital markets through **Eurobonds and International**

The meeting also covered financing facilities, with the Minister requesting the Bank to share additional proposals for consideration to further strengthen collabora-

Earlier, Aurangzeb attended a session of the Coalition of productive meeting with the Finance Ministers for Climate Action (CFMCA), held discussions with Stefan Dercon, British Economist, and participated in a media interaction with the Wall Street Journal.

In addition, the minister

addressed global investors at the Citi Macro Forum, alongside the Secretary of Finance and the Governor of the State Bank of Pakistan and presented a comprehensive overview of the positive developments on Pakistan's fiscal, monetary, and

economic momentum to effective stabilization measures, structural reforms, and prudent monetary management, noting the successful negotiation of a Staff-Level Agreement with the

Senator Aurangzeb subsequently joined Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors from the MENAP region in a meeting with IMF Managing Sheikh at Pakistan House. Director Kristalina Georgieva. As a lead speaker, he underscored Pakistan's achievement outlook of the country including economic vision into reality.

and welcomed the Staff Level Agreement with the IMF. He reaffirmed the Govern-

of macroeconomic stabilization macroeconomic stability and

advancing reforms in taxation, energy, state-owned enterprises, and privatization. The minister highlighted

He attributed the current Pakistan's digital transformation and tariff policy aimed at enhancing competitiveness and exports, while inviting international investment in key sectors including mining, digital infrastructure, agriculture, and pharmaceuticals.

Aurangzeb interacted with leading Pakistani entrepreneurs over a working dinner, hosted by Ambassador Rizwan Saeed

The Minister briefed the

structural reforms. He highlighted streamlining of regulatory processes, improving taxacommitment to tion system, and addressing issues related to energy, SEOs and privatization. The Minister also apprised

that improved credit rating of the country by renowned global agencies has contributed to reviving confidence of the business community. Appreciated continuous support of the Fund and World Bank towards stabilization of economy and meeting existential challenge of Climate Change.

Minister Aurangzeb invited proposals from the business community to further cement Pak-US ties. The participants assured full support towards participants about economic translating the government's

Group photo ISLAMABAD: The Hon'ble Chief Justice of Pakistan, Mr. Justice Yahya Afridi, in a group photo with participants of Symposium on 'Interfaith Harmony and Fundamental Rights-A Constitutional Imperative', at Supreme Court of Pakistan, Thursday.

Aurangzeb seeks deeper investment, financial cooperation with Saudi Arabia, US

Example 2 Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minis- on reinforcing Pakistan's ter for Finance and Revenue, commitment to economic Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb held a series of high-level meetings with global financial and business leaders in Washington DC, seeking to strengthen Pakistan's economic partthe United States, and other key international stakeholders.

The meetings were held on the third day of his official visit to Washington DC for the annual meetings of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, izing state-owned enter-

The engagements focused reforms, exploring new avenues for international investment, and strengthening bilateral financial cooperation.

Strengthening bilateral relations, the Finance Minister nerships with Saudi Arabia, met with Finance Minister of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Mohammed Aljadaan and affirmed Pakistan's commitment to the IMF reform

He briefed his counterpart on the progress of privatissued by finance ministry here major airports. The ministers private investment and sought Corporation (DFC), Benjamin



agreed on the vital role of the International Finance Corporation (IFC) and the Multiaccording to a press release prises, including PIA and Agency (MIGA) in catalyzing tional Development Finance between the two countries.

Saudi support for infrastructure development in Pakistan. In a key meeting with. lateral Investment Guarantee CEO of the U.S. Interna-

Black, Senator Aurangzeb highlighted significant investment opportunities within Pakistan's oil and gas, mines and minerals, agriculture, IT, and pharmaceutical sectors.

He underscored the consensus at the leadership level to enhance trade and investment ties, welcoming the DFC's interest in facilitating private sector-led funding for projects in Pakistan.

In a separate engagement, Senator Aurangzeb met with Azerbaijan's First Deputy Finance Minister, Anar Karimov, reaffirming strong economic and strategic ties

Continued on Page 7

Khawaja Asif warns India attack cannot be ruled out amid Afghan tensions

跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Defence Minister Khawaja Asif on Wednesday said Pakistan has made separate contingency arrangements for threats from both India and the Afghan Taliban, and cautioned that an Indian attack "cannot be ruled out" amid the evolving situation in Afghanistan.

Speaking to reporters, Khawaja Asif said Islamabad remained in contact with Saudi Arabia and Qatar over developments in Afghanistan.

He stressed that Pakistan has planned distinct responses for any aggression originating from Afghanistan and India.

The minister expressed concern about the large Afghan population



in Pakistan, saying some 4 million Afghans are currently on Pakistani soil, many of them residing illegally.

"A significant number have reached high positions," he said, questioning their loyalty and warning that hosting them could create an internal security

Khawaja Asif warned that if those Afghans are retained in Pakistan without proper vetting or guarantees, they could pose domestic security risks. He urged careful handling of the

refugee presence to prevent internal destabilisation.

On Gaza, the defence minister said Pakistan's military should have a presence there, reiterating Islamabad's interest in the situation in the Pales-

China welcomes Pak-Afghan

👺 City Desk

offices sealed

in parts of Islamabad

Religious

party's

ISLAMABAD: The district administration in Islamabad on Thursday sealed several offices of a radical religious party in various parts of the federal capital, sources said.

According to the sources the religious party's offices in Bhara Kahu, Sohan, and several other localities were closed as part of the ongoing administrative

The move comes a day after police in Lahore regis tered 25 cases against members of the religious group following recent violent protests.

The FIRs against members of the religious group had been

ceasefire, urges restraint and dialogue for lasting peace

№ News Desk

ISLAMABAD: China on Thursday welcomed and supported the decision by Pakistan and Afghanistan to implement a temporary ceasefire following days of deadly clashes along their shared border, calling for restraint and dialogue to ensure lasting peace.

 $Chinese\ For eign\ Ministry\ spokes person$ Lin Jian said Beijing supports both countries in resolving their differences through "constructive dialogue and consultation," emphasising that stability between Pakistan and Afghanistan serves the interests of the entire region.

"This serves the common interests of peace and stability," Lin said at a regular press briefing.

The spokesperson added that China stands ready to play a constructive role in promoting continued improvement



both sides and is conducive to regional in relations between the two neighbours. Pakistan and Afghanistan agreed to a temporary ceasefire on Wednesday (October 15) after airstrikes and ground

fighting escalated tensions. "Pakistan and Afghanistan are both path of political settlement."

friendly neighbours of China and inseparable neighbours to one another," Lin said, urging both sides to "remain calm and restrained, achieve a comprehensive and lasting ceasefire, and return to the

Published by: Almass Ayoub Sabir from Zero Point Printers Rawalpindi

CJCSC General Sahir reaffirms Pakistan's active role in promoting regional peace and stability



Spokesman Report

RAWALPINDI: General Sahir Shamshad Mirza, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJCSC), attended the closing ceremony of the 'Islamabad Symposium 2025', as Chief Guest, organised by NIPS, NUST.

Addressing the ceremony, Chairman JCSC expressed his gratitude towards all speakers and and regional environment

firmed Pakistan's active role towards mutual respect. promoting regional peace and between Global North and Global South through dialogue, dignity and principled diplomacy.

Emphasizing the need to replace universities.

confrontation with cooperation, CJCSC noted that Pakistan remains guided by a vision of coexistence rooted in mutual respect and international law.

The Chairman JCSC reiterated Pakistan's consistent support for the just and peaceful resolution of disputes, including those of Palestine and Jammu & Kashmir. He said that standing at the crossroads of regions and civilizations, Pakistan continues panelists for their valuable insights to uphold restraint and constructive and highlighted the evolving global engagement — seeking to bridge divides and foster a balanced globa According to ISPR, CJCSC reaf- order built on justice, equity and

The event was attended by stability, in balancing the relationship members of the academia, bureaucrats, foreign ambassadors, representatives of the business community, students and faculty from leading

Pakistan, Kazakhstan counter-terrorism exercise begins



Spokesman Report

Pakistan-Kazakhstan Joint Exercise Dostarym-V is being conducted between the armies of Pakistan and Kazakhstan in the counter terrorism domain from October 13 to 24 at the Special Operations School, Cherat, Pakistan.

Pakistan Army's Special Services Group and the Special Forces of the Kazakhstan Army are participating in

by the Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR). "The opening ceremony of the exercise was conducted on 14 October 2025 at Cherat, Pakistan.

"The exercise is aimed at refining professional skills through joint training and harnessing historic military-to-military relations among the friendly countries," it further said.

Participating troops are looking forward to benefiting from mutual the exercise, said a news release issued expertise/experience.

IGFC North visits Friendship Gate at Chaman border to expose Taliban's propaganda

👺 Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: IG FC North visited Chaman border's posts to review operational preparedness of troops to expose Afghan Taliban's misinformation regarding Chaman border and Friendship Gate.

The security sources said the purpose of the visit was to review the current operational situation and

commended the troops. In the picture it can be seen that aganda under the guise of religion.

the Friendship Gate is in its complete original condition on the Pakistani The security sources said the offi-

cial spokesman of the Afghan Taliban regime had falsely claimed to have destroyed the friendship gate.

In fact, the Afghan Taliban created a drama by destroying the gate on the Afghan side with explosives, security sources clarified. Afghan Taliban were spreading hatred through false prop-