وصحح بخاری: حدیث نبر 6643 **Barkat Rice Mills** 

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said the modernization

of the laboratory represented a

significant stride toward real-

izing Pakistan's vast mineral

potential through scientific

innovation and global collab-

oration. He said the govern-

ment was committed to equip-

ping national institutions with

the latest technology to ensure

sustainable and internation-

ally competitive development

Officials from the Geolog-

ical Survey of Pakistan said the laboratory's accredi-

tation would significantly

enhance investor confidence

by providing reliable and veri-

fiable data required by inter-

national mining companies

and financial institutions for

large-scale projects.

in the mineral sector.

PM commends security forces for foiling attack in North Waziristan

In a statement, he praised the professional skills of the officers and personnel of the security forces for killing six Khawarij. He said Pakistan will continue to fight terrorism until it was completely eradicated.

According to the Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD), the earthquake's epicenter was located in the Hindu Kush region of

5.6 magnitude earthquake hits Islamabad, Haripur, Swat region

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

PM Shehbaz inaugurates modernized Geoscience

Pakistan's mineral sector

Laboratories to boost

Rabius Sani 24, Saturday, October 18, 2025

www.dailyspokesman.net



Daily Spokesman Vol: 19, Issue: 183 Price Rs. 25.00 Pages 8

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minis-

ter Muhammad Shehbaz

Sharif on Friday inaugurat-

ed the upgraded Geoscience

Advanced Research Labora-

tories (GARL) of the Geolog-

ical Survey of Pakistan (GSP).

marking a major milestone

in advancing the country's

mineral research and explo-

The inauguration cere-

mony, held at the revital-

ized GARL complex in Chak

Shehzad, was attended by Chief of Army Staff Field

Marshal Syed Asim Munir,

federal ministers, and distin-

guished foreign dignitaries, a

Prime Minister's Office news

Speaking on the occasion,

PTI, TLP protest calls end up in\_

no-show: Atta Tarar

Talking to the media, the on the occasion of Gaza peace

The

process in Sharmal Sheikh.

minister condemned the "political stunt"

of Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Sohail Afridi, who did

not attend a high-level meeting

chaired by Prime Minister

Shehbaz Sharif on the repatriation of Afghan refugees.

Tarar noted that the meeting,

which lauded the sacrifices of

Pakistani soldiers, involved

ration capabilities.

release said.

跨 City Desk

in a no-show.

calls for protest.

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar on Friday said that the protest calls

from the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and Tehreek-e-Labbaik (TLP) for today were inconclusive and had ended up

minister said cities and markets

were bustling, as people from all

walks of life, including traders,

had completely rejected their

Tarar said the public is cele-

brating Pakistan's crucial role in the Gaza peace process and its

the honor Prime Minister

Shehbaz Sharif received from

foreign policy successes. He specifically highlighted

# **V**isit ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir Chief of Army Staff and Federal Ministers visiting newly upgraded Geoscience Advanced Research Laboratories (GARL), on Friday.

## Federal Govt directs swift, dignified repatriation of illegal Afghan nationals without further extension

government on Friday decided to ensure expedited and digninationals without further exten-

a high-level meeting chaired by the prime minister on the repatriation of Afghan refugees, where the PM reaffirmed Pakistan's longstanding commitment to supporting Afghanistan in times of difficulty but noted of Afghan nationals in crossborder terrorism was a matter of grave concern.

relevant federal institutions to

work in close coordination to ensure the early and orderly ISLAMABAD: The federal repatriation of all Afghan nationals residing illegally in Pakistan, emphasizing that fied repatriation of Afghan no further extension would be granted for their stay.

"Pakistan's brave people, who The decision was made after have sacrificed so much in the fight against terrorism, now rightly ask how long we can continue bearing the burden of Afghan refugees," the prime minister remarked.

PM Shehbaz Sharif also lauded the Pakistan Armed that continued involvement Forces under the leadership of Field Marshal Asim Munir for effectively repelling recent crossborder attacks from Afghanistan Prime Minister Muhammad and reaffirmed that Pakistan's Shehbaz Sharif directed all armed forces have always proven provincial governments and their professional excellence in defending the homeland.



including the Prime Minister appreciated Pakistan's diplo-

The meeting participants, of AJK and provincial leaders,

matic achievements and praised the leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Field Marshal Asim Munir in steering

The meeting was attended by Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, Chief of Army Staff, federal ministers, the Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, chief ministers of Punjab, Sindh, Balochistan, and Gilgit-Baltistan, and the representative of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa chief minister, Muzzammil Aslam.

#### important decision-making President of the United States Donald Trump who invited and follow-up on previous national policy on the issue. Concluding the session, the prime minister to address decisions. the PM directed all provincial governments and institutions to fully implement the agreed **DPM Dar for close** recommendations and extend complete cooperation to ensure the timely and dignified repatricoordination for ation of all illegal Afghan residents from Pakistan. uninterrupted

跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar on Friday emphasized the need for close coordination between federal and provincial authorities to ensure the uninterrupted availability of essential commodities across the country.

The deputy prime minister, chairing a meeting to review of various essential commodwith the present supply posi- also present.

The Ministry of National Food Security and Research briefed the participants on the availability of current stocks.

The meeting was attended by the ministers for national food security, and economic affairs, as well as the secretaries of the ministries of commerce and industries.

All provincial chief secretaries, the chairman of the the prices and supply situation Trading Corporation of Pakistan (TCP), and officials from ities, expressed satisfaction the relevant departments were

#### Ceasefire between **Pakistan and Afghanistan** extended for another day

commodities availability

跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The ceasefire in addressing Pakistan's secubetween Pakistan and Afghanistan has been extended for another day. The extension terrorism will no longer be tolercame before the truce was going

to expire at 6pm on Friday. According to diplomatic Pakistan or neighboring counsources, any further continua-

tion of the ceasefire will depend on Afghanistan's seriousness rity concerns. Islamabad has made it clear that cross-border ated and that the use of Afghan soil for hostile activities against tries remains unacceptable.

## Ahsan reiterates government's resolve to eradicate poverty through inclusive, sustainable growth

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Friday reaffirmed the government's unwavering commitment to eliminating poverty and building a society where no citizen was left behind, hungry or deprived of hope.

In his message on the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, the minister said the government has made poverty alleviation a central pillar of its national development agenda. "The priority of the Government of Pakistan is to create a society where no one suffers  $\,$ from deprivation, hunger or despair," he

Under the Uraan Pakistan framework, he said, a comprehensive plan has been formulated to ensure sustainable development, social inclusion and prosperity



for all segments of society. "When the adding that economic stability genereconomy stabilizes, its benefits reach ated employment opportunities, raised every section of the population," he said, incomes, and gradually lifted people out

He said the government's development planning kept the poor and vulnerable segments at its core, ensuring that growth translates into tangible improvements in the lives of ordinary citizens.

Highlighting the role of youth in driving progress, the minister said the government was equipping young people with technical and vocational skills to enable them to earn a dignified livelihood. "I particularly want to tell our youth that education and skills are the greatest keys to overcoming poverty," he said.

Ahsan Iqbal said the government's Knowledge Economy initiatives were opening new doors of innovation, entrepreneurship, and employment for the younger generation. "Every young person should strive to improve their life through knowledge, hard work, and determination," he urged.

Saturday, October 18, 2025

## AJK Finance and Food Ministers resign over 'dangerous and systematic hate speech'

**Abdul Majeed Tahir:** 

Minister of Azad Kashmir Abdul Majid ment negligently. Khan and Food Minister announced their resignations.

Addressing an emergency press Central House, the ministers denied serious political, constitutional, financial and administrative allegations hate speech and harms state unity. speech has been spreading in the state for the past one year.

between the migrants living in Pakistan and the local citizens," he said.

After the earthquake, the govern-

billion from the government of Pakistan, of which Rs 340 billion was allo-MUZAFFARABAD: Azad Kashmir cated for development projects. Medi-Finance Minister Abdul Majid Khan cines are available in hospitals," he said, and Food Minister Chaudhry Akbar adding that "the government used Ibrahim announce their secession from development funds to buy political the government. In a major explosive loyalties, while the migrant commuturn in Kashmir's politics, Finance nities were being killed by the govern-

Criticism started saying, "An illegal agreement was reached with an unregistered organization, which is void of conference at Muzaffarabad of the both the Constitution and the law. They said the government negotiated with such individuals.

There is no representation, no legal against the government It promotes representation. This move is actually a conspiracy to paralyze the state system Abdul Majid Khan said in his address and favor specific sections. Abdul that a dangerous and systematic hate Majid Khan said that the government is going to change the history of Azad Kashmir. It is tantamount to abol-"It is to create a discrimination ishing the geographical concept and constitutional status of the state.

> By ending their representation, the issue is a deliberate attempt to under-



ment of Pakistan received Rs 16.5 mine Kashmir's global standing. This with reinforcing India's narrative, tries of the world, such as "France, Italy, residing abroad Hey. The same prin-resigning has risen to four.

conspiracy is actually synonymous citing examples from various coun-

ciple prevails in Azad Kashmir, which is now being abolished. Why, divide the bureaucracy into personal loyalties, and vow political hostility to public welfare projects."

He said, "We have convinced the Prime Minister that we will not solve public problems, Rengi. Abdul Majid Khan said we cannot remain part of any government that is anti-people and constitution-breaking, he added, adding that he would announce his future political strategy after consultation, however, his stance was "imperialist, constitutional and protection of rights" will be based on.

During a press conference, Food Minister Akbar Ibrahim also demanded his immediate resignation from the prime minister due to the deteriorating situation in Azad

Meanwhile, sources claimed that Transport Minister Asim Sharif Butt has also resigned from the ministry. Thus, the number of ministers

#### Book Fair

MUZAFFERABAD: Girls students are taking interest in books during "Book Fair" at Government Post Graduate College in



## GCWUF and Yunus Emre Institute Sign MoU to Promote Turkish Language and **Cultural Collaborations**

LAHORE: A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signing ceremony held between the Government College Women University Faisalabad (GCWUF) and the Yunus Emre Institute in Lahore In the presence of the Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey, H. E. Dr. İrfan Naziroğlu

The MOU is a major step towards promoting Turkish language educational and cultural development between Pakistan and Turkey. It includes the establishment of a Yunus Emre Turkish Cultural and Language Institute at GCWUF to serve as a hub for Turkish studies, intercultural exchange, and academic partnerships.

Addressing the gathering, Ambassador Dr. Naziroğlu described the MoU as a strategic advancement in



cultural diplomacy and a new chapter in academic cooperation between the two nations, specifically to promote

women empowerment. In her remarks, Prof. Dr. Kanwal Ameen reaffirmed her vision to expand GCWUF's global linkages, noting that the collaboration will open new avenues for student and faculty exchange, joint research, and cultural

Distinguished guests included Mr. Mehmet Eymen Şimşek, Consul General of Turkey in Lahore; Mrs. Meltem Şimşek; Prof. Dr. Halil Toker, Director, Pakistan Yunus Emre Turkish Cultural Center; and Dr. Sadaf Naqvi, Incharge WDMC & Head, Department of Media and Communication Studies.

## KandhKot District Judiciary Kashmore celebrates Diwali with Hindu employees as gestures of Harmony

#### B Qayoom Sarohi

KANDHKOT: In a respectful demonstration of interfaith harmony, national solidarity, and communal respect, the District Judiciary of Kashmore Diwali with a special ceremony for an Ajrak, a bouquet and box of sweets. its Hindu employees, arranged by the District & Sessions Judge Kashmore @ Kandhkot.

The event, held at the Judicial Complex Kandhkot, saw the District & Sessions Judge personally honoring the Hindu staff members. In a gesture steeped in both patriotic spirit and Sindhi cultural tradition, he presented at Kandhkot marked the festival of each employee with a Pakistan badge,

The national badge of Pakistan served as a powerful emblem of their shared identity as proud Pakistani



citizens, while the Ajrak symbolized every tradition.

honor and esteem. This was followed by the distribution of boxes of traditional sweets to each Hindu employee to celebrate the festive occasion for the Hindu community. Addressing the gathering, the District & Sessions Judge misbah dien Phulpoto stated, "In our judiciary, which is a mosaic of diverse

communities, it is our duty to honor

Our gathering is a small token of our appreciation for the invaluable contributions of our Hindu colleagues and a reaffirmation of our shared values and common Pakistani iden-

Each Pakistan badge presented today is a reminder that we are all united under one flag, contributing to the same national fabric.

#### MD WASA inaugurated the offices of WASA



#### 👺 Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: Managing Director WASA Sohail Qadir Cheema inaugurated the offices of WASA and the consultant at the French Project Phase II site. In this regard, a special ceremony was held in which the MD WASA was the chief guest, while DMD Admin Shoaib Rashid, DMD Engineering and Project Director Sagib Raza, DMD Services Magbool Sanpal, Director I&C Shahryar Hassan, Director Finance Javed Ghani, Director Revenue Omar Iftikhar and other officers were also present on the occasion. The contract company on the French Project Phase II completed the construction of offices for WASA officers and the officers of the consultant company, after which they were handed over to MD WASA Sohail Qadir Cheema. On this occasion, MD WASA reviewed the quality of construction work at the French Water Project site. In this regard, he said that with the completion of Surface Water Treatment  $\,$ Plant Phase II, 30 million gallons of clean drinking water will be provided to the citizens daily, which will be no less than a blessing for the populations of the eastern part of the city. MD WASA clarified that the pace of construction work at the project site should be further accelerated and the construction should be completed according to the set timeframe.

#### Suthra Punjab Kamalia project manager Mudassar Ehsan urges maintenance of cleanliness

跨 Zafar Chishti

TOBA TEK SINGH: Manager of Suthra Punjab Kamalia, Mudassar

Ehsan has urged the citizens to play their role in maintaining a clean and healthy environment by avoiding the burning of leaves and garbage, which is a major cause of air pollution and smog.

He said that the burning of waste materials not only deteriorates the air quality but also leads to an increase in respira-



a serious environmental challenge that affects both human health and daily life. Everyone must act responsibly to help reduce it. Mudassar Ehsan emphasized that people should adopt environ-

mentally friendly practices such as proper waste disposal, recycling and reducing pollution sources. He also urged residents to plant more trees and keep their surroundings clean, as greenery helps improve air quality and provides a healthier atmosphere.

He reiterated that the Suthra Punjab Project is fully committed to maintaining cleanliness and promoting environmental awareness across Kamalia. The campaign aims to create a sustainable and pollution-free city through active public participation and cooperation.

## Anti polio drive successfully concludes in TT Singh district

#### 👺 Zafar Chishti

TOBA TEK SINGH: On the directives of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, the four-day anti-polio campaign in Toba Tek Singh has been successfully completed. During the campaign, 440,433 children were administered anti-polio drops against a target of 433,838, achieving an impressive 101.5 percent coverage. A review meeting regarding the campaign's performance was held at the Deputy Commissioner's Office under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Umar Abbas Mela. The meeting reviewed the performance of the Health Department, district administration, and partner organizations in detail. The Deputy Commissioner lauded the efforts of health officials and field teams for their exemplary performance during the campaign. He said that Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif's vision of a "Polio-Free Punjab" is swiftly becoming a reality through coordinated and effective efforts. He also appealed to parents to continue extending full cooperation to polio teams in future campaigns, ensuring the complete protection of future generations from this crippling disease.





SERVICES		
Namaz '	Timings	
	4:51 am	
Zohr	11:53 am	
Asr	3:52 pm	
Maghrib	5:32 pm	
Isha	6:55 pm	

#### EMEDGENCY

EMERGENCI
Rescue (Police)1
Bomb Disposal 15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/
Islamabad1122 & 10
Emergency Ambulance 1122 8
& Rescue Services 445112
Motorway Police926604
Motorway Police9270601-20

#### **Women Police** Stations

Stations		
Islamabad	922259	
Rawalpindi	9270601-2	
ENO	IIIDV	

ENŲU	IKY
Edhi Ambulance	115
PIA Flight Info	114
PIA Cargo	9280979
Railway Inquiry	117
Railway Exchange .	9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi .	5555489
$C\Lambda\Lambda$	0281002

#### HOSPITALS

1103111	
CMH	5611111
MH	561116
MH	561116
Cantt Hospital	9270907-11
DHQ	5556311-4
RGH	9290301-7

#### Multan Police on High Alert: Peace Maintained, All Markets Open as Usual

#### 跨 Zain Khan Malghani

MULTAN: Under the directives and leadership of CPO Multan Sadiq Ali Dogar, the Multan Police continue to perform their duties with vigilance, discipline, and a strong sense of responsibility. Owing to the police's alert deployment and effective strategy, all commercial centers, markets, and business activities across the city are running smoothly, while the overall law and order situation remains satisfactory.

SSP Operations Multan Ahmad Zunair Cheema visited various areas and intersections of the city to review the attendance performance, and security arrangements of police personnel on duty. He instructed the officers to remain alert at all times and to perform their duties with honesty, integrity, and professional commitment so that any untoward situation could be dealt with promptly.

Meanwhile, CPO Sadiq Ali Dogar personally inspected key locations including Ghanta Ghar Chowk, Hussain Agahi, Chungi No. 9, and Kachehri Chowk, where he thoroughly examined the security arrangements and encouraged the police officers and constables on duty. He emphasized that protecting the lives and property of citi zens is the police's top priority. Multan Police have ensured foolproof security measures across the city to maintain peace and public confidence. The CPO also appealed to the citizens to continue cooperating with the police in creating a peaceful, safe, and civilized society, so that Multan can further strengthen its traditional identity as a city of tolerance and peace.

## Chief of the **Naval Staff visits United States**

#### 跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Naveed Ashraf, visited United States of America as part of ongoing efforts to further strengthen bilateral maritime cooperation and defence engagements.

During the visit, the Naval Chief called on US Deputy Chief of Naval Operations, Vice Admiral Yvette Davids, and Acting Vice Commandant of the US Coast Guard, Vice Admiral Thomas G. Allan Jr. Matters of professional interest, regional security dynamics, and avenues for professional training and maritime

cooperation were discussed during these meetings.

The Naval Chief also visited the National Defence University (NDU) and met its President, Vice Admiral Peter A. Garvin. At the US State Department, the Admiral met Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Political-Military Affairs, Mr. Stanley L. Brown. The engagements encompassed deliberations on politico-military cooperation, maritime security, capacity-building initiatives, and shared maritime interests.

Naveed Ashraf, also addressed a gath- lighted regional maritime security chalering of US scholars and think-tank lenges and Pakistan Navy's contributions enduring defence ties between Pakistan time security in the region and beyond.



The Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral experts. In his talk, the Naval Chief high-

towards collaborative maritime efforts. and the United States, reaffirming the

The visit of the Naval Chief reflects the mutual commitment to promoting mari-

### Tree for life

ISLAMABAD: Women are taking interest in the paintings during exhibition entitled "Tree for Life" in Federal Capital.



#### Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

## Pakistan Embassy Hosted IBA Leadership at The Alumni Qatar Chapter Inaugural Event

#### News Desk

DOHA: Pakistan Embassy in Doha, Qatar, hosted IBA leadership at the Alumni Qatar Chapter inaugural launch event bringing together senior diplomats, distinguished alumni, and prominent business leaders from the Pakistani community.

Representatives IBA Karachi included, Dr. S Akbar Zaidi, Executive Director, IBA; Dr. Abdullah Zafar Sheikh, Dean, School of Business Studies, and Mr. Mohammad Sohail, Alumni Representative on IBA's Board and CEO, Topline Securities. The event was also graced by the presence of His Excellency Mr. Muhammad Aamer, Ambassador of Pakistan to Qatar, along with Mr. Syed Mustafa Rabbani, Deputy Head of Mission.

A panel discussion, moderated by Mr. Munaf Usmani, as the transformative devel- zation & Corporate Rela- years.



potential of Pakistani talent Awan, Director, Alumni and business in Qatar as well Affairs, Resource Mobili-

Office-Bearer of the IBA opments at IBA Karachi that tions, addressed the audi-Alumni Qatar Chapter, are contributing to Paki- ence, emphasizing that IBA's featuring Dr. Zaidi, Dr. Sheikh stan's global human capital alumni are the institution's and Dr. Sohail, explored the development. Ms. Malahat strongest asset and ambassadors worldwide, carrying forward a legacy of over 70

## Islamabad Symposium 2025 concludes at NUST

#### **Example 2** City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The two-day Islamabad Symposium 2025, themed "Balancing Relationship Between Global North and Global South: Challenges and Opportunities," concluded at the NUST main campus. The symposium offered unique deliberations over diverse subjects, such as the present-day regional and global issues particularly conflicts and wars, the need for technological advancement and accessibility, climate change preparedness, iron-clad relations of Pakistan and China, and the need for accountability measures for the rogue states promoting an utter

disregard of the international law. Speaking at the closing session, Rector NUST Dr Muhammad Zahid Latif thanked the esteemed speakers



and audience, and complimented citizens, and developing partnerships NUST Institute of Policy Studies (NIPS) for their efforts to organise the event at the university. He shared the NUST vision of nurturing young minds into competent and responsible

through knowledge diplomacy and collaborations. The chief guest of the closing ceremony, General Sahir Shamshad Mirza, NI, NI (M), Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee,

noted that global affairs are now more complex than ever. He highlighted that Pakistan shares the spirit of multilateralism and equality, evidenced by its repeated calls for peace, responsible conduct, and dialogue. Talking to young scholars, he emphasised the role of academia and appreciated NUST for the success of the Islamabad Sympo-

Dr Atia Ali Kazmi, President Global Peace Strategy Forum, Mr Victor Gao, Vice President, Center for China and Globalization,, H. E. Per Albert Ilsaas, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Norway to Pakistan,, Ambassador Naghmana Hashmi, Dr Shahid Mahmud, Senior Advisor OIC COMS-TECH & CEO and Chairman Interactive Group of Companies,, also speak on the occasion.

## Pakistan has proposed a comprehensive four-pronged framework to enhance workforce capacity

#### Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Speaking at the Sixth Islamic Conference of Labour Ministers (ICLM) in Doha, Qatar, Minister for Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development Chaudhry Salik Hussain proposed the launch of an OIC Skills Partnership focused on



training workers in emerging fields such as digital technology, renewable energy and the care economy.

The Minister emphasized the development of portable social security schemes for migrant workers, ensuring that their years of service are recognized wherever they contribute. He emphasized expanding joint programs under the Islamic Development Bank's Youth Employment Support Programme (YES) to foster entrepreneurship and innovation ecosystems across the Member States.

Chaudhary Salik Hussain said Pakistan is ready to host pilot projects and training exchanges under these initiatives, in partnership with OIC Member States and international development partners.

Highlighting Pakistan's domestic achievements, the Minister shared that under the National Vocational Qualification Framework (NVQF), over 200,000 youth have received internationally aligned skills certi-

He said we are expanding collaboration with NAVTTC, ILO, ICMPD, and GIZ to align skills training with employer demand in the Gulf region. These partnerships are building bridges between technical training in Pakistan and job placement abroad.

Secretary Workers Welfare Fund Zulfiqar Ahmad was also attended

#### Mazhar Thathal meets Denmark Embassy Trade Council



ISLAMABAD: Mazhar Thathal, Chairman & CEO of Global Trade & Expo Centre, held a cordial and productive meeting with the Royal Denmark Embassy to Pakistan, joined by the Mr. Aslam Pervaiz Head of Economic Affairs Trade Council and the Commercial Attachés at the Danish Embassy in Islamabd Pakistan

The discussion centered on fostering future trade cooperation between Pakistan and Denmark, and both sides agreed to organise a Pakistan Trade And Business Delegation to Denmark in early 2026 promising prospects of extended collaboration involving potential trade between Pakistan business communities and Danish business community, following investment opportunities, and mutual economic growth.

#### We stand with the Punjab Food Authority: Farooq Chaudhry



ISLAMABAD: A delegation from the Restaurants, Caterers, Sweets & Bakers Association congratulated Raja Adnan, the new Director North of the Punjab Food Authority, on assuming office and presented him with a bouquet. The delegation was led by the Association's President, Muhammad Farooq Chaudhry. Chairman Mumtaz Ahmed, Senior Vice President Chaudhry Zahid Mehmood, Senior Vice President Huzaifa Ansar, Senior Vice President Arshad Farooq, Shakir Sharif, Imran Elahi, and other office-bearers were also present.

The delegation apprised the Director of the issues being faced by traders and assured full cooperation on behalf of the Association in combating food adulteration and ensuring the supply of hygienic and quality food.

On this occasion, Director Raja Adnan stated that strict action would be taken against the adulteration mafia. However, instead of imposing heavy fines for minor hygiene or administrative shortcomings, the focus would be on issuing warning notices and encouraging corrective measures.

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Daily The Spokesman available only on annual subscription

### How Turkiye emerged as a key guarantor for Gaza

ince the start of the Gaza war, Turkiye has taken an assertive and proactive stance, engaging in both regional and international initiatives that aimed at ending the Israeli aggression. Over the past two years, Ankara has strongly backed all the Arab-led efforts, closing ranks with the regional states, particularly Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Egypt and Syria, to present a united front. This approach has not only strengthened Turkiye's ties with Arab nations but also with the US administration.

As a result of these efforts, Turkiye was one of four countries that signed a US-led joint statement on the Gaza ceasefire agreement in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, on Monday. Alongside President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, the statement was signed by US President Donald Trump, Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi and Qatari Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani.

But what paved the way for Turkiye to secure a seat at the table? The groundwork was laid during a closed-door meeting between Trump and the leaders of several Muslim and Arab nations on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly last month. Notably, Erdogan was seated prominently next to Trump, offering early signs of Washington's expectations from Ankara regarding the Gaza agreement. Following this gathering, Erdogan held a one-to-one meeting with Trump, during which Gaza was discussed in greater detail.

In the aftermath, Turkiye, alongside Qatar and Egypt, began efforts to encourage Hamas to respond positively to the USbacked ceasefire proposal. A key figure in these efforts was Ibrahim Kalin, the head of Turkiye's National Intelligence Organization, who played a central role in the behind-the-scenes negotiations held in Doha. His involvement signalled Turkiye's official inclusion in the mediation talks.

According to Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan, Ankara was specifically asked by Washington to use its leverage to help ensure Hamas agreed to the proposal. The Turkish leadership views Gaza not only as a strategic issue but also as a matter of domestic importance. Palestine is one of the few issues on which all major political parties in Turkiye are united. Turkish people are sensitive to the Palestinian cause and the Gaza war deepened their negative sentiments toward Israel.

Through a series of backchannel diplomatic efforts, Turkiye ultimately emerged as one of the guarantors of the Gaza deal. This was not only due to its proactive diplomacy in the region, but also the personal relationship that Erdogan and Trump have developed. Trump has praised Erdogan, saying: "He's always there when I need him. He's such a tough guy; tough as you can be, but he is my friend."

This is classic Trump-style diplomacy: simple, direct and transactional. He prefers to deal with leaders who he believes are strong and responsive, and he expects matters to be handled in the same straightforward manner. In his view, there are only a few countries in the region with which the US can maintain workable, pragmatic relationships — and Turkiye is one of them. The Gaza deal is a good example.

## Dividend of Gaza-Israel Peace for the Rest of the World

an extraordinary development: the guns in Gaza have fallen silent. After months of relentless bombing, destruction, and the slow suffocation of a besieged population, Donald Trump's unprecedented peace plan has brought Aid is now trickling into Gaza, families that had endured starvation are receiving a semblance of relief, and the hope of survival, however fragile, is returning to a battered land. Yet the relief is tempered by the rhetoric of Benjamin Netanyahu, who insists that Israel's objectives remain unchanged. His refusal to admit defeat conceals an anger at failing to persuade Trump to bless a complete annihilation of Gaza and its annexation into Israel's expanding dream of territorial conquest.

This war, conceived by Israel and prosecuted with staggering ferocity, has ended in exhaustion rather than triumph. For the people of Gaza and the West Bank, the devastation is almost indescribable. United Nations and World Bank assessments estimate that Gaza alone faces over fifty billion dollars in reconstruction needs, with nearly seventy billion required to restore what has been lost. More than fifty-five million tons of rubble bury homes, schools, and hospitals, enough to fill thirteen pyramids of Giza. Electricity grids, water systems, hospitals, and telecommunications have been flattened. The human cost is greater still: tens of thousands dead, many more maimed, families erased, and an entire generation displaced.

The dividend will be shared across the industrialized world, lowering inflation costs for global trade, and calming volatile regional growth prospects by as much as

expanded Middle Eastern war.

The greatest beneficiaries, however, may be in the developing world. Countries like Pakistan, Egypt, and those across Sub-Saharan Africa, which import most of their energy needs, have been spending much of their export earnings and foreign reserves at least a temporary halt to the horror. on oil bills. High prices pushed them toward debt crises, leaving little for infrastructure or social spending. Now, with

energy costs receding, these economies will regain some fiscal breathing space. Foreign exchange reserves will stabilize, debt servicing will become less crushing, and scarce resources can be redirected to development and poverty alleviation. For Pakistan,

Afghanistan, and India—together home to over two billion people—the respite in energy costs is no less than a lifeline. Add China, the world's largest energy importer, and the region accounts for nearly four billion people now benefiting directly from the dividends of this peace.

Equally important is the impact on trade. During the war, insurance premiums for ships passing through Middle Eastern waters soared, freight costs climbed, and global supply chains faced unpredictable delays. The ceasefire reduces these risks almost overnight. Cheaper shipping and lower risk premiums will improve the competitiveness of exporters, stabilize imports of food and essential goods, and ultimately lower costs for consumers worldwide. The IMF has already noted in Europe and Asia, reducing transport that a durable peace in Gaza could improve

struggling economies.

Peace also reshapes politics. Governments that were facing unrest from rising food and fuel prices suddenly have a cushion. Political leaders in fragile states can buy time, enact reforms, or at least ease the burden on citizens. This in turn creates a measure of stability, the very foundation of legitimacy and governance. The

dividends of peace, therefore, are not only

economic but also political, strengthening societies at their weakest

Still, there remains the urgent question of responsibility. Who will pay for Gaza's reconstruction? It is not enough for wealthy states to open their treasuries out of

charity while those who unleashed destruction escape unscathed. International law and morality demand that blame be apportioned. Israel, Hamas, regional actors, and global powers that contributed to the devastation should be compelled to shoulder the costs. Without such accountability, the precedent would be disastrous: that any powerful nation may devastate its weaker neighbor and walk away without consequence. Gaza must not become a template for impunity. Compensation must also reach families of innocent victims-children, women, doctors, and

journalists-whose lives were shattered. The road ahead is perilous. The peace is fragile and could collapse under renewed aggression. Donor pledges may falter, leaving reconstruction incomplete. Funds may be captured by elites or foreign contractors, breeding resentment rather

he world has finally witnessed markets that had priced in the risk of an one percentage point, a significant gain for than renewal. Regional tensions—whether in Lebanon, Syria, or Iran-could reignite conflict and restore the risk premium to oil markets. The dividends of peace are real but remain precariously balanced on the commitments of guarantors like the United States, which must enforce its plan with vigilance.

For Donald Trump, the Gaza ceasefire is not only a diplomatic achievement but also a political claim. He has boasted of stopping eight wars and now turns his gaze toward Russia and Ukraine, pledging to end that grinding conflict as well. Should he succeed, he would enter history as the president who halted nine wars in a single vear of office. Whether this is bravado or foresight remains to be seen, but the Gaza experience proves that even entrenched conflicts can yield when backed by resolve and pressure from the most powerful office

In the final analysis, the dividends of Gaza-Israel peace are vast. Lower energy costs, subdued inflation, revitalized trade, fiscal space for fragile economies, and a political reprieve for leaders facing unrest all stem from this fragile truce. But the greatest dividend may be moral: the reminder that peace, even imperfect, enriches humanity far more than war, which impoverishes all. If the world seizes this moment to rebuild Gaza with justice, fairness, and accountability, it may set a precedent that aggression must pay and that peace, not conquest, yields the truest

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

## A Clear Message, A Strong Pakistan

launched by Afghan forces is nothing new, yet the recent episode has made one reality unmistakably evident Pakistan is no longer a silent spectator. Across the volatile frontiers of Angoor Adda, Bajaur, Kurram, Dir, Chitral, and Baramcha, the Afghan forces' reckless aggression was met with a resolute and immediate response by the Pakistan Army in the very language the enemy comprehends best.

According to security sources, the Pakistan Army not only mounted an effective counteroffensive but

also targeted multiple hideouts of Khawarij and Daesh militants inside Afghanistan. The coordinated use of air and artillery strikes inflicted severe damage upon enemy positions; numerous Afghan posts were obliterated, and the Taliban, abandoning their dead, fled in

This was not merely a tactical retaliation, it was a categorical assertion of Pakistan's sovereignty and national inviolability. The infiltration of terrorist elements from Afghan soil into Pakistani territory is utterly intolerable. Should the Kabul administration fail to fulfill its responsibilities, Pakistan would be left with no option but to resort to legitimate defensive measures.

Dr. Muhammad Tayyab

Khan Singhanvi

Both nations must now engage in serious reflection. Border cooperation, intelligence sharing, and a unified strategy against terrorism alone can secure lasting regional peace. Otherwise, such confrontations will only exacerbate tensions on both sides of the Durand Line and push the region toward a perilous instability.

The BJP-RSS alliance, steeped in extremist ideology, has transformed India into a fascistic polity, which habitually redirects domestic discontent rooted in religious intolerance, economic distress, and political corruption

decades, New Delhi's standard strategy has been on Pakistan's border regions to veil its internal failures behind the illusion of external threats

Following the Pulwama and Balakot incidents of 2019, when India violated Pakistani airspace, Islamabad's measured vet decisive response astonished the world. Indian aircraft were downed, a pilot captured, and a cup of tea became an enduring symbol of satire upon Indian militarism. Yet India failed to learn its lesson. With the abrogation of Articles 370 and 35-A, New Delhi not only stripped Jammu &

Kashmir of its special status but also violated both UN resolutions and its own constitu-

Tensions escalated anew in May 2025, when India accused Pakistan of cross-border aggression and attempted limited airstrikes on May 7. The Pakistan Air Force, exhibiting lightning precision, crushed these ambitions. Seven Indian

aircraft including the advanced Rafale jets were shot down. The failure of India's S-400 defense system sent shockwaves through its military establishment. The incident proved to be another diplomatic and strategic humiliation for India while reinforcing Pakistan's military prowess and deterrent credibility.

Prime Minister Modi's incendiary rhetoric and the Indian Army's confrontational posture have further poisoned the atmosphere. Desperate to divert public attention from economic decline, internal unrest, and endemic corruption. New Delhi is once again fabricating a war narrative. The reactivation of proxy networks via Afghanistan, the funding of terrorist cells inside Pakistan, and a sustained disinformation campaign on global platforms reflect a perilous mindset that seeks to perpetuate regional instability.

Pakistan, however, has consistently

he series of unprovoked attacks toward an external adversary: Pakistan. For responded with composure, diplomacy, and strategic restraint. Yet history bears testimony, those who have mistaken Pakistan's patience for weakness have invariably faced defeat. Today, the Pakistan Armed Forces stand fully prepared, vigilant, and capable of responding at every level. With an integrated defense structure encompassing advanced missile systems, aerial supremacy, cyber warfare, and a sophisticated intelligence network, Pakistan's military deterrence remains formidable and impregnable.

Nevertheless, the realities of modern warfare extend beyond firepower. Contemporary conflicts are waged not only on battlefields but also across the diplomatic, economic, and informational domains. Pakistan must therefore fortify its foreign policy with realism and proactive engagement. It is imperative to expose India's aggressive posturing before the United Nations, the OIC, and other global forums through irrefutable evidence and diplomatic

Economic vigilance is equally essential. A climate of hostility deters investment, inflates costs, and undermines public welfare. Hence, Pakistan's strategy must balance defensive resilience with economic self-reliance, fostering regional trade and cooperation to ensure that the economy serves as a shield, not a liability, during times of crisis.

The fate of South Asia hinges upon whether its two nuclear powers choose prudence or peril. Pakistan's stance is crystal clear: we seek peace, vet possess the full capability to retaliate against any aggression. India must remember that those who ignite the fires of provocation ultimately consume themselves in the inferno they create.

The international community bears a moral obligation to take cognizance of the Modi regime's fascist trajectory and to prevent South Asia from sliding toward another catastrophic conflict. Pakistan's national policy remains grounded in peace, dignity, and sagacity while its strength, faith, and resilience continue to make it invincible and a guarantor of regional stability.

## We Are One Nation — Not **Divided by Castes**

 ${\it Baloch, ```I am\ a\ Mughal, ```I\ am\ a\ Punjabi-} \quad {\it generation\ must\ awaken\ to\ this\ truth: a\ nation}$ Awan, Rajput, or Jat," as if these labels define cannot progress when its people are divided by their worth or dignity. But very few take pride weak identities. Caste and ethnic pride are relics in saying, "I am a Muslim," or "I am a Pakistani." of ignorance — barriers to growth and enemies

This divisive mindset has fractured our hearts, weakened our national unity, and moved us away from the vision upon which our homeland, Pakistan, was founded. The Holy Qur'an beautifully defines the foundation of human equality in a single verse: "O mankind! We created you from a male and a female, and made you

the sight of Allah is the one who is most righteous." (Surah Al-Hujurat, 49:13) This divine message clarifies that tribes and nations exist is not determined by race, color, language, or ancestry but by righteousness and character. The Prophet Muhammad 模數, in his final sermon — the Khutbah Hajj-tul-Wida — proclaimed a timeless message: "All mankind is from Adam and Eve. An Arab has no superiority over a non-Arab, nor does a non-Arab have superiority over an Arab; a white has no superiority over a black, nor does a black have superiority over a white — except by righteousness and piety."

Not Hindus, not Muslims, not Christians but citizens of one State. We are all equal." The poet-philosopher Allama Muhammad Iqbal envisioned a generation of Muslims who would rise above narrow identities. He called upon them to reclaim their spiritual strength and live with dignity and purpose: "Thy dwelling is not

n an age of progress, technology, and in the dome of a royal palace; Thou art an eagle global awareness, one painful truth — live on the peaks of mountains!" The Qur'an continues to haunt our society — the calls upon believers to remain united: "Hold pride of caste, tribe, and ethnicity. fast, all together, to the rope of Allah, and do People boast, "I am a Pathan," I am a not be divided." (Surah Aal-e-Imran, 3:103) Our



**Muhammad Mahaz** 

of unity. When we start seeing ourselves not as tribes or provinces but as one people – one Ummah, one Pakistan — we will rediscover the moral and spiritual strength that once made us leaders of the world. The Prophet 凝點 said: "A believer to another believer is like one body; if one

limb suffers, the whole body into nations and tribes so that you may know responds with pain." True patriotism begins one another. Verily, the most honored of you in when we rise above "I" and embrace "We." Pakistan does not need more tribes or slogans — it needs unity of hearts, vision, and action. If Pakistan is to fulfill its destiny, we must revive the for recognition — not superiority. Human honor principles upon which it was built — faith, unity, and discipline. These are not mere words from history; they are the pillars of a strong, inclusive society. We must educate our youth to take pride not in their surname but in their service to humanity. We must teach our children that greatness lies not in the name of their tribe, but in the purity of their soul. And we must remind ourselves — every day — that the real strength of Pakistan lies not in our differences, but in our shared identity as Muslims and Pakistanis. The path to national revival begins when we stop asking "Who are you?" and start saying with pride, "We are one nation — united by faith, purpose, and love for Pakistan."

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## Senator Gilani Leads Call to Action at Star-Studded Breast Cancer Awareness Seminar



跨 Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: In a powerful demon-Hotel Islamabad co-hosted the Breast medical professionals, journalists, lady health advocacy and emphasized the

health workers, girl guides, students, and survivors.

The event was held at the Crystal stration of unity and purpose, Maroof Ballroom, Marriott Hotel Islamabad, International Hospital and Marriott and featured Chairman Senate Mr. Gilani as Chief Guest, who delivered Cancer Awareness Seminar 2025, a moving keynote calling for nationbringing together stakeholders from wide awareness and compassion. all walks of life — including foreign He applauded Maroof and Marriott dignitaries, women parliamentarians, Islamabad for their leadership in public

need to eliminate both stigma and inaccessibility surrounding women's

In a powerful show of commitment to women's health, Ch. Naseer Ahmad, Chairman of Maroof International Hospital, gave a stirring message of urgency and unity.

"Breast cancer is not just a medical issue — it's a societal challenge," he declared, "We must end the silence,



break the stigma, and ensure that no couldn't access care in time."

CEO Haroon Naseer, in his remarks, reinforced the importance of prevention and access. "Over 40,000 women lose their lives to breast cancer in Pakistan each year — most due to late diagnosis. That is a statistic we cannot accept. Awareness must be matched with access," he stated.

Mr. Hassan Khan, Hotel manager at Islamabad Marriott Hotel, reaffirmed the hotel's dedication to corporate social responsibility, noting that initiatives like these reflect their longstanding support for women's health and community wellbeing.

Dr. Mir Waheed, Head of Emer-

will be diagnosed with breast cancer in her lifetime. Early detection is critical - and entirely possible when women are empowered with the right knowledge.

Medical experts shared invaluable insights throughout the event. Dr. Saira Mahmood highlighted awareness as the first step in prevention, Dr. Yassir Rehman emphasized the importance of timely diagnosis in treatment success, and Dr. Ayesha Amin stressed the life-saving potential of regular mammograms.

One of the most inspiring moments came from Aliya Agha, breast cancer vouchers, redeemable from October 1 survivor and CEO of Margalla Tribune,

gency at Maroof International Hospital whose emotional story moved the audiwoman in Pakistan dies because she stated: "One in nine women in Pakistan ence. "If my journey encourages even one woman to seek early screening, then I've done something worthwhile. she said, drawing a standing ovation. The Chairman Senate encouraged the breast cancer survivor Aliya Agha and proposed that she should be declared good will ambassador for the pink ribbon and breast cancer awareness.

> To support early screening efforts, Maroof International Hospital offered a free medical and dental camp, providing on-site breast exams, dental consultations, oral screenings, and educational material. Attendees also received 50% off mammogram to December 31, 2025.

## Trade Expo Indonesia 2025 Boosts Indonesia-Pakistan Economic Relations

**Spokesman Report** 

JAKARTA: The Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia in Islamabad, in collaboration with the Indonesian Consu-Board of Investment, while the busilate General in Karachi, the Indonesian ness community was represented by Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KADIN), and the International Crea- of Bilateral Committee for Pakistan tives Exchange (ICE), organized "Indo- and Afghanistan of the Indonesian nesia-Pakistan Economic Networking Forum 2025: Building a Shared Mr. Uzair Nizam, President of Paki-Future" on the sidelines of 40th Trade stan-Indonesia Business & Cultural Expo Indonesia (TEI) 2025. Hundreds Network; Mr. Mohammad Bawaof business people along with govern- zeer, Chairman of Bawazeer Group; ment officials and business leaders and Ayub Gaba from K2 Industries, attended the Forum, including 60 Paki- Karachi. stani entrepreneurs.

Among the attendees from the Indonesian government were Mr. Ricky Eka Central Asia of the Indonesian Foreign

East, and Africa of the Indonesian Ministry of Investment/Coordinating Mr. Harman Siswanto, Vice Chairman Chamber of Commerce and Industry;

In his remarks, Indonesian Ambassador to Pakistan H. E. Mr. Chandra W. Sukotjo highlighted the resilience of Virgana Ichsan, Director for South and bilateral trade, "From January to July 2025, Indonesia's exports to Pakistan Ministry and Mr. Muhammad Iqbal, reached USD 2.16 billion, or 21.83%

tion for East and South Asia, Middle last year. Yet, our potential remains much greater." The Envoy urges the Pakistan and Indonesian businesses to explore new areas of cooperation, such as pharmaceuticals, halal industry, renewable energy, digital economy, and agricultural technology.

Vice Chairman of the Indonesian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Mr. Bernardino M. Vega urged both sides to move beyond trade numbers by strengthening people-to-people contact and creative collaboration. "The world is changing and business models are also changing. We need to expand our collaborations to be more imaginative and value-added oriented.

In his turn, the Trade and Investment Attaché of the Embassy of Pakistan, Mr. Naseem Rashed emphasized the Pakistani government's commit-

Deputy Director of Investment Promo- increase compared to the same period ment to facilitating more direct business collaboration between businesses of both countries (B2B engagement). "As two major Muslim nations with a long history of friendship, our economic relationship must reflect that potential.

During the event, Ministry of Investment of Indonesia noted that Pakistan ranks third among South Asian investors in Indonesia with USD 36.6 million in the last five years, while emphasized future cooperation in renewable energy, pharmaceuticals, and halal industry.

As both brotherly Muslim countries are celebrating the anniversary of bilateral relations this year, two books were launched along with Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) signed between business entities from both countries. The two books are "75 Years of Indonesia-Pakistan Bilateral



Relations: Two Friends, One Spirit," by Mr. Atta Ul Karim and "Islamabad to Jakarta: A Personal Reflection" by Mr. Shams Abbasi. Among the MoUs are signed by the International Creatives Exchange (ICE) and Gwadar Chamber of Commerce and Industry, as well as that by Harmann Pharmaceutical from Pakistan and PT. Ultra



Trade Expo Indonesia is an Indonesia's largest annual international trade exhibition, showcasing the country's best export products and services. TEL promotes Indonesia as a reliable trade and investment partner, connecting global buyers with Indonesian exporters across various sectors such as manufacturing, agriculture, digital economy, and creative industries.

## First ever Palestine-Pakistan Rectors Forum Inaugurated at OIC-COMSTECH

跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The inaugural ceremony of the first-ever Palestine-Pakistan Rectors' Forum on "Higher Education and Scientific Research in Gaza: The Way Forward" was held on Thursday at the OIC-COMS-TECH Secretariat, Islamabad. The forum was organized by COMSTECH, the Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), with the objective of fostering academic collaboration and strengthening higher education and scientific linkages between the institutions of Palestine and Pakistan.

The ceremony was graced by H. E. Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui, Federal Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training, as the Chief Guest, while Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary, Coordinator General, OIC-COMSTECH, delivered the welcome

Ambassadors, Vice Chancellors, government officials, and senior academics from today at this important forum, which reflects Palestine and Pakistan attended the event, our collective commitment to the noble reflecting a strong spirit of academic solidarity and cooperation among OIC member tific advancement, the true foundations of states. The proceedings were conducted peace, progress, and prosperity for our broth-



Person/Coordinator, CCoE, Outreach & Media, OIC-COMSTECH.

In his address, Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui expressed his deep appreciation for the initiative, terming it an important step toward rebuilding Gaza's educational and research landscape. He said, "It is indeed a privilege and honour for me to join you cause of education, knowledge, and scien-

by Mr. Muhammad Murtaza Noor, Focal erly nation, the State of Palestine."

In his welcome remarks, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Iqbal Choudhary, Coordinator General, OIC-COMSTECH, stated: "As part of this forum's deliberations, we also seek to formulate a comprehensive roadmap, in close coordination with our partner universities, for assisting in the rehabilitation and restructuring of Gaza's higher education and scientific institutions after two years of what can only be described as an education genocide. "The systematic destruction of universities, research centres, and schools in Gaza has not only targeted infrastructure but has deeply affected the intellectual and develop-

mental foundations of an entire generation. Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Dr. M. F. Ayman. Sobh President Al-Aqsa University Gaza, expressed heartfelt gratitude to OIC-COMSTECH and the Government of Pakistan for their continued support and solidarity with Palestine. "We are deeply moved by the warmth, hospitality, and brotherhood extended to us in Pakistan. This forum gives us renewed hope to rebuild our academic institutions and create new opportunities for our students and researchers,"

## Sir Sved's 208th Birthday Celebrated with Zeal by Sir Syed Education Foundation

oirth anniversary of Sir Syed Ahmad Khan — the great educationist, reformer, and founder of the Aligarh Movement — was celebrated with great enthusiasm and reverence at the Sir Syed Education Foundation, Hassanabdal, on Friday. The event paid glowing tribute to Sir Syed's lifelong struggle to promote modern education among the

Muslims of the subcontinent. The ceremony commenced with the recitation of the Holy Quran and Naat, followed by speeches and presentations by students highlighting Sir Syed's monumental contributions to education and intellectual reform. Participants expressed profound admiration for his efforts to awaken awareness, progress, and unity among Muslims nation.

ATTOCK: 17thOct the 208th through knowledge and enlightenment. Advocate Zulfigar Havat.

> the chief guest, lauded Sir Syed Ahmad Khan's visionary role in transforming the educational landscape of the subcontinent. "Sir Syed opened the doors

of knowledge for Muslims and laid the foundation of modern education — a legacy that continues to inspire generations," he remarked.

Addressing the audience, educationist Tahir Mehmood Durrani urged students to emulate Sir Syed's example of perseverance, vision, and intellectual curiosity.

"Education is the key that opens all doors to success," he said, emphasizing the importance of dedication, discipline, and service to the

## UAE gives away 'Order of Zayed II' award to Pakistan ambassador

News Desk

The United Arab Emirates has awarded the prestigious First-Class Order of Zaved II to Pakistan's Ambassador to the UAE, Faisal Niaz Tirmizi, in recognition of his outstanding diplomatic efforts to strengthen bilateral ties between the two nations, the Pakistan Embassy in Abu Dhabi announced on Thursday.

Pakistan and the UAE share a deeprooted and enduring relationship, marked by close cooperation in trade. defense, and labor mobility. The UAE is home to over 1.7 million Pakistanisexpatriate community in the Gulf whose remittances play a crucial role in supporting Pakistan's economy.

The award was presented to Ambassador Tirmizi by His Excellency Khalifa Shaheen Al Marar, Minister of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, during



a ceremony in Abu Dhabi. The embassy commended the ambassador's "dedicated efforts in further deepening the historic and brotherly relations between the two nations."

In response, Ambassador Tirmizi forming the second-largest Pakistani expressed deep gratitude, saying he was "overwhelmingly delighted and deeply humbled to receive this prestigious honor." He extended heartfelt thanks to the UAE leadership, government, and people for their continued

support throughout his tenure. "This recognition is not mine alone," he added. "I am profoundly grateful to my dedicated team at the Embassy of Pakistan in Abu Dhabi, the Consulate General of Pakistan in Dubai, and our vibrant Pakistani community across the Emirates. Their commitment and cooperation have been central to advancing Pakistan-UAE relations."

The Order of Zayed II is among the UAE's highest civilian honors, named after the country's founding father, Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan. It is awarded by the President of the UAE to heads of state, senior diplomats, and distinguished individuals for their significant contributions to strengthening ties with the Emirates or promoting international cooperation.

The decoration includes a gold medal and ribbon featuring the image of Sheikh Zayed, symbolizing friendship, service, and mutual respect between

## 'CASS Roundtable Highlights Financial Inclusion as Key to Pakistan's **Economic Security'**

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Centre for Aerospace & Security Studies (CASS), Islamabad, organised a webinar titled "Financial Inclusion for Economic Security" on 15 October 2025. The event brought together experts to explore how inclusive financial systems can strengthen Pakistan's economic resilience, social stability, and national development.

Dr Usman W. Chohan, Advisor on Economic Affairs and National Development at CASS, emphasized the economic pillar in Pakistan's National Security Policy, and offered his thesis that national security is premised on robust and widespread financial inclusion. His core argument was that the people of Paki-



stan must build a participatory and emancipatory economy, in line with the vision of the Quaid, so that they have a direct and lasting stake in their nation's development.

Ms Quratulain Chaudhry, Executive Manager at Mobilink Microfinance, emphasized that financial literacy is vital for inclusion and national resilience, as an informed polity is a strong polity. She noted that financial inclusion is also contingent on financial retention, which in turn pillar of economic security.

requires a multidimensional enabling ecosystem that linked finance with other important household needs such as healthcare and education.

Ms Eshal Urooj, Research Associate at the Punjab Social Protection Authority, noted that while access to formal financial systems in Pakistan has improved, retention rates are more important as there is an attrition risk after formal financial inscription. She cautioned that formality alone does not ensure safety, with the widespread prevalence of scams and fraudulent activity would invariably pose an acute risk to the general public.

In his concluding remarks, President CASS Air Marshal Javaid Ahmed (Retd), underscored the contention that financial inclusion is an essential



Index Fluctuation				
Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index				
Current	Prev. Close			
163,806.21	164,444.71			
Day's High	Day's Low			
165,030.82	163,118.01			
Index Value	Change			
22,036,642,573	-638.50			
Percentage	Time			
-0.39%	17 Oct, 2025 4:30 pm			
Europe: FTS	E 100 Index			
Index Value	Change			
9,354.57	-81.52			
Percentage	Time			
-0.86%	17 Oct, 4:35 pm GMT+1			
<b>USA: Dow Jones</b> I	Industrial Average			
Index Value	Change			
46,135.52	+183.28			
Percentage	Time			
±0.40%	17 Oct, 1:55 pm			

	GIVI 1-4		
Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Avera			
Index Value	Change		
47,582.15	-695.59		
Percentage	Time		
-1.44%	17 Oct, 3:45 pm GMT+9		

CMT\_/

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

UK based Group visits ICCI, keen to bring huge investment in *Islamabad* 

**№** Commerce Desk



ISLAMABAD: A high-profile business delegation from the Adam Mercer Group of Companies (AM Group), led by its Chairman Chaudhry Shafiq Ur Rehman, who is also a Corporate Member of the UK-Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, paid a visit to the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) to explore avenues for trade and investment in Pakistan.

The delegation included Amman Rehman, Chief Executive Officer of the Group in London; Ihsaan Rehman, Chief Executive Officer of the Group in Pakistan; Farhaan Rehman, the youngest Councillor of the London Borough of Hounslow; and Chaudhry Liaquat Ali, Director of the Group in the UK and Pakistan.

During the meeting with ICCI President Sardar Tahir Mehmood, Senior Vice President Tahir Ayub, and Vice President Mohammad Irfan Chaudhry, the two sides discussed potential areas of cooperation in real estate, food, education, and entrepreneurship development. A large number of ICCI Executive Members and business leaders were also present on the

Those present also included ICCI Executive Members Zulqurnain Abbasi, Malik Mohsin Khalid, Aqeel Malik, and Dr. Raja Amjad Pomi.

## Privatization of First Women Bank to strengthen Pakistan, UAE economic partnership: PM

跨 City Desk

Shehbaz Sharif Friday said privatization of First Women Bank will be followed by more economic partnerships and joint ventures between Pakistan and the United Arab Emirates, bringing dividends to both sides in diverse fields.

He was addressing the signing ceremony Company (IHC) of United Arab Emirates

under a government to government framework. Chairman of 2PointZero Sheikh Zayed bin ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Hamdan bin Zayed Al Nahyan and a delegation from UAE attended the ceremony.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, government ministers, parliamentarians and high ranking officials attended the ceremony.

The Prime Minister thanked the leadership of United Arab Emirates for its commitment for the acquisition of majority stake of The to support Pakistan's economy through joint First Women Bank by International Holding ventures and promotion of trade, making it a win win situation for both countries

Bank was the first drop of rain and will be a beginning of very long happy journey towards and the United Arab Emirates. He said the privatization process of First Women Bank began in 2024 and successfully concluded because of determined and focused efforts led by Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar and Advisor to PM on Privatization Muhammad Ali and his team which seamlessly clinched

Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir strategi-

He said privatization of the First Women cally supported endeavours of the government, he noted.

The Prime Minister said the First Women building economic relations between Pakistan Bank which was working for female entrepreneurs and businesswomen will provide a great opportunity to women to grow in their respective fields such as agriculture and industry.

The Women Bank will grow by leaps and bounds because of the professional management and visionary leadership, he said adding, "This is the beginning of a journey of happiness, progress and prosperity for Pakistan and the United Arab Emirates.'

#### Signing ceremony

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Federal Ministers and Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir Chief of Army Staff witnessing the signing ceremony of the agreement regarding privatization of First Women Bank in Federal Capital.



## PTCL Group expands partnership with Mercantile at GITEX GLOBAL 2025

**Example 2** Commerce Desk

DUBAI/ ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's largest telecommunications and integrated ICT services provider, PTCL Group (PTCL & Ufone 4G), has signed a strategic partnership with Apple's authorised distributor and service provider in Pakistan, Mercantile, to offer Apple's complete product range to its enterprise customers nationwide.

The partnership was signed by Asif Ahmad, Group Chief Business Solutions Officer, PTCL & Ufone 4G, and Nauman Durrani, CEO Pakistan, SVP Sage-Mercantile on the sidelines of GITEX Global 2025 in Dubai. President & Group CEO Hatem Bamatraf was also present at the signing, along with senior management from both sides. The agreement allows PTCL Group and Mercantile to jointly work toward expanding access to cutting-edge technology, enhancing customer confidence through extended support services, strengthening go-tomarket capabilities with joint initiatives, and amplifying market presence through collaborative campaigns.

Nauman Durrani, CEO Pakistan, SVP Sage-Mercantile said, "We are happy



to Pakistan's wider business community through PTCL Group's nationwide network. Apple's products and services are process of digitisation across Pakistan's

to extend Apple's high-quality products enterprise sector for its growth and sustainability.

The collaboration helps PTCL Group to successfully combine global technology Also commenting on the development, synonymous with quality and customer leadership with innovative delivery models confidence, which can accelerate the to accelerate the digital transformation of enterprises across Pakistan.

## Hacktivists use hashtags as coordination tools in targeted campaigns: Kaspersky report

**№** Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Kaspersky researchers have published a new report, Signal in the Noise, analyzing more than 120 hacktivist groups and over 11,000 hacktivist posts shared across surface and dark web channels in 2025. The study reveals that hashtags have become the connective tissue of hacktivist campaigns, serving as identifiers, coordination markers, and claims of responsibility. While distributed denial of service (DDoS) attacks remain the most common attack method.



hacktivist activity is global in tivists announce their intention scope, extending well beyond to target a victim, they typiconflict zones in the Middle cally follow through quickly, East and North Africa to include targets across Europe, Asia, and the Americas. Another unique

The research shows that characteristic is that once hacklaunching attacks soon after

"Hacktivist groups thrive on

visibility rather than stealth, unlike typical cybercriminals. However, their craving for publicity can ultimately be turned against them," said Kseniya Kudasheva, Digital Footprint Analyst at Kaspersky. "By continuously monitoring hacktivist groups, businesses and governments can gain early insights into where attacks may be directed next. That's why it's crucial for organizations to leverage tools like Kaspersky Digital Footprint Intelligence - to transform these signals into actionable threat insights," she

## **CMPak and Huawei** Deploy FDD 8x120W Ultra-Wideband High-**Power Solution for Energy Efficiency and Network Performance**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's saving, emissions reduction, leading telecom operator and sustainable develop-CMPak and Huawei have ment. recently completed the commercial deployment of cated to providing superior FDD 8x120W ultra-wide- telecommunication services band high-power solution. for Pakistan. This deploy-This network upgrade reprement with Huawei is not sents a major leap forward in only a technological innova-

gy efficiency, marking a significant milestone in the development of Pakistan's telecommunications industry.

The GigaGreen 8T ultra-wideband highpower solution offers significant advantages over the conventional two-set 4T deployments. By leveraging high integration and advanced materials and manufacturing technologies, the new device is up to 44% lighter and 47% smaller. These

transportation, installation. overall energy consumption original setup. This breakachieve its targets for energy able growth.

CMPak remains dediboth performance and ener-tion, but a crucial step in the



upgrades reduce wind surface transition to a "intelligent, area and pole load require- green and efficient" network. ments, while also simplifying By building a more resilient communication foundation and maintenance. In addi- with lower energy consumption to delivering equivalent tion and lower costs, CMPak or even superior coverage, is empowering users with the new solution reduces faster, more stable, and more reliable connectivity. This by 37% compared to the initiative underscores a key advancement in Pakistan's through substantially lowers journey toward network OPEX and enables CMPak to modernization and sustain-

## **Vietnam Business** Delegation explores trade and investment opportunities at LCCI



跨 Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: A high-level business delegation from Vietnam visited the Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry (LCCI) and met with LCCI President Faheem Ur Rehman Saigol. LCCI Senior Vice President Tanveer Ahmed Sheikh, Vice President Khurram Lodhi, and Executive Committee members were also present

on the occasion. The delegation was led by Director General, NPD Viet Nam Joint Stock Company, Tran Thi Luyen, and included respected Vietnamese delegates. Honorary Consul of Vietnam in Pakistan, Rizwan Fareed coordinated the visit.

Welcoming the delegation, LCCI President Faheem Ur Rehman Saigol expressed gratitude to Mr. Rizwan Fareed for facilitating the visit and to Tran tangible business results.

Thi Luven for leading the Vietnamese delegation to Lahore — the industrial and commercial hub of Punjab. He said that Lahore is not only a city rich in history, art, and culture, but also a rapidly growing center for trade and investment.

Honorary Consul of Vietnam, Rizwan Fareed, said that Pakistan places Vietnam high on its trade agenda and that this was the third Vietnamese business delegation visit to Pakistan in 2025. He added that the Vietnamese government is keen to expand bilateral trade and that the LCCI plays a vital role in connecting business communities of both nations.

LCCI Senior Vice President Tanveer Ahmed Sheikh said that Vietnam is a trusted friend of Pakistan, expressing optimism that the B2B interactions will yield

## Hamza Mawaz shines as FG/Din squeeze into Pink Polo **Cup final**

👺 Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: FG/Din secured their place in the main final after defeating Lahore Smart City 10-4, while Diamond Paints qualified for the subsidiary final with a commanding 10-5 win over Indus Polo on the fourth day of the Lahore Smart City Pink Polo Cup 2025 at the Jinnah

 $Club\,Secretary\,Major\,(R)\,Adil\,Rao\,and$ other officials were present on the occasion. In the first match, a brilliant display by Hamza Mawaz Khan guided FG/Din to victory. Hamza struck six goals, while Abbas Mukhtar added three and Sheikh Muhammad Rafiq contributed one. For Lahore Smart City, Saqib Khan Khakwani scored three goals, and Alman Jaleel Azam

In the second match, Diamond Paints overpowered Indus Polo 10-5 to reach the subsidiary final. Displaying excellent teamwork and precision, Jalal Arslan and Mir Huzaifa led Diamond Paints' charge with four goals each, while Rabeel Noman added two to complete a convincing victory. For Indus Polo, Ibrahim Khalil scored twice and Pir Danish added one, along with two handicap goals in their total. The grand final of the Lahore Smart City Pink Polo Cup will be played on Sunday between



FG/Din and Master Paints.

\*MATCH SUMMARY\*

\*Main Final Qualifier\* FG/Din beat Lahore Smart City 10-4 FG/Din: Hamza Mawaz Khan (6),

Abbas Mukhtar (3), Sheikh Muhammad Rafiq (1).

Lahore Smart City: Saqib Khan Khakwani (3), Alman Jaleel Azam (1).

Diamond Paints beat Indus Polo 10-5 Diamond Paints: (Jalal Arslan 4, Mir Huzaifa 4, Rabeel Noman 2)

Indus Polo: (Ibrahim Khalil 2, Pir Danish 1) 2 handicap goals.

## Pakistan hold Australia to thrilling 3–3 draw in Sultan of Johor Cup clash

**Sports Desk** 

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan staged a remarkable comeback to hold Australia to an exciting 3-3 draw in their 2025 Sultan of Johor Cup encounter at the Taman Daya Hockey Stadium in Johor Bahru, Malaysia on Friday.

Australia made a flying start, netting twice in the opening quarter through Toby Mallon (6th minute) and Oscar Sproule (9th minute) to put Pakistan under early pressure. However, the Green Shirts fought back with determination, gradually turning the tide of the game.

Star forward Shahid Hannan spearheaded Pakistan's recovery, scoring a then in the 47th minute — both field fashion. goals coming off well-coordinated

**Pakistan** 

STATISTICAL LEADERS

Hannan 2 GS



FIH Approved Competition, 2025 Sultan of Johor Cup



Australia

STATISTICAL LEADERS

1 GROBBE

Taman Daya Hockey Stadium, (MAS) Oct 17, 2025, 8:35 PM

brace — first in the 38th minute and bringing the match level in dramatic ited performance in the final quarter corners awarded throughout the game.

For Australia, Ian Grobbelaar score Pakistan's third in the 57th minute, lead temporarily, but Pakistan's spir- and resilience, with several penalty tive spirit.

ensured they walked away with a valu- Despite missed chances on both ends, able point from the contest. the match remained a thrilling display attacking moves. Saif Ullah added in the 47th minute to extend his team's Both sides showed attacking flair of youth hockey talent and competi-

## Women's U19 skills, fitness camp to begin on Oct 18 in city

**Sports Desk** 

KARACHI: A total of 30 women's U19 players have been selected for a 20-day skills and fitness camp at the Hanif Mohammad High-Performance Centre in Karachi.

The camp will begin on Saturday, October 18 and will conclude on Thursday, November

The 30 members of the camp have been chosen from the recently concluded National Women's U19 T20 Tournament and with an eye on the ICC Women's U19 World Cup 2026-27 preparations.

Apart from taking part in regular strength and conditioning sessions, the players will also undergo skill development, fielding and net sessions regularly under the PCB assigned coaches.

The purpose of the camp is to inculcate game awareness and various forms of on-field educated about anti-doping, and off-field discipline in the

upcoming U19 women's players. tions and playing conditions of all They will also be briefed and formats in the camp.



game awareness, media interac-

Pakistan Women's U19 team is scheduled to tour Bangladesh for a five-match T20 series from

squad will also be selected from this 30-player contingent.

Players selected for the U19 3-12 December, for which the skills and fitness camp included Ashraf (Lodhran).

all-rounders (6): Afsheen Imran (Karachi),

Agsa Habib (Lahore), Eman Naseer (Islamabad), Maheen Irfan (Lahore), Minahil Parvaiz (Sargodha) and Sawera Ramzan (Karachi). Batters (10) Alzoha Hammad (Lahore), Areesha Ansari (Kasur), Esha Tir Razia (Bahawalpur), Fizza Fiaz (Lahore), Malaika Suhani (Lahore), Raahima Syed (Abbottabad), Ravail Farhan (Lahore), Sabiha Noor (Faisalabad), Samiya Afsar (Lahore) and Zoofishan Ayyaz (Wah Cantt) Bowlers (12) Aleesa Mukhtiar (Bahawalpur), Ayesha Imran Riaz (Lahore), Barirah Saif, Mahnoor Zeb (Mardan), Maria (Peshawar), Memoona Khalid (Faisalabad), Narjis Bibi (Rawalpindi), Rozina Akram (Islamabad), Shahar Bano (Lodhran), Shumaim Abrar (Faisalabad), Sveda Batool Fatima (Karachi) and Zainab Khanum (Muzaffargarh) Wicket-keepers (2) Komal Khan (Lahore) and Nasreen

## China, Japan dominate in Asia-Pacific Goalball Championship

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: The second day of the Asia-Pacific Goalball Championship 2025 witnessed another round of thrilling encounters at the Liaquat Gymnasium of Pakistan Sports Complex on

In the men's fixtures, China overpowered Uzbekistan 12–2, Thailand outplayed Saudi Arabia 7-3 and Kazakhstan thrashed Pakistan 10-0.

Australia also impressed, defeating Iraq

In the women's category, China edged past South Korea 4-2, while Japan crushed Pakistan 10-0 to record their second consecutive victory.

Organized by the Pakistan Blind Sports Federation, the championship features teams from China, Iran, Japan, Thailand, Kazakhstan, Pakistan, Saudi



Arabia, Australia, Iraq and Uzbekistan. unbeaten in both men's and women's retain the title. The tournament is being Defending champions China remain events as they continue their quest to hosted by Pakistan for the first time.

#### Provincial Minister for Sports meets Punjab Lawn Tennis Association delegation



#### **Tahir Amin Malik**

LAHORE: Provincial Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab, Faisal Ayub Khokhar, met with a delegation from the Punjab Lawn Tennis Association (PLTA) at his office. The delegation was led by the Association's Vice President and Coach, Rashid Malik, while Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab, Muzaffar Khan Sial, Sports Coordinator Malik Anoosh Khokhar, and other officials were also present. During the meeting, delegation gave a detailed briefing on the development of tennis and other sports activities. They informed that the Shehryar Malik Memorial Open Tennis Championship will commence in Lahore on October 21, 2025, featuring prominent and emerging players from across the country.

Provincial Minister Faisal Ayub Khokhar appreciated the efforts of the Punjab Lawn Tennis Association and stated that the future of tennis in Punjab is bright. He reiterated the government's commitment to revitalizing sports fields and providing modern facilities for athletes. The Minister assured that the Government of Punjab will fully support every initiative that promotes healthy and positive activities among youth and helps produce players of international caliber. Faisal Ayub Khokhar also extended his best wishes to the PLTA officials for the successful organization of the Shehryar Malik Memorial Open Tennis Championship.

## PCB Talent Hunt Programme for School Cricket (Karachi Region)

**Sports Desk** 

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

The highlights of the days play was brilliant Centuries by Fakharuddin Sialvi 139, Muhammad Asghar 125 and and all-round Performance by M. Anas Khan scored unbeaten 90 and 4/17 as off Spinner.

Ebrahim Ali Bhai School beat Aga Khan School by 163 runs at Jinnah College Ground. Ebrahim Ali Bhai School 319/7 in 40 overs. Muhammad Asghar. 125 19x4, Muhammad Zahid 53 10x4 1x6, Muhammad Fahad 31 Obaid ur Rehman 21. Gautam Makwana 2/52, Muzaffar Ali 2/62.

In reply Aga Khan School 156 all-out in 28 overs. Afnan Nazim 37, Gautam Makwana 35, Uzair Shoukat 27, Abdul Wasay Khan 22. Muhammad Zahid (ob) 3/30, Muhammad Abbas 2/18, Muhammad Fahad 2/40.

In the 2nd Match Hira Foundation School beat The Ceder School by 40 runs at Darul Uloom Korangi. Hira Foundation School 265 all-out in 39.3 overs. Fakharuddin Sialvi 139 21x4, M. Zakwan Usmani 48 7x4, Muhammad Aqil 35. Abdul Rehman Amiwala (mf) 3/51, Hasan Asif Pia 2/36, Hammad Furqan 2/42.

In reply The Ceder School 225 all-out in 39 overs. Abdul Rehman Amiwala 47 3x4 5x6, Muhammad Umar 40, Ahmed Shahzad 30, Hasan Asif Pia 20. Muhammad Aqil (rlb) 4/13, M. Maaz Maqbool 2/30.

In the 3rd Match GBSS Model Haqani beat Habib Public School by by 116 runs at IBA University Ground. GBSS Model Haqani 241/5 in 40 overs. M. Anas Khan 90 8x4 5x6 not out, Aliyan Asif 44, Azaan Masroor 33, Khizar Jawad 24. M. Ali Shah Zain (ob) 3/56.

Habib Public School 125 all-out in 25 overs. Elia Asif 41, Muhammad Saad 28, Nasir Khan 24. M. Anas Khan (mf) 4/17, Hasan Jawad (rlb) 4/34.

#### Quaid-e-Azam Trophy 3rd round begins Saturday



**Sports Desk** 

ISLAMABAD: The third round of the Quaid-e-Azam Trophy 2025-26 will be played at different venues from October 18 to 21. The matches will be played in Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Abbottabad and Peshawar. The fixtures include Abbottabad v Islamabad at Marghzar Cricket Ground, Islamabad; Bahawalpur v Peshawar at Shoaib Akhtar Cricket Stadium, Rawalpindi; Lahore Whites v Sialkot at Diamond Cricket Ground, Islamabad; Karachi Blues v FATA at Imran Khan Stadium, Peshawar: Multan v Faisalabad at Abbottabad Cricket Stadium, Abbottabad.

#### Evaluation report delayed due to PSL franchisers? non-cooperation

News Desk

Pakistan Super League (PSL) franchisers' non-cooperation in providing data delayed evaluation report. According to sources, two PSL franchises are not providing data to the company appointed for evaluation which caused delay in the evaluation report.

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) had entrusted the responsibility for PSL evaluation to Eway Mina.

The PSL administration has been given a target of completing the evaluation in five weeks. The evaluation company has completed the report of all seasons of the Pakistan Super League.

The company has also completed the evaluation of PSL title

sponsors, media rights and live streaming. The price of the two new PSL teams will be determined after the evaluation report is completed.

### 55th meeting of NJPMC

ISLAMABAD: The Hon'ble Chief Justice of Pakistan, Mr. Yahya Afridi, presiding over the 55th meeting of the National Judicial (Policy Making) Committee (NJPMC) today at the Supreme Court of Pakistan on Friday.



## Finance Minister projects 3.5-4pc GDP growth despite flood damages

#### Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb has projected Pakistan's economic growth between 3.5 and 4 percent for the current fiscal year despite the severe impact of recent monsoon floods that devastated farmland, displaced over four million people, and killed over 900 across the coun-

In an interview with Bloomberg, the finance minister said the initial assessments showed damage to the country's rice and cotton sectors, adding more detailed damage assessments will take review of its \$7 billion loan place in the coming months.

"This will put in a dent to our

anywhere between 3.5 to 4.

Prior to the flooding, the Pakistani government projected economic growth of 4.2% for the fiscal year ending next June.

"Climate change for us is not academic," he said. "We are living it, and the recent floods actually are a reflection of that."

Pakistan's economy has been

stabilizing following a near-default on government debt two years ago. The country is set to receive about \$1.2 billion in loans from the International Monetary Fund after signing off on a staff-level agreement with the IMF, following a successful program.

The third loan installment north of 3.5%, early days, but which has stabilized after it the destructive monsoon rains. the US have moved to rebuild



government debt two years ago. cross the upper bound of its

country's economy will grow GDP growth number," he said. is expected to help bolster the between 3.25% and 3.5% in years ago. "My own view is it will still be country's \$407 billion economy, the fiscal year to June despite

narrowly avoided a default on Pakistan predicts inflation may The IMF estimates the 5%-7% target range this year, cooling from a record 38% two

Meanwhile, Pakistan and

military and economic ties after years of strain. Economic links have grown with a trade deal that levied a 19% tariff on Pakistani goods, lower than regional peers and well below the 50% tariff on rival India, the Bloomberg reported.

The finance minister also said Pakistan planned to issue its inaugural tranche of yuan-denominated debt – known as Panda bonds by late November or early December. The \$250 million issue is key to diversifying the country's funding channels, he said.

"We have tapped the US dollar market, we have done Euros, we have done Islamic sukuk, but we had not accessed the second largest, the second deepest capital market in the world," he said.

## Religious affairs minister holds talks with UK envoy

#### 跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Religious Affairs Sardar Muhammad Yousaf has described the increasing state sponsored persecution of Muslims and other minorities in India as alarm-

Talking to British High Commissioner to Pakistan Jane Marriot in Islamabad, he said Pakistan has taken significant steps to promote interfaith harmony by increasing the participation of minorities in all sectors.

 $He \, said \, we \, are \, very \, proud \, of \, our \, rich$ traditions and cultural heritage, where we have immense respect for religious and faith-based diversity.

The British High Commissioner said Pakistan and the UK can benefit from each other's experiences in promoting interfaith harmony. She said we can offer exchange programs and scholarships in the UK for madrassa graduates.



## Thousands of aid trucks must reach Gaza weekly to ease humanitarian crisis, UN's relief chief

Gaza to allow a surge of aid into the devastated enclave.

Tom Fletcher, UN under-secreand emergency relief, told CBC News, a leading American tv channel, from El-Arish, Egypt, after visiting the Rafah crossing between Egypt and Gaza that "It was quite an emotional visit for me."

"Because for months and months, our supplies have been piling up. And we've been desperate to get them moving, desperate to see those lorries heading into Gaza."

Humanitarian aid has begun flowing but Fletcher says it needs to scaled up dramatically with "thousands of trucks a week" carrying food, medicine and other supplies into the territory.

Fletcher says shipments of aid have been moving into Gaza via two cross-

Nations humanitarian relief chief has Kissufim. But he says other crossings, urged Israel to open all entrances to including Rafah, need to be opened to ensure civilians get the help they need.

"We want to see Rafah opened. We want to see all the crossings opened. You tary-general for humanitarian affairs know, aid can never be a bargaining chip. That's not just me saying that. That's the rules. That's the law," Fletcher said.

But Israel has said that humanitarian aid will not be allowed through Rafah. "This was never agreed upon at any stage," the Israeli statement said.

Meanwhile, the UN World Food Programme (WFP) has warned food aid cannot reach everyone in Gaza unless all border crossings are opened, particularly in the north where famine was declared in August.

The agency says it already has enough supplies in place to feed the entire population of the Strip for three months - if

full access is granted by Israel. One week into the fragile ceasefire,

UNITED NATIONS: The United ings in Israel, at Kerem Shalom and WFP has been bringing in an average of 560 tonnes of food each day.

"The ceasefire deal has opened a narrow window of opportunity, and WFP is moving very quickly to scale up food assistance and reach families who have endured months of blockade, displacement and hunger," said Abeer Etefa, WFP Senior Regional Communications Officer and Spokesperson for the Middle East, North Africa and Eastern

Speaking to journalists in Geneva, Ms. Etefa said teams and supply networks were fully mobilised.

"We're still below what we need, but we're getting there," she noted. Five food distribution points are now operating across Gaza, focusing on women and children. "Our goal is to expand to 145 distribution points across all of Gaza that's the scale we're aiming for," she

Aid agencies stress that sustained hold," he said. Published by: Almass Ayoub Sabir from Zero Point Printers Rawalpindi

access and multiple crossings are essential to reach everyone in need. Only two crossings are currently open, and those in the north remain closed, restricting deliveries to the hardest hit areas.

"Roads are blocked and destroyed. This is a huge limitation to transport," Ms. Etefa said.

Because of access and security constraints, no food distributions have yet taken place in Gaza City, only nutrition supplies for children and pregnant or breastfeeding women.

Jens Laerke, spokesperson for the UN aid coordination office (OCHA), said the northern crossings remain closed "because the Israeli authorities have not opened them".

He added that road repairs and clearance of unexploded ordnance are also essential for safety and access. "It is very important to have these openings in the north, as that is where the famine took

## Eight Khawarij killed in Lakki Marwat, arms and ammunition recovered



#### 👺 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The security forces have killed 8 Khawarij in Lakki Marwat district of Khyber Paktunkhawa in an intelligence-based operation. A large quantity of arms and ammunition was also recovered from the terrorists' possession during the operation, security sources said.

Army carried out a successful opera- the National Action Plan, indiscrimtion in the Sultan Khel area of Lakki Marwat based on intelligence inforagainst terrorists are being carried

Khawarij, security sources said.

Action was taken on information about the presence of Afghan Taliban proxy Khawarij in the area. Forces began aerial and ground surveillance in Sultankhel and Toofanwala areas and immediate action was taken after Khawarii movements were detected during surveillance.

In the last four days, 102 Khawarij sent by the Afghan Taliban have been On October 16, 2025, the Pakistan killed, security sources said. Under inate and continuous operations mation and killed eight most wanted out by the public and security forces.

## Mohsin Naqvi holds detailed talks with JUP's Awais Noorani



#### City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Friday held madrissah". He rejected any action a detailed meeting with Jamiat against the innocent people. Ulema-e-Pakistan (JUP) Secretary-General Shah Awais Noorani in Islamabad. During the meet- and order situation will be dealt with ing, both leaders exchanged views iron hands. on religious harmony and national unity.

Secretary-General that all those Pakistan there is no place for miscrepeople who were found innocent ants and extremists".

will be released soon. Mohsin Naqvi said, "The current government is not considering closing down any

The Interior Minister said that those miscreants who created a law

Naqvi said, "Nobody will be allowed to use weapons against the Mohsin Naqvi assured the JUP state because in Quaid-e-Azam's

## **National Judicial Policy-**Making Committee reviews judicial reforms

#### 跨 City Desk

Committee was held under chair review constitutional and legal challenges in dispensation of justice. The meeting was attended by the chief justices of four provinces Mansoor Awan.

According to an official announcement, the meeting considered the institutional response formulation of SOPs against interment added.

ference by all high courts.

Addressing the meeting, CJP ISLAMABAD: A meeting of Yahya Afridi said steps were neces-National Judicial Policy-Making sary to protect the independence and integrity of judges of the higher of Chief Justice of Supreme Court judiciary and in this regard, amendof Pakistan Justice Yahya Afridi to ments to the code of conduct for judges have been proposed.

Chief Justice Yahya Afridi further said efforts were being made to establish an institutional mechaand Attorney General of Pakistan nism to respond to external influence. It was also decided to place the issue of amendment in the Code of Conduct before the Supreme Judicial Council. Chief Justices of High against interference in the judi- Courts agreed with the proposals of ciary. The Chief Justice praised the the Chief Justice of Pakistan, state-

## Punjab govt asks Centre to ban TLP, freeze all assets

#### 跨 Bureau Report

LAHORE: The Punjab home department has recommended a ban on Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan and forwarded a formal proposal to the federal government.

The department's communication asks the federal authorities to freeze all assets of TLP as part of the requested

Meanwhile, Section 144 has been imposed across the Islamabad and Rawalpindi divisions because of a possible protest called by the religious group, and stringent security arrangements have been put in place

throughout Rawalpindi. Police sources said teams deployed against troublemakers.

across Rawalpindi have been issued rubber bullets, tear-gas shells and guns, and prisoner vans have been stationed at various locations, while mosques and madrasas are being continuously monitored.

Security personnel have been deployed at numerous points, including Murree Road, Liagat Bagh, Mari Chowk, Faizabad, Rehmanabad, Saddar, Gujar Khan, Rawat, Mandrah and Kahuta. Heavy police contingents have also been deployed at multiple locations in Jhelum, Attock, Chakwal, Murree and Talagang.

Rawalpindi's chief police officer said maintaining law and order is a top priority, and stern action will be taken