**Barkat Rice Mills** 



A special meeting chaired by Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz on Saturday reviewed the progress on key development projects, including the Central Business District (CBD), Ravi Urban Development Authority (RUDA) initiatives, and the Nawaz Sharif IT City.



Aseefa Bhutto honours Karsaz martyrs on 18th anniversary

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

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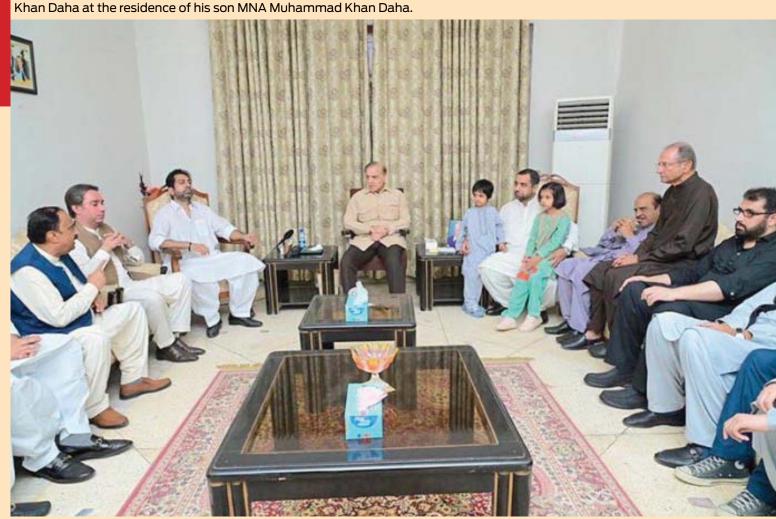
🔰 @daily spokesman



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### Fateha

KHANEWAL: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif offering Fateha for former Provincial minister Punjab, late Haji Irfan Ahmed



# Pakistan played a key role in Gaza ceasefire, says PM Shehbaz

S Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Pakistan has set a new example of economic stability and diplomatic achievements, Prime Minister said while addressing a gathering in the Jahanian Tehsil of Punjab's and night.

Khanewal District on Saturday.

that all indicators of the country's economy were moving towards improvement and the government was taking Pakistan towards development and prosperity with hard work day

Shehbaz said that Punjab He said that Pakistan had Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz emerged from the threat of and her team had set a new bankruptcy in the last one and example of public service with a half years and taken the path hard work, honesty and sincerity.

relief in transport, education and health sectors in Punjab.

Shehbaz said there had been a new warmth in relations between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia. The Saudi leadership has expressed exemplary cooperation with Pakistan. He said that he held important meetings with world leaders like US President Donald Trump, Turkiye President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Egyptian

of economic stability. He said He said that people were given President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi ical forces in Pakistan must

at the United Nations. The PM said that Pakistan played a key role in the Gaza ceasefire. He said that Pakistan played a prominent role in protecting peace and human rights, which was appreciated at the global level. He said the Gaza ceasefire was a great humanitarian service and Pakistan was

proud to play its role in it. Shehbaz said that all polit-

rise above differences and work together in the national interest. He said that Pakistan's dreams have to come true. "We have to work day and night with honesty and faith. Pakistan's development is the success of all. If Pakistan is there, we are all good. If there is respect for Pakistan, then there is respect for us. Let's make Pakistan great together," the PM

# Pakistan participates in 19th mid term ministerial meeting of NAM

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan took part in the 19th Mid-Term Ministerial Meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), held on 15-16 October 2025 in Kampala, Uganda, under the theme "Deepening Cooperation for Shared Global

According to the Foreign Office, the meeting was preceded by a senior officials meeting from 13-14 October 2025. The Pakistani delegation was led by ministerial meeting, the Special development amid global chal-Special Secretary (UN) Nabeel

At the plenary session of the role in promoting peace and and Palestine, and the climate



Secretary delivered national state- lenges including the unresolved ments, emphasizing NAM's vital disputes of Jammu & Kashmir

He reaffirmed Pakistan's support for NAM's principled stance on the right to self-determination for peoples under foreign occupation and condemned rising Islamophobia and war rhetoric in South Asia.

During bilateral meetings on sidelines of the NAM meeting, Special Secretary Nabeel Munir engaged with Uganda's Foreign Minister Odongo Jeje Abubakhar, and other NAM leaders.

At the NAM ministerial committee on Palestine, Special Secretary Muneer welcomed the Sharm El-Sheikh ceasefire

agreement in Gaza and praised the mediation efforts of Qatar, Egypt, Türkiye, and the U.S. He expressed hope that the agreement would lead to full Israeli withdrawal, humanitarian relief, and reconstruction, while reiterating support for a sovereign Palestinian state along pre-1967 borders with Al-Quds Al-Sharif

as its capital. The meeting concluded with the adoption of the Kampala Declaration and a comprehensive outcome document, which recognized Pakistan's contributions to peace and stability in the

### Apex courts judges' code of conduct amended

👺 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Justice Yahya Afridi, the Chief Justice of Pakistan and Chairman, Supreme Judicial Council, on Saturday chaired the Chair, proposed some amenda meeting of the Council at the Supreme Court of Pakistan.

The meeting was virtually attended by Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah and Justice Munib while Justice Miss Aalia Neelum, Chief Justice, Lahore High Court Sarfraz Dogar, Chief Justice, Islamabad High Court attended

Pursuant to the decision taken by the Council on July 12, 2025, ments in the Code of Conduct for Judges of Supreme Court and High Courts.

The proposed amendments were thoroughly deliberated Akhtar, Judgea, Supreme Court upon and with some amendof Pakistan through videolink, ments approved by majority decision of the Council, the same were directed to be notified in the and Justice Sardar Muhammad official gazette, be circulated to all



Judges of the superior courts and be posted on the website of the Supreme Court.

The Council examined 67 complaints under Article 209 of the Constitution filed by different respect of certain matters on the

individuals. 65 complaints were agenda. unanimously decided to be filed and one complaint was unanimously decided to be deferred while by a majority decision one complaint was decided to be processed further.

At a later stage, the Council was re-constituted as per Article 209 (3) (b) of the Constitution with inclusion of Justice S. M. Attique Shah, Chief Justice, Peshawar High Court, as the Chief Justice, Islamabad High Court showed his

The re-constituted Council examined seven complaints under Article 209 of the Constitution filed by different individuals. Five complaints were unanimously decided to be filed while two complaints were decided to be processed further by majority decision.

After the decision on the present 74 complaints, the total pending cases requiring initial consideration are 87, and the SJC inability to attend the meeting in has attended to 155 since October,

#### 11 terrorists killed

### Pakistan carries out precision strikes in Afghanistan's Paktika province; Published



跨 Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani intelligence sources confirmed on Saturday the killing of important command elements of Kharjis in precision strikes in the Afghan province of Paktika.

Those eliminated belonged to the Kharji Gul Bahadur Group, which has a long history of carrying out terror attacks in Pakistan, resulting in innumerable deaths and injuries to the Pakistani security personnel and civilians.

As of yesterday (17 October), this terrorist group was directly involved in the deadly VBIED attack in Khadi / North Waziristan District that claimed lives of three civilian women and two innocent children. Moreover, a soldier was martyred and six personnel of stan.

the armed forces were injured in this incident. In addition, the group was

responsible for the failed VBIED attack in Bannu on the night between 17/18 October when the vehicle was identified and engaged by the police.

The confirmed kills of the leaders of the group include:

Kharji Farman Al-Karama, Kharji Sadiqullah Dawar, Kharji Ghazi Madakhel, Kharji Muqarrab, Kharji Qismatullah, Kharji Gulab @ Deewana, Kharji Rehmani, Kharji Adil, Kharji Fazlur Rehman (uncle of Kharji Gul Bahadur), Kharji Aashiqullah @ Kausar, Kharji Younas

The Afghan Taliban have been repeatedly requested to prevent the use of Afghan soil for acts of terrorism in Paki-

## Bilawal Bhutto pays tributes to Benazir, martyrs of Karsaz

跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said on Saturday that despite the fact that 18 years had passed since the Karsaz tragedy in which 180 party workers and tants and dictators) who supporters had lost their lives, the incident remained etched in people's memories.

Speaking to the media, he said that 18 years back, on this day, over three million people had taken to streets of Karachi to welcome the slain prime minister Benazir Bhutto (BB).



had attacked the 'caravan of democracy' on that day wanted to eliminate democracy from the country. "But the workers, by laying down their lives, foiled their plans," he added. Bilawal, on the occasion,

expressed the resolve to carry on the mission of Benazir and He said that those (mili-the 'martyrs' of Karsaz tragedy.

### **Interior Ministry** hand over **bulletproof vehicles** to KP Police

跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: In a significant step to strengthen the security apparatus in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), the Ministry of Interior handed over a fleet of bulletproof vehicles to the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Police during an official ceremony held in Islamabad.

Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi formally presented the keys of the vehicles to Inspector General (IG) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Police Zulfiqar Hameed. Minister of State for Interior Talal Chaudhry was also present at the ceremony.

Following the handover, Interior Minister Naqvi and IG Zulfigar Hameed inspected the newly delivered vehicles. The minister lauded the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Police for their



frontline role in combating terrorism and ensuring national security.

"The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Police have always stood as the first line of defense in the fight against terrorism," said Mohsin Nagyi, "We take great pride in the courage and sacrifices of KP Police officers and personnel."

Naqvi emphasized that providing modern equipment and essential resources to all law enforcement agencies, including the KP Police, remains a top priority for the federal government.

# **Muslim Conference marks** 93rd Year, vows continued fight for Pakistan stability

👺 Bureau Report

MIRPUR: 93rd Anniversary of All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference was celebrated at the local hotel Mirpur in like the rest of the entire Azad Kashmir state. The ceremony was presided over by city part President Muhammad Aslam Butt while senior vice President Shakoor Ahmad Mughal Organizer City Mohammad Aziz Vice President City Arif Hussain Skedi Finance Raja Arshad Hussain Dr. Abid Hussain Odigar.

The conference is 93 years old by the grace of Allah. Kashmir Muslims led by Mr. Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan crossing the river of fire and blood across Kashmir for the stability of Pakistan for the pride of Islam Shakoor Mughal said that on October 15-16, a Pakistani people are proud of them Asim Munir Sahib led Armed Forces rally was also held in Mirpur city like the whole of Azad Kashmir.

Let us answer and prove that the



for the stability of Pakistan's national

Conference Field Marshal General of sacrifice Sardar Attique Ahmad

Khan Sher Kharo Raja Saqib Majid Sahib and Central Chairman Youth Wing Muslim Conference Sardar Usman Ali Khan is the red line.

Pakistan facing was a conspiracy against love sentiments ignoring the dozens of Mirpur division of education board. The leadership of City Mirpur Muslim Conference for the Protection of Human Rights, especially President Sohail Shuja Mujahid, fully supports the proposals made in the last press

On the occasion of the 93rd Jammu and Kashmir foundation day Muslim Conference, Qahid Milt Rees-ul-Aharar Chaudhry Ghulam Abbas Mujahid e Awwal Sardar Mohammad Abdul Qayyum Khan spoke to him. Muslim Conference workers to continue struggle for mission of Shahda and Ghazion Finally Shahda Ghazion and Armed Forces of Pakistan officers will sacrifice for the defense of Pakistan.

# Federal Ministry of Education invited tender for Danish School AJK Sharda

MUZAFFARABAD: Federal Ministry of Education has invited tender for Danish School Azad Jammu and Kashmir Sharda. tenders to be opened on October 21, 2025 for Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training Project Management Case Management Unit Sealed bids will be invited from contractors registered in appropriate category. Contractors/Firms for Construction of Elementary School. Companies will participate in the tender under 7 conditions. Government of Pakistan has invited tender for Danish School of Sharda. Thanks to Shah Ghulam Qadir of Neelam. Prime Minister of Pakistan Shahbaz Sharif expresses love to Kashmiris He also thanked his newly appointed leader Prime Minister of Pakistan Shahbaz Sharif and President PML-N Shah Ghulam Qadir.

### Chamber of Commerce and Industry has always guided businesses big and small

👺 Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: The Chamber of Commerce and Industry has always guided businesses big and small. The National Group has given leadership to the chamber by cutting diamonds. This credit goes to Mian Idrees and Mian Javed Iqbal. This was said by Chairman Faisalabad kabaar Association (Sika Group) and former executive member Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Muhammad Yaqoob Awan in a WhatsApp call to the media. President Mian Ashraf Mithu was also present on the occasion. Yaqoob Awan has further said that  $\,$ efforts should be made to solve all the problems of the business community, especially small traders, through the platform of the Faisalabad Chamber. The eight markets of the inner city, their adjacent streets, Sargodha and Millat Road markets are playing an important role in the economic development of the country. Therefore, full efforts should be made through the platform of the chamber to solve their problems.

# SSP Investigation, SP Cantt held a meeting with the police officers of the Multan Cantt division

👺 Kiran Asim

MULTAN: SSP Investigation Multan Haider Ali and SP Cantt Kainat Azhar Held a crime meeting with the police officers of the Cantt Division at the City Police Officer Complex in which a detailed review of the police performance was taken.

The meeting was attended by SDPO Cantt Hilar Khan Chandio, DSP Muzaffarabad Bashir Ahmed Hiraj, DSP Mumtazabad Azhar Sangi. While the SHOs of Cantt Division also participated.



During the meeting, the SSP Investigation discussed in detail the overall performance of the police, crime prevention, redressal public complaints, and the law and

order situation. SSP Investigation Multan Haider Ali said on this occasion that the has a zero tolerance policy on corruption.

SSP Investigation Multan Haider Ali said that crime can be controlled to a great extent by taking effective strategies and practical steps, for which you all will have to work as a team.

### Construction

KARACHI: Laborer are busy in their working during the construction of Malir Expressway Project Causeway Interchange in **Provincial Capital** 

stands shoulder to shoulder with Paki-

stan Opponents are ready for any kind



**Karsaz Incident** 

# The Bloody Night of October 18 2007 Benazir Bhutto's Triumphant Return and Tragic Welcome in Karachi

**Asim Tanveer** 

KARACHI: On October 18, a conspiracy was actually hatched to assassinate Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto. Near Karsaz, when she returned to her homeland after years of exile — to be among her own people — her supporters were eagerly waiting for her, but so were her enemies, lying in ambush. The enemies had meticulously planned a scheme to eliminate her.

After celebrating Eid in Multan, I departed for Dubai via Karachi on October 16, 2007. At the Multan Airport, I met prominent political figures including Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani, Barrister Sardar Latif Khan Khosa, Pir Shujaat Hussain Qureshi, and Mrs. Bushra Naqvi Advocate. Our conversation centered on the much-anticipated return of former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto to Pakistan.

from Multan to Karachi, discussions continued with members of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), all expressing excitement and concern for Benazir Bhutto's safety and political mission. Upon landing in Karachi, I soon boarded my onward flight to Dubai, where Reuters' Pakistan and Afghanistan Bureau Chief also preparing to cover Bhutto's historic return.

Benazir Bhutto's staff officer, me to her residence. There, I met senior journalists Hamid

by her political secretary Ms. During the one-hour flight Naheed Khan, extended a warm welcome and even shared Eid cake with us.

During lunch, she appeared deeply spirited, eagerly asking about the arrangements for her return and the expected crowds awaiting her in Karachi. Between bites, she continued to make phone calls to PPP leaders across Pakistan, coordinating Simon Cameron-Moore was details with unwavering enthu-

Later that day, I accompa-In Dubai, I was received by nied Benazir Bhutto and Ms. Naheed Khan to a five-star hotel Brigadier Aman, who escorted in Dubai, where preparations were underway for her October 17th press conference. Journal-Mir and Dr. Shahid Masood. ists from across the globe had Benazir Bhutto, accompanied gathered to cover this momen-

tous occasion. On October 17, Benazir

Bhutto held a powerful three-hour press conference, addressing national, regional, and international issues with remarkable clarity and courage. Her confidence filled the hall - she spoke as a leader reborn, ready to reclaim her place in Pakistan's turbulent political landscape

On the afternoon of October 18, Benazir Bhutto, accompanied by a large entourage. departed her Dubai residence for the airport. The terminal overflowed with jubilant PPP workers chanting slogans in her honor. She boarded an Emirates flight to Karachi with international media representatives

on board.

Upon arrival at Karachi International Airport, she stepped out beneath the shade of the Holy Quran held by Ms. Naheed Khan. The scene was electrifying - thousands of supporters filled the terminal area, waving flags and shouting, "Jiye Bhutto!"

Inside the airport, Benazir Bhutto performed two nafl prayers of gratitude in the office of Airport Manager Aamir Mehmood. Shortly after, officials under General Pervez Musharraf's administration presented her with an eleven-page document — a proposed new National Reconciliation Ordinance (NRO). She firmly rejected it, tearing the papers apart and throwing them aside.

Leaving the terminal with unshaken resolve, she joined party leaders including Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani, Sved Qaim Ali Shah, Makhdoom Amin Faheem, and Jahangir Badr. Outside, an ocean of humanity awaited her. The jubilant procession began to move slowly from the airport towards the Mazar-e-Quaid — an 11-kilo-meter journey that would take

thirteen long hours. As the convoy crept along Shahrah-e-Faisal, the street was eventually sealed off. Party leaders advised Benazir Bhutto on the top of the truck. She complied, accompanied by Ms. Naheed Khan, Syed Yousaf Raza



Faheem.

Moments later, a deafening explosion shattered the night. Within seconds, a second, even more powerful blast followed. Chaos engulfed the scene screams, fire, and smoke filled the air. Over two hundred PPP workers, wrapped in party flags, were martyred, and hundreds more lay wounded on Shahrahe-Faisal.

Mobile networks went down same flags that had symbolized hope now marked the bodies of the fallen. Amid the carnage, Benazir Bhutto and Ms. Naheed bulletproof vehicle to Bilawal

stricken. Her personal doctors The following morning, she Gillani, and Makhdoom Amin Hospital, accompanied by Ms.

Naheed Khan and her driver

As she moved from ward to ward, the wounded — many barely conscious - raised slogans of "Benazir Zindabad!" Her presence seemed to momentarily ease their pain.

Two months and nine days after that fateful night, the daughter of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto — affectionately known as "Pinky" - was again instantly. In the darkness, the surrounded by crowds in Rawalpindi's Liaquat Bagh. But on December 27, 2007, another blast and gunfire claimed her life, silencing one of Pakistan's Khan were swiftly escorted in a bravest and most charismatic leaders.

The night of October 18, At Bilawal House, Benazir 2007, began with celebration Bhutto was deeply grief- and ended in blood. It was meant to be Benazir Bhutto's to move into a secure cabin attended to her as she mourned triumphant return — a symbol the loss of her loyal supporters. of hope and resilience. Instead, it became a prelude to tragedy, visited the injured at Jinnah etching an unforgettable chapter in Pakistan's political history.





# **Namaz Timings**

#### **EMERGENCY**

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

### **Women Police**

Statio	ns
Islamabad	9222596
Rawalpindi	9270601-20

ENQU	JIRY
Edhi Ambulance	
PIA Flight Info	114
PIA Cargo	9280979
Railway Inquiry	117
Railway Exchange	9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi	5555489
ΓΔΔ	9281092

#### HOSPITALS

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

### **DEDARTMENTS**

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

#### **COMPLAINTS**

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

### Three killed, six injured in car-truck collisionnear Jand on CPEC route

ATTOCK: A horrific colli $truck \ on \ the \ CPEC \ route$ near Trup, in the Jand Tehsil area, resulted in three fatalities and six injuries. Among the deceased were two women.

According to Rescue 1122 and Motorway Police, the accident occurred when a speeding car rammed into a truck ahead of it, leaving the car completely destroyed.

Rescue 1122 teams from Jand and Motorway Police ambulances reached the scene immediately after receiving information and shifted the bodies and injured to Tehsil Headquarters Hospital, Jand.

Officials said that four children were among the injured, all in critical condition. All the victims belonged to the same family, who were reportedly traveling to their native town.

Police have launched an investigation into the incident, with initial findings indicating that overspeeding and reckless overtaking caused the crash.

# Tehsildar with powers as price magistrate Hafiz sings ...4:52 am ....3:51 pm ....5:30 pm ...6:53 pm CY The state of the state o bakeries at Kamalia

#### Zafar Chishti

TOBA TEK SINGH: Tehsildar and Price Control Magistrate Kamalia, Hafiz Shakeel Gujjar, carried out detailed inspections of various bakeries across the city to ensure compliance with food safety and pricing regulations.

During his visits, he thoroughly checked the expiry dates of bakery products, the display of official price lists, and the overall cleanliness and hygiene conditions of the premises.

He also reviewed the storage and preparation areas to ensure that food items were being handled in a hygienic manner.

Hafiz Shakeel Gujjar directed bakery owners to strictly adhere to food safety standards, sell only



fresh and quality products, and maintain a clean environment for customers

He warned that strict legal action will be taken against anyone found selling expired, unhygienic, or overpriced food

He further urged all bakery and shop owners to fully cooperate with the local administration in implementing government policies aimed at providing consumers with safe, hygienic, and fairly priced food

The Tehsildar added that maintaining quality and transparency in food businesses not only benefits customers but also helps build trust and strengthens local trade standards.

### Traffic jam in Capital

ISLAMABAD: A view of the massive traffic jam Faisal Avenue in Federal Capital.



### RPO Zeeshan Asghar visits District Toba Tek Singh

#### 跨 Zafar Chishti

TOBA TEK SINGH: Regional Police Officer (RPO) Faisalabad, Zeeshan Asghar paid an official visit to District Toba Tek Singh, where he was warmly received by District Police Officer (DPO) Ibadat Nisar. During the visit, RPO Zeeshan Asghar held an open court (Khuli Kachehri) at Police Station Chutiana to address public grievances and ensure the prompt delivery of justice. The open court was attended by DPO Toba Tek Singh and other senior police officers. Citizens presented their complaints to the RPO, who issued on the spot orders for their resolution. He emphasized that all possible measures are being taken to ensure swift redressal of complaints and to improve the overall quality of police service delivery. Later, the RPO conducted a formal inspection of the Special Initiative Police Station, Pirmahal, reviewing cleanliness, infrastructure, front desk operations, maal khana (property



room), lock-ups and details of detained suspects. He also held a grand meeting at the Police Lines Toba Tek Singh to address the concerns of police officers and personnel. During the session, staff members raised issues related to salaries, transfers, accommodation and other facilities. The RPO listened to their problems attentively and issued immediate instructions for their resolution.

Subsequently, a crime review meeting

was held at the DPO Office under the aegis of RPO Zeeshan Asghar. The meeting was attended by DPO Ibadat Nisar, SP Investigation, circle officers and SHOs. The participants reviewed progress on serious cases, incomplete challans and ongoing investigations. RPO Zeeshan Asghar directed officers to expedite pending investigations, uphold merit and justice during inquiries, and ensure the arrest of absconders and POs.

### Takht Bhai Markets Engulfed by 'Storm of Inflation' as Food Prices Skyrocket

TAKHT BHAI: In Tehsil Takht Bhai, inflation has spiraled out of control. Prices of vegetables, fruits, flour, sugar, and other essential food items have skyrocketed, while the purchasing power of the public has collapsed. \\

In the markets of Takht Bhai city and surrounding areas especially Shergarh, Hathiyan, Lundkhwar, Jewar, Jalala, Pir Sadi, Fazalabad, Saro Shah, and Jhande — a storm of inflation is raging unchecked. The local administration appears completely helpless in controlling artificial price hikes. Prices of essential goods have soared: a 20 kg bag of flour now costs Rs. 2,900, a 5 kg tin of ghee is being sold for Rs. 2,700, and a 50 kg bag of fine flour is priced at Rs. 6,400. Sugar prices have also risen sharply. Vegetables and fruits are being sold at arbitrary rates, while meat is sold at prices far above official rates. Shopkeepers have completely ignored the government-issued price lists. The negligence and carelessness of the local administration are taking a heavy toll on the poor. The continuous rise in prices in Takht Bhai's markets has severely affected not only the poor but also the middle class. Shopkeepers and street vendors have set their own prices for vegetables and fruits and are exploiting customers openly. Street vendors and small shopkeepers operating on main roads and footpaths are engaging in unchecked profiteering and lawlessness. On one hand, public property is being encroached upon; on the other, official price regulations are being blatantly mocked.

### Jamshoro Intensifies Livestock Vaccination Drive

#### 😂 Qayoom Sarohi

HYDERABAD: The Animal Husbandry Department of Livestock Jamshoro has launched an extensive vaccination campaign to protect livestock from seasonal and infectious diseases, with nearly 2,000 animals vaccinated in a single day. The campaign is being led by Dr. Zulfiqar Sial, Deputy Director, Animal Husbandry Jamshoro.



According to Dr. Sial, the primary objective of the campaign is to safeguard livestock across every village and region of Jamshoro district

from seasonal outbreaks, as the onset of winter increases the risk of contagious diseases among animals. He said the drive has been intensified under special directives of Provincial Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Muhammad Ali Malkani, Director General Livestock Dr. Hizbullah Bhutto, and Director Animal Husbandry Dr. Nobat Khoso. Teams from Jamshoro, Petaro, and Kotri actively participated in the

 $campaign, conducting \, vaccinations \, in \, several \, areas \, including \, Jamshoro \,$ Society, RBB Colony, Sam Nali, Saeedabad Colony, village Allah Rakhio Khoso, and Shakeel Pump.

Senior Veterinary Officer and In-charge of the Jamshoro Center, Dr. Shahnawaz Fazlani, along with Dr. Muhammad Mahesar, Dr. Ghulam Abbas Pirzado, Dr. Ghulam Taqi Khoso, and technical staff members Liaquat Khushk, Khalid Hussain, and Dr. Ilahi Yar, were among the officials and field staff taking part in the campaign.

### A meeting of PML-N Parliamentary Party under the chairmanship of Shah Ghulam *Qadir*

#### Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: A meeting of Pakistan PML-N Parliamentary Party under the chairmanship of President PML-N Shah Ghulam Qadir was held at Jammu and Kashmir House here yesterday. Former Prime Minister Raja Farooq Haider Col Retired Waqar Noor Sardar



Amir Altaf, Ahmad Reza Qadri, Raja Muhammad Siddique, Chaudhry Ismail, Akmal Sargala, Nasara Abbasi participated in the meeting. He paid tribute to the Pakistan Army for strongly condemning the fitnah al-Khwarij and responding to the fitnah al-India. Condemning the decision made that the people of Azad Kashmir will fully defend the Malkar region with Pakistan Insha Allah. The central leadership should be made aware of the entire situation. In the present situation, PML-N will not be part of any decision whose problem is not recognized by Kashmir, Kashmiri people or PML-N workers. He assures the people of Azad Kashmir that his parliamentary party and Jamaat organization is the spokesperson of their interests and they will not be left at the mercy of anyone. The meeting decided that PML-N should not be part of any such political process. It has been decided that immigrants are linear part of Jammu and Kashmir state and their right to vote should be fully protected.

# Successful operation by the Wildlife Department in Neeli Morr, Hassan Abdal

ATTOCK: Under the supervision of Assistant Commissioner Wildlife Rangers Attock, Shahzaib Khurshid, a special team of the District Wildlife Department Attock conducted a successful operation in the Neeli Morr area of Hassan Abdal. The team arrested four individuals involved in the illegal hunting of partridges, Eurasian collared doves, and pigeons.

According to the spokesperson, the suspects resisted the Wildlife Department staff during the operation. Consequently, a First Information Report (FIR) has been registered at the Hassan Abdal Police Station, and legal proceedings have been initiated against them.

# AKU-EB Celebrates National High Achievers 2025 under the Theme 'You Are a Drop in the Ocean'

The Aga Khan University Examination Board (AKU-EB) inaugurated its National High Achievers Ceremony 2025 in Karachi the first in a series of ceremonies to be held across Pakistan, with upcoming celebrations in Chitral and Gilgit-Baltistan.

Each year, AKU-EB's High Achievers Ceremonies bring together high achievers, scholarship recipients, educators, and families from across the country to honour academic excellence and the spirit of learning. This the Ocean," embodies the Board's growing emphasis on environmental sustainability and its belief that every learner — each drop can create waves of collective change when joined by others.

together students from Sindh, Punjab, and Azad Jammu & Kashmir, who were recognized for their outstanding performance in the Secondary School Certificate (SSC) and Higher Secondary School Certificate (HSSC) examinations this year. The event celebrated not just academic excellence but also the values of integrity, curiosity, and service that define AKU-EB's approach to education.

The ceremony was graced by year's theme, "You Are a Drop in Mr. Zia Akhtar, President and CEO of The Citizens Foundation, as Chief Guest. Highlighting the transformative role of education, Mr. Akhtar remarked, "even having the ability to dream is a privilege. When that dream meets

system, it can create ripples of change that extend far beyond the classroom and transform entire communities.

Speaking to the students, Dr. Naveed Yousuf, CEO of the Aga Khan University Examination Board, noted that the vision of the Board is to be a model of excellence, stating:

ment becomes a catalyst for

"We see a future where assess-

discovery, where schools become centres of innovation, and where every AKU-EB graduate steps into the world not just ready to succeed — but ready to make a difference. Education, after all, is not just about achievement — it is about purpose."

Jenabai Scholarships. According to the latest University Destination Survey (UDS Adding a student's voice to 2025), 93% of AKU-EB gradu-

The Karachi ceremony brought a strong, values-driven education the celebration, Esha, a National High Achiever, reflected on the deeper meaning of the ceremony's theme in her speech: "As I look ahead, I hold on to this belief: that no question is too small, and no effort is insignificant. Each of us has a drop to give a drop of curiosity, compassion, or courage - and together, these drops become the tide that shapes the future."

As part of the celebrations, AKU-EB announced the recipients of its merit-based scholarships: the AKU-EB Meritorious Scholarships, AKU-EB Bridge Scholarships, and AKU-EB

ates have secured admission into



an indicator of strong higher higher education institutions, education admissions. Among University, LUMS, IBA, AKU, with a 95% survey response rate the top universities chosen by and Habib University.

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### Lebanon, Yemen and Iran after Gaza

he war in Gaza has ended but the same cannot be said of Israel's other conflicts. Three fronts remain open. In Lebanon, a fragile truce holds, while sporadic exchanges of fire continue with Yemen's Houthis. Meanwhile, Iran remains the major front, having been on alert since June following the 12day war.

All eyes are on Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Will the latest developments after the Sharm El-Sheikh conference sweep him out of office? It is more likely that he will try to complete the missions he pledged to carry out, which may reignite clashes on all three fronts. The October 2023 attacks happened on his watch and he bears responsibility for them.

He likely believes that achieving full victories will place him above accountability. However, if his rivals succeed in toppling him, the region's situation will hang in suspense as Israel awaits a new leader and a new policy. Still, Netanyahu might instead choose de-escalation and end two years of turmoil.

The likelihood of Netanyahu remaining in power is strong, given his well-known political skills within a complex parliamentary system, in which he can craft coalitions that extend his rule. He has governed Israel for more than 17 years — longer even than David Ben-Gurion — and still enjoys enough popularity after the wars he has led, which brought Israel its biggest victories since the 1967 war.

Anxiety looms in Lebanon, as expressed by President Joseph Aoun, who warned that Israel might turn its attention to his country once it finishes with Gaza, describing this as "political profiteering." Israel will certainly have surplus strength after withdrawing most of its troops from Gaza. And, since Hezbollah is maneuvering to evade implementing what it agreed with Israel when the ceasefire was established — handing over its weapons to the Lebanese army — the Israeli northern front remains open.

US President Donald Trump will not be able to restrain Netanyahu this time, as both the Americans and the French were witnesses and guarantors of the agreement. The ball is now in the court of the Lebanese president, who is avoiding confrontation with Hezbollah to preserve the civil peace and stability achieved since the beginning of the year.

According to Israel, it will not withdraw from southern Lebanon or stop its attacks unless Hezbollah hands over its weapons, or perhaps new arrangements will be made to provide the necessary guarantees.

# China's Edge and America's Fragility

Congress asked who now holds advantage between the United States and China, Kurt M. Campbell did not search for diplomatic shelter. He answered plainly—"China, China, China"—and added that America is in a more fragile position. That exchange distilled a wider realization in Washington: the contest is no longer about who has the cleverest idea, but about who can pair ideas with scale, speed, cals, or magnet matefinance, and supply chains that actu-

Across robotics, autonomous systems, shipbuilding, critical minerals, and the green-energy stack, China has assembled an industrial machine that converts plans into production with few seams. The United States still leads in many forms of research and in the highest tiers of AI hardware and software. Yet too often these strengths sit on islands that are hard to connect to the physical economy. China, by contrast, works from the factory outward. It absorbs a technology, replicates it at home, pushes costs down, and then ships it to the world. That pattern—learn, scale, export—now runs through much of its economy.

It is here that the familiar American toolkit-tariffs, export controls, and the weaponization of data and financemeets its limit. Measures of this kind can unsettle smaller or more fragile economies; they have done so repeatedly in the past. They are far less effective against a state with a continental-scale market, deep foreign-exchange reserves, a disciplined industrial policy, and broad capacity to substitute or reroute flows when pressured. China has spent years preparing for that pressure by localizing sential inputs, building parallel financial pipes, and hardening its digital and data regimes. A country that can supply

so many others' supply is not easily forced to change course from the outside.

That is why the question posed in the hearing—will punitive tariffs work this ican border, but they also raise costs

to ratchet controls on minerals, chemirials, the downstream impact is immediate: delays, higher bills, and quality slippage as firms scramble for substitutes. The economic effect accumulates in quieter ways as well. Invest-

ment decisions are deferred; projects are redesigned; factories operate below capacity. The result is slower growth and a steady erosion of credibility in the claim that America can out-produce its rival where it matters most.

Washington sees this bind and is examining ways to mine, process, and manufacture more of these inputs at home. That path is necessary, but it is not quick. Permitting, capex, skilled labor, environmental safeguards, local consent, and shared infrastructure mean any serious build-out takes well over a decade to mature. Even then, the unit costs will be markedly higher than those produced by an ecosystem in China that has already reached enormous scale. The arithmetic is straightforward: if domestic inputs are several times more expensive than imported ones, consumers pay more, manufacturers lose margin, or both. And if China chooses to restrict intermediate goods while America is still scaling its replacements, the squeeze is immediate. It is the deep sea.

None of this argues for resignation. It argues for realism. Treating China as an equal party in the global economy does time—lands differently today. Tariffs not mean conceding strategic ground; it can raise Chinese costs at the Amer- means recognizing that coercive instruments will not deliver quick or clean for American producers who rely on wins. A better first step is to lower the Chinese inputs at every intermediate temperature of the tariff war by restoring step. If the response from Beijing is duties toward earlier baselines and by

limiting new restrictions to genuinely narrow security cases with clear, auditable justifications. That would not end the competition. It would simply replace a spiral of retaliation with rules that both sides can plan around, which is the precondition for any serious industrial strategy at home.

De-escalation abroad must be matched by seriousness at home. The United States needs a long-horizon, bipartisan program that outlasts election cycles and that treats production as a national capability, not a slogan. That means modernizing ports and shipyards so output can compound rather than stall; accelerating permitting without waiving environmental standards: building regional hubs for magnets, specialty chemicals, and advanced components with public-private risk sharing; aligning procurement with delivery so firms are paid to produce, not to promise; and investing in work-

also more resilient when prices swing. The same principle should guide the data front. The United States can and should protect sensitive datasets and core algorithms, but it should avoid

force pipelines that can staff mines, mills,

fabs, and yards. Recycling and re-use

should be embedded from the start so

domestic supply is not only larger but

en a member of so much of its own demand and anchor the classic choice between the devil and broad regimes that punish neutral commercial activity or force partners to choose camps. A narrower, predictably enforced set of rules will better protect security without undermining competitiveness. Data is valuable because it flows; policy that freezes it indiscriminately tends to reduce American firms' reach more than it constrains China's.

Some will hear this and worry that stepping back from the tariff cliff signals weakness. The opposite is true. It signals confidence that America's real advantage lies in the combination of research excellence, entrepreneurial depth, and an open capital market that can scale new industries when the ground rules are stable. Tariffs and blunt data controls may temporarily bruise a competitor, but they rarely build capacity at home. Capacity is built by patient investment, steady rules, and a clear list of priorities that does not change with each headline.

Campbell's answer in the hearing was a snapshot of the present, not a verdict on the future. China's strength today rests on a disciplined link between strategy and production. America's path back runs through the same link. It will not be achieved by trying to bludgeon a rival that has already insulated itself from the tools that once worked on others. It will be achieved by lowering the noise, rebuilding the sinews of industry, and competing on the only terrain that decides enduring power: the ability to design, build, and deliver at scale. If the United States chooses that course, it will find that fragility is not fate. It is a diagnosis-and like any diagnosis, it is most useful when it prompts the right treat-

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### Multan Tea House: Literary Hub or Dating Point? Causes of Decline

sion on local TV channel disturbing truth that Multan's Tea House has now become a "dating point." According to him, the intellectual and crea-

Several days have passed since this revelation came to light, yet neither the Tea House administration nor its regular patrons have offered any clarification or rebuttal. This silence, in itself, feels like an unspoken confirmation that the internal state of the institution is indeed troubling.

This article is not meant as criticism, but rather as a serious attempt writers, thinkers, artists, and creative minds to draw attention to the concerns raised by Mubashir Saeed because many of Multan's renowned social, intellectual, and industrial figures, along with senior officials, are associated with this Tea House as members. Their reputation and credibility are now at stake.

In this context, I have chosen to document this serious issue so that it does not fade away as a temporary debate, but instead sparks a sustained intellectual dialogue aimed at preserving Multan's cultural identity. If we fail to dust off the neglect that has settled on this literary heritage now, the coming generations might know of the Tea House only through old stories and fading memories.

Renowned and credible journalists say that this is based on their personal obser-House has never truly been a genuine literary

few days ago, during a discus- haven. Its activities and management have always remained confined to a limited circle. "N News" program, poet Unfortunately, the administrative and financial Mubashir Saeed unveiled a matters of this building have never undergone proper auditing, despite receiving public and private grants. This lack of transparency has damaged not only the institution's credibility tive vibrancy once associated with this place but also public trust. Furthermore, appointthe hallmark of any literary center no longer ments to various posts within the Tea House exists. Instead, it has now been reduced to a are often made without open advertisement space for casual meetings among a select few. or a transparent selection process, a clear

sign of institutional mismanagement and nepotism. The Deputy Commissioner of Multan and the Director of Public Relations bear direct responsibility for this decline, as their indifference has left this historical and cultural landmark in ruins.

In essence, the Tea House should have been a center for

- a space for intellectual discussions, literary sessions, and academic dialogue. Sadly, administrative neglect, lack of transparency, and disinterest in arts and culture have transformed it from a public institution into the private circle of a few individuals. This situation not only undermines Multan's cultural prestige but also poses a serious question about the city's intellectual identity.

The administration's apathy, absence of a coherent cultural policy, and the rise of unhealthy social media trends have further accelerated this downfall. For a historic and spiritual city like Multan, it is deeply regrettable that it cannot preserve the very institutions that define its intellectual character. In my view, Mubashir Saeed's criticism is not a vation spanning over ten years Multan Tea complaint, but a warning, a wake-up call to save what remains of the Tea House.

To revive the fading spirit and lost literary identity of Multan Tea House, immediate and serious reforms are necessary. First, its administrative structure must be reorganized. An independent "Literary and Cultural Board" should be established, including government officers, distinguished writers, teachers, artists, and social figures, to ensure transparency and efficiency in management.

The financial affairs of the Tea House should be made transparent annual audits of all public or private grants must be mandatory and their results made public. Appointments to posts should be made through open advertisement and merit-based selection, eliminating nepotism and favoritism. To restore the Tea House's original spirit, regular literary events such as poetry recitals, seminars, discussions, book launches, and art-related activities must be organized, transforming it once again into a gathering place for writers, artists, and

Moreover, to involve the younger generation, a "Youth Literary Circle" should be formed in collaboration with universities and educational institutions, nurturing future writers and intellectuals. To make the institution more accessible, it must no longer remain a closed circle - rather, a welcoming and inclusive environment should be cultivated for all citizens. A digital platform should also be developed to broadcast all events, schedules, and dialogues online, increasing both transparency and public engagement. The caretaker of this intellectual center should at least be a qualified graduate, not someone appointed through flattery or recommendation. Only then can Multan Tea House regain its true identity, dignity, and intellectual vitality. The beauty of an institution lies not in its walls, but in the ideas it shelters.

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### **Europe's Recognition of Palestine Is Not Just Geopolitics But Also Gen Z Pressure**

**Sharia Abbas** 

uropean governments are recognizing Palestine at an unprecedented pace. France, the UK, Canada, Australia, Portugal, Belgium, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Andorra, and New Zealand formally recognized Palestinian statehood during the 80th UN General Assembly. While some analysts think this as a result of geopolitical change marked by diminishing US influence, that explanation does not consider a key driver: Gen Z activism. Which has made Palestine a domestic political issue that governments can no longer ignore.

Across Europe, youth-led movements have kept Palestine in the public eye. These protests have manifested themselves in the form of student encampments across universities in Amsterdam, Berlin, Oxford, and McGill, demanding divestment from Israeli-linked companies and an end to academic ties with Israeli institutions. The protests have however met with significant backlash from the governments. For example, in Berlin, police launched over 100 criminal investigations after students occupied Humboldt University. In Amsterdam, protests at multiple campuses led to over 210 arrests and at least nine injuries, with damages exceeding €1.5 million. These actions were not isolated. The protests did not stop and continued to work as part of than 25 countries, amplified.

Critics argue that recognition is just symbolic. But history suggests otherwise. Student activism helped end apartheid in

legacy, so hey are demanding not just recognition but also accountability: arms embargoes, war crimes investigations, and a possible path towards a two-state solution.

A new HEPI report on UK campus protests found that 36 universities, including 21 of the 24 Russell Group institutions, were rocked by encampments in 2024. Students cited their universities' complicity in harm done to Palestinians and demanded divestment. The report revealed that many institutions initially allowed encampments to remain, as they recognized them to be legitimate expressions of free speech. But tensions escalated, with arrests, disciplinary actions, and accusations of antisemitism and Islamophobia. Despite these challenges, the encampments became popular and continued to put pressure on administrations and shape public

For policymakers, the message is clear: symbolic gestures are not enough. If European governments want to maintain credibility with young voters, they must follow recognition with action. That means confronting Israeli impunity, supporting international legal mechanisms, and ensuring that Palestinian

statehood is more than a diplomatic headline. Europe's recognition of Palestine is not just about geopolitics. It's the result of sustained ressure from Gen Z activists who turned a foreign policy issue into a domestic political demand.

The encampments, flotillas, and mass a coordinated wave of activism across more marches didn't just raise awareness but they forced governments to act. Diplomats may have delivered the announcements, but it was students who made them inevitable. If European leaders want to maintain credibility with South Africa and pressured the US to exit their youngest voters, they'll need to follow Vietnam. Today's Gen Z is building on that recognition with real accountability.

### **Empowering Rural Women**

# 18th Leadership Conference Highlights Resilience, Legal Identity, and Calls to Raise Girls' Minimum Marriage Age to 18

跨 Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Speaking at the inaugural plenary of the 18th Rural Women Leadership Training Conference held at Lok Virsa, Islamabad, PODA leader from Khanewal, Bismillah Iram, said: "Despite losing everything in the recent floods, the hopes and dreams of rural women in Pakistan remained unshaken. With resilience, we stood firm to rebuild our lives. We thank PODA for supporting us in this journey. We, the village women, are the unsung heroes-protecting cities at the cost of our own lives and livelihoods." The conference will be concluded on Friday 17 October.

Sameena Nazir, Executive Director of PODA, welcomed over 500 women leaders from around 100 districts across Pakistan, including delegates from all four provinces—Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab, and Sindh—as well as from AJK and Gilgit-Baltistan. Harroona Jatoi, renowned educationist, and Mumtaz Eskar, members of PODA's Board of Directors, also extended a warm welcome, acknowledging the vital role these women play in promoting community rights, social justice, and grassroots empowerment.

Moazma Yousaf, representing NADRA, emphasized that identity is a vital contract between the state and its citizens, essential for accessing rights and services especially during crises like floods. She highlighted NADRA's efforts to improve birth registration through hospitals and primary healthcare systems. While NADRA has achieved 98 percent identity coverage for the women leaders, recognizing adults over 18, child birth registration remains a challenge, with current coverage at 46 percent due to societal barriers. Director Dr. Muhammad Waqas She stressed the importance of increasing registration, particuthe participants and highlighted larly for girls, and the critical role the essential contributions of organizations like PODA play in women to the country's develop-

reaffirming the PPP's dedication



the Benazir Income Support Programme. In his message, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif paid tribute to Pakistan's pioneering women leaders and reaffirmed the government's commitment to empowering rural women through education, healthcare, skills training, and sustainable livelihoods, acknowledging their vital role in national development.

Harroona Jatoi, renowned educationist, and Mumtaz Eskar. members of PODA's Board of Directors, warmly welcomed their crucial roles in advancing community rights and empowerment. Lok Virsa Executive Saleem expressed his gratitude to ment and progress, emphasizing Iza Rajpar conveyed Presi- their role as drivers of national growth and empowerment.

to women's empowerment, as activist, moderated a session on as essential steps in ensuring Bhutto, through initiatives like Identity for Women and Girls women and girls from discrimi- reliable data to inform policies case studies, and success stories forums, tax-free sanitary pads, ence.

and Protection from Gender-Based Violence." Speakers included Shandana Humayun Khan (CEO, Rural Support Programmes Network), Saeed Nisa (youth leader and footballer from Kalash, Chitral), Asifa Jamali (Member, Voter Education Committee, Nasirabad), Fazila (transgender representative from Badin), Sidra Hameed (Christian community representative, Eva Welfare Organization, Gujranwala) and Farkhanda Aurangzeb (Member, NCHR, Balochistan). Huma Irshad, wheelchair-user heads Shine Welfare Foundation, Gujranwala stressed on the need to enhance efforts to ensure legal identity of persons-with-disabilities.

They emphasized that legal identity-beginning with birth registration and a national identity card-is essential for accessing justice and securing fundamental rights. They also emphasized the women leaders who have tireimportance of birth registration Naheeda Abbasi, social and the issuance of identity cards

nation and violence.

Nighat Siddique, Director of Gender and Disability at the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), highlighted the Commission's ongoing efforts to enhance the political participation of women, transgender persons, persons with disabilities, and youth, with the aim of strengthening democracy at the grassroots level. While addressing the session, Zafarullah Khan humbly remarked, "At a women's conference, I am honored to be in the minority as a man." He emphasized that identity cards are essential for accessing services such as voting, driving, banking, and financial transactions, and should not be viewed merely as a form of charity.

Chairperson of the National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW), Umme Leila Azhar, paid tribute to the lessly worked for the progress

and reforms for rural women. She also commended Sameena Nazir for consistently organizing the conference since 2008, which has grown into a powerful voice advocating for women's rights. Here is a revised, precise, and coherent version of your text, preserving all the key details and integrating your requested

changes: The session titled "Educational and Advocacy Session for the Rights of the Girl Child" provided an important platform to address key issues related to girls' education, health, and inclusion in Pakistan. Aligned with Sustainable Development Goals 4 and 5, the discussion focused on the right to education, menstrual hygiene, nutritional support for adolescent girls, and inclusive services for girls with disabilities

Dr. Shahida Rehmani, MNA itance rights. and Chairperson of the Women's Parliamentary Caucus (WPC)

and Rukhshanda Naz, ex-om- life-skills training, digital access, budsperson Protection Against and stronger child protection Harassment of Women at the

Dr. Shahida Rehmani congratulated participants on the World Day of Rural Women and appreciated PODA's 18 years of work. She highlighted the lack of women, and the impact of early marriages on girls. She said the WPC, along with provincial caucuses, is advocating for pracsuccessful passage of legislation setting the legal marriage age at 18 in the Capital Territory. She also shared ongoing consultations with the Chairman of the Council of Islamic Ideology on marital property laws, supported by Quranic references, and called for addressing stereotypes

Uzma Batool of UNICEF

systems. She stressed that all girls must be in school and highlighted the need for an intergenerational approach to shift gender norms, involving institutions, religious leaders, and civil society. Girls, she said, must be awareness and education among seen as agents of change, especially in the face of climate-related challenges.

The session closed with a call for urgent and sustained action tical policy action, including the to ensure education, health, and equal opportunities for every girl—framing it as both a moral duty and a national priority.

A pavilion of stalls featuring women artisans, entrepreneurs, the National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW), and the Population Welfare Office, Rawalpindi, was inaugurated by around early marriage and inher- the Chairperson of NCSW and Ms. Rukhshanda Naz.

The European Union, emphasized the organization's the Norwegian Embassy in of their communities. She high- chaired, the session featured commitment to supporting Islamabad, and Sightsavers lighted the completion of the insights from experts and advogirls at all stages of life. She were among the key partners envisioned by Shaheed Benazir "Promoting the Right to Legal legal identity and protecting first-ever agri-census, providing cates who shared challenges, called for adolescent alliance supporting the three-day confer-

### Blue Pottery and Kashigari

Tooba Khan

nce a source of attraction for every household, the beautiful and world-renowned art of Blue Pottery and Kashigari is facing extinction due to expensive tools, lack of funds and dearth of skilled artisans.

Despite efforts by a few passionate craftsmen and some support from the government departments, this centuries-old tradition of decorative designs is slowly fading away.

Kashigari, the detailed artwork done on pottery, is a skill deeply rooted in South Punjab, especially the city of saints, Multan. With its origin traced back to China from where it traveled to sub-continent through Iran. When the Arabs entered Sindh and Muhammad Bin Qasim conquered Multan in 712 A. D, he was accompanied by skilled "Kashi" artists, who brought this delicate art to this region.

The word "Kashigari" itself is believed to come from "Koshan," a well-known city in Iran, and "Kashgar," a city in China. Over the time, this art became widely admired and was passed down from one generation to the other.

However, as this work requires expensive materials and great skill, many descendants of these artisan families have shifted to other professions. They find it hard to continue with such a demanding craft, especially without financial support.

"Making blue pottery is not an easy task. It needs proper training and dedication," said Allah Rakha, a master craftsman who has spent years in this field.

He explained that many stages involved in forming the body, filtering, making clay slip, casting, kneading, shaping, trimming, joining, drying, smoothening, firing (biscuit stage), decorating (Kashi), cleaning, glazing and finally firing again required

careful handling and expertise. He said the pots are fired at high

heat is increased gradually to avoid cracks. "We make quality products modern day requirements." and can earn well if proper export opportunities are available."

He also informed, "to start a new need at least Rs five million to set it

Blue pottery also reflects the beauty shrines in Multan and Sindh, with patterns inspired by Persian and Turk calligraphy and miniature designs. Even though it remains admired for its artistic value despite numerous challenges faced by artisans like limited resources and rising costs.

Even then Allah Rakha sees great potential in this craft if the cost of raw material and energy is rationalized. "This art not just a source of earning but also reflect our culture across the world. But high utility bills are a challenge affecting production cost, shrinking profits shrink as well as exports."

He urged the government to support this sector by offering relief in energy costs and helping with promotion and marketing. "Only then can this unique art form be preserved for future generations."

Multan's blue pottery is internationally recognized with collectors and enthusiasts across the world appreciating its beauty and craftsmanship. The demand for these pieces continued to grow during past decades, boosting the craft's global

But with modernization of society and changing traditions, this art gradually reached the verge of extinction. The Institute of Blue Pottery Development (IBPD) Multan was striving hard to keep this art alive and promoting cultural identity of the region.

"Our institute provides training to students, offer common facility services to local blue pottery manufacturing units," informed Asad Khan, Manager IBPD. "We also conduct research, exploration of cheapest pottery raw material and

temperature around 1200°C with develop suitable designs that depict our culture and history and meet

Asad said the favorite color of these

experts is blue. "Multan has hundreds of shrines and other historic buildunit in this business is not easy. You ings and all these buildings contained three shades of the blue colour." Deputy Manager, Naveed Jameel

also informed that the Institute of our Sufi heritage as seen on the of Blue Pottery Development was preparing over 200 articles including complete range of dinner-set, waterset, tea-set, soup-set, show-pieces, planters and many other things. "IBPD purchases raw clay from

Tharparkar, Swat and Quetta. Blue pots are much liked by people, especially elite class and foreigners," he said. "Similarly, blue pots are also favorite choice of big hotels and restaurants."

Naveed said, IBPD was doing its bit to promote blue pots and imparted training to hundreds of students. "Our institute started classes in 2006. We educate different programs to students in line with the policy of Technical Education and Vocational Training Authority (TEVTA) besides also offering them scholarships."

He informed that presently 100 students are availing training facility in Kashigari, Mould making, Casting and Firing Techniques in Ceramics as the Institute is also working on Ceramics-I, Computer Graphics, Art and Designing Specialization in Kashigrai, Sculpture, Calligraphy, Auto CAD/CCA courses.

"A good number of university students also learn Kashigari at our Institute. We also provide students internship opportunity," he said.

Since this profession has potential to grow within the country and abroad, more measures like marketing and exports were essentially needed to facilitate artisans.

Therefore, the concerned departments must pay proper heed in its promotion to help earn artisans earn a respectable living as well as bring foreign exchange to national kitty by exploring export markets.

### **The Politics Behind the** Picture'

U. S. President Donald embodies the convergence of two distinct yet intertwined realities: first, the journalattributed to Trump; and second, the

Trump vehemently criticized the photograph on social media, claiming that his hair had been "erased" and a "tiny floating crown" placed above his head a remark that not only illustrated personal displeasure but also exposed the perennial struggle among media, identity, and power.

The essential matter lies in the fact that the same Time issue described the Gaza ceasefire and prisoner exchange involving the release of hostages and thousands of Palestinian detainees as a major diplomatic triumph for Trump. On a factual level, this event indeed merits attention: the agreement between Israel and Hamas was portrayed as a milestone that sent a tremor of optimism through global and regional politics, seemingly reasserting American foreign policy as a defining hallmark of a renewed presidency.

An analytical dissection of this scenario can be delineated through several dimensions. The first concerns the potency of political imagery: the portrait of a leader transcends the superficial realm of aesthetics or media glamour; it manufactures narrative, constructs persona, and embeds a long-term mnemonic imprint within public consciousness. Trump's objection to the photograph, therefore, carries profound significance. Having mastered the art of image-making through magazine covers, televi-

he recent issue of Time sion, and social media for decades, he global implications. The temporary magazine and former instantly retaliated when a supposedly flattering depiction of his diplomatic Trump's fury over it success presented him from an unflattering angle seeking thereby to reclaim

narrative authority. Secondly, the geopolitical and secuistic portrayal of a diplomatic feat rity backdrop merits rigorous consideration. Although the agreement visual representation that projected delivers immediate humanitarian

ical question remains whether it establishes a sustainable peace or merely an ephemeral armistice. The stances of regional powers notably Iran, Qatar, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia internal configuration of Hamas, and

the vet-unresolved question of postwar governance and reconstruction in Gaza, all render the arrangement precarious. Analysts argue that this ceasefire framework requires sustained mutual confidence, substantial economic funding, and renewed political compacts across the region. Consequently, many experts suggest that the United States must recalibrate its Iran strategy, deepen Gulf engagement, and reinvigorate multilateral diplomacy.

The third dimension pertains to domestic American politics. Trump's indignation over the photograph also symbolizes how a leader's media image profoundly affects electoral dynamics and internal legitimacy. Even as he garners rare international praise, Trump faces formidable domestic hurdles congressional polarization, fiscal impasses, and intense media bifurcation illustrating that foreign policy triumphs do not automatically translate into internal popularity. This paradox will inevitably influence American public opinion, media posture, and even the tenor of future alliances. Fourth comes the economic and

peace and exchange of captives could catalyze regional economic activity and attract investment especially if credible progress toward lasting stability materializes. The energy, construction, and reconstruction sectors stand to gain; however, the agreement's fragility and Iran's unpredictable reaction may foster caution among investors. Consequently, volatility in global financial markets linked to the Middle East is likely to persist, albeit temporarily.

Ultimately, the tension between image and reality has always been intrinsic to politics. On one hand lies the prevailing narrative that accentuates the accord's constructive repercussions; on the other, the visual trope that challenges a leader's human and symbolic facets. Trump's reaction, thus, transcends vanity it represents a political gesture toward reclaiming control over the semiotics of power. The broader consequences of this transformation will remain opaque until the agreement's technical, economic, and security components assume tangible form. It is therefore reasonable to assert that the eventual victor will be the one who succeeds in reconciling perception with actuality whether through visual symbolism or diplomatic dexterity.

In conclusion, three possible trajectories emerge from the unfolding scenario. First, the agreement may evolve into a firm foundation for enduring regional peace. Second, its fragility may breed new cycles of discord once its temporary efficacy wanes. Third, it may serve as a political catharsis, propelling other regional actors toward fresh negotiations. Should the United States, regional powers, and the international community advance in concert constructively and transparently the first outcome remains attainable. Otherwise, both anger over imagery and the complexities of reality will converge, confronting policymakers with a renewed spectrum of challenges.



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

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: FTSE 100 Index			
Index Value	Change		
9,354.57	-81.52		
Percentage	Time		
-0.86%	17 Oct, 4:35 pm GMT+1		
USA: Dow Jones	Industrial Average		
Index Value	Change		
46,135.52	+183.28		
Percentage	Time		
+0.40%	17 Oct, 1:55 pm		

+0.40%	17 Oct, 1:55 pm GMT-4		
Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Averag			
Index Value	Change		
47,582.15	-695.59		
Percentage	Time		
_1 //%	17 Oct, 3:45 pm		

#### **Open Market Forex Rates**

GMT + 9

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

Punjab govt increases budget of Energy Čonservation Program to Rs8.5 billion

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

LAHORE: Punjab government has approved revised cost of Energy Conservation Program and the cost of program has been increased from Rs3.6 billion to Rs8.5 billion. Punjab Cabinet approved release of additional funds of Rs 5.867 billion in the current fiscal year. The funds will be provided as supplementary grant under intersectoral reappropriation.

The Finance Department and P&D Board have completed the arrangements for the provision of funds. The Punjab government has extended the project period till November 30, 2025.

Energy Conservation Program will help in achieving the goals of efficient use of energy and saving. The government aims at ensuring the efficient and transparent use of energy resources.

## Prime Minister's vision has extended financial facilities to micro-level businesses: Haroon Akhtar Khan

LAHORE: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Industries and Production Haroon Akhtar Khan has said that under the Prime Minister's vision, for the first time in Pakistan, access to government financial schemes and development services has been made possible for micro-enterprises. He said this while addressing a signing ceremony of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between SMEDA and Mobilink Microfinance Bank Limited (MMBL) at the head office of Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority (SMEDA) today. The MoU was signed by SMEDA CEO Socrat Aman Rana and MMBL President and CEO Haaris Mahmood Chaudhry. Federal Secretary Industries and Production Saif Anjum was also present on the occasion.

SAPM Haroon Akhtar Khan said that under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Pakistan is moving towards wants to create a business environment where make a meaningful contribution to Pakistan's face obstacles.



building a strong, inclusive and growth-ori- every micro, small and medium enterprise economic future. But unfortunately, despite

ented SME sector. He said that the government has equal opportunities to grow, compete and their immense potential, MSMEs continue to

Addressing the signing ceremony, Secretary MOIP Mr. Saif Anjum said, "under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and the guidance of SAPM Mr. Haroon Akhtar Khan, Pakistan is moving with renewed determination to strengthen its SME sector".

Earlier, CEO SMEDA Mr. Socrat Aman Rana welcomed the guests and highlighted objectives of the SMEDA-MMBL MoU. He informed, the total outstanding microfinance portfolio stands at Rs. 650+ billion, with Microfinance Banks contributing 71.3%, and female borrowers accounting for 34.8% of total lending-reflecting both the sector's scale and the challenges in achieving meaningful, inclusive growth.

On this occasion, Mr. Haaris Mahmood Chaudhary, President & CEO, Mobilink Bank, said: "Empowering SMEs is vital to Pakistan's socio-economic growth, and microfinance has a pivotal role to play in enabling that empowerment. Through this partnership with SMEDA, we're combining training, digital finance, and access to credit to build a stronger ecosystem that enables small businesses and drives sustainable economic progress, he said.

### Group Photo

In a landmark step towards advancing Pakistan-KSA digital collaboration, GO A1 Hub, Pakistan was inaugurated today in Islamabad through join initiative of Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication (MolT&T) and KSA's GO elecom (Etihad Atheeb Telecommunication Company), facilitated by Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) driving strategic investment partnerships with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.



## Customs Enforcement Karachi & Sindh Rangers Seize Smuggled Goods Worth Millions

#### Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Upon credible information received by the Collectorate of Customs (Enforcement), Karachi, a team of ASO in close coordination with Sindh Rangers conducted a major joint operation against the illicit trade of smuggled foreign-origin cigarettes, gutka, and other contraband goods.

The operation was carried out in shops-cum-godowns located adjacent to Al-Asif Square, Sohrab Goth, Karachi, resulting in the recovery of a large quantity of smuggled goods.



The seized items included brands of foreign-origin ciga-8,509 dandas of assorted rettes, 1,829 packets of assorted

brands of foreign-origin gutka, 327 packets of Indian-origin Niswar and 92 bottles of Iranian edible oil. The total value of the seized goods has been estimated at approximately Rs. 32,603,550.

Customs Enforcement reaffirms its firm resolve to curb the menace of smuggling and to protect the national economy by taking strict legal action against organized networks involved in illicit trade. This successful operation stands as a testament to the effective coordination and cooperation between Customs Enforcement Karachi and Pakistan Rangers Sindh.

### JICA, District **Women Protection Committee vow** stronger coordination

👺 Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and District Women Protection Committee Faisalabad have vowed to strengthen the institutional framework for women's safety, empowerment and rehabilitation.

meeting at Deputy Commissioner's Office, Additional Deputy (Headquarters) Madam need to enhancing interdepartmental coordination to system more effective and tion cases. responsive.

cooperation and highlighted Shahzadi along with repretion is fully committed to Health Authority, Local implement a comprehensive framework for women's nity Development Departsafety and empowerment.

She said that collaborative initiatives with organizastrengthen local capacities also attended the meeting.

and create an environment where women can live and work with dignity and confi-

dence. During meeting, JICA representatives firmed their commitment to promote institutional collaboration for protecting women's rights and improving mechanisms Presiding over a joint for their empowerment and rehabilitation.

They emphasized the Commissioner need for coordinated efforts among government Zainab Jahandad urged the departments and development partners to ensure timely support and effective make the women protection response to women's protec-

District Women Protec-She appreciated JICA's tion Officer Kanwal that Faisalabad administra-sentatives from District Government and Commument, District Police, Social Welfare and Bait-ul-Maal Department and District tions like JICA would further Public Prosecutor's Office

### **Gold price declines** by Rs10,600 to Rs446,300 per tola

#### Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The price of per tola 24 karat gold decreased by Rs10,600 and was sold at Rs446,300 on Saturday compared to Rs456,900 on the last trading day.

Likewise, the price of decreased by Rs9,088 to Rs382,630 against Rs391,718, whereas the price of 10 grams of 22 karat gold also dipped by Rs.8,331 to Rs350,756 from Rs359,087, the All Pakistan Sarafa Gems and Jewelers Association reported.

In the international market, gold prices also decreased by \$106, falling to \$4,252 against \$4,358 on the prior day.

Similarly, the price of per tola 24 karat silver went down by Rs 231 to Rs 5,273 10 grams of 24 karat gold from Rs 5,504, while 10 grams of silver decreased by Rs 198 to Rs 4,520 from Rs 4,718.

> International silver prices also dipped by \$2.31 to \$51.86 per ounce, the association reported.

### Jam Kamal terms PATDC a platform for expanding Pakistan-Africa economic cooperation

#### Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan on Saturday emphasized the importance of the 5th Pakistan-Africa Trade Development Conference (PATDC) as a platform for the business communities of Pakistan and Ethiopia to engage, collaborate, and explore new avenues of cooperation and mutual growth.

PATDC and Made in Pakistan Exhibition witnessed remark-Hall, Addis Ababa, marked by dynamic B2B meetings, a highlevel visit from the African Union,

celebrating the deepening ties Pakistani exhibitors, appreciating between both countries, said a news release. "This landmark event serves as

a vital platform for the business communities of Pakistan and Ethiopia to engage, collaborate, and explore new avenues of cooperation and mutual growth," the minister said while addressing

A major highlight of the day The second day of the 5th was the visit of Chairperson African Union Commission Mahmoud Ali Youssouf. He was able progress at Millennium received by Commerce Minister, and Ambassador of Pakistan to Ethiopia Mian Atif Sharif.

Together, they toured the exhi-

press briefing and gala dinner bition and engaged with several their contributions and partic-

Youssouf commended the Government of Pakistan and the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) for their strong efforts in promoting South-South cooperation and fostering sustainable trade growth between Pakistan and African countries.

Meanwhile, a press briefing was held at the Sheraton Addis, attended by senior government officials, ambassadors, media representatives, and business

During the briefing, Jam Kamal Khan, Mian Atif Sharif

and Ethiopia's Ambassador to Pakistan Jemal Bakir, underscored the growing momentum in bilateral relations and expressed optimism for deeper private-sector partnerships between the two countries

The minister commended Ethiopia's hospitality and emphasized that the conference reflects Pakistan's proactive global outreach strategy.

He reaffirmed Pakistan's dedication to expanding commercial diplomacy and economic cooperation with Africa through longterm engagement and institutional collaboration.

The day concluded with a Gala Dinner, attended by ambassa-

The evening featured welcome remarks from Mian Atif Sharif colorful cultural showcase two nations.

leaders, and members of the Chairman of the Pakistan Business Forum.

dors, senior officials, business and a speech by Ibrahim Tawab featuring Ethiopian and Pakistani performances, symbolizing the enduring friendship Guests were treated to a and mutual respect between the

## Pakistan-Sri Lanka-Zimbabwe **T-20 Tri-Nation Cricket Series** to Be Played From November 17 to November 29 in Pakistan

**Asim Tanveer** 

KARACHI: Zimbabwe Cricket has accepted the Pakistan Cricket Board's invitation to participate in a T20I tri-series also featuring Sri Lanka, to be staged in Rawalpindi and Lahore from 17 to 29

The maiden tri-series on Pakistan soil has been scheduled to provide all three sides with preparation ahead of

next year's ICC Men's T20 World Cup, Gaddafi Stadium, which will stage the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium, Rawalpindi which will be held in India and Sri Lanka.

The T-20 Tri-Series Will Commence on 17 November, with hosts Pakistan taking on Zimbabwe at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium. The second fixture will also be played at the same venue on 19 November, when Sri Lanka take on Zimbabwe.

Following the two matches in Rawalpindi, the action will shift to Lahore's

remaining five matches, including the final on 29 November.

Earlier today, Afghanistan expressed their inability to participate in the tournament.

Zimbabwe)

17 November - Pakistan v Zimbabwe, Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium, Rawalpindi 19 November - Sri Lanka v Zimbabwe,

22 November - Pakistan v Sri Lanka, Gaddafi Stadium, Lahore

23 November - Pakistan v Zimbabwe, Gaddafi Stadium, Lahore

25 November - Sri Lanka v Zimbabwe,

T-20 Tri-Series (Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Gaddafi Stadium, Lahore 27 November - Pakistan v Sri Lanka,

> Gaddafi Stadium, Lahore 29 November -Final, Gaddafi

Stadium, Lahore

### Press Conference

ISLAMABAD: President Pakistan Tennis Federation Aisam-ul-Haq addressing press conference at PTF Tennis Complex in Fed-



### Another washout for Pakistan; SA through to semis

No result Pakistan 92 for 5 (Riaz 28\*, Tahuhu 2-20, Carson 1-7) vs New Zealand

Colombo handed a second washout in four days to Pakistan at the Women's World Cup 2025, leaving their chances of progressing to the knockouts hanging by a thread. As Pakistan and New Zealand shared points, South Africa became the second team to progress to the semi-finals, after Australia, as even a finish on eight points in the league stage will take them through.

If two or more teams finish on the same points, it will first be seen who has more wins, and South Africa will progress with four wins already from five games.

With Saturday's washout, Pakistan continue to remain winless in the tournament while New Zealand keep themselves in the running for the knockouts, still placed fifth with just one win and two abandoned games so far. Their next two matches, against India and England, will now decide their fate.

A fired-up New Zealand side laid the foundation after winning the toss in overcast conditions on Saturday. While their experienced quick Lea Tahuhu returned to the XI to strike twice in her first spell. the Kerr sisters and Eden Carson picked had been handed a life on 8 when wick- for a few minutes, and as soon as Amin eventually called off.



up a wicket apiece to leave Pakistan reeling at 92 for 5 before the second rain break sealed the outcome of the match.

Tahuhu was the first to strike and she did it in her first over when Omaima Sohail, who had crawled to 3 off 14, was trapped lbw before two sharp catches dented Pakistan further. Muneeba Ali

etkeeper Isabella Gaze put down a low chance off Jess Kerr. But when Muneeba pulled a short delivery off the same bowler on 22, Suzie Bates threw herself to her left at midwicket to take a stunner. No. 3 Sidra Amin then saw a similar effort from Carson at point when she scythed a short ball from Tahuhu, and Pakistan a heavy shower to make the ground staff had dispatched a few boundaries and were 52 for 3. It had been drizzling then cover the whole field, and the game was

walked back after 12.2 overs it got heavier

Play resumed after 95 minutes in what was shortened to a 46-overs-a-side contest as Natalia Pervaiz joined Aliya Riaz. The more experienced Riaz soon charged down to crash Tahuhu to the square-leg boundary even as Pervaiz lived dangerously against Melie Kerr's variations. Pervaiz even got a life on 9 when Sophie Devine put down a sharp catch at slip off Melie Kerr but lasted only five more balls by holing out off Carson for the simplest of catches to Devine at long-on.

Melie Kerr then foxed the new battercaptain Fatima Sana-with a wrong'un which rattled the stumps to leave Pakistan on 80 for 5. Rain interrupted again after five overs and the players walked off with the score on 92 for 5 after 25 overs.

It stopped raining within an hour with some lightning also around, and the game was soon reduced to 36 overs per innings. But the drizzle soon returned, turned into

### PCB to decide on Rizwan's ODI captaincy on Oct 20 as Shaheen emerges top contender



#### Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: A final decision on whether Mohammad Rizwan will continue as Pakistan's One-Day International (ODI) captain is expected on October 20, as Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Chairman Mohsin Naqvi has convened a high-level meeting following a recommendation from the head coach Mike Hesson.

According to sources, Pakistan's white-ball head coach, Mike Hesson, has written a formal letter to the PCB Chairman, recommending a final decision on the ODI captaincy.

Shaheen Shah Afridi has emerged as the strongest contender for the ODI captaincy, while Babar Azam and Agha Salman are also under consideration, sources said.

The upcoming meeting will bring together the selection and advisory committees, which will also finalise the white-ball squads for the forthcoming South Africa series.

### Chiniot district cricket team won the Deputy Commissioner Chiniot Tape Ball Cricket Cup

#### B Abdul Majid

CHINIOT: The cricket team of Chiniot district defeated the team of Faisalabad and won the Deputy Commissioner Chiniot Tape Ball Cricket Cup.

The colorful closing ceremony of the Deputy Commissioner Chiniot Cricket Cup was held at the Islamia College Cricket Stadium. The Islamia College Cricket Ground was presenting a charming scene under floodlights. Deputy Commissioner Safiullah Gondal was a special guest and was welcomed with a warm welcome on his arrival.

On the closing day, after two semi-finals, the big final clash took place. Additional Deputy Commissioner General Wasiq Abbas Haral, Assistant Commissioner Ashfaq Rasool, COMC and other officers and personalities were also present. A sea of cricket fans came to the stadium and applauded the cricket players for every short, ball, and fielding. Deputy Commissioner Safiullah Gondal presented the winning team with Rs. 200,000 and the winning trophy. The runner-up team was also given Rs. 100,000 in cash and a trophy, while shields were also distributed among the players and administrators of other teams.

After the final match, a magnificent fireworks display was held. The Additional Deputy Commissioner and Assistant Commissioner distributed shields to the tournament committee. The Deputy Commissioner said that more recreational opportunities will be provided to the people of Chiniot to keep the sports grounds clean. Javelin throwing and Mashaera will also be organized in the months of October and November. The people of Chiniot will soon be gifted a ground for football and other games like cricket. The Deputy Commissioner thanked the people of Chiniot for participating in large numbers and maintaining order.

#### Two More Matches conclude in PCB Talent Hunt Programme for School Cricket (Karachi Region)

#### Sports Desk

KARACHI: Two more matches decided in the PCB Talent Hunt Programme for School Cricket (Karach Region) at various Cricket Grounds of the City. The highlights of the days play was deadly bowling by Muhammad Rafay 5/29, Ghulam Ahmed Raza 5/31, Muhammad Hussain 4/1.

Army Public School defeated GBSS Murad Memon by 2 Wickets at IBA University Ground. GBSS Murad Memon 76 all-out in 16.3 overs. Abdul Manan 19. Muhammad Rafay (ob) 5/29, M. Dayan

In reply Army Public School  $77/8\ {\rm in}\ 10.2\ {\rm overs}.$  M. Dayan Azhar 24. Ghulam Ashrad Raza (mf) 5/31. Raheem Akhtar 3/34.

In the second match of the day GBSS F. C Area beat Aga Khan School by 9 Wickets at Jinnah College Ground. Aga Khan School 60 all out in 15 overs. M. Hasan 17, Afnan Nazim 16. Muhammad Hussain (ob) 1/4, Umer Shah (mf) 3/9, M. Haris (rlb) 2/5.

In reply GBSS F. C Area 62/1 in 11 3 overs. Muhammad Haris 617x4, Faizan Qaiser 22 both not out.

### Aurangzeb strengthens international economic partnerships in Washington DC

#### S Continued from Page 8

The finance minister also met with Baroness Jenny Chapman UK Minister for International Development and Africa, and expressed appreciation for the United Kingdom's longstanding development partnership with Pakistan.

He acknowledged the UK's continued support for the development of the Digital Dashboard and underscored the importance of greater stakeholder consultation in project selection and implementation, as well as enhanced visibility for off-budget initiatives.

Later, Senator Aurangzeb participated in a high-level event titled "Financing in a Fragmented World", where he outlined the global growth headwinds anticipated for 2025–26, including rising trade barriers and falling energy prices.

In his remarks, he noted that the global economy had proven more resilient than projected earlier in 2025, despite reciprocal tariffs imposed in recent months.

He viewed Pakistan's ongoing trade negotiations with U.S. authorities, engagement with Chinese leadership, new security arrangement with Saudi Arabia, and the launch of CPEC 2.0 as key geopolitical developments positively influencing Pakistan's economic outlook.

The minister emphasized that global trade fragmentation was prompting countries to strengthen regional corridors and diversify trading partners.

Highlighting the devastating impact of recent floods in Pakistan, he termed climate change an existential challenge for the

Senator Aurangzeb also met with Othman Boukrami, CIO

and Deputy CEO of TCX, and Sukuk for Pakistan.

He received a briefing on TCX's operations aimed at enabling local currency lending and welcomed collaboration to support hedging mechanisms for local currency

The minister shared Pakistan's plans to extend the maturity profile of its domestic and external debt portfolios to mitigate refinancing and interest rate risks.

He also briefed the delegation on Pakistan's intention to re-enter international capital markets through the issuance of Panda Bonds, Eurobonds, and International Sukuk, assuring a follow-up on proposals shared with the Ministry.

In his meeting with Dr. Adnan Chilwan, Group CEO of Dubai Islamic Bank (DIB), the minister appreciated DIB's role as a leading global arranger of sovereign

He highlighted the recently reached Staff Level Agreement (SLA) with the IMF and the subsequent ratings upgrade by international agencies.

He also noted the Government's progress on privatization initiatives, including that of the First Women Bank, and reaffirmed Pakistan's focus on diversifying its funding mix across USD, Panda, and Sukuk markets.

The finance minister also held meetings with the management of Sharjah Islamic Bank and Ajman Bank, thanking them for their participation in syndicated transactions.

He briefed the banks on Pakistan's plan to issue its inaugural Panda Bond in the Chinese market as part of its financing diversification strategy and encouraged further engagement with the Debt Management Office for future collaboration oppor- to B- with a stable outlook, and Economics (PIIE).

In a meeting with Dr. Hajar El Haddaoui, Director General of the Digital Cooperation Organization (DCO), the minister reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to the DCO's mission of inclusive digital growth and cross-border collaboration.

He outlined Pakistan's digital transformation priorities across three key verticals—information technology, payment rails, and digitization of all government payments-while emphasizing the importance of capacity building, skills development, and replication of successful digital models. He also welcomed the the Fitch team. DCO's decision to expand its footprint in Pakistan.

Senator Aurangzeb also met with officials from Fitch Ratings, thanking the agency for upgrading Pakistan's credit rating

expressed satisfaction that all three major agencies were now aligned in their assessments.

trade and tariff negotiations with the U. S. Administration, and reforms in taxation, energy, privatization, and state-owned enterprises (SOEs).

He highlighted the government's continued efforts toward privatization and diversification of financing through Panda Bonds.

Aurangzeb expressed optimism regarding further improvement in Pakistan's ratings going forward and responded to queries from

The minister also participated in a Roundtable on "Challenges and Opportunities for the Pakistani Economy through 2025 and Beyond", organized by the Peterson Institute of International

He briefed participants on the

IMF SLA, the ratings upgrade by international agencies, and the He briefed the Fitch team on ongoing transformation journey the recent IMF SLA, ongoing of the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) centered on people, process, and technology. The minister also discussed the

pace of privatization and recent favorable geopolitical developments. The session concluded rith an interactive Q&A segment.

Earlier in the day, Senator

Aurangzeb attended a reception given by Axel van Trotsenburg, Senior Managing Director, World Bank in honor of President Tharman Shanmugaratnam of the Republic of Singapore and also gave an interview to China Global Television Network (CGTN), highlighting Pakistan's economic outlook, reform agenda, and international engagement

# The Spokesman

### Call on

ISLAMABAD: UK High Commissioner Jane Marriott called on Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Moham-



# Prime Minister's telephone call with Malaysia counterpart

跨 Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif received a telephone call from Prime Minister of Malaysia, Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim, this evening.

While thanking the leadership and people of Malaysia for the warm hospitality extended during his recent visit to Kuala Lumpur, the Prime Minister expressed satisfaction that the understandings reached during the visit particularly regarding the export of halal meat and other mutually beneficial areas have elevated the Pakistan-Malaysia relations to new heights.

the signing ceremony of the Gaza Peace



Agreement in Sharm-el-Sheikh. While welcoming this peace effort, both leaders expressed hope that it would help bring The two leaders also discussed an immediate end to the suffering of the regional developments. Prime Minister Palestinian people, ensure unhindered Shehbaz Sharif briefed Prime Minister humanitarian access to Gaza, and pave Anwar Ibrahim on his participation in the way for lasting peace and stability in the region

The Prime Minister also apprised his Malaysian counterpart of the security situation along the Pakistan-Afghanistan border. He underscored that Pakistan seeks peace and stability in Afghanistan but continues to face cross-border terrorism emanating from Afghan soil. The Prime Minister emphasized that the

Afghan authorities must take effective measures to take immediate and effective steps to dismantle terrorist networks operating from Afghan soil that continue to orchestrate attacks inside Pakistan.

He reaffirmed that Pakistan had agreed to a temporary ceasefire at the request of the Afghan authorities to facilitate dialogue in Doha, and stressed the importance of tangible action against all terrorist entities, including Fitna-al-Khwarij, Fitna-al-Hindustan, TTP, and BLA, to restore peace and stability along the border.

The Malaysian Prime Minister expressed his concern at these developments and offered to play a constructive role in reducing tensions and restoring peace and stability in the region.

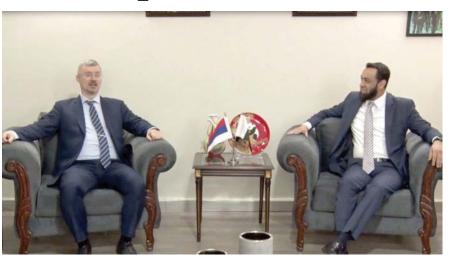
Both leaders agreed to remain in

### Russian envoy meets Tarar to strengthen media partnerships, information exchange

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Russia Albert P Khorev met Information Minister Attaullah Tarar on Saturday and discussed various aspects of bilateral ties, natural beauty of Northern Areas, promoting tourism, enhancing media cooperation and deepening cultural and informational exchanges between Pakistan and Russia

The minister and envoy also discussed finalizing a cooperation agreement between Pakistan Television (PTV World) and Russia's RT (Russian Television), exchange and collaborative broadcasting.

Both sides agreed to strengthen collaboration in reviewed progress on the media ties. key areas, including media, Memorandum of Under-



aimed at fostering content firming their commitment Associated Press of Pakistan launching across multiple sectors.

culture, and tourism, reaf- standing (MoU) between the discussed proposals for standing.

to deepening engagement (APP) and Sputnik News programs involving digital Agency to enhance news influencers and youth dele-In addition, both sides sharing and strengthen gations, aimed at fostering

people-to-people connec-The two sides also tions and cultural under-

and Russia enjoy diplomatic relations rooted in mutual trust and respect, reflecting a shared commitment to deepening bilateral engagement across diverse sectors.

Speaking on the occasion, Russian Ambassador Albert P. Khorev highlighted the immense tourism potential of Pakistan's northern areas, describing them as highly attractive to international travelers. He noted that Russian tourists, in particular, have expressed keen interest in exploring Pakistan's scenic landscapes and natural beauty.

Ambassador Russian expressed confidence that Pakistan and Russia will elevate their bilateral ties into a practical partnership by identifying and pursuing new avenues of cooperation.

consultation with senior party

He added that the current chief

secretary and inspector general of

police would continue in their posi-

CM Afridi also revealed that he had

written a letter to the Chief Justice

of Pakistan seeking permission for

a meeting with the party founder

and that his legal team would refile a

petition in the Islamabad High Court

after addressing technical objections.

"If we are not given access, we will

members

tions for now.

### Naqvi reviews construction work on Islamabad's **T-Chowk flyover**



跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Saturday visited T-Chowk flyover project early in the morning in Islamabad and reviewed the progress of construction work on the mega project

During his visit, Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi inspected the quality and pace of development work.

About 100 percent work of pile cap and grid casting has been completed while 60 percent work of protective walls of the project completed.

Mohsin Naqvi expressed satisfaction over the progress of the development works of the project. He directed comprehensive planning for the completion of the project keeping in mind the expansion of GT Road in the future.

Mohsin Naqvi said the project should be completed on time and with high quality.

No compromise on quality will be made in development projects, Mohsin Naqvi said.

Interior Minister directed for beautiful landscaping and horticulture around the project.

He said the T-Chowk flyover project will provide signal-free access to the capital for passengers coming from GT Road.

Mohsin Naqvi said public convenience and service is our biggest goal. The Interior Minister was given a detailed briefing on the ongoing

development work on the project. It was briefed that the project work is progressing as per the timeline and will be completed within the stipulated period.

IG Islamabad Police, DC Islamabad, members of CDA and other officials were also present on this

### Aurangzeb strengthens international economic partnerships in Washington DC



News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb continued his engagements on the fifth day of his visit to Washington DC, where he is attending the Annual Meetings of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank Group.

During a meeting with World Bank President Ajay Banga, the minister recalled the Prime Minister's productive engagement with him additional support under the IDA during the UN General Assembly session, said a news release.

He briefed the president on the government's flood response and a holistic approach to reforms in the appreciated the Bank's support gas and power sectors.

following the completion of the postflood damage assessment.

Senator Aurangzeb endorsed the proposal of utilizing technology platforms and cooperatives to reach small farmers and thanked the World Bank for its technical assistance in developing Pakistan's Tariff Policy.

He also apprised the President of the Memoranda of Understanding signed with provinces for the implementation of the Country Partnership Framework (CPF) and requested window in view of reduced alloca-

Both sides also discussed adopting

### Pakistani man sentenced to 40 years in US prison for smuggling Iranian missiles to Yemen

B Web Desk

ISLAMABAD: A US court has sentenced a Pakistani citizen, Muhammad Pahlawan, to 40 years in prison for smuggling Iranian-made ballistic missile parts and other weapons to Yemen's Houthi rebels.

According to the BBC, Pahlawan, 49, was convicted by a Virginia court after being found guilty of transporting arms from Iran to Yemen using fishing vessels. The court ruled

months-long trial. during the mission and were later employment.



declared dead after their bodies could not be recovered.

Investigations revealed that against him on June 5, 2025, after a Pahlawan had earlier made two successful smuggling trips from Pahlawan was arrested by the Iran's Chabahar port in October and US Navy in January 2024 during December 2023. For these missions, a special operation in the Arabian he reportedly recruited 12 Pakistani Sea. Two American sailors drowned men who had gone to Iran seeking

### Sohail Afridi vows full support to Pakistan Army against any aggression

### 👺 Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Sohail Afridi has reaffirmed his government's full support to the Pakistan Army, declaring that any act of aggression against the country, including from Afghanistan, will be met with a firm response.

Speaking informally to reporters in Peshawar, CM Afridi said that peace in the region cannot be achieved without taking Khyber Pakhtunkhwa into confidence.

He stressed that the province must be consulted in all matters related to Afghanistan and national security.



The chief minister said that if he is unable to meet the party founder soon, he will form his cabinet after good governance.

resist," the chief minister cautioned, adding that his focus remains on law and order, development projects, and

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