e Spokesman

رمایا جنت میں جو بھی داخل ہو گااسے اس *کا* جہنم کاٹھکانا بھی د کھایاجائے گا کہ اگر نافر مانی کی

(صحيح بغارى: حديث نبر 6569) **Barkat Rice Mills**



PM lauds scientists, engineers on successful launch of hyperspectral satellite

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has lauded Pakistani space scientists and engineers for the successful launch of the country's first Hyperspectral Satellite, HS-1, from the Chinese Satellite Launch Centre



Ashrafi sees 'Doha Peace Talk' satisfactory

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Rabius Sani 26, Monday, October 20, 2025







Daily Spokesman Vol: 19, Issue: 185 Price Rs. 25.00 Pages 8

Ceasefire deal

DOHA: Afghan Defence Minister Mullah Muhammad Yaqoob, centre left, shakes hands with Pakistani Defence



Photo: Qatar Foreign Ministry]

Doha Truce Hailed as

regional peace and stability.

cal analysts, foreign affairs hostility sparked by unprovoked border clashes instigated by Afghan Taliban forces and the militant group

Fitna Al Khwarii.

from Afghan soil.

idate this agreement to avoid further loss of lives on both sides," said former ambas-

He appreciated the vital

agreement a welcome development that could help end the ongoing security-related tensions between the two

However, he urged the Afghan interim government

Trump: No fixed timeline for Hamas disarmament under Gaza deal

Reuters

US President Donald Trump has said that there is no strict timeline for the disarm under the ongoing Gaza ceasefire agreement, but warned that the group would face consequences if it failed to surrender its weapons.

In an interview with Fox News on Sunday, Trump said he preferred to "see how it all works out" rather than setting a rigid deadline for disarmament.

He said Hamas had agreed to give up its weapons and cautioned that if the group did not honour the commitment, the US or its allies could

"They said they would...



if we have to, we will disarm them," Trump remarked.

"Whether it's me, the US, or a proxy — could be Israel, with our backing. We won't have boots on the ground."

The US-brokered Gaza ceasefire plan, presented by October 2023 have killed Trump earlier this month, consists of 20 points and has entered its first phase. dren - and left much of the

The agreement provides enclave in ruins.

hostages in exchange for Palestinian prisoners, as well as the reconstruction of Gaza and the creation of a new governing structure excluding Hamas.

Israeli attacks nearly 68,000 Palestinians - mostly women and chil-

'Significant Step' Toward Pakistan-Afghanistan Peace

Spokesman Report

DOHA,: The recently concluded ceasefire agreement between Pakistan and Afghanistan has been widely welcomed by politiexperts, and diplomats, who have termed it a significant and positive step towards

Former Ambassador

as a constructive and positive move in the right direction by the neighbouring countries.

He said the agreement marks an end to days of

The ceasefire was finalised

Manzoorul Haq lauded the last night in Doha, Qatar, with mediation roles played by development, describing it both countries expressing the hope that it would pave the way for a verifiable mechanism to monitor and prevent terrorist activities emanating

> "It is imperative to consolsador Manzoorul Haq.

Qatar and Türkiye, and emphasised that the onus now lies on the Afghan Taliban Government to ensure their territory is not used for launching attacks

against Pakistan. Adnan Sarwar Khan, former Chairman of the International Relations Department at the Univer-

sity of Peshawar, termed the

neighbours.

to take decisive action against terrorist groups like Fitna Al Khwarij, the TTP and other fugitives operating from within Afghanistan.

Continued on Page 7

Interior minister calls on PM Shehbaz Sharif

👺 Bureau Report

LAHORE: Interior Minister Mohsin Raza Nagyi called on Prime Minister Muhammag Shehbaz Sharif, here on Sunday.

During the meeting, the minister briefed the premier on country's law and order situ-

The prime minister was also briefed about ongoing development projects in Islamabad.



Govt approves policy to procure wheat at Rs 3500 per maund

👺 Bureau Report

LAHORE: The federal government has approved the wheat policy 2025-26, aiming to ensure fair prices for farmers and stable wheat reserves to strengthen food security across the country.

chaired a high-level meeting in Islamabad to finalise the new policy.

The meeting was attended by the chief ministers of Punjab, Sindh, Balochistan, and Gilgit-Baltistan, a representative from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the prime minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, and other key stakeholders.

Under the new policy, the govern-



Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif ment will purchase strategic wheat stocks to stabilise the market and protect farmers from losses.

Officials briefed the prime minister that both federal and provincial governments will procure around 6.2 million tons of wheat from the 2025–26 crop at a support price of Rs3,500 per 40 kg, in line

with international market rates. Shehbaz Sharif expressed confidence that the new wheat policy will boost agricultural growth, increase farmers' income, and strengthen

food security across the country. Officials also informed the meeting that a National Wheat Oversight Committee, headed by the Federal Minister for National Food Security, will monitor imple-

mentation and coordination. The committee, comprising representatives from all provinces, will meet weekly and report directly to the prime minister.

The government believes the policy will keep the market steady, guarantee fair returns to farmers, and secure national reserves for the coming year.

Example 2 Correspondent ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Investment Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh has said that Pakistan had always made serious efforts to establish brotherly relations with its neighboring countries and for lasting peace in the region. We have hosted millions of Afghan refugees over the past forty years, helped them in difficult situations and today,

we expect that Afghanistan will also

Pakistan made

relations with

Sheikh

serious efforts to establish brotherly

neighboring countries; Qaiser

while talking to the media here Sunday. The minister said that negotiations were going on between Pakistan and Afghanistan, in which friendly countries Saudi Arabia and Qatar were also playing a mediating role. He expressed the hope that all issues will be resolved amicably under the spirit of mutual understanding and Islamic brother-

Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh said that in the present era, Pakistan's global image has improved more than ever. "In recent days, the defense agreement between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia is being seen as a historic development in the Muslim world, which has significantly increased Pakistan's prestige and confidence", he said and added that the federal government has announced a major relief package for the flood-affected areas.

Flour crisis in KP raised in apex committee: Muqam

👺 Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs, Gilgit-Baltistan and SAFRON, and Provincial Pres-(N), Engineer Amir Muqam has said that the ongoing flour crisis in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has been raised in the Apex Committee

He added that Punjab Chief

difficulties faced by the people of always spoken for the rights of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and the issue will be resolved soon.

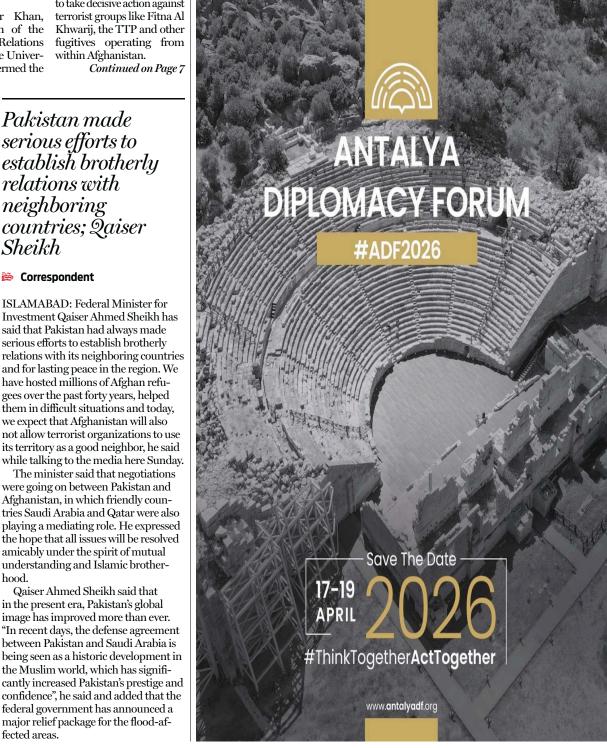
Talking to senior journalists ident of Pakistan Muslim League in Swat on Sunday, the federal minister stated that the suspension of flour supply occurred due to smuggling of flour to Afghanistan, which has led to a shortage in the province.

He said that as a public repre-Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif sentative, he cannot remain silent ness in addressing the issue.

has also been informed about the on people's problems. "I have people in the past, I am doing so today, and I will continue to do so in the future," he remarked.

Engineer Amir Muqam urged the provincial government to immediately release the wheat stored in official warehouses to overcome the crisis.

He expressed regret that the KP government has not shown serious-



PIDE study calls for gender-sensitive criminal justice reforms in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: A new Knowledge Brief published by the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) emphasizes the urgent need for gender-sensitive reforms in Pakistan's criminal justice system. Authored by Dr. Fida Muhammad Khan, Assistant Professor at PIDE, and Zainab Fatima, Researcher Women Aid Trust, the study titled "Gendered Pathways to Crime" challenges the assumption that men and women engage in criminal behavior under similar circumstances. It argues that the pathways leading to crime are profoundly shaped by gender, social expectations, and structural inequalities that disadvantage women from an early age.

The study explains that women often experience unique forms of trauma, marginalization, and abuse that increase their likelihood of becoming involved in criminal activity—factors that are rarely



recognized by existing laws or insti- economic stress, violence from intitutions. Although laws are written to apply equally to all, their implementation often overlooks the intersecting effects of gender, poverty, and class. The authors highlight four major pathways discussed in GPT literature, that frequently lead women into crime: childhood trauma and abuse, drug misuse linked to emotional or

mate partners, and socio-economic coercion including sex work. These pathways are reinforced by systemic inequality, patriarchal norms, and limited access to justice, making women's experiences of crime and punishment significantly different from those of men.

The brief also highlights that Paki-

stan's colonial-era criminal justice system continues to operate under gender-neutral assumptions, focusing primarily on the act of crime rather than its underlying causes. It documents instances where women have been coerced into false confessions through threats of humiliation or sexual violence, exposing deep-rooted power imbalances in law enforcement and judicial processes. The authors argue that recognizing gender as a key factor in understanding crime is essential for achieving fairness, preventing reoffending, and ensuring justice.

While the Gendered Pathways Theory (GPT) has been extensively studied in Western contexts, the authors emphasize the importance of developing localized research in Pakistan and other post-colonial societies. Contextualizing GPT within South Asian realities is vital to understanding how social hierarchies, cultural expectations, and colonial legacies shape women's vulnerability to crime today.

Pollution

FAISALABAD: A view of smoke rising from a factory in the city, which creating problems for air pollution needs to attention



PPP Central Executive Committee meeting held

Spokesman Report

KARACHI/MUZAFFARABAD: A meeting of PPP Central Executive Committee was held under the chairmanship of PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari in Karachi.

All members and special candidates participated in Pakistan PPP CEC meeting

Members of Pakistan People's Party Central Executive Committee paid tribute to democracy of all martyrs including tragedy makers The meeting discussed the overall situation of the country and reviewed the implementation of the proposals of the participants.

Members of Central Executive Committee from Azad Kashmir Chaudhry Muhammad Chaudhry Latif Akbar, Sardar Muhammad Yaqub, Chaudhry Raj Pervez Sharfiz Ashraf in a meeting of Central Executive Committee of Paki-



stan People's Party K Meanwhile, sources said that PPP Azad Kashmir Chapter in-charge Ms.

Faryal Talpur arrived in Islamabad on The nomination for the election of Tuesday and attended a meeting with the new Leader of the House will be PPP Minister Azad Piyazlut Kashmir. announced on Tuesday.

Cake cutting ceremony

SAMAHNI: On the occasion of 93rd day of Muslim Conference under All Jammu Vakshmir Muslim Conference Samahni Constituency Samahni Akabrin Muslim Conference People's Constituency Central Chairman Chairperson of Women's Section Mirpur Division Ms. Amra Khan Central Majlis Aamla Member Haji Chaudhry Muhammad Yousuf Pir Syed Muzaffar Hussain Shah Gilani Muslim Conference Town Committee General Secretary General Ghulam Murtaza cuting the cake.

Condolence



HATTIAN: President Muslim Conference and former Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan on the death of Haji Zafarullah Abbasi, son of late Haji Zafarullah Abbasi Nasrullah Khan Abbasi, Raja Waqar Khan, Shahid Hameed Abbasi, Khalid Abbasi, Sajad Anwar Abbasi, Syed Yasir Naqvi Advocate, Waheed Khan Mughal, Chanzib Abbasi and others are present.

The 18 digital skills taught in the program include

👺 Raza Nagvi

Graphic Designing, Artificial Intelligence Tools, Freelancing Fundamentals, Office Automation, SEO / Google Ads / Facebook Ads, Online Communication, Facebook Management, Digital Marketing / Shopify, Web Development, Affiliate Marketing and Drop Shipping, YouTube Automation, Video Editing, E-Commerce / Virtual Assistance, Programming / Coding / Game Development, Advanced Digital Marketing, Entrepreneurship, and Google Tools.

Certificate distribution ceremony and new lab inauguration held at Government Pilot Sec. School

👺 Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: A certificate distribution ceremony was held at Government Pilot Secondary School Attock to honor the students of Batch 5and Batch 6 under the Learn and Earn Program. A total of 70 male and female students successfully completed training in 18 in-demand digital skills offered through the initiative.

The event was organized and supervised by Focal Person and Instructor Syeda Abeer Zehra Bukhari, with classes conducted from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Attock, Mr. Atif Rao Raza, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. He distributed certificates among the successful participants and inaugurated a newly established State-of-the-Art Digital Lab, which is set to serve as a Center of Excellence in the future.

Prominent education officials were also present at the event, including CEO Education Mr. Azhar, DEO (Male) Mr. Altaf, DEO (Male) Mr. Taqi, DEO (Female) Madam Shawar, and Principal Government Pilot Secondary School Attock Mr. Ikhlaq.

During the ceremony, two students shared their inspiring success stories, highlighting how they are now collaborating with various brands and producing digital advertisements — a testament to the program's practical impact and effectiveness.

The Learn and Earn Program, launched under the supervision of COMSATS University Islamabad in collaboration with the School Education Department, Government of Punjab, aims to empower youth with modern digital skills, enabling them to pursue freelancing, entrepreneurship, and employment opportunities in the growing digital economy.

PML-NAttock Leaders Plan Strategy, Hail Sharif and Munir for National Progress

👺 Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: District President of Pakistan Muslim League (N) Attock, Muhammad Saleem Shahzad, met with District Information Secretary Dr. Mian Rashid Mushtaq. During the meeting, they discussed organizational matters, ways to further activate the party, ongoing public welfare projects, and the future course of action in detail.

Dr. Mian Rashid Mushtaq paid great tribute to Prime Minister Mian Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif for his remarkable leadership, for effectively highlighting Pakistan's stance on the global stage, for stabilizing the national economy, accelerating development projects, and taking public relief measures.

He also highly appreciated Army Chief Field Marshal General Asim Munir for his courageous leadership, outstanding professional abilities, and for making Pakistan one of the strong and respected nations in the world at the defense level.

Furthermore, he praised Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif for her continuous public welfare initiatives, modern reforms, and dedication to serving the people.

He stated that the leadership of the Pakistan Muslim League (N) alone has the ability to lead the country toward progress, stability, and prosperity.

Hafiz Naeem ur Rehman slams elite, calls for overhaul of judicial and police systems

跨 Tariq khan Yousafzai

TAKHT BHAI: Jamaat-e-Islami's central Ameer, Hafiz Naeem ur Rehman, has said that the country will

He emphasized the need for fundapolice systems, stating that less than in all spheres of life. two percent of the elite have held ninety-eight percent of the population hostage.

He added that the economy, agricul-

at Jamia Miftah-ul-Uloom, Shergarh, Mardan, yesterday.

The Jamaat-e-Islami chief urged scholars associated with the Islamic only progress by changing the outdated Movement to respect all schools of system, not merely by changing faces. thought and to rise above sectarian differences in order to intensify their mental reforms in the judicial and struggle for the establishment of Islam

by Ameer Jamaat-e-Islami Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (Central) Abdul Wasi, President of Markazi Khatm-e-Nabuture, and industrial sectors all require wwat, Maulana Mufti Imtiaz Marwat, major structural changes. He was Ameer Jamaat-e-Islami Mardan,

Miftah-ul-Uloom, Maulana Safiullah. Hafiz Naeem ur Rehman invited participants to attend the three-day public congregation (Ijtema Aam) to be held under the shadow of Minar-e-Pakistan in November, urging religious scholars to promote the event in their sermons and lectures.

He reaffirmed that the congrega-The conference was also addressed tion would serve as a precursor to national change, filling the existing political vacuum and bringing unity to a divided nation.

He stressed the importance of understanding modern scientific

addressing a gathering of graduates Ghulam Rasool, and Director of Jamia knowledge alongside religious studies, saying that without understanding secularism, liberalism, capitalism, and Western ideologies, the message of Islamic governance (Iqamat-e-Deen) cannot be effectively spread.

Hafiz Naeem also noted that voices in support of Palestine have become louder and stronger in the West—an outcome, he said, of the sacrifices made by Hamas and the people of Gaza.

He called on Muslims to take advantage of this moment to spread Islam's universal message. He further mentioned the sacrifices and struggles of Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami and mately, their perseverance bore fruit for the Islamic movement.



Islami Jamiat Talaba, saying that ulti- and Allah Almighty opened new paths



Namaz Timings . 5:29 pm

EMEDGENCY

EMERGENCY	
Rescue (Police)	15
Bomb Disposal	15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/	
Islamabad1122 &	16
Emergency Ambulance 1122	8
& Rescue Services 44511	22
Motorway Police92660	44
Motorway Police 9270601-	20

Women Police

	Statio	DNS
Isla	mabad	9222590
Rav	walpindi	9270601-20
Nav	vatpiriai	32/0001 20

ENOUIRY

-11701	
Edhi Ambulance	115
PIA Flight Info	114
PIA Cargo	9280979
Railway Inquiry	117
Railway Exchange	9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi	5555489
CAA	9281092

HOSPITALS

1100111	
CMH	5611111
MH	561116
MH	561116
Cantt Hospital	9270907-11
DHQ	5556311-4
RGH	9290301-7
Holy Family	9290322-7
PIMS	9261170-79
Polyclinic	9218300-09
Shifa International	4603666

DEPARTMENTS

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

COMPLAINTS

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

By-elections on three village council seats conclude peacefully in DI Khan

DERA ISMAIL KHAN: By-elections on three local government seats, including general, youth and women councilor positions in three village councils of Dera Ismail Khan district, were held peacefully on

Sunday. According to the District Election Commissioner, polling took place in the Village Councils of Mandhran, Shorkot, and Kokar. Over 25,000 voters, including 11,500 women, were registered to cast their

votes in the by-elections. The district administration had made comprehensive security arrangements to ensure a peaceful polling process and safeguard

voters. According to unofficial results issued by Returning Officer Syed Muhammad Arsalan, in the Village Council, Mandhran Muhammad Khalid secured victory on the general councilor seat with 3,028 votes, while Muhammad Bilal stood

In the Village Council Shorkot, Samina Bibi won the women's councilor seat by obtaining 900 votes, followed by Surayya Bibi, who received 491 votes.

second with 2,200 votes.

Similarly, in Village Council Kokar, Tasawar Nawaz clinched victory on the youth councilor seat with 931 votes, whereas Muhammad Shakeel secured 761 votes.

The official results of the by-elections are scheduled to be announced on October 22.

Over 11,000 aspirants compete in Sindh University's second phase of entry test

Qayoom Sarohi

HYDERABAD: Over 11000 candidates including 3,211 female students took the test conducted by the University of Sindh, Jamshoro in the second phase for admissions to bachelor's degree programs for the academic year 2026 across all campuses on Sunday in a highly organized and peaceful manner.

Overall, a total of 20,618 candidates, including 15,607 male and 5,011 female appeared in both phases of pre-entry test for trying their luck to seek admissions to 72 various disciplines on over 11,000 seats across the University of Sindh and its campuses.

The test was held simultaneously at Allama I. I. Kazi Campus Jamshoro, Laar Campus Badin, Dadu Campus, Thatta Campus, and Naushahro Feroze Campus. It began at 10:10 a.m. and continued for 90 minutes without any

Before the test commenced, Vice-Chancellor Professor Dr. Fateh Muhammad Marri arrived at the Sheikh Ayaz Auditorium, where he joined the faculty, administrative officers and staff success of the test and the future of the completed.

candidates. He then formally allowed the commencement of the examination.

Later, Dr. Marri visited the Institute of Art and Design, where he briefed the media about the arrangements and the overall conduct of the second phase test.

He informed the journalists that a total of 11,278 candidates participated in the second phase of the pre-entry test across all campuses, including 8,067 male and 3,211 female candidates.

He said that out of these, 10,174 candidates appeared at the main campus in Jamshoro including 7,317 male and 2,857 female aspirants.

"At the Laar Campus Badin, 450 candidates appeared, comprising 299 male and 151 female", he said and added that the Dadu Campus recorded 431 candidates including 297 male and 134 female desirous, while 117 candidates appeared at Thatta Campus (87 male, 30 female) and 106 candidates at Naushahro Feroze Campus (67 male,

It is worth mentioning that both phases of the pre-entry test for admissions to bachelor's degree programs at the University of Sindh for the academic members in a collective prayer for the year 2026 have now been successfully



15,607 male and 5,011 female appeared 11,000 seats offered in 72 different disci-

A total of 20,618 candidates, including in both phases, competing for more than plines across the University of Sindh and

Save tomorrow: Run & Walk

ISLAMABAD: Disable persons take part during running competition title "Save Tomorrow 9Th Run and Walk at Fatima Jinnah Park organized by KKAWF, in the Federal Capital.



Youth's strong participation in Book Fair is proof of love for books: Dr Anwar Ahmed



跨 Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Renowned critic, Researcher intellectual and former Head of the National Language Promo-Ahmed, has said that the

the three-day "Gard-o-Pesh"

This would be a tribute to tion Department Dr Anwar their passion for knowledge were launched on the third and literature. Book fair host day of the fair include Akhtar large number of young Raziuddin Razi said that the Mirza, Ashhar Hassan Siddiqui and others.

decorated by Ali Naqvi and book fair is proof of their Dr. Akhtar Ali Syed, has deep commitment and love now become the literary and cultural identity of the city.

The authors whose books

Ahmad, Shahid Raheel Khan, Shaukat Naeem Qadri, Aamir Shahzad Siddiqui, Dr. Ali Athar, Mukhtar Hussain Soomro, Murtaza Ashar, Dr. Maqbool Gilani, Nayyar Mustafa, Masroor Hussain

Thousands of workers to attend upcoming Markazi Muslim League convention: Rana Jibran

👺 Zafar Chishti

Labor Federation President Rana Jibran has said that thousands of workers, laborers and employees all over the country will participate district secretariat. in the upcoming Workers Convention organized by the Markazi Muslim

He said that this convention will

sustainable solutions to their prob-TOBA TEK SINGH: Pakistan Milli lems and protecting public interests. He expressed these views while addressing the meeting of Pakistan Milli Labor Federation District Toba associated with the federation from Tek Singh which was held at the

The meeting was presided over by Milli Labor Federation Punjab President Abdul Majeed Salik while Milli Labor Federation Central prove to be a historical milestone in President Rana Jibran and District highlighting the voice of the working General Secretary of Central Muslim

attended. On this occasion, National Labor Federation of Azad Jammu and Kashmir President Mian Zafar Iqbal, Punjab General Secretary Hafiz Ehsanullah Wattoo, Toba President Abdul Jabbar Bhullar, Chaudhry Muhammad Imran Grewal and a large number of labor leaders and workers were also present.

The speakers said in their speeches that the Markazi Muslim League Workers Convention will prove to be a milestone in the promotion of unity,

class at the national level, finding League Toba Mian Sohail specially tolerance and national solidarity in the country.

Provincial President of the Federation Punjab Abdul Majeed Salik said that the workers are the real strength of the nation, and when this class is united and organized, new doors of development and prosperity open.

He expressed his determination that the Pakistan Milli Labor Federation will continue its struggle to protect the rights of workers, achieve better wages and create dignified employment opportunities.

Government must take emergency steps to control inflation: Sheikh Abdul Waheed

ISLAMABAD: President of the Central Traders Association, Liaquat Road Rawalpindi, Sheikh Abdul Waheed, stated that the lower-middle class in the country is facing severe hardships. He urged the government to take immediate and emergency measures to control inflation. He said that for a poor person, affording two meals a day has become nearly impossible. Resources are of no use unless the



average citizen of Pakistan can benefit from them.

Expressing concern over the World Bank's report that places Pakistan's poverty rate at 44.7%, Sheikh Abdul Waheed remarked that the ground realities suggest the situation is more serious than the statistics indicate. He added that inflation is now out of control, and even simple food is beyond the reach of the common man. When a person is hungry, the causes of crime increase.

Faisalabad division Administration, failed miserably to control artificial inflation

Majid Majid

FAISALABAD: The administration of the entire Faisalabad division, including Jhang, Chiniot, Toba Tek Singh, has failed miserably to control artificial inflation. The sugar crisis has intensified. The price of black sugar has reached Rs 210 per kg. Wheat prices have also increased by Rs 400 to 500 per maund, while rice prices have also increased. Meat, eggs, milk, fruit and vegetable sellers have also set their own rates. Due to the increase in flour prices, the prices of bread and naan have also increased.

The prices of tomatoes, ginger and onions have also increased continuously. Tomatoes have become Rs 600 per kg. The divisional, district administration and para-force are helpless in the face of profiteers. Private transport and base owners are looting.

History is Witness That Despite Such a Big Tragedy and the Martyr of Democracy: Khawaja Rizwan Alam

S Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Pay tribute to the martyrs of the Karsaz tragedy. We have never been afraid of martyrdom and we will never be afraid. The party is a party of the poor people who have always talked about bread, clothes and housing and are always ready to make any kind of sacrifice for the rights of the people.

The Karsaz tragedy case is still under trial, it has not ended, blood will be shed and this case will also reach its logical conclusion" these views were expressed by Pakistan People's Party South Punjab Senior Vice President Khawaja Rizwan Alam, Chief Coordinator PPP South Punjab Abdul Qadir Shaheen, City President Malik Naseem Labar, Divisional President DG Khan Asif Khan Dasti, Divisional General Secretary Dr. Javed Siddiqui, District General Secretary Rao Sajid Ali, City General Secretary AD Khan Baloch, City Secretary Information Khawaja Imran, Senior Vice Presidents Mian Manzoor Qadri and Sajid Khan Baloch, Senior Vice President Ulema Wing Mirza Nazir Baig, Former Ticket Holder Deputy Mushtaq Ansari, Divisional President PLB Qazi Munawar, Malik Iftikhar Ali, Malik Ramzan. Kamboh, Nazir Kathia, Malik Imdad Jholay Lal, Muhammad Ali Mushtaq Baloch, Mushtaq Ansari and others addressed a ceremony organized by Pakistan Peoples Party Multan City under the chairmanship of Malik Naseem Labar to commemorate the anniversary of the martyrs of the Karsaz tragedy.

The ceremony was attended by a large number of party workers and office bearers including Jamil Bhatti, Asghar Buzdar, Heavy Khan, Ashfaq Qureshi, Shabbir Alvi, Ijaz Bhatti, Malik Fayyaz Kamboh, Ramzan, Abdul Hameed, Zafar Iqbal Thahim, Javed Raj Masih, Qazi Azhar, Qazi Akbar, Qazi Tahir, Qazi Kamran, Qazi Asad Raza, Iqbal, Abrar Shah, Kamran Javed, Sadr Islam, Haji Ahmed, Abdul Ghafoor, Rab Nawaz, Rafiq Hussain, Haji Ahmed Master.

Editorial/Opinion

Monday, October 20, 2025

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Renewed violence in Gaza threatens ceasefire

srael launched deadly strikes in the Gaza Strip on Sunday, saying they were in response to attacks by Hamas militants, as the nine-day-old ceasefire in the Palestinian territory came under heavy strain.

Hamas denied attacking Israeli forces, with one official accusing Israel of devising "pretexts" to resume its own assault.

The Israeli military said in a statement: "In response to the blatant violation of the ceasefire agreement earlier today, the IDF (Israeli military) has begun a series of strikes against Hamas terror targets in the southern Gaza Strip."

That followed a number of strikes earlier on Sunday, including in Rafah in southern Gaza.

Gaza's civil defence agency, which operates under Hamas authority, said at least 21 people had been killed across the territory. The Israeli military said it was looking into the reports of casualties.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had earlier instructed security forces to take "strong action against terrorist targets in the Gaza Strip", his office said in a statement, accusing Hamas of "a ceasefire violation".

Defence Minister Israel Katz then warned that the group would "pay a heavy price for every shot and every breach of the ceasefire", adding Israel's response would "become increasingly severe".

The uneasy truce in the Palestinian territory, brokered by US President Donald Trump and taking effect on 10 October, brought to a halt more than two years of devastating war between Israel and Hamas.

The deal established the outline for hostage and prisoner exchanges, and was proposed alongside an ambitious roadmap for Gaza's future but has immediately faced challenges in implementation.

"Earlier today, terrorists fired anti-tank missiles and opened fire on IDF (army) forces," in Rafah, the military said in a statement.

"The IDF responded with air strikes by fighter jets and artillery fire, targeting the Rafah area," the statement

Palestinian witnesses told AFP clashes erupted in the southern city of Rafah in an area still held by Israel.

One witness, a 38-year-old man who asked not to be identified by name, said that Hamas had been fighting a local Palestinian gang known as Abu Shabab but the militants were "surprised by the presence of army tanks".

"The air force conducted two strikes from the air," he

Pak Army Fires Back at Indian Threats

Abdul Basit Alvi

India and Pakistan represents a distinct yet equally intractable longstanding territorial and maritime dispute, a conflict deeply rooted in the complex legacies of the colonial era, competing national interests, and sensitive strategic calculations. Despite its relatively small geographic size, this 96-kilometer-long, sinuous strip of marshy, tidal water holds substantial geopolitical, economic, and strategic importance for both nations. Located in the environmentally fragile Rann of Kutch region, bordering the Indian state of Gujarat and Pakistan's Sindh province, this tidal estuary flows directly into the highly strategic Arabian Sea and its delineation directly dictates the precise trajectory of the maritime boundary between the two countries. The stakes involved are immense, encompassing not only the immediate land boundary but also control over a substantial, resource-rich portion of the adjacent sea, which directly impacts the crucial determination of their respective Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs), the potential for untapped offshore energy resources, and vital fishing areas that are essential for sustaining the livelihoods of thousands of local inhabitants on both

From a critical strategic and military perspective, the creek's physical proximity to the highly sensitive international border makes it a critical area for constant surveillance and rigorous security. The difficult terrain, characterized by shifting mudflats, dense mangrove forests, and narrow, complex channels, is potentially conducive to illegal crossings, large-scale smuggling operations, and the infiltration of non-state actors. Thus, strategic control over this area is seen as vital to the broader national security architectures of

he Sir Creek issue between both nations, and the unresolved nature of the dispute actively contributes to the deep, pervasive mistrust that fundamentally characterizes the India-Pakistan relationship, consequently hindering broader regional cooperation and development

> Recently, the issue has been sharply thrust back into the public spotlight

> and media discourse following a series of aggressive and highly provocative statements from India's senior defense and military leadership. India's Defence Minister Rajnath Singh publicly claimed that Pakistan was actively constructing military infrastructure near Sir Creek and

issued a strong, unambiguous warning of a decisive response to any "misadventure" by Pakistan. Speaking at an army base in Gujarat on the occasion of the Hindu festival of 'Vijayadashami', Singh accused Pakistan of "malafide" intentions and continuing to raise unnecessarv concerns over the Sir Creek sector despite India's purported repeated efforts at dialogue. He threatened that any future Pakistani misadventure would be met with a response so severe that it would "change both history and geography," ominously stating that the "road to Karachi also passes through the creek," a direct reference to the Indian Army's so-called military reach to Lahore in the 1965 conflict. Simultaneously, Indian Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi issued a separate, equally strong threat, warning that if cross-border terrorism persisted, Pakistan would be compelled to "rethink its place in the world map" entirely. He further stated that in any future conflict, India would not exhibit the

and largely forgotten "Operation Sindoor." Adding to this escalating military rhetoric, Indian Air Force (IAF) chief Air Marshal Amar Preet Singh re-asserted an earlier, controversial claim that four to five Pakistani fighter jets, mostly the advanced F-16s, were allegedly destroyed during the aforementioned "Operation Sindoor" in May, claiming a "long operation" was

carried out at a depth of 300 km inside Pakistan, severely damaging military installations. This claim echoed an earlier statement by another IAF chief about shooting down at least six Pakistani aircraft. However. Pakistan's Defence

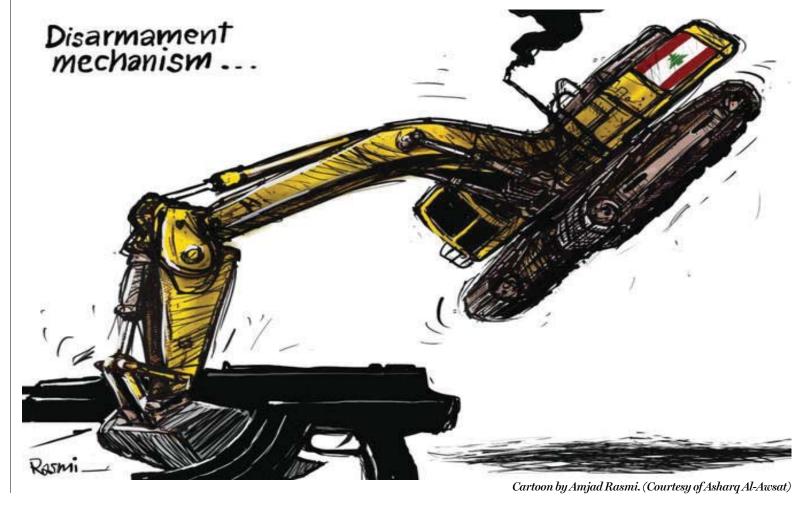
Minister Khawaja Asif has categorically and publicly denied these claims, asserting that not a single Pakistani aircraft was hit. Pakistan, in fact, maintains a counter-claim to have successfully shot down multiple Indian warplanes, including a highly advanced Rafale jet. Even President Donald Trump has publicly mentioned the destruction of several Indian aircraft. India's Chief of Defence Staff, Anil Chauhan, has conspicuously avoided confirming the exact number of downed Indian planes, stating that the political focus should primarily be on the reason for them being shot down, not the exact number.

The Pakistan Army has publicly declared that it is taking these recent, highly inflammatory Indian threats with the utmost seriousness. The Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) department reacted strongly, expressing "deep concern" over the "unrealistic, provocative and war-mongering statements" made by the top Indian security and military leadership. The ISPR suggested that

strategic restraint shown during the past India's security establishment is actively attempting to manufacture pretexts for future aggression and warned that such statements could have dire, large-scale consequences for regional peace and stability in South Asia. The statement recalled that Indian aggression in May had already brought the two nuclear-armed powers to the perilous brink of war and warned that the recent provocations could tragically lead to large-scale, mutually assured destruction, asserting that Pakistan would respond promptly and decisively to any violation of its sovereignty.

> The most recent Corps Commanders' Conference further underscored this firm position, expressing profound concern over the "irresponsible and provocative statements" from the Indian political leadership, viewing them as a continuation of "creating war hysteria for domestic political interests." The military forum definitively reiterated that any aggression by India would be met with an immediate and decisive response, and that any notion of the enemy's "geographical superiority will be utterly destroyed." The Pakistan Army firmly asserts its superior capabilities and resolve to take the fight to "every corner of the enemy territory," warning India that any attempt to turn its verbal threats into reality would inevitably result in a severe lesson and mutual damage.

> The message concludes with a powerful reflection on the unwavering unity and fierce patriotism of the entire Pakistani nation standing united behind its professional armed forces, bolstered by a strong faith, which they profoundly believe makes them invincible to any enemy. India is thus explicitly advised to learn from the undeniable failures of the past and refrain from further, dangerous aggression that would only result in defeat and political



Pakistan and Afghanistan's Deteriorating Relations

he relationship between Paki- ference. Afghanistan alleges that Pakistan and Afghanistan has by mutual suspicion, political tension, and fluctuating cooperation. Despite sharing deep cultural, religious, linguistic, and historical bonds, both countries have struggled to build lasting ghanistan trade has significantly declined trust. The recent years, especially following the Taliban's return to power in Afghan-

phase of friction between the two neighbors. Border clashes, the resurgence of terrorism, refugee crises, and conflicting political statements have brought bilateral ties to a critical

The roots of Pakistan Afghanistan tensions trace back to 1947 when

Muhammad Asif Pakistan gained independence. Afghanistan was the only country that voted against Pakistan's admission to the United Nations, setting an early tone of mistrust. The Durand Line, drawn by the British in once again in the tribal districts. 1893, remains one of the most contentious issues between the two countries. While Pakistan regards it as an internationally recognized boundary, successive Afghan governments have refused to accept it as legitimate.

Afghan Refugee Issue: Pakistan currently hosts around three million Afghan refugees. The prolonged stay has created socio-economic challenges. Islamabad's recent decision to repatriate undocumented Afghans has added further strain to bilateral rela-

Diplomatic Imbalance and Mistrust: Both nations accuse each other of inter-

stan attempts to influence its internal always been complex marked affairs, while Pakistan suspects that Kabul is leaning closer to India, undermining its security interests.

Economic and Trade Barriers: Once valued in billions of dollars, Pakistan-Afdue to political instability, frequent border closures, and inconsistent policies. Informal istan in 2021, have witnessed another trade and smuggling have increased as a

> result. Regional Peace and Stability: The instability between Pakistan and Afghanistan threatens the broader South and Central Asian region. The porous border remains a hotspot for terrorist movements and cross-border mili-

tancy. Resurgence of Terrorism in Pakistan: The TTP's renewed attacks have endangered Pakistan's internal security, forcing its military to launch counterterrorism operations

Economic Losses: Both countries face economic setbacks due to declining trade and border restrictions. Informal trade channels have grown, depriving both governments of crucial revenue.

Humanitarian Crisis: The repatriation of Afghan refugees and border closures have led to humanitarian suffering. Thousands of families remain stranded, facing uncer-

Impact on International Relations: The tension has created opportunities for external powers. India seeks to expand its influence in Afghanistan, while China, Iran, and Russia are increasingly involved

in regional mediation and security frame-

Sustained Dialogue: Both countries must replace reactionary politics with continuous and structured dialogue. A joint border coordination committee could help manage security incidents and build trust.

Joint Counterterrorism Framework: Afghanistan should take concrete steps against TTP and other militant groups. Pakistan, in turn, must respect Afghanistan's sovereignty and avoid unilateral actions.

Economic Cooperation: Enhancing bilateral trade, reopening border markets, and encouraging joint investment can strengthen mutual interdependence and reduce hostility. Refugee Repatriation with Dignity: A humane and coordinated plan, involving the UN and other international bodies, should ensure the safe and voluntary return of Afghan refugees.

Regional Cooperation Platforms: Multilateral forums like the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) can facilitate constructive engagement between Islamabad and Kabul.

Pakistan and Afghanistan share not just a border but also intertwined destinies. Both nations have suffered immensely from decades of war, extremism, and mistrust. However, the path to peace lies in mutual understanding, respect for sovereignty, and cooperation on shared challenges. If both countries move beyond historical grievances and adopt pragmatic diplomacy, regional stability and prosperity are achievable. Failure to do so will not only endanger bilateral relations but also the peace and development of the entire region.

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Whispers on the Durand: The Hidden Hands Behind a Border War

Oudsia Imran

akistan has again awakened to the peculiar sound of a frontier crying out: not simply the thunder of ordnance but the quieter, more dangerous noises of accusation, diplomacy and strategic theater. Spin Boldak — has been both ferocious and bewildering: dozens killed, hundreds wounded, trade arteries choked, and communities once intertwined by commerce now shuttered in fear. What has changed is less the geography than the audibility of the region's raw grievances: old injuries, new actors, and an international diplomacy suddenly scrambling to paper over a conflagration. (Reuters)

If Pakistan is to reclaim agency it must adopt a strategy that is simultaneously hard-headed and creative. Military deterrence retains its place, but deterrence without verification begets cycles of reprisal. Islamabad should insist on mechanisms that convert ceasefires into enforceable, verifiable protocols: neutral monitoring, third-party verification of allegations, joint border posts with calibrated rules of engagement, rapid-response humanitarian corridors, and a rolling calendar of substantive security talks. These are bureaucratic measures, not a panacea, but they are precisely the sort of durable architecture that

short charismatic statements cannot build. At the same time Pakistan must sharpen its diplomacy. That requires shedding the language of permanent victimhood and instead articulating a positive, enforceable set of demands: non-harbor guarantees, transparent incident-reporting protocols, and concrete compensation mechanisms for civilian harm. Equally, Islamabad must pursue economic strategies that lessen the border's fragility: cross-border economic zones, incentives for local stability, and diversification of trade routes that reduce the country's vulnerability to episodic closures. This combination of security architecture and economic hedging

is the practical essence of sovereignty in the twentv-first century.

The international community has an ethical and strategic stake in getting this right. South Asian stability is not a remote interest; it is integral to broader questions of terrorism, migration, energy transit and regional trade. The Doha mediation offers a window: Qatar and Türkiye have shown that diplo-The latest round of cross-border exchanges along the macies with credibility and access can convene bellig-Durand Line — in Chaman, Kurram, Torkham and erent parties. Third parties must now move beyond statements and provide the technical, forensic, and institutional support that will make agreements durable rather than headline-driven. Absent that, any ceasefire will be only an interlude in a recurring

Finally, there is a moral dimension that cannot be securitized away. Language matters in politics; when governments reduce complex human suffering to casualty counts and strategic gains, they hollow out the social compact that binds citizens to state. As the Durand frontier cools and diplomats measure the next steps in Doha, those who craft strategy must remember that legitimacy is built not only from victories but from the consistent protection of human life and dignity

"A lasting peace cannot be enforced at gunpoint; it must be guaranteed through trust, law, and shared accountability."

The paths to such a guarantee are narrow and arduous, but they exist: persistent third-party mediation, credible verification, and economic incentives for border communities. If these are neglected, the whispers on the Durand will become cries, and the hidden hands behind the conflict will have succeeded in making the frontier a permanent instrument of regional pressure rather than a zone of cooperative exchange. For Pakistan and its neighbors, the choice is stark: continue a drift into episodic conflagration, or finally construct institutions that convert fragile ceasefires into durable peace.

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IAEA Regional Training Course at NIAB concluded

Bureau Report

FAISALABAD: Regional Training Course (RTC) on agriculture came to a close on a high note at Nuclear Institute for Agriculture and Biology (NIAB), a leading research institution of Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC), here on Friday.

The RTC which commenced on October 6 was titled "Advanced Mutation Breeding Techniques for the Improvement of Nutritional Quality." Organized under the framework of the IAEA technical cooperation project RAS5101, the training course brought together 30 participants from 14 member states of the Agency including Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Fiji, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam besides Pakistan. Whereas two IAEA experts, one from China and another from Bulgaria, also took part.

Addressing the concluding ceremony as Chief Guest, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Youssef Saleem, Director General, Agriculture & Biotechnology, PAEC, congratulated IAEA, NIAB and the participants for making the interactive training course



population is increasing at a ants are posing another serious fast rate and while the country is blessed with diverse landscapes and a varied climate, it is severely affected by the impacts of climate change and natural calamities. We have to adapt to climate change and its impacts. This is not only true for Pakistan but also the region. To face this common challenge, we have to share our knowledge and expertise. The gravest of the issues faced is health related, caused livestock is also reeling. Deplesuccessful. He said, "Pakistan's tion of water sources and pollut-

problem. Emergence of new pathogens has further added to these challenges. Mutation breeding offers solutions to these diverse challenges as we can solve these problems by changing the genetic architecture of organisms. We also need to shift our dietary habits. We have to utilise pulses, cereals and mushrooms to fulfil our dietary and nutritional requirements."

He shared with the gathby malnutrition from which our ering that Pakistan is an active member of Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC), an interna-

tional body that establishes food standards to protect consumer health and ensure fair trade practices.

Prof. Dr. Muhammad Youssef Saleem further said, "In the next 25 years, the world will need new pharmaceuticals, medicines and foods for which biodiversification and use of mutation is need of the hour. We need to change research modalities by adopting proactive and cumulative needbased strategies as a ray of hope for attaining food security since there can be no food security without food safety."

He added, "PAEC is striving hard to achieve this goal and Pakistan is ready to cooperate with all countries of the world through the IAEA program."

Earlier, Dr. Uzma Maqbool, Director NIAB, said, "As we conclude the RTC. I have a feeling that we have done something commendable by sharing insightful knowledge and expertise. Pakistan has a long history of collaboration with the IAEA for promoting sustainable agriculture. This collaboration is now bearing fruit for the Asia Pacific region, aptly termed food

basket' of the world."

Director NIAB further said, "We are committed to foster this culture of sharing and collaboration under the aegis of IAEA, for healthier and more resilient crops and a world free from the menace of malnutrition and food insecurity.

On this occasion, Dr. Zia-ul-Qamar, the Course Director from NIAB said, "I would like to thank you all for the active participation in the course which resulted in gaining valuable hands-on-experience. The RTC improvement, soil management, was very helpful in grooming and plant nutrition. This is the technical skills of all stakeholders and building enduring course organised by the Govt. relationships that will go a long of Pakistan through PAEC's

Dr. Kai Wang, the IAEA center, NIAB in 2025.

expert from China, commended Pakistan's consistent role in supporting regional capacity building.

The training course featured interactive sessions, laboratory demonstrations, and field visits. The participants showed great interest in these activities. It is pertinent to mention here that NIAB is a designated IAEA Collaborating Centre in Food and Agriculture, recognized for its outstanding contributions to nuclear applications in crop third IAEA regional training premier agriculture research

Pak-EPA launches comprehensive action plan to tackle air pollution and smog in Islamabad

👺 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Environmental Protection Agency (Pak-EPA) has rolled out a comprehensive Vehicular Emission Control Action Plan (VECAP) for the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT), marking a major policy initiative to combat air pollution and smog in the capital city.

This was announced on Sunday by Muhammad Saleem Shaikh, Media structured, long-term framework that Spokesperson for the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination.

Unveiled under the Ministry's superall relevant governmental stakeholders including ICT administration, Islam-

The ministry official said that Standards (NEQS). following heat-trapping industrial pollution in Islamabad. These emisparty emission testing for private and

monoxide, nitrogen oxides, hydrocarbons, and fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}), which contribute significantly to respiratory and cardiovascular illnesses.

"This ambitious action plan provides a clear and viable roadmap to cleaner, healthier air for Islamabad's citizens," said Mr. Shaikh. "It moves beyond temporary measures and builds a combines enforcement with innovation and public engagement through awareness and advocacy."

Explaining the salient features of the vision and in close coordination with Pak-EPA's plan, the ministry spokesperson said that the short-term phase (0-18 months) focuses on strong abad Transport Authority and ICT enforcement and community aware-Traffic Police, the plan outlines both ness. Under this phase, Pak-EPA short- and long-term measures to and the Islamabad Traffic Police will regulate exhaust emissions, modernize conduct regular and surprise roadurban transport, and improve air side inspections to ensure compliance with National Environmental Quality

emissions, the rapidly increasing vehic- NEQS compliance for all govern- and water tankers, while all petrol ular emissions have emerged as one ment transport fleets within the spec-vehicles would be checked for catalytic of the leading sources of choking air ified timeframe and introduces third-converters. Burning of trash and solid

laboratories. Vehicle owners will be required to obtain mandatory emission compliance certificates, which will be linked with registration and transfer

The ministry official Mohammad Saleem Shaikh said that city-wide public awareness campaigns would be launched through television, radio, and digital media to promote regular vehicle maintenance and discourage the use of smoke-emitting vehicles at all levels.

Sharing details of recent enforcement efforts launched by Pak-EPA Islamabad in collaboration with ICT Administration and Traffic Police during the Vehicular Emissions Monitoring Campaign 2024-25, Mr. Shaikh said that during a vehicular emission monitoring campaign held at eight major checkpoints in the capital, 215 vehicles were fined and 32 impounded for violating emission limits

The plan mandates 100 per cent be placed on diesel-run buses, trucks, waste would also be strictly prohib-

commercial vehicles through certified ited under ICT Administration's over- that all fuel stations in Islamabad tion Department, Capital Development sight, and those found involved in open burning will be fined under the Pakistan Environmental Protection Act

> "Above all, public participation is key," Mr. Shaikh emphasised. "Cleaner air cannot be achieved by enforcement alone. Citizens, transporters and institutions must all contribute by maintaining vehicles, avoiding open burning, and supporting the shift toward low-emission mobility."

Meanwhile, sharing details of the long-term phase (18–60 months) of the EVPP, Mr. Shaikh said that a structural shift toward cleaner fuels and technol-

ogies will be a major focus of this stage. "Under this long-term phase to overcome air pollution challenges in the capital, a Comprehensive Electric

Vehicle Promotion Programme EV charging stations across Islamabad, air quality and reducing greenhouse introduce a 10 per cent EV quota in He said special focus would now government fleets, and offer incentives such as tax exemptions and dedicated EV lanes," he the ministry spokesperson Mohammad Saleem Shaikh said.

> He added that the Fuel Quality Upgradation Initiative would ensure

switch to Euro-5 standard fuels by 2027 and Euro-6 by 2030, aligning Pakistan with international clean-fuel

A Vehicle Retirement Policy would also be introduced to gradually phase out older, high-emission vehicles, particularly those older than 10-15 years, under a structured scheme offering financial incentives. Mandatory fitness tests would be required for all vehicles older than five years, while environmentally controlled scrapping

facilities will be established for vehicle

disposal, the official climate change

ministry highlighted. "The Ministry's overarching goal is to make Islamabad a model city for clean and climate-smart transport," Mr. Saleem Shaikh said. "This is part of Pakistan's broader commit-(EVPP) will be launched to establish ment to achieving sustainable urban

> framework, Mr. Shaikh explained align its transport emissions policy with that the action plan would be executed modern global environmental standthrough multi-agency coordination, ards, while setting an example for other involving the joint efforts of Pak-EPA, cities across the country to follow, the

Authority (CDA), Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA), and Islamabad Traffic Police.

He noted that this collaborative approach lies at the heart of the plan's success, as it combines policy reform, enforcement, and technology adoption to deliver lasting environmental

"The success of this plan will depend on sustained institutional support, inter-agency cooperation and active public participation," he cautioned. "Cleaner air for Islamabad is achievable only when every stakeholder, from policymakers to commuters, plays their role responsibly for the sake of their own and environmental health but also for the health of future generation and city's environmental sustainability."

If implemented effectively with cooperation and coordination of all relevant stakeholders and the public, the Pak-EPA's roadman would make Discussing the implementation Islamabad the first Pakistani city to ICT Administration, Excise and Taxaministry official Saleem shaikh said.

Women's Empowerment Fuels Tourism Growth: Dr. Ehsan Bhutta

Spokesman Report

PATRIATA: Secretary Tourism, Archaeology & Museums, Government of Punjab, Dr. Ehsan Bhutta, has emphasized that women's dynamic participation in tourism and adventure sports is vital to strengthening Pakistan's global image and inclusive, eco-friendly, and fostering sustainable economic

Addressing the participants Tourism Development Corpo-

Bhutta stated that under the visionary leadership of Chief Minister Punjab, Ms. Maryam Nawaz, and the patronage of Senior Minister for Tourism and Culture, Ms. Maryam Aurangzeb, the Tourism Department is implementing a comprehensive strategy to promote adventure-based tourism across

He noted that initiatives of the Two-Day Female Bikers such as the Female Bikers Gala Camping Gala, organized by the reflect the Government's strong commitment to gender incluration of Punjab (TDCP) at sivity, environmental steward-Patriata (New Murree), Dr. ship, and responsible tourism.



the courage and determination of our women but also symbol- Bhutta remarked. izes Punjab's progressive vision

"This event not only celebrates for equitable participation in all spheres of national life," Dr.

participation of women bikers reflecting the spirit of national adventure tourism. Government will continue to adventure and eco-tourism. expand such transformative of digital influencers and travel Punjab's breathtaking landscapes and vibrant tourism potential to global audiences through modern media platforms.

influencers and travel bloggers from Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) inclusive, and inspiring oppor- and projects a positive image of Commending the enthusiastic also participated in the event, tunities for women to excel in Pakistan on the global stage.

from various districts of Punjab, unity and interprovincial collab-Dr. Bhutta reaffirmed that the oration in promoting Pakistan's

The two-day gala, held from initiatives through TDCP. He October 18 to 19, 2025, featured also highlighted the crucial role an engaging array of activities including camping, guided content creators in showcasing biking trails, professional safety adventure. workshops, and interactive sessions on eco-tourism and sustainable travel practices.

Managing Director TDCP, event embodies TDCP's forwardlooking vision to provide safe,

The gala concluded with a prize distribution ceremony, where distinguished participants were honoured with certificates, shields, and souvenirs in recognition of their exceptional enthusiasm, leadership, and spirit of

Dr. Bhutta reaffirmed that the Punjab Tourism Department remains steadfast in its mission to develop a vibrant, respon-He added that social media Mr. Asim Raza, stated that the sible, and inclusive tourism ecosystem—one that empowers communities, preserves heritage,

COMSTECH and Gaza-Palestine Universities Consortium Sign MoU to Strengthen Scientific and Educational Cooperation

👺 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: COMSTECH, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation has signed a landmark Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Consortium of Universities, Gaza-Palestine comprising of seven universities of Gaza-Palestine, aimed at fostering long-term collaboration in higher education, scientific research, and institutional rebuilding of Gaza's academic sector.

The MoU was signed by Prof. Dr. Muhammad Igbal Choudhary, Coordinator General, OIC-COMSTECH, and Prof. Ayman M. F. Sobh, President of Al-Aqsa University, representing the Consortium of Gaza Al-Aqsa University, University

of Palestine, Al Azhar University, training programs in cutting-Islamic University of Gaza, Gaza University, Israa University, and Al-Quds Open University. Under the MOU, COMS-

TECH and the Consortium of Universities, Gaza-Palestine will cooperate to promote joint educational and scientific programs, organize international conferences and training courses, and facilitate exchange visits of faculty, researchers, and technical experts. The initiative also includes the integration of Gaza universities into the COMS-TECH Consortium of Excellence (CCoE) and their registration in the OIC Technology and Innovation Portal, expanding access to collaborative opportunities across the Muslim world.

COMSTECH will further support Gaza's universities Universities, which includes through faculty development, sabbatical visits, and short-term

edge fields such as Artificial Intelligence, Cybersecurity, Medicine, Allied Health Sciences, Natural Sciences, and Information Technology.

The MoU underscores the commitment of both parties to strengthen institutional capacity and academic resilience in Gaza through cooperative research, innovation, and scientific

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Iqbal Choudhary, Coordinator General, OIC-COMSTECH, stated "This important step will be greatly helpful in connecting universities from Gaza-Palestine with more than eighty leading higher education and research institutions across OIC member states. COMSTECH will continue to assist the universities of Gaza in their rebuilding and rehabilita-

tion through close academic and research collaborations.

He emphasized that the partnership aligns with COMS-TECH's broader mission of empowering OIC member states through scientific and technological cooperation and using education as a tool for sustainable recovery and development.

Ealier, the delegation from Gaza-Palestine spent a very busy day at the OIC-COMSTECH Secretariat in Islamabad. They attended an important meeting chaired by Prof. Dr. Muhammad Iqbal Choudhary, Coordinator General, OIC-COMSTECH, during which they were briefed on various COMSTECH-led initiatives and programs aimed at fostering scientific cooperation among OIC member states. The delegation showed keen interest in these initiatives and appreciated COMSTECH's ongoing



and senior representatives of universities from Gaza-Palesvisit to Pakistan on the invitation

efforts for capacity-building and with leadership of leading Paki- higher education institutions in stani universities in Islamabad, Faisalabad, and Lahore, which The first-ever delegation are member institutions of the expressed deep appreciation comprising Vice Chancellors COMSTECH Consortium of to COMSTECH and Pakistani Excellence (CCoE). The visit aims universities for their continued to explore avenues of academic support in promoting educational tine is currently on a week-long collaboration, scientific exchange, and scientific and expressing and institutional partnership of OIC-COMSTECH During the to support the rebuilding and

Gaza, Palestine.

The delegation members solidarity with Gaza-Palestine 's academic community at this critvisit, the delegation is meeting strengthening of the capacity of ical time.

Bull & Bears PSX 100-Share

iiiac	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: FT	SE 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			
	+183.28			
46,135.52				
46,135.52 Percentage	Time			
	Time 17 Oct, 1:55 pm GMT-4			

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

Open Market Forex Rates

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	185.5	190.5
Bahrain Dinar	746.7	754.2
Canadian Dollar	205.5	212.5
China Yuan	39.85	40.25
Danish Krone	44.6	45.2
Euro	331.8	335.3
Hong Kong Dollar	36.5	36.85
Indian Rupee	3.13	3.22
Japanese Yen	1.8762	1.9762
Kuwaiti Dinar	913.4	922.4
Malaysian Ringgit	67.25	67.85
NewZealand \$	164.8	166.8
Norwegians Krone	28.3	28.6
Omani Riyal	731	738.5
Qatari Riyal	77.3	78
Saudi Riyal	75.35	76
Singapore Dollar	216.75	221.5
0 11 17	00.05	00.05

357.77

77.8

282.65 282.85

76.8

Business Deals Worth USD 180 Million **Finalized** at Pakistan Industrial Expo 2025

Commerce Desk

U.A.E Dirham

LAHORE: Business deals amounting to USD 180 million were finalized at the 9th Pakistan Industrial Expo 2025, held at the Lahore Expo Centre, marking a significant boost to Pakistan-China industrial cooperation.

The three-day event, organized by Everest International Expo Pvt. Ltd., hosted around 200 companies from Pakistan and China and attracted over 20,000 professional visitors.

The exhibition showcased modern industrial solutions in CNC machinery, power and energy, automation, and manufacturing technologies, aligning with Pakistan's Vision 2025 and industrial modernization goals under

Yousaf Fa, CEO of Everest International Expo, said the expo has evolved into a "powerful symbol of sustained economic partnership," adding that this year's record business activity reflected "growing investor confidence in Pakistan's industrial potential."

Armughan Muqeem, Managing Partner of Everest, emphasized the company's commitment to developing human capital and industrial capacity. "We are not only facilitating trade but also investing in people, training youth, and expanding our industrial ecosystem," he noted.

Zishan Hashmi, General Manager, highlighted that the event continues to serve as "a bridge between innovation and opportunity," connecting Pakistan's manufacturing sector with global technology providers.

Building on this success, organizers announced that the *10th Pakistan Industrial Expo* will be held in Lahore in September 2026, with wider participation from industrial associations, chambers, and universities.

2nd Memon Leadership Conference to be held in Mombasa, Kenya from October 21

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: The Second Memon Leadership Conference is set to take place on October 21 and 22 at the Paradise Hotel in Mombasa, Kenya. The international event will bring together prominent Memon leaders and business figures from across the globe to discuss community development, cross-border trade, and technology collaboration.

According to Rafiq Suleman, Chairman of the East Africa Chapter of the Memon Leadership Conference and former Chairman of the Rice Exporters Association of Pakistan, the event will host delegates from various countries including Pakistan, Bangladesh, South Africa, Mozambique, the United States, the United Kingdom, Saudi Arabia, Canada, Thailand, and others.

The Pakistan chapter will be represented by a delegation of around 25 to 30 participants, including notable business leaders such as



Ageel Karim Dhedhi, Abdul Rahim Janoo, and other respected members of the Memon business community.

Rafiq Suleman highlighted that the first Memon Leadership Conference was held in Karachi from January 19 to 22, 2020, and served as a platform to unite Memon leaders globally. "The aim of this conference is to bring Memon leaders together, promote mutual understanding of challenges, encourage networking, and strengthen the global Memon community by sharing business opportunities," he said.

He further added that the 2025 conference will include discussions on cross-border trade, business collaborations, and technology transfer, as well as opportunities for inter-community cooperation and economic empow-

Delegates from various Memon chapters worldwide have already arrived in Kenya, and preparations for the event are in full swing.

Visit

CHINIOT: Federal Minister for Board of investment, Qaiser Ahmad Shaikh, visiting the free medical camp in flood affected area on Sunday.



Iftikhar Malik urges Taliban to honor Doha Pledge, stop attacks from Afghan soil

Example 2 Commerce Desk

LAHORE: The SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry former President Iftikhar Ali Malik Sunday called for the Afghan Taliban regime to honour their Doha commitment forthwith aimed at promoting peace in the region, particularly between Pakistan and Afghanistan preventing Afghan soil from being used against Pakistan.

In a statement here today the octogenarian South Asia trade leader said The Doha agreement, signed between the United States and the Taliban in February 2020, outlined various commitments from both sides. One key aspect of the agreement was the Taliban's assurance that they would not allow Afghan territory to be used by any group or individual to threaten the security of other countries, including Pakistan, he added.

By urging the Afghan Taliban to fulfill their commitment, emphasised the significance of stability and cooperation between both Muslim countries. By preventing Afghan soil from being utilized for subversive activities that could harm Pakistan, he believes that both countries can work towards maintaining durable peace in the their commitment, Iftikhar Ali Malik he concluded.



He said promoting peace and stability

in the region is crucial and pre-requisite for fostering economic growth, facilitating trade, and enhancing the overall well-being of the people in region. It is in the best interests to ensure that their territories are not used as safe havens for extremist groups or as launchpads for cross-border attacks, he asserted.

said Pakistan had raised the issue of cross border terrorism with the Afghan authorities on a number of occasions, but without any concrete response. He said under prevailing mounting simmering tension now it's high time for the top leadership of The Afghsn Taliban take immediate stringent steps to rein in armed terrorists from launching attacks and dismantle their bases. This is direly needed for good broth-By reminding the Afghan Taliban of erly relations between the two countries,

MOU signed between Pakistan Association of Exhibition Industry and Jang Media Group



Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Pakistan Association of Exhibition Industry (PAEI) Founder Chair-

on 22-23 November 2025. A detailed briefing was

given about the 8th Pakistan International Property Expo and Tourism Investman Khurshid Barlas met ment Summit Karachi with Jang Media Group between Pakistan Associa-CEO Sarmad Ali at his tion of Exhibition Industry office, Founder Chairman, and Jang Media Group Khurshid Barlas briefed Sarmad Ali and Khurshid him about the 8th Pakistan Barlas signed an MOU docu-International Property Expo ment under which Jang will which is being held at Pearl be a part of this exhibition as Continental Hotel Karachi a media partner.

South Punjab Food Industry gets tax relief advocate: Saif Ur Rehman returns as FTO Coordinator

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: Federal Tax Ombudsman Dr Asif Mahmood Jan, Sitara-I-Imtiaz and Hilal-I-Imtiaz has re-appointed eminent industrialist and leading food exporter Saif Ur Rehman as South Punjab, with immediate effective.

According to a notification issued here today Saif Ur Rehman brings with him a wealth of experience from the food industry and is recognized as one of the leading exporters in the sector. His re-appointment aims to address tax-related issues faced by However, on the other hand

the food industry in South Punjab and promote a better understanding of the role of the Federal Tax Ombudsman's office in resolving such matters. Through this role, he will help facilitate smoother operations for businesses by ensuring their his Coordinator on Food for tax concerns are addressed promptly and efficiently. Saif Ur Rehman will focus on raising awareness within the business community about the importance of engaging with the FTO office to resolve their tax-related malpractices ensuring a more transparent and supportive environment for the food industry in the region.

UAE Investors seek joint ventures in Pakistan's booming snack industry

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: Convener Federation ties. During business interactions and of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce investment meetings, UAE investors and Industry regional committee on acknowledged Pakistan's vast potenfood shahid Imran Sunday said UAE tial in producing high-quality food private sector has evinced keen interest in collaboration and joint ventures competitive labor force, and advanced with Pakistani counterparts in the processing capabilities. Pakistani rapidly growing food processing industry, particularly in the snacks would not only boost exports but also segment.

According to a message received here today from Dubai, the Pak The partnership will pave the way for food delegation is currently on busi-

avenues and investment opportuniproducts for its rich agricultural base, food exporters said such collaboration create employment opportunities and strengthen bilateral economic ties. setting up modern snack processing snack products in the Gulf region.

ness tour of UAE to explore export units and distribution networks across the UAE, ensuring consistent supply of top-quality Pakistani food products. Both sides agreed that continued engagement through trade exhibitions, investment forums, and business-to-business meetings will further deepen cooperation and unlock the full potential of the food

UAE entrepreneurs believe that joint ventures with Pakistani companies can help meet their increasing demand for diverse and affordable



They also emphasized the opportunities for technology transfer, pack- product competitiveness in internaaging innovation, and halal certifica-

tion partnerships that can enhance tional markets.

French pair win ice dance at home figure skating Grand Prix





Sports Desk

French pair Guillaume Cizeron and his new partner Laurence Fournier Beaudry produced a captivating free dance routine to win gold at their first international competition together at the French Grand Prix in Angers on Sunday.

Third after the rhythm dance despite a fall at the end of the programme, they

managed to climb back up the rankings thanks to a wonderful performance in the free dance, skated to the mysterious music of the soundtrack from the film The Whale'.

Their performance earned them 133.02 points, an impressive score for the start of the season.

The pair won with a total of 211.02 points, 0.8 points ahead of the British duo Lilah Fear and Lewis Gibson (210.24 points) who had led after a spicy routine in the rhythm dance.

Lithuanians Allison Reed and Saulius Ambrulevicius took third place.

Angers is the first of the six ISU Grand Prix as competitors build towards the Olympics which get under way on February 6 in northern

South African cricketers enjoy shopping spree in Islamabad after training

Sports Desk

South African players took some time off to explore Islamabad after completing their training session and enjoyed a shopping trip at a popular mall in the capital,24NewsHDTV reported on Sunday.

The players were seen chatting and strolling through the mall, taking in the local atmosphere and interacting with fans. According to witnesses, the visiting cricketers showed great interest in Pakistan's traditional and cultural products, including handicrafts, clothing, and souvenirs.

Several players also bought various items for themselves and their families, making the most of their leisure time ahead of their upcoming matches.

The relaxed outing offered a glimpse of the lighter side of the team's tour, highlighting their appreciation for Pakistan's hospitality and vibrant culture.



Irfan Mehsood breaks another Guinness World record in finger-tip push-ups

Sports Desk

Pakistani martial artist Irfan Mehsood has once again made the nation proud by breaking another Guinness World Record — this time in the category of finger-tip push-ups with weight, 24NewsHDTV reported on Sunday.

Mehsood surpassed the previous record held by Norway's Sverre Diesen, who completed 38 finger-tip push-ups in one minute, carrying 80 pounds.

The Pakistani athlete performed 42 push-ups in the same time under the same conditions, securing his latest world title.

This marks Mehsood's 70th world record in various push-up categories, the highest by any athlete globally.

Over the years, he has achieved records with 100, 80, 60, and 40-pound weights, in addition to other fitness disciplines, including martial arts, push-ups, squats, step-ups, knee strikes, elbow strikes, high jumps, and star jumps.



Commenting on his achievements, for Excellence in 2023 and takes pride over the past nine years. Irfan Mehsood said he was honored to in being the first Pakistani to have have received the Presidential Award achieved 150 Guinness World Records students have followed in his footsteps



He also highlighted that 20 of his

by setting their own Guinness World Records, further bringing international

Pakistan mull third spinner as they look for South Africa sweep

Sports Desk

Pakistan could include a third spinner against South Africa as the hosts try to sweep the series 2-0 in the second Test in Rawalpindi, head coach Azhar Mahmood said Sunday.

Pakistan beat World Test champions South Africa by 93 runs inside four days last week, with spinners taking 34 of the 40 wickets on a turning Gaddafi Stadium

Mahmood said either leg-spinner Abrar Ahmed or uncapped 38-year-old left-armer Asif Afridi could be called up for the second and final Test beginning on Monday on a dry Rawalpindi pitch.

Left-armer Noman Ali took 10 wickets in the first Test while his spin partner Sajid

Khan finished with six. With the pitch in Rawalpindi likely



Mahmood stressed that first innings runs will be crucial, whether batting first

"The pitch looks dry... so you need to

to turn more as the match goes on, score big and not depend on the toss for a

favourable result," said Mahmood. South Africa will be bolstered by the return of experienced left-arm spinner

Keshav Maharaj, who missed the first Test

with a groin strain.

"Keshav is fit, and obviously it is great to have him back," said South Africa stand-in captain Aiden Markram.

He brings in great experience and a really good skill set."

Maharaj is likely to partner Senuran Muthusamy, who excelled with 11 wickets

"It is really important for us to try to level the series," said Markram, who is captain because Temba Bavuma is injured. We are expecting more spin in this

Test, but it is an opportunity for us." Tony de Zorzi made a century in the first Test, and Markram said the South Africans had "tapped into him" to understand "what worked against the Pakistan

"It is good to have someone with that confidence," he added.

Medicam Trophy U-19 Inter Zonal Cricket Tournament.

Sports Desk

KARACHI: Two more matches decided in the Medicam Trophy Under-19 Inter Zonal Cricket at various Grounds of the City. The highlights of the days play was brilliant Century 114 by Huzaifa Ahsan and deadly bowling by Burhan Ali 5/15 as slow

Scores in Brief: Zone-I Whites beat Zone-V Blues by 23 runs at Annu Bhai Park Ground. Zone-I Whites 117 all out in 26.2 overs. Murtaza Rasheed 33, Monis Nadeem 21, Owais Irfan 21. Abdullah (mf)

3/17, Rafay Taj (rls) 3/32. In reply Zone-V 94 all out in 26.2 overs. Mubshir Ali 26, Ahmed Ali 21. Burhan Ali (sla) 5/15, Monis Nadeem (ob) 3/5. Farman Ali (rlb) 2/28. Later Burhan Ali of Zone-I Whites declared Medicam Man of the Match.

PCB removes Usman Wahla from Director of International Cricket role

Sports Desk

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has removed senior official Usman Wahla from his position as Director of Intern tional Cricket, 24NewsHD TV reported

According to PCB sources, Wahla is expected to be shifted to a key role within the Pakistan Super League (PSL).

His removal reportedly follows concerns over his handling of administrative matters during the recent Asia

Sources said Wahla was suspended earlier due to alleged mismanagement during the Asia Cup, prompting the board to advertise the post of Director of International Cricket for fresh

There are strong indications that former Pakistan captain Misbah-ul-Haq is among the leading candidates being consid-

Japan's world number 500 Kataoka qualifies for Masters, British Open

₿ Sports Desk

World number 500 Naoyuki Kataoka will make his major debut next year after winning the Japan Open on Sunday. The event is one of a select number of national opens around the world that were recently granted status as qualifiers for next year's US Masters at Augusta and the British Open at Royal Birkdale.

Doha Truce Hailed as 'Significant Step' Toward Pakistan-Afghanistan Peace

Continued From Page 1

He observed that the recent clashes, initiated by unprovoked aggression from the Afghan side and elements of the banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), had prompted Pakistan to retaliate with targeted air strikes and ground operations, reportedly eliminating over 200 militants and injuring many others besides dismantling terror camps in Afghanistan.

The temporary truce, reached on Wednesday following Afghanistan's request, brought a halt to several days of intense crossborder clashes that had resulted in human and material casualties.

Adnan Khan also praised the efforts of Qatar and Türkiye in facilitating dialogue, adding that Pakistan's delegation, led by Defence Minister Khawaja Asif, while the Afghan side, represented

by Mullah Yaqoob, the Acting Defence Minister, showed political acumen and magnanimity during the successful dialogue.

He welcomed Defence Minister Asif's announcement confirming the ceasefire and Islamabad's firm stance on its national security, with both countries agreeing to mutual respect for territorial sovereignty.

A follow-up meeting is scheduled for October 25 in Istanbul.

Since the Taliban's return to power in 2021, he said, Pakistan has witnessed a significant rise in cross-border terrorist attacks, particularly in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan.

He emphasised the strategic and economic significance of the 2,500-kilometre-long border between the two nations, which plays a key role in regional trade and people-to-people ties.

The Spokesman

Indus Shield Alpha A group photo of a Pakistan Air Force contingent of the latest JF-17 Thunder Block-III fighter jets, upon their arrival in Azerbaijan to participate in the bilateral air combat exercise Indus Shield Alpha. Photo: PAF media wing

Pakistan launches first hyperspectral satellite HS-1 in major space milestone

跨 Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (SUPARCO) has successfully launched the country's first Hyperspectral Satellite (HS-1) from the Chinese Satellite Launch Centre, as confirmed by the official statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Sunday.

HS-1 is equipped with advanced hyperspectral imaging technology, capable of capturing data across hundreds of narrow spectral bands. This cutting-edge capability enables precise moni- such as precision agriculture, toring and analysis of land environmental monitoring, and developmental applica- China in the peaceful explora-



ment, "The satellite is expected to significantly enhance stan's resilience to climate-renational capacities in areas lated challenges." resources and urban devel- management. Its high-res- to major strategic initiatives.

olution data will support According to the state- improved resource management and strengthen Paki-

particularly the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). The satellite will play a crucial role in identifying geo-hazard risks and promoting sustainable infrastructure development along the corridor.

"The successful launch of HS-1 marks a pivotal step forward in Pakistan's space program and reaffirms SUPARCO's commitment to leveraging space technology for national development," said the statement.

It further noted, "This achievement also highlights the long-standing collabo-Beyond its environmental ration between Pakistan and for socioeconomic progress."

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar praised the joint efforts of both countries' scientific communities, stating:

"I commend the scientists and technical teams from Pakistan and China working on HS-1 for their commitment, professional excellence and exemplary cooperation."

The launch of HS-1 places Pakistan among a growing group of nations equipped with operational hyperspectral imaging satellites. With this success, SUPARCO reinforces its role as a key player in advancing space technology for environmental stewardship, use, vegetation health, water urban planning, and disaster tions, HS-1 will also contribute tion of space and its application disaster preparedness, and regional development

SAPM Haroon chairs meeting on bottlenecks in meat export to Malaysia

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on **Industries and Production** Haroon Akhtar Khan chaired a high-level committee meeting in Lahore to address the bottlenecks faced by meat exporters in exporting meat to Malaysia.

The meeting was attended by Secretary Industries and Production Saif Anjum, along with representatives from both the public and private sectors, said a news

During the meeting, participants deliberated upon issues and recommendations related to meat exports to Malaysia.



Exporters identified key challenges including feed quality, livestock breed, high

production costs, lack of cold chain facilities, limited banking support, and documentation hurdles.

Exporters emphasized that the banking sector is not providing adequate support, forcing them to make cash payments in cattle markets.

They also highlighted the absence of cold storage facilities at airports, compelling them to store meat in vehi-

Representatives pointed out that while India exports meat at \$ 3.5 per kilogram, Pakistan's export cost stands at \$ 5 per kilogram.

They further mentioned that Pakistan currently exports meat to Tajikistan at the same rate.

stan, Ministry of Foreign Affairs,

Federal Board of Revenue (FBR),

and Pakistan Single Window, along

with key representatives from the

first implemented the barter trade

mechanism in June 2023, which,

despite its potential, faced several

practical challenges. Business

groups and stakeholders had raised

concerns over strict product restric-

tions, contract verification require-

ments, and the 90-day settlement

limit, which had slowed down trade

By addressing these hurdles, the

The move comes after Pakistan

private sector.

Pakistan eases barter trade rules with Afghanistan, Iran, and Russia

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has introduced a revised and more flexible barter trade framework with Afghanistan, Iran, and Russia, aimed at removing earlier bottlenecks and facilitating smoother regional trade.

According to a notification issued by the Ministry of Commerce, several amendments have been made to the Business-to-Business (B2B) Barter Trade Mechanism, making it more practical and business-friendly.

Under the new framework, the condition of mandatory import before export has been relaxed, allowing simultaneous import and export between the participating countries. Additionally, private entities have been permitted to form consortia to streamline trade operations.



transactions has also been extended Import Policy Orders, the notification from 90 days to 120 days, while the previously restricted list of specific items eligible for barter trade has been

stated.

Official sources said these changes were made after extensive consul-

The duration for completing barter aligned with the General Export and Ministry of Commerce aims to revive and strengthen regional trade through

a simplified and efficient barter system, reducing dependence on foreign exchange and expanding commercial abolished. The system has now been tations with the State Bank of Pakities with neighboring countries.

activity.

Published by: Almass Ayoub Sabir from Zero Point Printers Rawalpindi

PAF Contingent arrives in Azerbaijan for bilateral exercise **Indus Shield Alpha**

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Air Force contingent comprising the cuttingedge JF-17 Thunder Block-III fighter jets, accompanied by skilled air and ground crew, has landed in Azerbaijan to participate in the bilateral aerial combat exercise Indus Shield

In a remarkable display of operational prowess and endurance, PAF fighters accomplished a non-stop flight from their home base in Pakistan to Azerbaijan, executing flawless in-flight air-to-air refuelling operations. The intricate mid-air refuelling operation, executed with utmost every domain of air operations.

precision by PAF's own IL-78 aerial tanker, reaffirmed the long-range capability of PAF fighter jets and showcased the professional excellence and preparedness of PAF aircrew to undertake extended international deployments.

The participation of Pakistan Air Force contingent in Exercise Indus Shield Alpha reaffirms PAF's enduring commitment to regional stability and global military cooperation. It also demonstrates PAF's unwavering resolve to continuously evolve and adapt to the demands of contemporary warfare, while maintaining its tradition of excellence in

Pakistan's climate fight undermined by bureaucratic gridlock: Advisor



News Desk

ROME: Advisor to the Prime Minisal frontline of climate and water South". crises, yet struggles to access even a small portion of the vital funds it Shah, said "Pakistan is the fifth, needs due to paralyzing bureaucrat- most climate-vulnerable country ic delays and slow disbursement.

heads of government, ministers thousands of civil society activists water-scarce nation".

and development professionals.

Dr Shah said, "Water crises is no longer an abstract policy discuster Dr. Syed Tauqir Shah has stated sion; it is an existential challenge, that Pakistan remains on the glob- for many countries in the Global

Further elaborating Advisor in the world. Our water security— While addressing the FAO's and by extension, our national food Rome Water Dialogue, he presented security—is under threat from the Pakistan's national statement before twin forces of extreme climate an esteemed gathering that included events and chronic resource stress. Today Pakistan has crossed the critfrom hundreds of countries, and ical threshold and is now officially a

UAE introduces Golden Visa category for endowment donors



Spokesman Report

DUBAI: The United Arab Emirates has announced a new Golden Visa category for endowment donors, recognizing individuals who contribute to humanitarian and charitable causes under the country's endowment framework.

In a statement, GDRFA-Dubai said the partnership aligns with its commitment to strengthening Dubai's position as a global hub of tolerance, philanthropy, and humanitarian work.

It also supports efforts to make the emirate "the most sustainable and human-centered city in the world."

The initiative follows the signing of a cooperation agreement between the General Directorate of Residency and Foreigners Affairs - Dubai (GDRFA-Dubai) and the Awgaf and Minors Affairs Foundation (Awqaf

individuals engaged in humanitarian responsibility.

and philanthropic activities and strengthen institutional collaboration in this field.

According to officials, the initiative seeks to integrate humanitarian work into Dubai's broader social and developmental ecosystem, reinforcing the city's commitment to sustainability, community service, and global leadership in social responsibility.

Lt-Gen Mohammed Ahmed Al Marri, Director General of GDRFA-Dubai, said the collaboration represents "an advanced model of governmental integration aimed at empowering endowers to contribute to community development through impactful initiatives that promote the values of giving and sustaina-

Ali Mohammed Al Mutawa, Secretary-General of Awgaf Dubai, described the move as a reflection of Dubai's vision to elevate endowment The agreement, signed during work as a key driver of sustainable GITEX Global 2025 at the Dubai development, recognising donors' World Trade Centre, aims to support role in fostering solidarity and social