Barkat Rice Mills (Pvt) Limited



## UN welcomes Pak-Afghan ceasefire, hopes for lasting peace

The United Nations (UN) has welcomed the ceasefire announced by Afghanistan and Pakistan on Sunday, hoping the two countries would resolve their outstanding issues through diplomatic means. "We hope that the ceasefire will hold and that all of the outstanding issues will be dealt with diplomatically."



Awaz App launched to safeguard children and report Human Rights violations

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

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Rabius Sani 28, Wednesday, October 22, 2025



(a) @daily spokesman



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## Launching Ceremony ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif addresses the launching ceremony of Inspire, an Initiative by Ministry of Information Technology to nurture Semiconductor professionals for industry research and education on Tuesday. NOPRE THE PE Launching Ceremony Of NEPRE THE PE Initiative to Nurture Semiconductor Professionals for Industry Research & Education H.E. MUHAMMAD SHEHBAZ SHAI NOPRE Million NB WPRE 1

# PM launches INSPIRE initiative to train 7200 professionals in semiconductor design, research

**Example 2** City Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday launched INSPIRE as Pakistan's National Semiconductor Initimilestone in Pakistan's transition toward a knowledge-based digital economy and also marked its entry into over \$600 billion

mony, kicked off the "Initiative to valued at over \$600 billion glob-Nurture Semiconductor Profes- ally and projected to exceed \$1 one where Pakistan contributes its Public Sector Development

sionals for Industry, Research & trillion by 2030. Education" (INSPIRE) to mark Pakistan's transformative step toward technological self-reliance and global competitiveness.

The initiative, spearheaded ative, which he believed was a by the Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication (MoITT) and executed by the Pakistan Software Export Board (PSEB), marks Pakistan's global semiconductor ecosystem. formal entry into the global semi-The prime minister, at a cere- conductor ecosystem–a sector

In this address, Prime Minister Shehbaz said that the launch of INSPIRE was a milestone in Pakistan's transition toward a knowledge-based digital economy, where innovation, research, and human capital

drive sustainable growth. "Our vision is to prepare Pakistan's youth for the industries of tomorrow... Through this initiative, we are building the foundations of a new economic frontiertalent, technology, and innovation to the world," he remarked.

He said Allah Almighty had bestowed Pakistan with abundance of natural resources and benefiting from these resources was the core responsibility of the government.

Assuring the government's full support for this programme, the prime minister directed to work on it at a fast pace to achieve the desired targets.

"The planning ministry under

Programme (PSDP) had allocated Rs 4.5 billion for this programme which is just a drop in the ocean," he said assuring that funding was not an issue for this programme.

The prime minister said the government had also established Pakistan Digital Authority. The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) was being completely digitized. Similarly, he said the government was also working on cashless economy in the country.

Continued on Page 7

#### *KP govt* announces *Rs100m* bounty on TTP commander Kazim

#### 跨 Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government on Tuesday placed a bounty of Rs100 million on the head of outlawed Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) commander Kazim, who hails from Kurram district.

According to sources, a clear and recent photograph of the wanted militant has been released for the first

Commander Kazim is accused of orchestrating the martyrdom of Lieutenant Colonel Junaid Arif and Major Tayyab Rahat, the sources said.

He is also wanted for attacks on military convoys en route to Parachinar and on passenger vehicles carrying pilgrims, as well as for an assassination attempt on Kurram Deputy Commissioner Javedullah Mehsud.

In addition, the wanted terrorist has been involved in multiple attacks targeting the army, police, Frontier Corps, and other security forces, according to security officials.

## NA Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq Addresses 151st conference



跨 Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq has stated that violations of sovereignty of a nation threaten the very foundation of international order and justice. He reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to neutrality, independence, and adherence to humanitarian principles in all matters of global concern. He expressed these views while addressing the 151st Inter-Parliamentary Assembly, being held in Geneva.

While addressing the global gathering, Speaker NA underscored the importance of humanitarian compas-

sion, justice, and the promotion of global peace. He urged the international community to strengthen international humanitarian laws and to ensure the protection of civilian populations affected by conflicts across the world.

Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq also welcomed the Gaza ceasefire initiative, terming it a positive step toward lasting peace in the Middle East. He reiterated Pakistan's unwavering support for the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and remarked that the atrocities suffered by the Palestinians over the past two years will continue to shake the conscience of humanity.

Continued on Page 7

## Naqvi assures ulema of non-interference in mosques, seminaries

#### 跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi met senior religious scholar Mufti Muneeb-ur-Rehman and Sunni Tehreek chief Sarwat Ejaz Qadri in Karachi on Tuesday to discuss recent developments and the prevailing situation.

According to sources, the participants agreed to hold a detailed session in Islamabad soon to allow for comprehensive consultations on all issues.

Naqvi visited Mufti Muneeb-ur-Rehman at his residence, where several prominent scholars from the Ahle Sunnat school of thought were also present.

Sindh Minister Nasir Hussain Shah and Senior Minister Sharjeel Memon accompanied the interior



The meeting held a detailed exchange of views on recent incidents.

The religious leaders presented their perspectives on various religious and social matters, while Interior Minister Naqvi assured them that all legitimate concerns would be addressed on a priority basis.

Those who attended the meeting included Mufti Rafiur-Rehman Noorani, Allama Muzaffar Shah, Allama Liaquat Hussain Azhari, Mufti Abid Mubarak, Allama Rehan Azhar Naumani, Allama Ahmad Rabbani, and Allama Ashraf Gormani.

## Ali Pervaiz Malik highlights Pakistan's mineral potential, investment reforms

#### News Desk

SYDNEY: Minister for Energy Ali Pervaiz Malik on Tuesday addressed the International Mining and Resources Conference here, wherein he highlighted Pakistan's vast mineral potential and its commitment to a low-carbon and resilient future.

The minister, who arrived here on Monday to attend the event, in his keynote address on "Pakistan's Energy Transition and Critical Minerals Development: Unlocking New Frontiers for Global Partner-Pakistan contributed less than ships.



one percent to global emissions, yet faced some of the harshest climate challenges.

Calling Pakistan's energy transition not a choice but a necessity, the minister said that with political alignment, investor-friendly reforms, and rich geological potential, Pakistan offered new frontiers for ship" told the gathering that responsible global partner-

## Punjab forwards proposal to ban TLP to federal govt: Azma Bokhari

👺 Bureau Report

LAHORE: Punjab Information Minister Azma Bokhari has said that the provincial cabinet's decision regarding a ban on an extremist religious outfit has been forwarded to the federal government, expressing hope that a ban will be imposed within the next few days.

Addressing a press conference in Lahore on Tuesday, Bokhari said that the religious outfit's chief Saad Rizvi and his brother were being traced and would soon be



brought under the law. She clarified that no grave was being violent or disruptive activities.

relocated; however, no one will be allowed to use the site for fundraising or to incite

The minister revealed that 38 financiers of terrorist organisations have been identified, and all related bank accounts have

She warned that those providing financial assistance to Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) will face terrorism charges.

Bokhari urged parents to stop their children from becoming part of any such

State Minister Talal Chaudhry defends retrieval of federal security equipment, blasts KP leadership and TLP

ISLAMABAD: State Minister for Interior Talal Chaudhry on Tuesday defended the federal government's decision to reclaim vehicles, police equipment and personnel provided to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) police and accused provincial leadership of politicising life-saving resources.

Speaking to reporters outside the Parliament House, he also criticised the Tehreek-e- ment remained open for talks with political Labbaik (TLP) and said the federal govern-



and religious leaders.

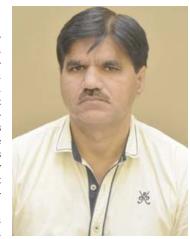
"Maulana Fazlur Rehman has called his workers to come to Islamabad; we are making arrangements for that as well," Chaudhry said, adding the government would continue efforts to bring the Maulana "on board" and would not allow him to be alienated. "He is a political and religious figure whose suggestion, we have always respected." But the bulk of the minister's remarks

were directed at KP's provincial authorities specialy Chief Minister KPK Sohail Afridi.

# Quitting Smoking: A Path of Health and Freedom, says Sultan Mehmood Malik

MULTAN: Sultan Mehmood Consultant... National Rural Support Program He Said Smoking remains one of Pakistan's most pressing public health challenges. With over 23 million tobacco users nationwide, this habit contributes to thousands of preventable deaths each year and places immense strain on families and the healthcare system. Other estimates say the number of tobacco users is now more than 31 million in Pakistan. But quitting is possible—and transform-

Though out of the 31 million tobacco users, more than half of them



naswar are widely consumed across linked to heart disease, stroke, cancer, chronic lung conditions, and complications in pregnancy. Secondhand smoke harms children and elders, and tobacco spending often diverts household income from essentials.

Pakistan ranks among the 15 countries with the highest tobacco consumption. Alarmingly, nearly 40% of adults and 55% of children are routinely exposed to secondhand smoke. The toll on health is immense: smoking is a leading contributor to cancer, cardiovascular disease, guidance—if they attempt at all.

are those who smoke cigarettes, the use diabetes, and respiratory illnesses such of bidis, paan with tobacco, gutka, and as COPD and tuberculosis. According to the WHO, tobacco causes over 8 regions and social classes. Smoking is million deaths globally each year including 1.2 million from secondhand smoke. Within Pakistan, the annual smoking-related death rate stands at 91.1 per 100,000 people—higher than both the South Asian and global

The most critical void in Pakistan's tobacco control strategy is the absence of structured smoking cessation support. Without national cessation clinics, subsidized therapies, or trained health professionals, most tobacco users are left to quit without

## Anti-Dengue Spray

KASHMIR: Workers of local administration are busy in spraying the Anti-Dengue Spray in the streets and Offices, to prevent the people from Dengue fever in the capital of Azad Jammu and Kashmir.



## DC Mela visits Sabzi Mandi Road Kamalia

👺 Zafar Chishti

TOBA TEK SINGH:

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Toba Tek Singh Umar Abbas Mela paid a surprise visit to Sabzi Mandi Road Kamalia, to review cleanliness and sanitation arrangements in the area. During the inspection, the DC expressed strong displeasure over the accumulation of garbage and stagnant water in vacant plots and along the roadside. He immediately took notice of the poor sanitation management and directed concerned departments to take swift remedial action.

Assistant Commissioner Kamalia Iqra Nasir and Chief Officer Municipal Committee Ali Raza accompanied the Deputy Commissioner during the



visit. Acting on the DC's orders, the Municipal Committee promptly initiated cleaning operations and drainage work to clear waste and ensure proper sanitation.

Deputy Commissioner Umar Abbas Mela emphasized that all possible steps must be taken on an emergency basis to improve urban cleanliness and civic facilities for the citizens. He reaffirmed that the district administration is fully committed to implementing Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif's vision of good governance and

Local residents appreciated the timely action taken by the district administration and expressed satisfaction over the immediate response to public hygiene issues.

## Parliamentary Taskforce on SDGs Pledges Action to Ban Partially Hydrogenated Oils



**E** City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The National Parliamentary Taskforce on SDGs, in collaboration with Pakistan Youth Change Advocates (PYCA), organized a parliamentary roundtable briefing at the National Assembly to highlight the grave health impacts of Partially Hydrogenated Oils (PHOs) and emphasize the urgent need for a nationwide ban on their production, import, and distribution.

The session, attended by members Parliamentary Taskforce, said she was

of parliament and representatives of the TRANSFORM Pakistan Coalition partners including the Islamabad Food Authority, Heartfile, Centre for Peace and Development Initiatives (CPDI), and the Pakistan National Heart Association (PANAH), marked an important step toward policy-level action on eliminating industrially produced trans fats

in Pakistan. Opening the discussion, MNA Shaista Pervaiz Malik, Convener of the SDGs

deeply concerned about the continued use of Partially Hydrogenated oils despite their proven health risks. She emphasized the importance of drawing parliamentary attention to the issue and working toward an immediate policy solution to protect public health.

Ms. Huria Tariq, Program Implementation Lead at PYCA, Nutrition and food policy expert, Mr. Munawar Hussain, Dr. Tahira Siddique from the Islamabad Food Authority, Dr. Saba Amjad, CEO of Heartfile also speack.

More than 20 parliamentarians actively engaged in the discussion, seeking clarity on food authority capacity, public awareness, and industry compliance. Among them were Ms. Mahtab Rashdi, Ms. Sharmila Farooqi, Ms. Zeb Jaffar, Ms. Nuzhat Pathan, Ms. Rana Mubashir, Ms. Asia Tanoli, syed Hafizuddin, Mr. Danish Kuman, Ms. Munazza Hassan, Ms. Romina Khurshid, and Mr. Danyal Chaudhary, who collectively called for stronger regulation and awareness campaigns to safeguard citizens' health.

## Muslim Conference stands by its stance on the rights of



#### Spokesman Report

RAWALPINDI: All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference President and former Prime Minister Azad Kashmir Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan has said that Mujahid e Awwal gave the right of second vote to General Yayya Khan. Immigrants came here to sacrifice their homes and families in love for Pakistan, a country based on Jammu and Kashmir. The Muslim Conference has been committed to its stand for the rights of refugees from day one.

Sardar Attique khan expressed these views while addressing former AJK Ministers Abdul Majid Khan, Chaudhry Akbar Ibrahim and Chaudhry Akmal Sargala at Mujahid Manzil here yesterday. The Muslim Conference President said that immigrants living in Pakistan are facing immense problems in Pakistan. They also discussed the latest situation prevailing in Azad Kashmir.

## First round of negotiations with the Action Committee, held in Islamabad

**Spokesman Report** 

ISLAMABAD: First round of negotiations with the Action Committee, held in Islamabad Colonel Waqar Noor was kicked out of the negotiating room! According to reliable resources Negotiations between the Jammu and Kashmir Joint People's Action Committee (JAWA) and the federal and Azad



ments have turned into a political blow for the first time since the beginning of the agreement. According to sources, a close and trusted associate of AJK premier Chaudhry Anwar-ul-Haq, Senior Minister and Interior Minister Colonel (R) Waqar Noor met with the ministers of Azad Kashmir. The representatives of the People's Action Committee protested strongly and took a clear stand that they would not deal with anyone "person responsible for the public oppressor". Consequently, Colonel Waqar Noor was escorted out of the room negotiations in disgrace.

Shaukat Nawaz Mir, Sardar Umar Nazir Kashmiri and Imtiaz Aslam are representing the Awami Action Committee in the talks, while Engineers Amir Maqam and Tariq Fazal Chaudhry are representing the federal government. The Azad Kashmir government is represented by Faisal Mumtaz Rathore and Diwan Ali Chaghtai.

Sources say that the presence of Colonel (R) Waqar Noor was the biggest hurdle in the negotiations, as he asked dozens of citizens and police officers to inquire, during the mass protests. There are serious allegations like impersonating Indian agents to the Kashmiri people through Cypher, misappropriation of secret funds, and running misleading campaigns against journalists. Sources say their disgrace in the Islamabad negotiating room is actually a result of the policies they have adopted to suppress public voice, rather than silence those

## PML-N declares independence from government formation formulas to sit in opposition, Shah Ghulam Qadir

**Spokesman Report** 

ISLAMABAD: PML-N President Shah Ghulam Qadir has declared his affiliation with the government formation formula. He said that the PPP has a majority to form a government. If PPP does not form a government, even the Muslim League N will separate from the government. He urged the Muslim League-N L workers to prepare for the General elections.



## Serena Hotels organized a systematic relief drive



#### 跨 Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: Serena Hotels organized a systematic relief drive in collaboration with the local administration of Jalalpur Pirwala under the 'Jazba Khidmat' to help the flood-affected people. Under this drive, ration bags and blankets were distributed to 175 flood-affected families in Ismail Village. The distribution process was carried out under a systematic and verified methodology, with priority given to the most affected families. Assistant Commissioner Jalalpur Pirwala, Mr. Dr. Mukarram Sahu appreciated Serena Hotels for providing timely and much-needed assistance.

General Manager of Serena Hotel Faisalabad, Mr. Rashiduddin said that we are always committed to helping our people. He also stressed the importance of cooperation with local authorities in times of crisis.

This effort under the 'Jazba Khidmat' is part of Serena Hotels' commitment to social responsibility, which aims to bring a positive change in the lives of flood-affected people.





## **Namaz Timings** ..5:27 pm ...6:50 pm

## **EMERGENCY**

Rescue (Police)	15
Bomb Disposal	15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/	
Islamabad1122	& 16
Emergency Ambulance 112	22 &
& Rescue Services 445	1122
Motorway Police9266	044
Motorway Police927060	I-20
Women Police	

#### Women Police **Stations**

Rawalpindi 927060	1-2
<b>ENQUIRY</b>	
Edhi Ambulance	11
PIΔ Flight Info	11,

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

#### HOSPITALS

110011	
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**

#### Hindu community celebrates Diwali with religious fervour

LAHORE: The festival of lights, Diwali, was celebrated by Hindu community with traditional enthusiasm and devotion across Pakistan as temples glowed with lamps and festive decorations under the supervision of the Federal Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony and the Evacuee Trust Property Board (ETPB).

at all functional temples in Punjab, Sindh, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, where elaborate security and facilitation arrangements were made for the safety and convenience of Hindu citizens.

The central ceremony was held at Krishna Temple, Ravi Road, Lahore, which was beautifully illuminated with colourful lights, garlands, and flowers. Under the supervision of Additional Secretary Shrines Nasir Mushtaq, comprehensive arrangements were ensured for cleanliness, lighting, parking, seating, and

drinking water. Addressing the gathering, Nasir Mushtaq extended warm greetings to the Hindu community on the occasion of Diwali and ioined them in cutting the Diwali cake. He also distributed prasad and gifts among participants, followed by a dinner arranged for the

Leaders and members from the Hindu, Muslim, Sikh, and Christian commu nities attended the event in large numbers and offered special prayers for peace. interfaith harmony, and national prosperity.

# Punjab health minister urges stronger dengue control in twin cities

#### 

ISLAMABAD: A review meeting on dengue prevention and control in the twin cities was held at the CDA Headquarters under the chairmanship of Punjab Provincial Minister Khawaja Imran Nazir. The meeting was attended by Chairman CDA and Chief Commissioner Islamabad Muhammad Ali Randhawa, Deputy Commissioner Islamabad Irfan Nawaz Memon, DC Rawalpindi Hassan Waqar Cheema, DG Health Services MCI, representatives from the Rawalpindi administration and other relevant officers. Additionally the Executive Director of PIMS, the Deputy Commissioner of Murree and officers from the Federal Ministry of Health joined the meeting via Zoom.

During the meeting the Provincial Health Minister was briefed on the current dengue situation, surveillance activities and preventive measures being undertaken in the twin cities. It was briefed that no dengue-related deaths have been reported so far this year in Islamabad or Rawalpindi and the number of dengue patients has

reported in Rawalpindi and 25 in Islamabad. The coordinated efforts between the administrations of both cities have successfully prevented the large-scale spread of dengue, resulting in a lower infection rate compared to the previous year. The meeting was informed that adequate hospital beds, test kits, medicines, and other facilities are available in public hospitals of both cities for dengue On this occasion Punjab Health

Minister Khawaja Imran Nazir directed the administrations of both cities to further strengthen coordination in boundary areas and ensure strict monitoring of identified hotspots under all circumstances. He also appreciated Chairman CDA and Deputy Commissioner Islamabad for taking effective measures to control dengue in Islam-Addressing the meeting, Chairman CDA and Chief Commissioner

Muhammad Ali Randhawa emphasized the need to raise public awareness about preventive measures against dengue, particularly among the elderly and children. He directed that awarebeen gradually decreasing each day. In ness campaigns be organized in mosques, the last 24 hours 13 dengue cases were educational institutions, and commu-



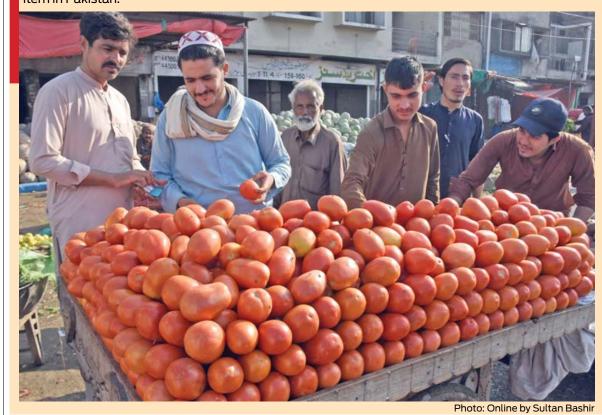
nity centers to guide citizens about cleanand timely medical treatment. He further to eradicate dengue, with special focus

stated that the administrations of both liness, mosquito breeding prevention, cities are working together as one team

on cleanliness drives, fogging or fumigation campaigns, and improvement of drainage systems.

## Price Hikes

ISLAMABAD: People are buying Tomatoes from vendor at Fruit and Vegetables Market of Sector I-11 after crossing the 700 Rs per kg in the different Cities of Country, now it's considered luxury item in Pakistan.



## PCDMA Delegation Meets KCCI Leadership

#### Commerce Desk

KARACHI: President of the Karachi Chamber of Commerce & Industry (KCCI), Muhammad Rehan Hanif. has reaffirmed the Chamber's commitment to resolving the issues of the business community, stating that "resolving traders' problems is our top priority, and we will not leave them alone in difficult times."

He expressed these views during a meeting with a delegation of the Pakistan Chemicals & Dyes Merchants Association (PCDMA) led by Chairman Salim Valimuhammad at the KCCI office. The PCDMA delegation extended heartfelt congratulations to the newly elected KCCI leadership, including Senior Vice President Muhammad Raza and Vice President Muhammad Arif Lakhany, and conveyed



best wishes for a successful

During the meeting,

empha-Valimuhammad sized the importance of closer coordination between KCCI Chairman PCDMA Salim and PCDMA. "Most of our

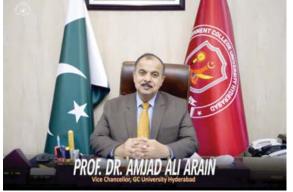
members are also part of the Chamber. Therefore, it is essential we work together to find

## VC says GC University Hyderabad emerging as a brand of higher education

#### B Qayoom Sarohi

HYDERABAD: Vice Chancellor of GC University Hyderabad, Prof. Dr. Amjad Ali Arain, has said that the University is fast emerging as a distinguished brand of higher education in the region, committed to academic excellence, institutional transparency, and student success.

In a statement, Dr. Arain said that although GC University Hyderabad is a newly established public



sector university, it has made remarkable progress over the past years, achieving signif-

icant milestones in digital Deans, which has improved transformation, infrastructure development, academic quality enhancement, and governance reforms.

He said that since assuming charge, he had introduced a series of structural and administrative reforms aimed processes and decentraldecision-making. "The University has established three faculties, Social Sciences, Natural Sciences,

and Arts and Humanities,

with the appointment of

academic coordination and strengthened institutional efficiency," he added.

Highlighting achievements, the Vice Chancellor said that the University successfully conducted computer-based, paper-free, at modernizing academic and environment-friendly entry tests for its new intake for 2026. "This is a landmark achievement that places GC University Hyderabad among technologically progressive higher education institutions in the province," he remarked.

## PEC & NPO host two-day ISO 56000 innovation workshop in *Islamabad*

#### 

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC), in collaboration with the National Productivity Organization (NPO), successfully conducted a two-day capacity-building workshop, "Fostering Innovation Capabilities (ISO 56000 Innovation Management System and Standards)," at the PEC Headquarters, Islamabad.

Facilitated by renowned international experts Dr. Eva Diedrichs and Mr. Claus Diedrichs, the program introduced global best practices for establishing and operating innovation management systems aligned with the ISO 56000 family of standards. Sessions covered governance, portfolio and pipeline management, opportunity/idea workflows, metrics, and integration with digital transformation and Industry 4.0.

To broaden access, PEC subsidized the standard training fee (Rs. 20,000 per participant), enabling PEC-registered engineers to attend at no cost. Despite the short notice—necessitated by the experts' travel window—the workshop drew strong participation from mid-career professionals across industry, academia, and the public sector, with joint PEC-NPO certificates awarded upon completion.

Chairman PEC Engr. Waseem Nazir distributed certificates among the participants. While addressing the participants, Chairman PEC said that fostering innovation culture is essential to enhance the competitiveness of Pakistan's engineering and industrial sectors.

This collaboration translates the ISO 56000 principles into practical, results-oriented routines for Pakistani organizations," PEC spokesperson noted, acknowledging NPO and APO's Technical Expert Services support for the initiative.

## SECP approves amendments to PSX Rulebook for Holding and Conduct of Corporate Briefing **Sessions**

#### Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has approved amendments to the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) regulations, making it mandatory for listed companies to hold Corporate Briefing Sessions (CBS) on their annual audited financial accounts. The reforms are designed to enhance the overall conduct of these sessions by improving investor engagement, reducing information asymmetry, and ensuring the timely dissemination of information.

Under the new framework, listed companies must hold a CBS for their annual audited financial statements within 30 days of their Annual General Meeting. Both the Chief Executive Officer and the Chief Financial Officer, who are well-versed in company affairs, are required to be present at these sessions.

To support this initiative, PSX will maintain a dedicated CBS calendar on its website, featuring notices and presentations for upcoming sessions. Additionally, PSX will launch a video channel to host recordings of CBS sessions conducted by listed companies, providing investors with a centralized facility to access comprehensive information.

Investors and analysts will benefit from the timely availability of information, as session presentations will be published in advance of each CBS. Video recordings will be uploaded to the PSX channel shortly after each session concludes. To further encourage engagement, a mechanism will be introduced allowing participants to submit questions in advance,

with adequate time reserved during the sessions to address these queries. Collectively, these reforms contribute to a more transparent and inclusive capital market environment, helping to build investor confidence and strengthen the relationship between listed companies and their

### 86% of Professionals in Pakistan Use Al Tools, Few Trained to Use Them Safely: Kaspersky Reports

#### Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: According to recent Kaspersky research entitled "Cybersecurity in the workplace: Employee knowledge and behavior" 86% of professionals surveyed in the Pakistan say that they utilize Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools for work tasks. However, only 52% have received training on the cybersecurity aspects of using neural networks, which is one of the critical elements of protection against AI-related risks ranging from data leaks to prompt injections.

The vast majority of survey respondents in the Pakistan (98%) said that they understand what the term "generative artificial intelligence" means, and for many employees this knowledge is no longer just theoretical: AI tools have become part of their every workday. Overall, 86% of respondents use AI tools for work: 68% use AI to write or edit texts and 52% for work e-mails (, 56.5% to create images or videos with the help of neural networks while (35 use it for data analytics.

The survey uncovered a serious gap in employee preparedness for AI risks. 21% of professionals reported receiving no AI-related training. Among those who had courses, 66% said the focus was on how to effectively use AI tools and create prompts; while 52% received guidance on the cybersecurity aspect of AI use.

Wednesday, October 22, 2025

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## **GED's economic** outlook presents cautious optimism

angladesh's latest Economic Update & Outlook depicts a picture of cautious optimism for the coming months, with inflation showing signs of moderation. According to the October 2025 report released by the General Economics Division (GED) of the Planning Commission, deposit growth has rebounded in recent months, reflecting improving public confidence following reforms by the government and the central bank.

Measures such as lowering the interest rates on national savings certificates, enhancing digital financial inclusion through e-money and agent banking, and routing government cash transfers via banks have contributed to this trend.

Strong remittance inflows have also bolstered deposit growth, while upcoming election-related activities are expected to inject temporary dynamism into the economy and boost investors' sentiment.

Inflation edged up marginally in September, reaching 8.36 percent compared to 8.29 percent in August, maintaining an elevated but broadly stable trend. Food and non-food inflation followed similar trajectories, rising by 0.04 and 0.08 percentage points, respectively.

The report noted that inflation has exhibited a rigid pattern since August 2022, averaging 9.56 percent over the past 38 months. The sharp fuel price hike of August 2022-exceeding 50 percent in the wake of the Russia-Ukraine conflict-was cited as a major inflection point, triggering sustained price pressures in subsequent months.

While rice remains the dominant contributor to food inflation, its share has declined from 48.37 percent in August to 45 percent in September. Contributions from fish, meat, fruits and edible oils remain significant, whereas root crops and vegetables saw a decline in inflationary impact. Prices of potatoes and onions fell sharply, easing some pressure on

The rice prices began to ease in September, falling by about one percentage point from August. Inflation in all three categories of rice-coarse, medium and fine-declined.

To ensure food security and price stability, the government approved the import of 50,000 tonnes of rice from India and 220,000 tonnes of wheat from the United States on 8 October.

An additional 400,000 tonnes of grain are expected to arrive by November. Current government food grain stocks stand at 1.55 million tonnes, while distribution so far this fiscal year has increased by 24 percent compared with the same period last year.

Bangladesh's foreign exchange reserves have shown a steady recovery, rising from \$25.5 billion in March to \$31.4 billion in September 2025. Under the BPM6 measurement, reserves increased from \$ 20.4 billion to \$ 26.6 billion during the same period.

# Trump's Triple Failure: China, His People, and His Congress

👺 Qamar Bashir

or decades, presidents of believed they could shape the world by interfering in other nations' affairs installing leaders of their choice, propping up allies who served their interests. and sidelining or imprisoning nationalist figures who threatened American designs. This pattern, repeated from Latin America to the Middle East, has been central to Washington's projection of power. But under President Donald Trump, the limits of that model are becoming clear. Despite America's military reach and financial muscle, there now stand two forces beyond Trump's control: China, which has matured into an economic giant strong enough to resist U. S. leverage, and the American people themselves, who are openly challenging what they see as his king-like behavior. To this must be added a third failure closer to home—his inability to bring Congress into agreement, leaving the federal government paralyzed in a costly shutdown. Together, these three fronts expose the fragility of Trump's leadership and the strain on America's global standing.

They oppose his deployment of federal immigration forces and even National Guard units into states under circumstances that many legal scholars argue violate the Constitution. The Guard is meant to be mobilized for extraordinary threats, typically from foreign enemies, not to police civilians in peacetime. To many, Trump's orders resemble the occupation of foreign lands rather than the governance of a democracy. Protesters

want liberty, dignity, and democracy respected. So far, their defiance has been the United States have largely peaceful, but if Trump continues his path of executive overreach, anger could boil over into violence, with consequences that would plunge the nation

> Trump has dismissed these accusations with irritation, insisting he is no monarch but a servant working day and night to restore America's dignity and power. Yet perception matters, and his tone has only fueled resistance. Unlike pliant foreign regimes, the American people are vocal, organized, and fully aware of their rights. They are not easily subdued. If Trump cannot win their trust, his authority will be weakened from within, regardless of what strength he projects abroad. For a president who promised to put America first, alienating America itself is a damning irony. Perhaps he should take inspiration from his so-called "favorite" Field Marshal Asim Munir of Pakistan—a man who has managed to bend under his thumb not only the National Assembly, Senate, Judiciary, and Government, but also an entire population of 250 million. If Trump truly yearns to rule unchecked, maybe a mentoring session with Munir could teach him the dark arts of silencing institutions and crushing dissent. It would be a masterclass in authoritarian success, but one that destroys democracy

> in the process. On a third front, Trump has stumbled in the political heart of Washington: the relationship with Congress. It is now the twenty-second day of a government shutdown, with no bipartisan agreement in sight to reopen the federal apparatus. The

chant that they do not want a king; they impasse revolves around social spending, managing China, his own people, and especially healthcare and Social Security benefits for seniors, retirees, and the disabled. Democrats insist these programs be preserved at their previous levels; Trump threatens to cut them unless his budget priorities are met. In retaliation, he has warned that Democratic initiatives and projects will be frozen entirely if they refuse to yield. This standoff has left more than 800,000 federal workers unpaid, public services crippled, and international confidence in U. S. governance shaken. The economic cost has been staggering: independent estimates suggest the shutdown has already drained nearly \$3 billion per week from the U.S. economy, with projections of as much as \$24 billion in losses if it lasts two months, shaving 0.2% off quarterly GDP growth. Small businesses relying on federal contracts are collapsing, loan approvals are frozen, and families living paycheck to paycheck are being forced into debt. The possibility that the shutdown could extend for months looms over the nation like a shadow, underlining not only a breakdown of negotiation but a collapse of leadership. The president, ultimately responsible for ensuring the functioning of government, has instead become the architect of its

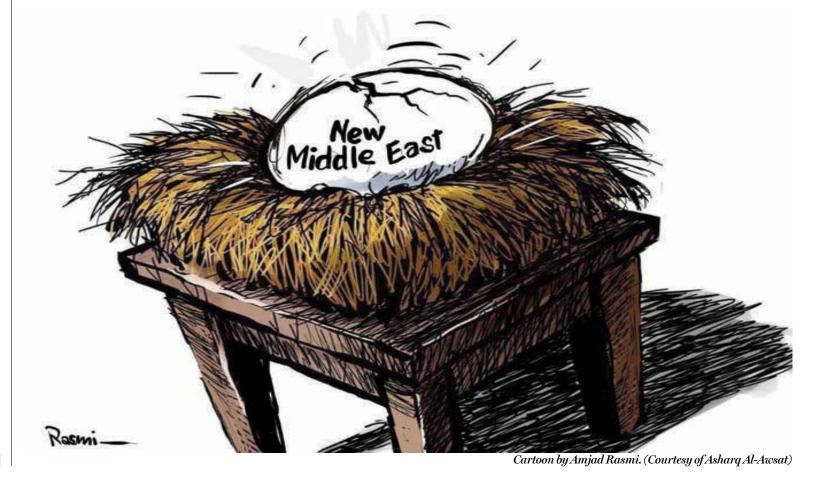
> The damage reverberates abroad. Allies and rivals alike are watching, noting that America cannot manage its own house, let alone dictate terms to others. Each passing day without resolution chips away at U. S. credibility. For Trump, the stakes are immense. His ability to govern effectively is being judged not only by his opponents but by history itself. To fail simultaneously in

his own legislature would mark not just a troubled presidency but a broken model of leadership. Yet so far, he has responded with threats and defiance rather than compromise and wisdom.

The way forward is clear, though whether Trump will take it is uncertain. He must abandon the illusion of unilateral control and return to democratic norms. He must negotiate in good faith with Congress to restore government operations, even if it means conceding ground. He must respect the constitutional limits on deploying federal forces in states, reassuring the public that their freedoms are safe. And he must recognize that with China, confrontation is a dead end; dialogue is the only path that preserves America's interests without triggering global economic disruption. Every war, whether military, trade, or political, ends at the negotiating table. Sooner is always better than later, for the longer conflict drags on, the greater the damage to all sides.

Trump has prided himself on being a deal-maker, but at this crossroads he has become a breaker of deals, a divider of people, and a trigger of crises. His legacy will not be judged by the force of his threats but by his capacity to resolve conflicts constructively. If he fails to change course, his presidency may be remembered not for making America great again, but for revealing just how fragile its greatness had become.

The writer is Press Secretary to the President (Rtd), Former Press Minister, Embassy of Pakistan to France, Former Press Attaché to Malaysia and Former MD, SRBC. He is living in Macomb, Michigan, USA



## Delivering a Breakthrough: BISP Reversing Child Stunting

Qurat-ul-Ain Haider

n a country where almost 40 percent of children under five face the silent crisis of stunting, Benazir Nashonuma Programme has emerged as a story of hope and evidence-based impact. Operating under the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Pakistan's largest social protection initiative, it represents a defining moment in the nation's fight against malnutrition — a model where science meets compassion and policy translates into human progress.

A midterm independent evaluation by the Aga Khan University's Institute for Global Health and Development confirmed a national breakthrough: a 6.4 percent reduction in child stunting, a 5.6 percent decrease in low birth weight, and a 7–8 percent drop in babies born too small or too weak in target areas. Even more striking is the 20 percent reduction in stunting among six-month-old infants whose mothers joined the programme during early pregnancy and stayed through breastfeeding. Behind these figures are real lives, women, children, and fami-

lies whose futures have quietly transformed. UNICEF's Representative, Pernille Ironside, described the programme as a partnership rooted in human rights, development, and resilience: "At the heart of our work with BISP is every child's right to grow up healthy and strong. By engaging communities, empowering mothers and adolescent girls with knowledge and better nutrition, we are breaking the cycle of malnutrition and helping families build brighter futures."

For Coco Ushiyama, Country Director of WFP Pakistan, Nashonuma represents "a model of government leadership and partnership in action." She added, "A 20 percent reduction in stunting among infants at six months of age is an unprecedented achievement - for Pakistan healthy mother is the foundation of a healthy

and globally. When social protection and nutrition come together, the results are transformative. Investing in nutrition is one of the smartest investments a country can make for its future generations."

Dr. Zulfiqar Bhutta of Aga Khan University called the findings "among the strongest globally." He emphasized that investing in early nutrition "pays off for generations" and that Pakistan's progress represents "a powerful return on investment for human capital."

Yet beyond the data lies the human story the quiet, consistent transformation taking place in Pakistan's most remote corners. In a small fishing village in Ormara, Balochistan, Rozina, a mother of four, arrived weak and malnourished at her nearest Nashonuma center. After months of counseling, care, and nutritious supplements, her strength returned. Her youngest daughter, Misra, was born healthy. "When I see my children now, I don't see the shadows of sickness, she says. "I see a future filled with hope."

In the mountains of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Raham Bibi learned for the first time that the first 1,000 days determine a child's lifelong health. Her youngest, Habiba, now thrives. They respected me and taught me that my care matters," she says softly. "That changed

Such stories of strength embody the essence of the Benazir Nashonuma Programme an initiative that restores dignity through empathy and delivers measurable results through science. As Senator Rubina Khalid, Chairperson BISP, explained, "The findings provide clear evidence that social protection, when linked with nutrition interventions, delivers meaningful results for vulnerable women and children. Pakistan's success with Nashonuma proves that large-scale solutions to malnutrition are not only possible but effective. At BISP, we firmly believe that a

nation."

The programme also aligns closely with Pakistan's broader development agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): eradicating poverty, ending hunger, promoting health, and empowering women. It embodies the philosophy that social protection is not just about assistance; it is about opportunity, empowerment, and transformation.

Backed by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and grounded in rigorous research, the Benazir Nashonuma model is now drawing international attention as a pioneering example of how conditional cash transfers can be effectively integrated with nutrition and health interventions. In a world struggling with rising food insecurity, climate pressures, and widening inequality, Pakistan's approach stands as proof that well-designed national programmes can deliver both scale and substance.

The story is far from over. The final evaluation in 2026 will measure long-term outcomes, but the visible progress is already reshaping lives. For millions of mothers and children, Nashonuma has become more than a programme it is a silent movement that is instilling care and confidence in mothers and families.

As one mother in Sindh said, "This programme didn't just feed my child. It taught me how to care for my family." Her words embody a transformation that no statistic can measure – a movement of mothers nurturing a healthier, more resilient Pakistan.

Bio: Qurat-ul-Ain Haider is Director Media Coordination and Outreach at BISP, a seasoned communication strategist and trainer. She is also a columnist whose writings explore international issues, social issues, social policy, developmental journalism, and public discourse in Pakistan.

The writer is, Director, Media Coordination and Outreach in Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP)

## Beware the spoilers of the Gaza peace plan

Dr. Abdel Aziz Aluwaisheg

ive days passed without incident following the Sharm El-Sheikh summit on Oct. 13. But on the sixth day, Sunday, Israel accused and responded harshly by launching scores of strikes, causing massive casualties. Hamas denied responsibility for the violation, but verifying the facts is difficult as the independent ceasefire observers envisioned in the plan do not appear to have started their task yet.

There have been expectations from Day 1 that Israel would stop implementing the deal once it got its hostages back. That speculation was based on many Israeli officials openly calling for continuing the war. However, the fact that the US has guaranteed this deal and President Donald Trump has personally staked his reputation on its success may make it difficult for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin casting doubts over the possibility of imple-Netanyahu to go along with his extremist part-

The Oct. 13 summit was the brainchild of Trump. Thirty countries attended the summit, including some of the largest and most important Arab, Muslim and European countries, such as Indonesia and Pakistan, as well as Jordan, Iraq and all six Gulf Cooperation Council countries. India and Japan attended from Asia and, from Europe, France, Germany, Italy, Norway, Spain and the UK. Four countries — Egypt, Qatar, Turkiye and the US were the guarantors.

According to the plan, Gaza will be demilforce overseen by the US military will monitor

also says Gaza will be initially governed by a temporary transitional committee of Palestinian technocrats - supervised by a "Board of Peace" chaired by Trump himself.

Hamas — which seized control of Gaza in 2007 by ousting its rivals a year after winning legislative elections — would play no future Hamas of violating the ceasefire role in its governance, directly or indirectly, according to the Trump plan. It is a historic irony that Hamas was able to keep its hold over Gaza through Israeli support. Netanyahu thought of Hamas as a counterbalance to the Palestinian Authority, which he saw as a precursor to the idea of an independent Palestinian state that he so loathed.

However, governance of the Strip, according to Trump's plan, will eventually be handed over to the PA — which administers the West Bank once it has undergone reforms. But these provisions are yet to happen, leading Gazans to wonder whether any of it will happen any time soon, especially as Israeli officials keep menting the plan.

Hard-liners in Israel and Hamas are not the only spoilers. Israel has groomed a new generation of shady collaborators in Gaza, who have been accused of committing serious crimes, including killings and stealing aid supplies. Because of the security vacuum in Gaza, Hamas is taking the law into its own hands and going after these gangs, using their presence to justify keeping its weapons to "defend the civilians" of Gaza. It has said that it will disband and hand over its weapons only to a genuine Palestinian force.

Islamic Jihad, a close ally of Iran and itarized and all "military, terror and offensive the second-largest armed faction in Gaza infrastructure" destroyed. A multinational after Hamas, can also play the spoiler role, depending on where Tehran stands on the the ceasefire but it does not appear that this Gaza deal. Its leader, Ziyad Al-Nakhalah, has force has commenced operations. The plan rejected it as a "surrender plan."

# **HSHM Hosts Interactive Session for** Students Representing Pakistan

**Spokesman Report** 

hosted an interactive session to celebrate four students selected to represent Pakistan for the first time at the to be held in Dubai from February

brings together hospitality students address real-world challenges through innovation, leadership, and collaboration. HSHM's participation marks Pakistan's debut in this international leaders for the country's growing hospi-

giving an introduction of FLC to audi-The event was graced by Mr. Azam tality industry." Mr Haseeb Gardezi also

Jamil, Advisor for Education to the addressed the audience and shared LAHORE: The Hashoo School of Director Education, Mr Zaeem Yaqoo Hospitality Management (HSHM) and Dr Umar from BNU apart from other executives related to hospitality industry. The distinguished guests engaged with the selected students, Future Leaders Challenge (FLC) 2026, offering words of encouragement, sharing professional insights.

A total of 26 entries were received The Future Leaders Challenge (FLC) from HSHM's four campuses, out of is a prestigious global competition that which 14 were shortlisted and four students were finally selected after a from leading institutions worldwide to rigorous evaluation process. The finalists include Miss Anaya Khurram (Muzaffarabad, AJK), Miss Ayoon Ijaz (Lahore), Mr. Rafay Ahmad (Swat), and Mr. Abdullah Alam Khan (Mirpur, forum, underscoring the institution's AJK). The team will represent HSHM commitment to nurturing young  $\,$  and Pakistan at the FLC 2026 Finals  $\,$ 

"This is a defining moment for hospi-The session started with Mr. Faisal tality education in Pakistan," said Mr. Naeem, Director Education, HSHM, Azam Jamil, Advisor for Education to the CEO, Hashoo Group. "These young ence which included the cardinals of individuals are not only competing on the selection process and an overview a global stage but also carrying the of FLC. Later, all the selected students promise of a new era of professionintroduced themselves to the audience. alism and pride in our country's hospi-

CEO, Mr. Haseeb Gardezi, Executive high hopes that these selected future leaders shall bring laurels to HSHM and Pakistan. He said" As you selected to represent HSHM at an international platform, remember—you are not just competing, you are carrying the values of excellence, respect, and integrity that defines Hashoo Group's legacy".

The event concluded with an expression of collective pride from the academic leadership of Hashoo Group, reaffirming the organization's commitment to fostering academic excellence, experiential learning, and international exposure for its students. The selected team will now undergo structured mentorship and training under the guidance of Mr. Azam Jamil and HSHM faculty in preparation for the global finals.

HSHM's participation in the Future Leaders Challenge 2026, first of its kind ever in Pakistan, represents a milestone for hospitality education in the country and aligns with Hashoo Group's vision to empower the next generation of professionals who will shape the future of the nation's service



## PTCL Group, CEQUENS sign MoU at GITEX GLOBAL 225 as partners

**Example 2** Commerce Desk

DUBAI/ ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's largest telecommunication and integrated ICT services provider, PTCL Group (PTCL & Ufone 4G) has entered into a strategic partnership with CEQUENS, a global customer engagement solutions provider, to introduce CPaaS for enterprises across Pakistan.

Asif Ahmad, Group Chief Business Solutions Officer, PTCL & Ufone 4G and Nermeen Sobhy, SVP Carrier Relations and Wholesale, CEQUENS signed the partnership at GITEX Global 2025 in Dubai, Group Chief Commercial Officer, PTCL & Ufone 4G, Syed Atif Raza and Karim Khorshed, CEO, Cequens, were also present at the signing, along with senior management from both sides.

WhatsApp, and other digital chanexpertise and PTCL Group's nation- Solutions Officer, PTCL & Ufone solutions that will redefine how they growth journey.



The collaboration focuses on wide reach, the partnership aims to 4G, said, "Our partnership with empowering businesses with a strengthen go-to-market capabilities, CEQUENS marks a significant step unified suite of communication tools, deliver enhanced customer engage- in PTCL Group's journey to evolve as enabling them to engage customers ment, and accelerate digital transfor- a digital enabler for Pakistan's enter-

seamlessly through SMS, voice, mation for enterprises in Pakistan. prises. With CPaaS, we are equip-Commenting on the partner-

ping businesses with scalable, flex-

engage with their customers. PTCL continues to invest in digital innovation and infrastructure development to fast-track cross sector digitalization for sustainable growth and service modernization.

Nermeen Sobhy, SVP Carrier Relations and Wholesale, CEQUENS said, "We are proud to collaborate with PTCL to extend our groundbreaking CPaaS solutions to businesses across Pakistan. Our platform brings businesses closer to their customers by allowing them to deliver consistent, omnichannel communication experience across multiple touchpoints, improving responsiveness, personalization, and overall service quality. Through this collaboration, Pakistani businesses can benefit from a world-class customer engagement model without heavily investing in infrastructure

development." This milestone underlines PTCL Group's commitment to bringing world-class platforms to Pakistan and reinforces its role as a trusted nels. By leveraging CEQUENS' global ship, Asif Ahmad, Group Business ible, and innovative communication partner for enterprises in their digital

## **HESCO** Chief Joins Hindu Community for Diwali Celebrations at Durga Shiv Mandir

👺 Qayoom Sarohi

HYDERABAD: HESCO Chief Executive Officer Faizullah Dahri visited Durga Shiv Mandir on the occasion of Diwali. He was accompanied by HESCO spokesperson Sadique Kubar, renowned social activist Junaid Dahri, XEN Gari Khata Zafar Solangi, SDO Wali Dad Chandio, Chairman Gari Khata Iqrar Panhwar, and other HESCO officials.

Faizullah Dahri attended the ceremony held at the temple, which began in a traditional manner with the lighting of lamps and a joyful cake-cutting ceremony to celebrate Diwali.

and love that spreads the message of auspicious occasion." harmony, peace, and brotherhood. I



He added that Pakistan's Consti-

said that "Diwali is a festival of joy community around the world on this minority rights, and the contribution the religions of all minority communiopment is commendable. "National

On this occasion, Faizullah Dahri extend heartfelt greetings to the Hindu tution guarantees the protection of of minorities to the country's develunity and interfaith harmony are vital for Pakistan's strength and progress," he emphasized.

He further stated that the display of respect and solidarity among followers of all religions is a beautiful example of social harmony. "We have come here to share their happiness and to convey the message that our beloved homeland, Pakistan, stands at the forefront of religious tolerance. For centuries, we have celebrated our festivals together in the spirit of unity they share in our joys, and we share in theirs. When we participate in each other's celebrations, it sends a message to the entire

world that Muslims in Pakistan respect ties just as they respect their own faith,

## Latest version of Azentio's *iMAL* achieves exclusive AAOIFI certification for 16th consecutive year

News Desk

SINGAPORE: Azentio Software ("Azentio"), a leading technology enabler in the BFSI (Banking, Financial Services and Insurance) space, today announced that the latest version of its flagship Islamic core banking platform, iMAL, has once again received full certification for 2025 from the Accounting and Auditing Organization for Islamic Financial Institutions (AAOIFI), the globally recognized standard-setting body for Islamic finance.

This marks the 16th consecutive year that iMAL has achieved AAOIFI certification, making it the only Islamic banking software in the world to be fully certified, not merely compliant - a distinction that underscores its unmatched position in the global Islamic

We are pleased to conclude the review of the latest version of iMAL for the year 2025," said Omar Mustafa Ansari, Secretary General of AAOIFI. The iMAL's proactive approach to compliance with AAOI-FI's Shari'ah and Financial Accounting Standards, including upcoming FAS 44, 45, 46, and 47, demonstrates its commitment to providing the best Shari'ah-compliant solution for customers, thereby enhancing the credibility and trust in the Islamic finance industry. Our partnership with Azentio is a vital pillar in advancing the global Islamic

Built specifically for Islamic financial institutions, iMAL is trusted by leading banks across the Middle East, Africa and Asia to support Shari'ah-compliant operations from end to end, including customer onboarding, product structuring, accounting and report

The latest release of iMAL also includes the new Musaqat product, which has received full Shari'ah certification. Tailored for the Islamic finance sector to meet the needs of the irrigation industry, the product comes pre-configured with Shari'ah-compliant structures, reducing the need for extensive customization and enabling banks to launch rapidly while ensuring full compliance.

This release is fully aligned with the latest AAOIFI Shari'ah and Financial Accounting Standards, ensuring institutions can confidently launch innovative products without compromising on compliance.

Khaled Berjawi, Senior Vice President Product Management for iMAL at Azentio, commented: "In a market where trust and compliance are everything, iMAL stands alone. Our continued AAOIFI certification, uninterrupted for 16 years, is more than a regulatory milestone. It reflects our deep commitment to empowering Islamic financial institutions with cutting-edge technology that is rigorously, verifiably Shari'ah-compliant. No other platform can make that claim. We are proud to be at the forefront of Islamic fintech, helping our clients deliver modern, compliant services that scale with demand."

Azentio's in-house Shariah Compliance Team continuously tracks updates to AAOIFI standards and exposure drafts, ensuring iMAL evolves in lockstep with regulatory shifts and emerging market needs. For customers, this means future-ready infrastructure backed by a proven, certified track record.

About Azentio

Azentio is a leading provider of purpose-built, intelligence-driven technology solutions designed to transform the banking, financial services, insurance (BFSI), and enterprise resource planning (ERP) sectors. By combining cutting-edge innovation with deep domain expertise, Azentio empowers businesses to accelerate growth, enhance operational efficiency, and stay ahead in a rapidly evolving market. With a strong presence across the Middle East, Africa, and Southeast Asia, Azentio delivers world-class technology that streamlines processes and delivers tangible results, enabling organizations to achieve sustainable success.

# Tourism as a bridge for cooperation between Uzbekistan and the EU

Umid Shadiev

n recent years, tourism has become one of the priority areas in Uzbekistan's foreign economic strategy. As part of this policy, the country is actively strengthening its partnership with the European Union, turning the tourism sector into a powerful driver of economic growth, cultural exchange, and enhanced international reputa-

Collaboration with the EU encompasses a broad spectrum European tourists. of initiatives: from joint infraglobal stage. A significant mile-- European Union" summit held symbolized the cultural dialogue

ship was adopted at the summit, highlighting the importance of tourism development.

President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Shavkat Mirziyoyev, put forward the "One Tour - The Whole Region" initiative, aimed at unifying Central Asian tourist routes in line with EU standards. The goal is to simplify visa procedures, promote cultural exchange, and make travel across the region more accessible and appealing to

Cultural cooperation has structure and digital projects become a key element of this partto promoting tourism on the nership. One of the most notable events was the large-scale producstone was the first "Central Asia" tion of the ballet Lazgi, which

is also participating in international programs such as Horizon Europe, which contribute to the development of scientific and educational potential, directly impacting the quality of tourism

The economic benefits are already noticeable. In 2025, Uzbekistan expects to welcome over 11 million foreign tourists, with industry revenues projected to reach \$4 billion. To achieve these goals, the country is actively modernizing its infrastructure and implementing digital solutions in the tourism sector. For example, the CAREN program established high-speed

connectivity between universi-

in April 2025 in Samarkand. A between Uzbekistan and the ties in Central Asia and Europe, declaration on strategic partner- countries of Europe. Uzbekistan promoting the exchange of knowledge and innovation in the field of tourism.

Special attention is given to promoting Uzbekistan's tourism image on international platforms. Leading media outlets such as Euronews, BBC, CNN, and National Geographic present the country as a promising destination, which contributes to the growth of tourist inflow from

the promotion was made by the tour operators and investors. roadshows organized in European capitals - Berlin, Paris, Madrid, Rome, Zagreb, and Warsaw. These events not only showcased Uzbekistan's cultural heritage but also served as a platform for estab-



A significant contribution to lishing business connections with duced in tourist areas, and green and social benefits. This collab-

Moreover, sustainable tourism development is a key focus: projects aimed at preserving natural and cultural heritage are being implemented, environmental standards are being intro-

infrastructure is being developed. The partnership between

Uzbekistan and the European Union in tourism is more than makes Central Asia more open just an exchange of experience: it is a strategic alliance that brings real economic, cultural,

oration creates new opportunities for the region, strengthens bonds between peoples, and and appealing to the world.

The writer is Chairman of the Tourism Committee

Wednesday, October 22, 2025

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

Index Fluctuation		
00-Share Index		
Prev. Close		
166,242.90		
Day's Low		
166,923.59		
Change		
+1103.93		
Time		
21 Oct, 2025 4:30 pm		
E 100 Index		
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+23.42		
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21 Oct, 4:35 pm GMT+1		
ndustrial Averago		
Change		

47,011.99	+305.41		
Percentage	Time		
+0.65%	21 Oct, 1:41 pm GMT-4		
Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average			
	ei Stucks Average		
Index Value	Change		

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

Time

21 Oct. 3:45 pm

GMT+9

Percentage

+0.27%

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	185.4	190.4
Bahrain Dinar	746.6	754.1
Canadian Dollar	205.4	212.4
China Yuan	39.8	40.2
Danish Krone	44.5	45.1
Euro	331.7	335.2
Hong Kong Dollar	36.4	36.75
Indian Rupee	3.11	3.2
Japanese Yen	1.8762	1.9762
Kuwaiti Dinar	913.3	922.3
Malaysian Ringgit	67.25	67.85
NewZealand \$	164.8	166.8
Norwegians Krone	28.25	28.55
Omani Riyal	731.15	738.65
Qatari Riyal	77.4	78.1
Saudi Riyal	75.45	76.1
Singapore Dollar	216.85	221.6
Swedish Korona	30.05	30.35
Swiss Franc	355.02	357.77
Thai Bhat	8.7	8.85
U.A.E Dirham	76.75	77.75
UK Pound Sterling	380.65	383.65
US Dollar	282.55	282.75

#### **Customs Enforcement** Peshawar foils major cigarette smuggling attempts

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KARACHI: In a major crackdown on illicit trade, the Collectorate of Customs Enforcement, Peshawar, on the special directions of the Chief Collector of Customs (Enforcement), has foiled multiple attempts to smuggle foreign-origin

During the first three months of FY 2025-26, Customs teams seized 18,275,100 sticks of smuggled cigarettes worth Rs. 154.90 million. This is a sharp rise from 14,114,400 sticks valued at Rs. 97.04 million seized during the same period last year, showing a 60% increase in value.

This successful campaign reflects Pakistan Customs' strong commitment to curbing smuggling, protecting legitimate businesses, and safeguarding the national

## Preparations starts to reopen Torkham Trade Gateway

PESHAWAR: Preparations have begun to reopen the Pakistan-Afghanistan Torkham trade crossing, with Customs authorities directing all staff to report immediately to the Torkham terminal.

According to Customs sources on Tuesday, a cargo scanning machine has been reinstalled at the terminal to facilitate the clearance of trade vehicles. The scanner had been removed on the night between October 11 and 12 due to height-

ened border tensions. Officials said the Torkham border crossing had been closed eight days ago following escalations between Pakistan and Afghanistan. Meanwhile, Afghan security sources reported that hundreds of passengers have gathered on the Afghan side of the border after receiving information that the crossing is about to reopen.

## PTCL Group continues to achieve double-digit growth

#### Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Telecommunication Company Limited (PTCL), the country's leading telecom and ICT services provider, has announced financial results for the nine months ended September 30, 2025, at a Board of Directors meeting held in Islamabad. PTCL Group recorded 15% revenue growth, maintaining its position as Pakistan's premier integrated telecom services provider.

The Competition Commission of Pakistan granted Phase-II approval for the proposed acquisition of Telenor Pakistan by PTCL, marking an important milestone This milestone strengthens PTCL Group's



position in the industry, further driving connectivity, expanding digital access, and contributing to the Government's vision of a digitally empowered Pakistan.

PTCL Flash Fiber continued to lead the market as the fastest-growing fiber broadin the consolidation of the telecom sector. band operator, achieving year-on-year capacity sales from Singapore to Marseille with a leading satellite provider to expand growth of around 30% and maintaining

35%. The company also introduced the Tez global digital infrastructure. Raftaar offer, providing high-speed internet homes and businesses nationwide.

PTCL's business services segment maintained its leadership position across IP bandwidth, Cloud, Data Center, and ICT solutions, further strengthening Pakistan's position as a regional connectivity hub.

During Q3 2025, PTCL sealed a landmark Trans-Pakistan connectivity agreement with leading Chinese operators, routes. In addition, PTCL also achieved a major milestone by executing wet segment AJK and GB, including a landmark alliance through submarine cable partnerships, broadband access nationwide.

the highest subscriber market share at underscoring Pakistan's growing role in

The Enterprise business expanded into at a discounted rate to enhance access for new verticals such as FinTech, securing significant wins. Trakker and IoT solutions gained momentum, while major M2M deals were closed with government customers.

PTCL experienced strong growth in IP bandwidth and managed capacity penetration within the Wholesale segment, boosting the adoption of emerging digital services such as Content Delivery Networks. Strategic partnerships were formed with major strengthening east-west digital trade CMOs for IP bandwidth and satellite-based connectivity across Pakistan, particularly in

## Trade Cooperation

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan discusses GSP Plus and trade cooperation with European Union Ambassador H.E. Raimundas Karoblis on Tuesday.



## Al Baraka Bank Hosts Olive Summit 2.0 for the Second Consecutive Year



#### Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Al Baraka Bank (Pakistan) Limited, in collaboration with the National Alliance for Safe Food, successfully organized the "Al Baraka Pakistan Olive Summit 2.0" in Islamabad for the second consecutive year, reaffirming its commitment to advancing sustainable agriculture and developing Pakistan's

The event brought together leading Saudi Arabia, Italy, Bahrain, Spain, Indo-

policymakers, and international stakeholders to explore opportunities for investment, innovation, and value chain development in Pakistan's emerging olive sector. The summit was graced by Rana Tanveer Hussain, Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research, as the Chief Guest, along with Mr. Muhammad Atif Hanif, CEO - Al Baraka Bank (Pakistan) Limited, Federal Ministers, and Ambassadors from Turkey, nesia, and Malaysia.

Speaking at the event, Mr. Muhammad Atif Hanif stated, "This initiative is not just about cultivating olives—it's about cultivating opportunity, resilience, and prosperity." He reaffirmed Al Baraka Bank's commitment to empowering farmers, promoting agricultural sustainability, and enabling rural economic transformation through dedicated financing solutions and strategic global partner-

## Pak-Afghan ceasefire heralds new era of regional economic growth



Commerce Desk

LAHORE: SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry former President Iftikhar Ali Malik lauding Pak-Afghan ceasefire Tuesday said that durable peace is the key to sustainable and integrated economic growth in the

In a statement here today he said recently brokered truce between Pakistan and Afghanistan, facilitated through the diplomatic efforts of Türkiye mutual trust and confidence.

and Qatar, marks a highly welcome development that will pave the way for longterm regional stability and prosperity. He said the business communities of both countries have long desired a peaceful environment that enables trade, investment, and connectivity projects to flourish. With the cessation of hostilities and improved border coordination, trade volumes will rise, transport corridors poised to reopen, besides revival of joint ventures in energy, food, and infrastructure. He lauded Kabul's solemn commitment not to support any elements involved in terrorist activities against Pakistan, saying this pledge must now be translated into firm action to build

## **Business Community** Pays the Most Taxes, says RCCI President Usman Shaukat

### Commerce Desk

RAWALPINDI: President

of the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI), Usman Shaukat, has said that the business community pays the highest amount of taxes, while our tax system depends almost 60% on indirect tax collections. Referring to a news report published by some media outlets claiming that during the first quarter, the salaried class paid more taxes than exporters, wholesalers, and retailers, he said this report is misleading, based on insufficient information, and creates a false impression that traders are not contributing to the tax net.

He stated that a large portion of the salaried class is linked with the private sector, and that exporters, wholesalers, and retailers pay the salaries of their employees from their own profits. Presenting salaried individuals separately in tax statistics and suggesting that they pay more taxes than others reflects a lack of understanding of the real facts and the structure of the tax collection system.



The Rawalpindi Chamber has always advocated for reducing taxes, including on the salaried class. Lower taxes will encourage business growth, and as business activity expands, tax revenues will also increase.

President Usman Shaukat further stated that in the last fiscal year, over Rs. 12 trillion in taxes were collected, of which only Rs. 600 billion came from the salaried class. For the current fiscal year 2025-26, the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) has set a revenue target of Rs. 14.305 trillion. Excluding the salaried class, where does the rest of this massive tax collection come from? It is the business community that bears the brunt of heavy taxation including super taxes.

## DWP Group honors emerging talent at Tameer-e-Mustaqbil graduation ceremony 2025

#### Commerce Desk

mony of its Tameer-e-Mustaqbil internship program in Lahore, mark-

Muhammad Naseem, Director, DWP Group, said, "At DWP Group, ISLAMABAD: DWP Group success- we believe that the future of Pakistan fully celebrated the graduation cere-lies in empowering its youth with the right skills and opportunities. The Tameer-e-Mustaqbil program is ing the completion of an enriching designed to bridge the gap between journey for seven talented internees academia and industry by offering from the company's Tech Division. real-world experience, mentorship, Speaking on the occasion, Taha and a platform for innovation. Seeing



confident professionals is a proud moment for all of us." Rohail Basir, Chief Operating Officer, DWP Technologies, added,

"Our vision behind Tameer-e- and commitment throughout the Mustaqbil is to cultivate future-ready professionals who can lead with creativity and purpose. Each internee has shown remarkable potential future endeavors.'

program, and we are confident that they will carry forward DWP's values

#### Pakistan vs South Africa 2nd Test Match

## Keshav Maharaj Excellent Bowling got 7 Wickets: Pakistan Cricket Team First inning All Out 333 Runs

#### **Asim Tanveer**

ISLAMABAD: The Second Test match of the series between Pakistan and South Africa played at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium became interesting due to the excellent bowling of South Africa. South Africa fought back strongly on the second day of the second cricket test against Pakistan and presented a brilliant game against the bowling of Pakistan bowling due to their excellent batting on the second day of the match.

The South African cricket team has scored more than half the score in response to the 333 runs scored by Pakistan in the first innings and has 6 wickets left in their first innings. South African batsmen De Zorzi scored a brilliant half-century while Tristan Stubbs appeared to be playing a great innings. South Africa has scored 185 runs for 4 wickets at the end of the game and needs another 148 runs to overcome the first innings deficit of the Pakistan cricket team.

South Africa's innings against Pakistan started confidently, but Pakistan achieved their first





victory at the score of 22 when by wicketkeeper Mohammad ball after scoring 14 runs. At the Sajid Khan when Proteas captain Saud Shakeel after scoring 32 Ryan Rickelton was caught Rizwan off Shaheen Afridi's score of 54, the big wicket went to Aiden Markram was caught by runs. Tony de Zorzi and Tristan





Stubbs batted for the third wicket Salman Ali Agha confidently and neutralized the Pakistani took the score forward. Pakistan spinners. They hit long on the spin pitch, which gave South stan again lost 5 wickets for 17 Africa boundaries with the help runs, and the entire Pakistan of sixes and fours. Both batted cricket team was bowled out for from the 21st to the 58th over and 333 in the first innings. South made a valuable partnership of African spin bowler Keshav 113 runs for the third wicket for Maharaj became the breaking the team. Asif Afridi, who made news of the cricket world today by his debut here, took an important wicket for Pakistan and his first innings. Pakistani batters first wicket when he cleared Tony were helpless in front of Keshav de Zorzi to LBW. The umpire declared him not out.

scored 55 runs off 93 balls, which the Rawalpindi Test. included 2 sixes and a four. Pakistan got their next victory soon after when David Brace was dismissed by Asif Afridi for dismissed for 259 runs for 5 zero, Salman Agha took a brilliant catch. After this, Pakistan stan's last 5 wickets fell by adding did not get any wickets. South 17 runs to the score. Because the Africa ended the second day of the match with 185 runs for 4

Pakistan needed another 148 runs to complete the score. Stobbs was not out on 68. For Pakistan, Asif Afridi took 2 wickets, Sajid one wicket each. Earlier, on the second day of the game, Pakiwickets, then Saud Shakeel and

completed 300 runs, but Pakidismissing 7 players in Pakistan's Maharaj. The South African spinner dismissed 7 players of Better clear on review He Pakistan in the first innings of

On the second day of the second Test at the Pindi Cricket Stadium, Pakistan's team was wickets and 333 runs. Pakisixth wicket fell at 316 when Salman Ali Agha made 45. The next wicket was that of Saud Shakeel, who returned to the pavilion after making 66. No one else could play.

For South Africa, spinner Khan and Shaheen Afridi took Keshav Maharaj took 7 wickets for 102 runs in 42.4 overs. Shan Masood's 87 and Abdullah stan started with 259 runs for 5 Shafiq's 66 runs were important on the first day.

#### Deaf Players, No Less Than Anyone

## 4rth All Pakistan Deaf Sports Gala in Multan: Kamran Khan



Kiran Asim

Punjab Muhammad Kamran played between Gujarat and Khan attended the final match of Lahore at the Sports Ground. the 4th All Pakistan Deaf Sports Batting first, the Gujarat team by showing a brilliant perfor-

Gala Cricket as a special guest. The final match of the 4th All MULTAN: Additional IG South Pakistan Deaf Sports Gala was Lahore was all out after scoring

scored 127 runs in the allotted overs while the opposing team only 60 runs in 13 overs. Thus, Gujarat won the final match



mance. Additional IG South Punjab Muhammad Kamran Khan presented medals, cash prizes and winning trophies to the final winning Gujarat team while also awarding cash prizes to the runner-up team.

Additional IG South Punjab Muhammad Kamran Khan watched the match of the Deaf South Punjab assured that more

players with great interest and appreciated their excellent performance on the field of play. He further said that the Deaf players are no less than anyone and they have won the hearts of everyone with their hard work and passion. Muhammad Kamran Khan, Additional IG



opportunities will be provided to deaf players by organizing such events. He said that the performance of deaf players on the field of play is a positive message for the society. Finally, Additional the organizers for organizing a wonderful event and expressed

events in the future. On this occasion, Jawad Zulkifal Bhutta Advocate, Chief Organizer Gul Zaman Bhutta, Tournament Deaf Committee President Muslim IG South Punjab Muhammad Raza, Chairman Deaf Associa-Kamran Khan congratulated tion Sheikh Usman Naseem and citizens in large numbers partic-

## PM launches INSPIRE initiative to train

#### Continued from Page 1

Commending the IT ministry and PSEB for their bold step in developing a skilled workforce aligned with global industry demands, the prime minister also acknowledged the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) for enabling strong public-private collaboration and facilitating investments that underpin national technology initiatives like INSPIRE.

He reaffirmed the government's resolve to strengthen Pakistan's digital and industrial capabilities through education, inclusion, and global part-

In her remarks, Federal Minister for IT and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja reaffirmed the government's commitment to developing a digitally empowered Pakistan.

ter's vision for a technology-driven, inclusive economy-one that equips youth and women with the skills required to lead in global innovation. It will empower our students, researchers, and professionals to transition from learning to leading roles in the global semiconductor industry," she commented.

She highlighted that under the prime minister's leadership, her ministry was actively fostering global partnerships and investment collaborations to strengthen cooperation in areas such as semiconductor development, research and design, broadband infrastructure, and advanced manufacturing.

Chairman of the National Semiconductor Task Force Dr. Naveed Sherwani briefed the audience on the strategic roadmap and underlined Pakistan's

conductor ecosystem.

'My vision for Pakistan's semiconductor future has always been to move and southern regions, and establishing beyond training talent-it is to build an six Integrated Circuit (IC) labs. interconnected ecosystem that unites academia, research, and industry. INSPIRE represents the first step toward that long-term national goal." CEO of PSEB Abu Bakar described

INSPIRE as a cornerstone project in building Pakistan's indigenous technological capacity.

Under the guidance of IT ministry, PSEB is proud to execute this program, which will train thousands of professionals and link academia, research, and industry to develop a sustainable national semiconductor ecosystem," he

INSPIRE aims to train 7,200 professionals over five years in semiconductor

"INSPIRE reflects the prime minis- opportunity to build a world-class semi- design, verification, and researchengaging nine public-sector universities across Pakistan's northern, central,

As the first phase of Pakistan's broader National Semiconductor Development Roadmap, INSPIRE will lay the foundation for future Outsourced Assembly & Testing (OSAT) and fabrication capabilities, enabling Pakistan to take part in the global semiconductor supply chain.

With the launch of INSPIRE, Pakistan has entered a new chapter of digital transformation-one defined by innovation, opportunity, and resilience.

The initiative embodies a national vision to harness youth potential, strengthen international partnerships, and position Pakistan as a credible contributor to the trillion-dollar global semiconductor industry.

## Iran, China clinch golds as Asia-Pacific Goalball C'ships conclude

#### **Sports Desk**

ISLAMABAD: The 2025 IBSA Asia-Pacific Goalball Championships concluded on Tuesday with Iran and China clinching the men's and women's titles respectively after a week of thrilling

contests at the Liaquat Gymnasium of Pakistan Sports Complex. In the women's final, China overcame their arch-rivals Japan 2-1 in a tightly contested encounter to successfully defend their title. Both sides exhibited remarkable defensive discipline and tactical control, but China maintained composure in the dying minutes to edge past Japan and retain their continental supremacy.

## NA Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq Addresses 151st conference

#### Continued from Page 1

While condemning the Indian atrocities and human rights violations in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIIOJK), Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq denounced India's demographic changes and suppression of civil liberties as grave breaches of international law. He stated that Pakistan responded to India's unprovoked aggression with restraint and remains committed to regional peace; however, Pakistan reserves the right to defend its sovereignty and territorial integrity. He further cautioned that India's unilateral suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty poses a serious threat to regional stability.

Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq also condemned the use of Afghan territory by the Indian-backed group "Fitna al-Khawarij" for carrying out anti-Pakistan activities. He also stated that Pakistan's counter-terrorism operations are solely aimed at ensuring civilian safety and protecting its borders.

Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq described climate change an emerging human-

survival. He noted that Pakistan, despite contributing minimally to global carbon emissions, is among the countries most severely impacted by devastating natural calamities. He called on the international community to show fairness, solidarity, and provide equitable financial assistance to vulnerable nations.

Highlighting Pakistan's commitment to peace and multilateral cooperation, Speaker NA said that Pakistan's proposed UN Security Council Resolution 2788 stands as a symbol of the country's dedi-

itarian crisis that threatens human cation to the promotion of international peace and stability. He reaffirmed that Pakistan firmly believes in diplomacy, dialogue, and parliamentary cooperation as effective means to strengthen global

The Pakistani parliamentary delegation accompanying Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq includes Federal Minister Mr. Azam Nazeer Tarar, Minister of State Barrister Aqeel Malik, and MNAs Choudhry Shahbaz Babar, Dr. Sharmila Sahiba Faruqui Hashaam, Ms. Muneeba Iqbal and Mr. Aijaz Hussain Jakhrani.

## Balochistan peace, prosperity remain top priority: ČOAS

#### Continued from Page 8

He warned that some elements, driven by political motives, were spreading propaganda against Balochistan's development.

"Fitna Al Hindustan and Fitna Al Khawarij are India-backed terrorist groups promoting narratives hostile to peace and progress in Balochistan," he said.

The army chief affirmed that all necessary actions are being taken against terrorists attempting to

disrupt peace in the province. "Pakistan will take every possible step to safeguard the lives and property of its citizens," he stressed.

seeks regional peace and stability but will make no compromise on national sovereignty, pledging a "strong and decisive response to any external or internal aggres-Field Marshal Munir concluded

He reiterated that Pakistan

by reaffirming that the prosperity, peace, and development of Balochistan remain the state's top priority.

At the end of the workshop, participants engaged in a question-and-answer session with the army chief, appreciating the role of the armed forces in promoting peace, development, and stability in Balochistan.

## 17th National Workshop Balochistan

RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, posing for a group photograph with participants of the 17th National Workshop Balochistan at General Head-



# Balochistan peace, prosperity remain top priority: COAS

Naveed Ahmad Khan

RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir on Tuesday reiterated that while Pakistan seeks Al Khwarij terror network regional peace and stability, any violation of its territorial integrity, direct or indirect, will terrorists were attempting to be met with a firm and decisive response to safeguard the lives and well-being of its citizens.

Addressing participants of tions against such elements,

the 17th National Workshop Balochistan at the General

Headquarters (GHQ) in Rawalpindi, Field Marshal Asim Munir said that the Fitna was spreading an anti-people agenda, while India-backed potential".

The Pakistan Army continues full-scale opera-

destabilise Balochistan.

According to the Inter-Ser-Public (ISPR), Asim Munir said that "Balochistan is the pride of Pakistan, and its people can harness immense economic

The army chief emphasised that long-term prosperity in Balochistan required working

beyond political interests. "The people of Balochistan socio-economic structure.

are talented, patriotic, and resilient. They are the real asset of Relations the nation and the driving force

of development," he added. Field Marshal Munir stated that both the federal and provincial governments were actively pursuing public welfare-based development projects, and comprehento improve the province's able progress".

Highlighting the region's vast economic potential, the army chief said it is essential to utilise these resources for the benefit of the people.

He underlined the constructive role of civil society and the importance of youth participation and empowerment, calling the young generation "the guarsive steps were being taken antor of Balochistan's sustain-

Continued on age 7

## Amir Muqam chairs first meeting on AJK-JĀAC demand

ISLAMABAD: al Minister for Kashmir Affairs, Gilgit-Baltistan and SAFRON, Engineer Amir Muqam, chaired the first meeting of the Implementation and Monitoring Committee on Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) affairs on Tuesday.

The meeting was attended by Dr Tariq Fazal Chaudhry, Chief Secretary AJK, representatives of the Joint Awami Action Committee (JAAC) and Secretary for Kashmir Affairs & Gilgit-Baltistan, Zafar Hassan.

During the meeting, the committee conducted a



detailed review of the agree ment reached with the JAAC.

Federal Minister Amir Muqam directed the relevant departments to ensure full implementation of the agreed points.

He announced that the next meeting of the Monitoring and Implementation Committee will be held in Muzaffarabad on November

"The Prime Minister of Pakistan is keen to provide maximum relief to the people of Azad Kashmir," Amir Muqam stated, reaffirming that all available resources would be utilized to resolve public issues effectively.

## Sindh reports 276 new dengue cases in October

跨 Bureau Report



KARACHI: The Sindh Health Department has released the latest report on confirmed dengue cases across the province, revealing that 276 new cases have been reported so far this month.

With these additions, the total number of dengue cases in 2025 has reached 920.

According to the report, Karachi Division remains the most affected, with 124 confirmed cases, followed by Hyderabad Division with 82, Mirpurkhas with 58, Sukkur with 9, Shaheed Benazirabad with 2, and Larkana Division with 1 case.

The Sindh Health Minister, Dr Azra Fazal Pechuho, said that the provincial government has further intensified its anti-dengue campaign across

Instructions have been issued to all districts to enhance spray operations, fumigation, and drainage systems to eliminate mosquito breeding sites. "All deputy commissioners and district health

officers have been directed to ensure that no stagnant water remains anywhere, as it is the primary source of mosquito breeding," the Minister said.

She emphasised that the government's priority is to give equal attention to both urban and rural

# Palestine Foreign Ministry Slams 'Terrorist Assaults' by Settlers on Palestinian Olive Harvest

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates strongly condemns, in the harshest terms, the terrorist assaults carried out by Israeli settlers against Palestinian citizens and international solidarity activists during the national olive harvest season in the occupied West Bank.

The Ministry affirms that the actions of these armed settler militias, which take place under the protection and coordination of the Israeli occupation army, are part of a systematic and wide-ranging policy targeting our people. These attacks aim to prevent farmers from reaching their lands, assault them, burn their vehicles, and steal their olive crops, actions that constitute a continuation of the ongoing campaign of extermination, displacement, and obstruction of international momentum aimed at ending the Israeli occu-



pation and the realization of the

State of Palestine. The Ministry also condemns the arrest by the occupation authorities of 32 foreign activists who were participating in a campaign to support Palestinian farmers during the olive harvest and to document settlers' crimes. continued attempt to conceal

Palestinian life in the occupied Palestinian territory.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates stresses that the actions of the Israeli occupation authorities and their various tools, including settler terrorism, aimed at displacing the Palestinian people from their land through terror, murder, uprooting of trees, and burning of crops, must not go unpunished. These practices not only

constitute a flagrant violation of international law but also pose a grave threat to the values of justice and the very foundations of the international system, as well as to fundamental human rights and norms.

The Ministry calls upon all the international community to These atrocities represent a act immediately to put an end to these crimes, to protect Palesthe scale of these assaults and the tinian civilians, and to ensure violations of international law, as their inalienable and legitimate part of a comprehensive policy right to live in security and designed to erase all aspects of dignity on their own land.

Published by: Almass Ayoub Sabir from Zero Point Printers Rawalpindi

## NA Acting Speaker, Briefed on Progress of New Parliament Lodges Project



ISLAMABAD: Acting Speaker Assembly, and Ms. Shaista Pervaiz, National Assembly, Syed Ghulam Convenor of the Parliamentary Mustafa Shah, was briefed by the officers of the Capital Development ment Goals (SDGs) of the National Authority (CDA) on the ongoing Construction of the New Parliament Lodges Project.

site, covered various aspects of the development including the current progress, projected timelines, and infrastructure details. The Acting Speaker NA emphasized the importance of timely completion of the project while ensuring transparency and adherence to quality standards.

by Mr. Muhammad Moin Aamer Pirzada, Member of the National Taskforce on Sustainable Develor

Acting Speaker National Assembly

took a detailed account of the project The briefing, held at the project updates from the CDA officials, reaffirming the National Assembly's commitment to facilitating the members of parliament through improved infrastructure and accommodation facilities. The visit reflects the leadership's

resolve to oversee key development initiatives and ensure effective imple-Acting Speaker NA, Syed Ghulam mentation in line with public interest Mustafa Shah was accompanied and institutional needs.

## Lahore declared world's second most polluted city after New Delhi



跨 Bureau Report

LAHORE: India's capital, New Delhi, has once again been ranked the most polluted city in the world, while Pakistan's Lahore secured the second spot, with the city's air declared 'very unhealthy'.

Pakistan's Industrial and economic hub, Karachi, also ranked third in the worldwide Air Quality Index (AQI) issued by IQAir.

According to the AQI, Lahore

recorded a pollution level of 268, while the average AQI is expected to remain between 210 and 240 throughout the day.

To tackle the problem of pollution, the Punjab government has taken many initiatives, including a ban on farm fires and fines against smoke-emitting vehicles.

The authorities have also started using anti-smog guns in polluted

"Right now, the major issue is the air coming from Indian Punjab and other parts, which is affecting the air quality in various parts of Pakistani Punjab," said Sajid Bashir, a spokesperson for Punjab's Environment Protection Agency.

Karachi's pollution level was recorded at 198, and placed into the 'unhealthy' air category

India's largest metropolitan centre, Mumbai, has been ranked fourth in the list.

Experts have warned that pollution from Delhi is likely to increase fog and smog levels in Lahore today.

Meanwhile, anti-smog guns continue to operate across identified smog hotspots in the city.