(محج بغاری: مدیث نمر 6538) **Barkat Rice Mills** (Pvt) Limited



President Zardari to visit Qatar in November

During the visit President would meet with Emir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim ibn Hamad Al Thani, also attend the Second World Summit for Social Development (WSSD2).



Kamal urges for early detection of breast cancer

Federal Minister for National Health Services Coordination Syed Mustafa Kamal has stresse

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Rabius Sani 29, Thursday, October 23, 2025







Daily Spokesman Vol: 19, Issue: 188 Price Rs. 25.00 Pages 8

Call on

ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Parliamentarians and Political leaders from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa called on Prime Minister Muham-



Six terrorists killed Dalbandin

Six burned alive by militants in North Waziristan over extortion refusal

跨 Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: In a barbaric incident, militants belonging to the Fitna Al Khawarij group burned six people alive by setting their car on fire in North Waziristan's Mir Ali area, sources said on Wednes-

The sources said that the incident happened after the occupants of the car refused to pay extortion money.

Militants first opened fire on the car and then doused it with petrol and set it ablaze, the sources said.

According to the sources, the assailants carried out the brutal attack to spread fear in the area. All six people inside the vehicle died on the spot.



Later, upon receiving inforteams reached the scene and among local residents. shifted the charred bodies to a nearby hospital.

Eyewitnesses described the

saying the flames were visible mation, local police and rescue from afar and caused panic

Condemning the incident, area people termed it an act of sheer savagery by Fitna Al Khawarij, attack as extremely barbaric, and urged the government and

They said such acts of violence could not be termed 'holy war' ad they were the brutal killing of innocent people.

Following the incident, security forces cordoned off the area and launched a search operation to apprehend the attackers.

Residents have demanded that both federal and provincial authorities ensure safety in the region, protect innocent citizens, and bring the perpetrators of the

heinous crime to justice. An other operation, Security forces have conducted a successful operation against the Fitna al-Hindustan terrorists in the Dalbandin area of Balochistan, eliminating all six

security forces to take immediate terrorists, according to security

The operation was part of ongoing efforts to eradicate terrorism from the province.

Sources said the terrorists were taking shelter in a mountain cave and had been under constant aerial surveillance before the strike was launched.

The action carried out with precise coordination between security forces and intelligence agencies, reflects continued determination to root out terrorist networks operating in

Security sources affirmed that counterterrorism operations would continue across Balochistan until the complete elimination of terrorist elements.

PM Shehbaz reviews development projects in KP

跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday held an important meeting with Members of Parliament and political leaders from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) to discuss the country's overall political landscape and review the progress of ongoing development projects in the province.

The meeting, held at the Prime Minister's Office, focused on federal efforts to boost socio-economic development in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and enhance coordination between the center and provincial stakeholders, a Prime Minister's Office news

Prime Minister Shehbaz development across all and Sardar Mushtaq.

regions, emphasizing that Khyber Pakhtunkhwa remains a key priority in the national agenda.

The Prime Minister expressed satisfaction over the pace of development work and directed relevant authorities to expedite key infrastructure and welfare projects. He also emphasized the need for sustained political engagement to ensure stability and growth in the province.

Prominent figures present at the meeting included Federal Ministers Engineer Amir Muqam, Sardar Muhammad Yousuf, Attaullah Tarar, and Rana Mubashir Igbal. Advisor to the Prime Minister Rana Sanaullah also attended, alongside Members of Parliament Peer Sabir Shah, reiterated the government's Captain (R) Safdar, Murtaza commitment to equitable Javed Abbasi, Ikhtiyar Wali,

Polish DPM Radoslaw Sikorski to visit Pakistan today

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister (DPM/FM) of the Republic of Poland, Radoslaw Sikorski, will pay a two-day official visit to Pakistan from October 23 to 24, at the invitation of Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar.

This will be DPM/FM Sikorski's second official visit to Pakistan, following his earlier visit in 2011, a DPM's Office news release said.

During his stay, the visiting dignitary will hold a one-on-one meeting and delegation-level talks with Senator Ishaq Dar. The discussions will cover the entire spectrum of Pakistan-Poland bilateral relations, with a focus on enhancing political, economic, and defense cooperation, as well as promoting cultural and people-to-people exchanges. The talks will be followed by a joint press stakeout.



The Ministry of Foreign Affairs noted that Sikorski's visit represents a significant milestone in strengthening Pakistan-Poland relations, reflecting both countries' desire to deepen collaboration across multiple sectors.

Pakistan, the statement reaffirmed, remains committed to advancing mutually beneficial ties with Poland and exploring new avenues of cooperation within the European Union framework and beyond.

Islamabad IT Park to be completed by December 2025: NA body told

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Standing tion within the current year. Committee on Information Technology and Telecommunication Ministry to launch development was informed on Wednesday that the Islamabad IT Park project was expected to be completed within its growth across the country. revised timeline of December 31,

The meeting was chaired by Syed Amin ul Haq. While reviewing the progress of the Islamabad IT Park, the Committee observed that the project was initially scheduled for completion by October 31, 2025; however, entrepreneurs and local investors only 80 percent of the work has been completed so far.

The Ministry informed the Committee that the delay occurred due to changes in the contractor and consultant from Korea, which significantly affected the project's pace and

Prime Minister had issued clear directions to ensure the project's comple-

The Committee also directed the projects in smaller cities to promote industrialization and economic

In response, the Ministry briefed that Special Technology Parks are being established in smaller cities through the private sector, under which interest-free loans are being provided to support such initiatives.

These projects aimed to facilitate while promoting technology-based industries in underdeveloped regions.

The Committee decided to defer The Prevention of Obscenity and Indecency in Digital Media Bill, 2025" to the next meeting, as the mover of the Bill was not present. It was agreed that the Bill would be It was further conveyed that the taken up in the upcoming session.

PM to inaugurate Regional Transport Ministers' Conference, different countries participating

跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Regional Transport Ministers' Conference 2025 will commence in Islamabad on Thursday, Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif will inaugurate the openng session as Chief Guest.

The two-day International Conference, scheduled for October 23–24, will be held at the Jinnah Convention Centre bringing together Transport Ministers from various countries and representatives of international organizations, said a press release issued on Wednesday.

Federal Minister for Communications Abdul Aleem Khan visited the Jinnah Convention Centre to review and finalize arrangements for the event, issuing necessary directives to

the concerned authorities.

He stated that hosting this significant regional forum is an honor for Pakistan and expressed confidence that the conference would serve as a milestone in promoting sustainable transport cooperation across the region.

Transport Ministers from Saudi Arabia, Türkiye, Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Iran, Belarus, Turkmenistan, Sri Lanka, and the Maldives among others will participate in the Conference. In addition, delegates from

the Asian Development Bank (ADB), Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), International Road Transport Union (IRU), and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) will also attend.

The Conference will feature various sessions and panel discussions focused on regional connectivity, trade corridors, transport infrastructure and sustainable development. A special transport and infrastructure expo will also be organized on October 25-26, open to the public, showcasing country pavilions, institutional exhibits, modern transport systems, research initiatives and development projects. Federal Ministers for Railways, Commerce, Maritime Affairs, and Planning along with other relevant officials will also attend the high-profile international event.

The closing session of the Regional Transport Ministers' Conference 2025 will take place on October 24 with the Deputy Prime Minister as the Chief Guest.

Pakistan condemns renewed Israeli strikes in Gaza

👺 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Wednesday strongly condemned the renewed attacks by Israeli occupying forces in Gaza, which have resulted in the deaths of numerous civilians.

In a statement, the Foreign Office said such actions were in blatant violation of the spirit of the peace agreement signed in Sharm El Sheikh, which was witnessed by leaders from the Muslim and Arab world, as well as representatives from the United States, Europe, and the United Nations.

Islamabad urged the international community to take urgent and effective measures to end Israeli violations, ensure implementation of the ceasefire, and guarantee



the protection of Palestinian civilians. Reaffirming its unwa-

vering support for the Palestinian cause, Pakistan called for an immediate cessation of Israeli hostilities and reiterated its long-standing demand for the establishment of an independent, sovereign, and contiguous State of Palestine, based on pre-June 1967 borders, with Al Quds Al Sharif as its capital.

Independent Urdu delegation visits DGPR, hails its efforts to promote media in AJK

👺 Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: A delegation from the British broadcasting organization Independent Urdu on Wednesday visited the Directorate General of Public Relations (DGPR) and appreciated its efforts for the promotion and development of media in Azad Jammu and Kashmir.

The Independent Urdu delegation comprised Senior Manager Haroonul-Rashid, Project Consultant Dr. Palwasha Khan, and Video Journalist Fahad Mazhar.

After a formal meeting with Director Public Relations Raja Amjad Hussain Minhas and other officials, the visiting delegation inspected various sections of the department, including the Digital Media Cell, and the news writing, monitoring and production units.

On this occasion, the delegates received a detailed briefing from Information Officers Raja Sohail



Basit, Khizr Hayat, and Sajid Nazir regarding the modern facilities available in the DGPR.

Earlier, Director Public Relations

Khan, Khawaja Hanif, Raja Abdul Raja Amjad Hussain Minhas and Director Social and Digital Media Muhammad Bashir Mirza warmly

> welcomed the delegation. Raja Amjad Hussain Minhas said

that special focus is being given to capacity building and professional training of the younger generation in the media sector.

Emphasizing the growing influence of social media, Mr. Minhas stressed the importance of upholding journalistic values and ethical standards in the current media environment.

The delegation appreciated the DGPR's efforts for the promotion and development of media in Azad Jammu and Kashmir.

They noted that professional training for media students is the need of the hour and expressed willingness to work jointly in this regard.

The delegation also announced the organization Independent Urdu would offer internship opportunities to students of the University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir to help them gain practical experience and prepare them for future roles in the media

Journalists Union Delegation Meets PID Director in Muzaffarabad



MUZAFFARABAD: Central Vice President of Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists Workers Nasir Sheikh, President of Hyderabad Union of Journalists Amjad Islam, Vice President Sajid Hussain Arai, Badin Union of Main Journalists, President Journalists President Nazakat Shah and journalists from various districts of Sindh visited PID Complex Muzaffarabad yesterday and met Director of Public Relations Raja Amjad Hussain Manhas. On this occasion, Nazim Social and Digital Media Muhammad Bashir Mirza, officers of Information Department Raja Muhammad Sohail Khan, Syed Asif Hussain Naqvi, Raja Abdul Basit, Khawaja Muhammad Hanif, Khazir Shamim Anjum Azaiz Sagheer Ahmed and others were also present. Director of Public Relations Raja Amjad Hussain Minhas said that construction and development in Azad Kashmir is the responsibility of Pakistan. He said that after Banyan al-Marsous, the morale of the people of occupied Jammu and Kashmir has been raised. The Independence of Kashmir Movement is the guarantee of completion of Pakistan. He said that Pakistan is proud of the people of Kashmir for its achievements on the military and diplomatic fronts. Raja Amjad Hussain Minhas said that the media blackout and ban on communication in occupied Kashmir by Indian occupying forces is the worst atrocity in human history. The Union of Journalists of Sindh expressed its satisfaction with the coordination and general working capacity of the Public Relations/Information Department with advanced technology and journalists on behalf of the government and journalists in Azad Kashmir. Information Officer Rajah Sohail Khan visited the journalists in various departments of the PID complex.

PML-NAzad Kashmir Rejects Coalition: Shifts to Opposition Role

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: President of Pakistan PML-N Azad Jammu and Kashmir Shah Ghulam Qadir has said that PML-N(AJJ) is in accordance with its basic position. Pakistan has been playing its democratic and political role with full responsibility under the Interim Constitution Act 1974 for the welfare of Kashmiris living in Pakistan and abroad.

President Shah Ghulam Qadir has said that it has been unanimously decided on all

forums of the party that Pakistan PML-N will no longer be part of the Anwar-ul-Haq government and will play the role of opposition in the future. PML-N will not be part of any unnatural government-making attempt, and if any person or group thinks so, he will be considered to have committed a deviation from party policy.

Facing of shortage LPG gas in Attock

Raza Nagvi

ATTOCK: Consumers using LPG gas under the Sui Gas Department in Attock have been facing severe mental distress for the past three weeks as they are forced to visit the department's office repeatedly to get their LPG cylinders refilled. The department officials justify their failure to provide gas by claiming that "the gas supply from the main source has been suspended."

Members of the public have expressed strong anger and frustration, stating that they are already suffering from severe gas load-shedding in their homes and can no longer afford to use LPG either. They said the current government has even taken away the peace of having two

 $Citizens\ have\ appealed\ to\ Prime\ Minister\ Mian\ Shahbaz\ Sharif\ and\ the$ Federal Minister for Oil and Gas to take immediate action and address the grievances of the public. They questioned how long the people will continue to suffer in this way, adding that they are already crushed by inflation, and now even their kitchen stoves will function only with the government's permission.

Firing at the house of Neu News Bureau Chief in Faisalabad

Bureau Report



FAISALABAD: Firing was carried out at the door of the house of fearless and fearless reporter Javeria Khan, who bravely told the truth.

Criminal elements are running rampant after pointing out drug dealers and gamblers. While the police are still silent spectators. Does the Punjab Police only want PRO reporting? Should journalists now only report news that will be flattering? If bullets are fired at the houses

of those who tell the truth, tomorrow every journalist will be a target. Journalists of Faisalabad say that we stand with Javeria Khan, who did not stop writing and using a microphone even in the shadow of fear. This firing is not on a journalist, it is on the whole truth. We strongly condemn it.

DC directs concerned officials to intensify crackdown against quack doctors

HYDERABAD: Deputy Commissioner Shaheed Benazirabad, Abdul Samad Nizamani, has directed authorities to intensify crackdown against quack doctors and seize their medical equipment following the reporting of HIV/AIDS cases in the district.

Presiding over a meeting held at the Darbar Hall of DC Office regarding public health services, DC emphasized that no one would be allowed to play with the lives and health of the citizens.

He instructed Sindh Healthcare Commission teams to work jointly with the police and assistant commissioners to accelerate ongoing actions against unregistered doctors, laboratories, and medical centers.

DC further directed that during the operations, clinics, labs, and medical centers run by quacks should be sealed and all their equipment should be confiscated. He also instructed health department to take legal action against registered medical centers that fail to comply with health SOPs.

DC also directed Drug Inspector to inspect all medical stores and blood centers across the district to ensure the quality and validity of medicines and take strict action against those selling substandard or expired drugs. He ordered health officials to investigate the recently reported HIV/AIDS cases and submit a detailed report.

Pink Licensing Van

RAWALPINDI: Girls are boarding into mobile unit of "Pink Licensing Van" for taking their license after inauguration under



Muslim Conference stand with the slogan of Kashmir Banega Pakistan

👺 Bureau Report

ARJA/DHIRKOT: After the success of negotiations on September 25 at the place of judicial inquiry into the Chamiati Dhirkot and Muzaffarabad incidents, the calls for protest on September 29 will be restored.

President Major Nasrallah Khan President Dhirkot Constituency Sardar Irfan Abbasi, General Secretary Raja Munir Khan, Senior Vice President Raja Iftikhar Afzal, Member of Public Assembly Dr. Abdul Shahbad al-Abbasi Press conference of Khurshid Abbasi, Shahzad Shakur Advocate,

Abbasi, Sardar Zarif Abbasi and others. Muslim Conference strongly condemns wrong and negative propa-



storm of rudeness on social media in Conference be declared a terrorist Chamiati and Muzaffarabad incidents organization on the language of Awami after that the leadership of Muslim Action Committee The armed forces of

Kashif Khazra Abbasi, Sardar Dilawar ganda against Muslim Conference and Conference demanding that Muslim

the Muslim Conference stand with the slogan of Banega Pakistan.

India is in pain in terms of unconditional support with Pakistan and supports the non-Muslim. The Muslim Conference leadership has continued to take 47 years to 93 years of revolu-

Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan, the leader of Muslim Conference, has never been unaware of public issues or public demands and has never been an obstacle to the solution of public issues. That there are corrupt elements in the ranks of the public action committee who want to normalize the culture of dispersion, chaos and corruption within the state in the name of public issues who are no longer useful to the

The whiteness of the nation, who tasted the price of telling the truth

Mufti Muhammad Hanif

henever there is and character in the politics of the state of Jammu and Kashmir, one name will always be written in golden letters — Pir Muhammad Mazhar Saeed Shah. himself entrusted with both pen and This is the personality who did not language. There was that fragrance of sell his tongue and conscience even though he was in the houses of power. her tone, and truth in her statements ministers, and this sense of service ran in their veins.

The position of the Ministry of but character always lives on. Information in which Pir Mazhar Saeed Shah was not a mere admin-

religious duty. He highlighted the good deeds of the government with full fidelity, but where the state or public interest was determined, He did not pause for a moment to speak the truth. At a time when people were afraid to say that they are rights by becoming prisoners of the times, Mazhar Saeed Shah considered weight in her speech, confidence in Such persons became servants, not that did not leave without impressing It was not a resignation — it was even opponents. He proved that ministries are fleeting,

After Antis September, when the situation in the state took a istrative service was a moral and dangerous turn, when the scales of

flowing, and the cloud of injustice became deep, so this gentle man Peer

Mazhar Saeed Shah Who said goodbye to his position and set an example that is very rarely seen. He said: "In the inevitable circumstances of the state, I am not able to hold a higher position, so I am separating myself from the ministry." These words were based on the pain of the heart and the voice of conscience, not out of any resentment or interest. a declaration of right, a need that stirred the hearts of the people of the state.

During his ministry, Mazhar Saeed Shah not only performed government in a better manner but also set citizen with respect.

people's patience seemed to be over- an example of sincerity and insight in his speeches, press conferences and public statements that cannot be forgotten. He was not merely a minister, he was an ideologue — a style of thought, a school of character. He did not let the media become a weapon of conspiracy or propaganda, but rather a source of public service, transparency and truth. There was warmth in his words, and in that warmth hid the light of faith. In his presence, the Ministry of Information has become not a machinery but a mirror of the conscience of the nation.

Where his temperament spoke of courage, it also reflected humility and denial. Even when he was in a high position, he treated every ordinary





SERVICES Namaz Timings

EMERGENCY

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Bomb Disposal 15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/
Islamabad1122 & 16
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Met Office	9250360-6
RDA	5555864
TMA	5770886
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Corporation	9209224

AIOU begins dispatch of books for Autumn Semester 2025

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University(AIOU) has officially started the process of dispatching textbooks to hundreds of thousands of students enrolled in the Matric, FA and Associate Degree programs for the Autumn Semester 2025.

Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood has issued strict directives to all university department to ensure that academic activities are completed on time so that no student faces any delay. As a result, the dispatch of textbooks began immediately after the completion of the admission process.

Regarding book dispatch, the University has introduced a "computerized tracking system" through which students can track their books via the CMS (Course Management System) and Pakistan Post's e-portal.

According to the Director of Admissions, Syed Zia-ul-Hasnain textbooks for students of Matric, FA and Associate Degree programs are being sent via post, while books for other programs are available on the University's website: www.aiou.edu.pk.

If any student does not receive their textbooks or faces a delay in delivery, they can contact the nearest post office. For further information or complaints, students can email mailing@aiou.edu. pk, call the University helpline at 051-111-112-468, or contact any of the University's regional offices.

PN Ship Yarmook seizes narcotics worth 972 million USD

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Navy Ship YARMOOK, while operating under the Saudi-led Combined Task Force 150 (CTF-150) of the Combined Maritime Forces (CMF), successfully executed a major counter-narcotics operation in the North Arabian Sea, resulting in the seizure of narcotics valued at approximately USD 972 million.

This remarkable achievement highlights Pakistan Navy's unwavering commitment to regional maritime security, global peace, and the collective fight against illicit trafficking at sea.

Operating as part of the multinational CTF-150 which focuses on ensuring maritime stability and deterring terrorism and illegal activities across the high seas, the successful operation by PNS YARMOOK reaffirms Pakistan's active role as a responand security in the wider Indian Ocean

Upon execution of successful antinarcotic operation, Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Naveed Ashraf commended the crew of through cooperation and coordinated oration between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia.



sible maritime partner contributing to peace PNSYARMOOK for their professionalism maritime security efforts. The Naval Chief and dedication. He emphasized that Paki- underscored that PNS YARMOOK's operstan Navy remains steadfast in its mission ation under Saudi led task force will further to safeguard national maritime interests enhance the interoperability between the while contributing to the global commons two navies and strengthen defence collab-

Gardeniring

ISLAMABAD: Workers of Capital Development Authority are busy in gardening of the flowers on green belt along the Constitution Avenue in Federal Capital



Jordanian Police delegation visits Safe City Islamabad

ISLAMABAD: A delegation of senior Jordanian police officers visited Safe City Islamabad, lauding the project's advanced technology and coordination

An official told to media on Wednesday that the delegation was hosted by Director General Safe City Muhammad Haroon Joya and SSP Safe City Dr. Muhammad Iqbal.

They were briefed on the Command and Control Center, Police Operations Center Hall, and modern surveillance systems, including facial recognition cameras installed at city entry and exit

The visitors were informed that Safe City Islamabad plays a vital role in crime prevention, urban security, and public safety through its integrated units the Police Operations Center, Emergency Control Center, Dispatch Control Center, and the "Pukar-15" helpline.

The delegation appreciated the ensuring citizens' safety. They thanked forces of Jordan and Pakistan.



technological advancement and operational structure of Islamabad Police, commending how the system contributes to maintaining law and order and sional cooperation between the police

DG Safe City and his team for their hospitality and termed the visit an excellent step toward strengthening profes-

CM Maryam, determined to empower women

Abdul Majid ■

FAISALABAD: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif is determined to empower women. In this regard, a mobile police station and licensing unit have been made operational in Faisalabad. Now women can immediately avail the services of the district police and traffic police from their homes. These views were expressed by Chief Traffic Officer Nasir Javed Rana on the occasion of the inauguration. Women are benefiting greatly from this facility.

Syed Bazil Ali Naqvi meets Chaudhry Latif

Majeed Abdul Tahie Majeed

ISLAMABAD: Speaker Legislative Assembly Senior Parliamentarian Chaudhry Latif is meeting Minister of State Syed Bazal Ali Naqvi, former Advisor Sahibzada Zulfiqar Ali is meeting in the Speaker Chamber Kashmir House Islamabad. Speaker Legislative Assembly Senior Parliamentarian Chaudhry Latif is meeting Minister of State Syed Bazal Ali Naqvi, former Advisor Sahibzada Zulfiqar Ali called in

Motorway police arranges road safety awareness session at Pera Force office



Zafar Chishti

TOBA TEK SINGH: Under the directions of DIG Motorway Police Dar Ali Khattak, a road safety awareness session was organized at the PERA Force Office Toba Tek Singh as part of the ongoing Road Safety Campaign. The session was attended by Sub-Divisional Enforcement Officer PERA Force Sadaf Irshad, along with PERA Force personnel and staff. Incharge Road Safety Muhammad Usman Shabbir delivered a detailed briefing on the effects of smog, overspeeding, use of seat belts, and other preventive safety measures. He stated that, in line with the vision of the IG Motorway Police, public awareness activities are being conducted regularly to help reduce the rate of road accidents. Speaking on the occasion, Sub-Divisional Enforcement Officer Sadaf Irshad emphasized that compliance with traffic laws is essential for preventing accidents and protecting human lives. She further informed that strict legal action and FIRs are being registered against rash and overspeeding drivers in accordance with the law.

Stunning Farmers' Festival held at PMAS-Arid Agriculture University

RAWALPINDI: Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi organized a Farmers' Festival at its University Research Farm to raise awareness and provide guidance to farmers.

The festival aimed to promote methods for reducing agricultural costs, ocouraging balanced use of fertilizers, making farming more profitable and strengthening academia-industry linkages.

The event was jointly inaugurated by Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Qamaruz-Zaman and former MNA Raja Muhammad Javed Ikhlas. The festival was attended by international and national agricultural experts, farmers, representatives from the State Bank of Pakistan, Green Pakistan Initiative, and Fatima Fertilizers, along with deans, directors, administrative staff, faculty members, and a large number of students.

Addressing the festival, Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Qamar-uz-Zaman emphasized the urgent need for Pakistan to take concrete steps in agriculture, noting that the world has advanced significantly in this field while Pakistan still relies on traditional farming methods. "Precision agriculture and smart IoT technologies are the future of farming", he highlighted and also pointed out the unique fertile land of the Potohar region.

He urged farmers to adopt modern agricultural practices to maximize productivity and increase agricultural output. Regarding the Punjab government's agricultural reforms program, he assured that Arid Agriculture University is ready to provide full support, adding that the program will significantly contribute to boosting agricultural exports.

Former MNA Raja Muhammad Javed Ikhlas, in his address, commended the efforts of Arid Agriculture University and stressed the need for farmers to move beyond traditional methods and embrace modern agriculture. He said that the shift to modern technological methodology would not only bring financial benefits to farmers but also contribute to national food security and earn valuable foreign exchange.

Describing the event as a beacon of hope, he expressed optimism about Pakistan's agricultural future, predicting that the country would soon join the ranks of developed nations exporting agricultural commodities. He $\,$ also lauded the invaluable contributions of Arid Agriculture University, particularly in the Pothohar region, which he said would always be remembered. Farmers attending the festival appreciated the university's training and guidance initiatives, which have helped them address agricultural challenges and gain access to new farming technologies and research. The festival featured awareness stalls and displays of modern agricultural technologies. Additionally, traditional farmers' games such as horse riding, spear-throwing and bull racing were organized for entertainment, attracting hundreds of participants. Prizes were distributed among the participants, and farmers were also provided with high-quality seeds of various crops.

ISSI Launches Saud Sultan's Book Jammu and Kashmir - The Forgotten Narrative'

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The India Study Centre (ISC) at the Institute of Strategic Studof Saud Sultan's book, Jammu and Freedom. In his remarks, Director General ISSI Ambassador Sohail and long-suppressed accounts. Mahmood described Saud Sultan's book as a substantial contribution Kashmir dispute, especially in terms of and Kashmir dispute, asserting that

bridging the many gaps that had existed for decades. He said that the author, who comes from a prominent Kashmiri family in AJK and feels passionies Islamabad (ISSI) hosted the launch ately about Kashmir, ensured that his treatment of the subject remained Kashmir - The Forgotten Narrative: objective and grounded in rigorous From Distorted Origins to Denied research, drawing extensively on archival material, first-hand testimonies,

Chief Guest General Zubair Hayat underscored the critical importance of to the historiography of Jammu and the narrative surrounding the Jammu

the true story of Kashmir has been sought to be buried deliberately by India. He praised Saud Sultan's book for providing definitive evidence that challenges the established Indian accounts and motivated narratives.

Ambassador Sardar Masood Khan stated that Saud Sultan's book has filled a huge void. He asserted that the Kashmiri struggle against the brutal Dogra rulers began in the 1830s, and that the Muslims of Jammu and Kashmir had decided to join Pakistan on July 19, 1947, prior to the Partition.

Dr. Khurram Abbas, Director ISC, bution lay in directly challenging and noted that the book is an important addition and has several strengths. To establish the book's credibility, Saud Sultan overwhelmingly relied on Indian references as well as the works of internationally acclaimed

Saud Sultan, the author, highlighted that his most critical contri-

correcting the official narrative that India presented to the United Nations in 1948. He said the Indian claim that Pakistan sent tribesmen on 22 October 1947, prompting the Maharaja to sign the Instrument of Accession (IOA) on 26 October, and the subsequent landing of the Indian Army on 27 October, is completely false.

The event featured Mr. Farooq Rehmani, senior Kashmiri leader and former Convener All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) AJK Chapter, and Barrister Daniyal Chaudhry, Parliamentary Secretary for Information and Broadcasting.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks by Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman BoG, ISSI.

Asim Nazir Ahmad

Editorial/Opinion

Thursday, October 23, 2025

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Bureau Chief Lahore:

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Pakistan's Sesame **Seed Exports to China**

akistan's sesame seed exports to China crossed \$68.56 million in the first three quarters of 2025. according to the latest data from the General Administration of Customs of China (GACC).

During the same period last year, Pakistan's sesame exports totaled \$36.59 million, representing a remarkable year-on-year increase of over 87%. From January to September 2025, Pakistan exported 55.61 million kilograms of sesame seeds to China at an average price of \$1.23 per kilogram. In the same period last year, the figure was 23.95 million kilograms with an average price of \$1.52 per kilogram.

Globally, China's sesame seed imports have continued to grow steadily, driven by rising demand for edible oils and traditional food processing. GACC data further showed that Niger remained China's leading sesame supplier with exports worth \$543.02 million, followed by Togo (\$189.10 million) and Tanzania (\$161.68 million) in the first nine months of 2025. Other key suppliers included Ethiopia (\$144.03 million), Mozambique (\$121.18 million), and Myanmar (\$88.56 million), CEN

Pakistani exporters believe that the country's strong export performance highlights its improving agricultural production and growing competitiveness in the Chinese market. They added that, in recent years, Chinese enterprises have strengthened cooperation with Pakistani traders to enhance value addition and post-harvest processing, significantly improving export quality and consistency.

"In September 2024, we successfully organized the 'Sesame Trade and Investment Opportunities in China' event. A 23-member Pakistani delegation secured deals for 15,000 metric tons and signed a \$28 million MoU with Daming government-backed enterprises," said Khalil Hashmi, Ambassador of Pakistan to China. He added that 177 Pakistani sesame companies are now registered in China.

Experts noted that sesame seeds are increasingly beng used in China's food, oil, and health product industries, driving import demand. Pakistan's sesame seed quality, favorable climatic conditions, and expanding export capacity offer a promising outlook for further trade growth between the two countries.

Analysts stated that the recent floods in Pakistan have impacted exports; however, they anticipate that the country's sesame seed shipments will continue their upward trajectory in the coming years.

AJK Day: A Renewal of Allegiance Between AJK and Pakistan

sustained services provided by the Government of Pakistan and, most notably, its Pakistan Armed Forces, to AJK have been instrumental in creating a significant and measurable disparity in the quality of life and the standard of governance between AJK and the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). The initial liberation of AJK from the oppressive Hindu Dogra rule and its subsequent, documented voluntary alignment with Pakistan initiated a new and distinct chapter in the region's history, defined by the principles of freedom, dignity, and a profound, brotherly partnership. Since that foundational moment, Pakistan has consistently treated AJK not as a subordinate or occupied territory but as a fraternal region, generously granting it substantial internal autonomy with its own functioning elected legislative assembly, president, prime minister, and an independent judiciary. This unique, self-governing administrative structure powerfully empowers the people of AJK to manage their internal affairs while simultaneously enjoying the full security and protective umbrella of the Pakistani state. This stands in stark and undeniable contrast to the people residing in IIOJK, who have endured decades of direct, often brutal, and draconian rule from New Delhi, frequently enforced under oppressive military-backed laws, with minimal authentic self-governance or meaningful political agency.

The healthcare infrastructure in AJK has also undergone steady, continuous development with the establishment of modern district hospitals, numerous basic health units, and essential mobile

he unwavering support and medical teams, all significantly backed construction of micro-hydel power plants, the historic formation of the first revoby Pakistan. Military-run hospitals and field clinics consistently provide essential, high-quality health services, especially to the more remote and sensitive border areas. Regular medical camps organized by the Pakistan Army offer specialized treatments, surgeries, essential vaccinations, and vital maternal care, often provided entirely free of cost to the local

population. These essential services frequently serve as an absolute lifeline for families residing in hard-to-reach mountainous regions, where civilian infrastructure is naturally limited due to the difficult terrain and pervasive security constraints.

Infrastructure development within AJK is another area where the state of Pakistan and the Pakistan Army have made clearly visible and profoundly lasting contributions. New roads, bridges, tunnels, and essential communication networks have been built or significantly upgraded to dramatically improve connectivity both within the region itself and with the rest of Pakistan. The construction of the Kohala-Muzaffarabad road, the Neelum Valley road, and the extensive rehabilitation of highways damaged by landslides and floods are just a few prominent examples of the ongoing, large-scale infrastructural transformation. These developments not only provide a powerful boost to the local economy by facilitating trade and tourism but also enable the rapid and necessary movement of relief supplies and defense forces when urgently required. The extensive electrification of remote villages, the

and the strategic extension of cellular and internet services are all integral parts of a broader, well-defined national strategy to integrate AJK more deeply and cohesively into the national framework of Pakistan's comprehensive development plans.

In light of all these undeniable and observable realities, it becomes profoundly evident that the people of Azad Jammu

and Kashmir live under far better conditions, enjoying more fundamental dignity, possessing more comprehensive rights, and having access to more substantive opportunities than their brethren enduring the current situation in Indian-oc-

cupied Jammu and Kashmir. This stark and measurable disparity is not a matter of mere chance or accident, but the direct and inevitable result of decades of unwavering commitment by Pakistan and its core institutions, particularly the Pakistan Army, to resolutely protect, develop, and empower the people of AJK. While the people of IIOJK continue to endure an unending struggle under heavy military occupation, restrictive curfews, and systematic oppression, the residents of AJK have successfully carved a definitive path toward progress and prosperity, a path made possible only by the firm, fraternal support of a state that views them not as subjects to be ruled, but as an integral, cherished part of the national family.

The observance of AJK Day, formally held every year on the 24th of October, is a deeply symbolic and highly charged national occasion that commemorates

lutionary government of Azad Jammu and Kashmir in 1947. This significant day is profoundly rooted in the historical, political, ideological, and deep emotional consciousness of both the people of AJK and the wider populace of Pakistan. More than a simple day of historical remembrance, AJK Day functions as a powerful, collective, and unambiguous expression of the unbreakable bond that exists between the region and the state of Pakistan. It fundamentally signifies the annual, solemn renewal of allegiance by the people of AJK to the shared national vision, the greater collective cause, and the ultimate destiny of Pakistan—a powerful and passionate reaffirmation that has resonated deeply through multiple generations, shaped by shared struggles, common national aspirations, immense sacrifices, and an abiding hope for a future defined by justice and peace. The annual observance of AJK Day consistently serves to remind the global community that the people of AJK voluntarily and freely aligned their fate with Pakistan, based upon the core, founding principle of the Two-Nation Theory, firmly rejecting the oppressive Hindu Dogra regime and standing united against the annexationist ambitions of India. This day ultimately serves as a powerful living testament to the enduring bond between the people of Azad Jammu and Kashmir and Pakistan, symbolizing a relationship built upon profound shared beliefs, common struggles, and mutual respect, and reinforcing the crucial idea that AJK remains an indispensable cornerstone of Pakistan's vital national interest and a powerful, enduring symbol of its commitment to the larger

Kashmiri cause.



Elimination of permanent jobs and human rights violations

ical progress and economic competition are redefining every aspect of life, one of the most concerning developments is the gradual end of permanent employment. The shift from stable, long-term jobs to short-term, contractual, and temporary forms of employment has become a global trend, deeply impacting workers' economic security, social identity, and human dignity. What was

permanent employment has now become a rare privilege. This transformation not only reshapes the structure of the job market but also raises serious questions about human rights and social justice.

Permanent employment ensured a sense of security, allowing individuals to plan their lives with confidence.

Workers could build families, educate their children, and contribute to social development without the fear of sudden unemployment. However, as neoliberal economic policies gained dominance, multinational corporations and even government institutions began prioritizing profit over people. The focus shifted from human welfare to financial efficiency, leading to mass layoffs, contractual hiring, and outsourcing. This trend has stripped countless workers of job security, leaving them vulnerable to economic

The government's policy decision to abolish pensions has done a fundamental injustice to civil servants, unilaterally removing the financial security promised to them in return for their service during their tenure. This move has not only led to financial insecurity in the retirement right to receive compensation for years of loyalty nies should be held accountable for providing

n the modern world, where technolog- and public service, which is a form of institutional injustice. As a result, employees have been discouraged, government employment has become less attractive, and a situation of uncertainty has been created for future generations.

In developing countries like Pakistan, the problem is even more severe. The rise of contractual systems in public and private sectors has led to widespread frustration and economic instability. Educated youth are forced to accept once considered a symbol of social stability temporary jobs without security, while skilled

workers are underpaid and overworked. Government departments and educational institutions are increasingly relying on daily-wage and contract-based employees who, despite their experience and commitment, remain deprived of basic rights. This situation not only violates labor laws but also weakens national produc-

tivity, as demotivated workers cannot contribute effectively to progress.

The psychological impact of insecure employment is equally alarming. When a person spends vears working without assurance of continuity, it creates constant mental stress. This anxiety affects family relationships, physical health, and emotional stability. The absence of permanent employment leads to a sense of worthlessness and social isolation. Moreover, as individuals struggle to survive, ethical and moral values begin to erode. Corruption, exploitation, and social unrest increase when people are forced to fight for their basic survival needs.

From a human rights perspective, the solution lies in balancing economic efficiency with social justice. Governments must legislate and enforce policies that protect workers' rights irrelives of employees, but has also taken away their spective of their employment status. Compa-

fair wages, health insurance, and safe working environments to all employees. The concept of "decent work" promoted by the International Labour Organization (ILO) must be integrated into national labor policies. Moreover, the revival of trade unions and labor associations is crucial to collectively defend workers from arbitrary dismissals and discrimination. Education also plays an essential role in raising awareness about employment rights. Young people entering the job market should be informed about labor laws, contract terms, and negotiation rights. Civil society organizations and media can play a pivotal role in exposing exploitative employment practices and advocating for fair labor reforms. A just and humane economic system cannot exist if millions of workers continue to live in fear of unemployment and poverty.

Islamic teachings also emphasize the dignity of labor and fairness in employment. The Prophet Muhammad said, "Give the worker his wages before his sweat dries." This statement highlights the moral obligation of ensuring economic justice and respect for human effort. Permanent employment, or at least secure and dignified work, aligns with the Islamic principle of protecting human rights and preventing exploitation.

In conclusion, the end of permanent employment is not merely an economic issue it is a moral and human crisis. When a society allows its labor force to live in constant insecurity, it undermines the foundations of justice and equality. The preservation of human rights requires collective effort from governments, institutions, and citizens to restore dignity and stability to the world of work. A humane and prosperous future depends on our ability to protect workers from becoming disposable commodities in the global

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Turkey's Historic Commitment to Promoting Blind Sports in Pakistan

have stood shoulder to shoulder in every era, not only in political and diplomatic will open between the two countries. fields but also in areas like culture, education,

Dr. Irfan Mehmet Peceji, has made a landmark announcement that is being hailed as a new ray of hope for Pakistan's special athletes.

Addressing the closing ceremony of the Asia Pacific Goalball Championship 2025, organized under the banner of the Pakistan Blind Sports Federation in Islamabad, Dr.

Irfan announced that the Turkish Embassy in Pakistan would extend every possible support In his remarks, Ambassador Dr. Irfan

Mehmet Peceji also expressed his heartfelt gratitude to Aziz-ur-Rehman Mujahid, Chief Editor of Pasban News, saying, "I am deeply thankful to Mr. Aziz-ur-Rehman for introducing me to the Pakistan Blind Sports Federation. Through his efforts, I had the opportunity to closely witness the dedication and vision of this organization. I believe that media the voices of special individuals and driving positive change in society."

President of the Pakistan Blind Sports Federation, Waqas Warraich, extended his gratitude to the Turkish Ambassador and the Embassy, stating that Dr. Irfan had fulfilled the promise he made during their first meeting. "His future for all.

akistan and Turkey have always commitment and practical support have won enjoyed a relationship built on the hearts of Pakistan's special athletes," he said. brotherhood, cooperation, and Waqas Warraich added that under Dr. Irfan's mutual respect. The two nations guidance, new avenues of training, exchange programs, and international representation

The event was attended by Chief Editor health, and sports. Continuing this proud tradi- of Pasban News Aziz-ur-Rehman Mujahid, tion, the Ambassador of Turkey to Pakistan, several diplomats, sports experts, and visually

> impaired athletes. Participants described the Turkish Embassy's initiative as a message of hope and encouragement for Pakistan's special community. At the end of the ceremony, players and teams were presented with awards, while Dr. Irfan Mehmet Peceji received a special commemora-

tive shield from the federation. This announcement marks not only a major step forward for the promotion of blind sports for the promotion of blind sports in the country. in Pakistan but also symbolizes the deepening friendship and cooperation between the two brotherly nations. According to experts, Turkey's initiative will create new training and development opportunities for Pakistan's special athletes while strengthening cultural, social, and humanitarian ties between the two

In truth, the Turkish Ambassador's declaration is proof that the bond between Pakistan leaders like him play a vital role in amplifying and Turkey is not limited to diplomacy—it is rooted in humanity, brotherhood, and a shared vision for inclusive progress. Dr. Irfan Mehmet Peceii's efforts represent a sincere commitment to empowerment and dignity for Pakistan's special individuals, and this collaboration will undoubtedly lead to a brighter, more inclusive

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AECH NORI hosts Breast Cancer Awareness

Seminar & Walk

Spokesman Report

Hospital (AECH) NORI Wednesday organized a seminar titled "Awareness Regarding the Importance of Early Cancer Detection among General Public and Breast Cancer Detection cancer management through specialamong Females" as part of its annual Breast Cancer Awareness campaign held every October.

The Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC) remains at the the-art equipment, including PET-CT, forefront of the nation's fight against SPECT-CT, Cyclotron, Linear Accelercancer through its extensive network of 20 Atomic Energy Cancer Hospitals (AECHs) across the country.

These hospitals collectively provide over 46,000 new cancer patients annually, performing around one million diagnostic and therapeutic procedures each year.

The AECHs cater not only to patients from across Pakistan but also to those from neighboring countries.

NORI, Dr. Humera Mahmood, high- International Atomic Energy Agency ISLAMABAD: Atomic Energy Cancer lighted the advanced diagnostic and (IAEA) under its Rays of Hope inititreatment facilities available at NORI.

> She stated that AECH NORI is equipped with cutting-edge technology and provides comprehensive ized departments in Nuclear Medicine, Radiology, Radiation Oncology, and Medical Oncology.

> The hospital houses state-ofators, CyberKnife, and Brachytherapy units, supported by modern MRI, CT scan, and digital X-ray systems.

Dr. Humera informed that PAEC's diagnostic and treatment services to cancer hospitals collectively cater to nearly 80% of Pakistan's cancer burden, providing advanced diagnostic and treatment facilities either free of charge or at highly subsidized rates through mechanisms such as Patient Welfare Societies and the Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal.

In 2023, AECH NORI was desig-

Addressing the seminar, Director nated as an Anchor Center by the ative in recognition of its outstanding contributions in the fight against

> The hospital is now actively engaged in training and educating medical professionals from across the region and participating in multiple IAEA-supported projects.

The seminar's speakers included medical professionals from AECH NORI — Dr. Sadaf Tufail Butt (Head, Radiology Department) and Dr. Saima Madiha Shabbir (Oncology Department) — who emphasized the importance of public awareness, particularly among women, regarding breast cancer prevention and early detection.

The seminar concluded with an Awareness Walk, attended by medical professionals, students, members of the Pakistan Girl Guides Association, and people from various walks of life. Continuing its commitment to

expand access to cancer care, PAEC's Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), services to underserved and far-flung

21st Atomic Energy Cancer Hospital is set to commence operations very communities. - KINOR, located in Muzaffarabad, soon, further extending vital oncology

Photo Imtiaz Ahmad Faizi



Chromebooks to replace textbooks across **Future World Schools**

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Future World Schools marked a historic milestone in Pakistan's educational landscape with the official launch of the BYOND Future Programme, in collaboration with Google for Education and Google Worldwide. The launch ceremony, held at the state-of-the-art Future World School DHA Phase 5 Islamabad Campus, was a vibrant celebration of innovation, technology, and the future of learning, says a press release.

The BYOND Future Programmean acronym for Bring Your Own Networked Device-represents a paradigm shift in education, transitioning classrooms from textbooks to techbooks. The initiative signifies The Millennium Education's bold commitment to preparing students for a rapidly evolving digital world powered by AI, AR, VR, and collaboration.

For the first time in Pakistan, students will gain Dual Digital Mastery, enabling them to seamlessly navigate both the Google for Education and creativity, and critical thinking—key skills for success in the 21st century.

The launch ceremony drew remarkable attendance from The Millennium Education Group and Future World Schools' leadership, faculty, students, and distinguished guests a unified commitment to advancing



Gracing the occasion as Chief Guest to the learning journey even as techwas Ambassador Sardar Masood Khan, President TMUC Higher Education Microsoft 365 ecosystems. This unique Group. The audience was also inspired blend empowers learners with agility, by Mr. Umair Jaliawala, a renowned of The Millennium Education Group, classroom at The Millennium Educathe future with vision and courage to go "Beyond BYOND."

A thought-provoking panel discussion titled "Technology or Teacher: What Matters More?" explored the from academia and industry, reflecting synergy between human mentorship and digital empowerment, high-Pakistan's digital education revolution. lighting how educators remain central

nology transforms classrooms.

Faisal Mushtaq (TI), Chairman & CEO learning process, ensuring that every motivational speaker, whose dynamic passionately shared his vision: "Our address urged educators to embrace teachers are digital immigrants, and active, and future-driven environment. our learners are digital natives. By through this digital bridge, we are reaffirms the institution's standing as fostering inclusivity, digital trust, and a future-ready learning culture."

He emphasized how the BYOND Future Programme integrates cuttingedge technologies such as Artifi-

cial Intelligence (AI), Augmented Reality (AR), Virtual Reality (VR), Delivering the keynote address, Dr. and Extended Reality (XR) into the tion evolves into an immersive, inter-

The BYOND Future Programme connecting immigrants with natives at Future World Schools & Colleges a leader in educational transformation, empowering every learner to move beyond conventional classrooms, embrace technology, and shape their own limitless futures.

Syngenta China and Punjab join hands to power Pakistan's Agri-Tech Řevolution

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: In a significant stride toward modernizing Pakistan's agriculture, Syngenta Pakistan brought together the Government of Punjab delegation and the Syngenta Group China leadership during an official visit to Beijing.

The meeting, led by Mr. Fu Su (President, Syngenta Group China) and Mr. Syed Ashiq Hussain Kirmani (Minister of Agriculture, Punjab), explored new avenues to strengthen agri-tech cooperation, climate-resilient farming, and export potential.

Discussions centered on strengthfood security, climate-resilient farming, and the adoption of advanced agri-tech enhance crop productivity, promote tive, technology-driven solutions.



ening collaboration in areas such as innovations. The dialogue also emphasized the importance of joint efforts to agricultural challenges through innova-

Mr. Zeeshan Hasib Baig (GM, Syngenta Pakistan) and Mr. Syed M. Ali Murtaza (Head of Corporate Affairs & Sustainability) reaffirmed Syngenta's commitment to advancing Pakistan's food security agenda.

"Our collaboration with the Punjab Government is rooted in a shared vision—empowering farmers through innovation and sustainability," said Mr. Zeeshan Hasib Baig.

The meeting, also attended by senior government officials and representatives from the Pakistan Embassy in Beijing, symbolizes a renewed chapter of public-private partnership between Pakistan and China for a more productive and climate-resilient agricultural

Pak-Saudi Agreements to Usher in a New Era of Progress and Prosperity: Syed Aman Shah

Commerce Desk

KARACHI/ QUETTA: Syed Aman Shah, Provincial Convener of Awaam Pakistan Party (APP) Balochistan, stated that recent high-level meetings, mutual visits, and strategic agreements between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia are taking bilateral relations to new heights. These developments mark the beginning of a new phase of cooperation in various sectors,



promising economic, strategic, and social benefits for Pakistan.

Syed Aman Shah emphasized that Saudi Arabia has pledged multi-billion dollar investments in Pakistan's energy, minerals, agriculture, and infrastructure sectors. In particular, significant progress is expected on the Reko Diq gold and copper project and the National Oil Refinery Project, which will substantially boost Pakistan's industrial growth and exports.

Additionally, improved visa processes, better accommodation, travel, and healthcare services for Pakistani Hajj and Umrah pilgrims were

also agreed upon—bringing relief and enhanced facilities to the public. On the defense front, both countries are working together through military training, intelligence sharing, and joint exercises to promote regional stability, which will enhance Pakistan's defense capabilities.

Syed Aman Shah termed this progress a "historic step towards Pakistan's economic stability and self-reliance" and reaffirmed that "Saudi $A rabia \ is \ a \ trusted \ brotherly \ country, and \ this \ partnership \ is \ a \ guarantee$ of a prosperous future for Pakistan."

Pakistan's Sesame Seed Exports to China Cross \$68.56 Million in First Three Quarters of 2025

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PIDE Seminar Warns: Only 47% of Pakistanis Have Access to Safe **Drinking Water**

👺 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Institute of Development Feonomics (PIDE) organized a seminar titled "The Thirst for Safety: Water Quality and Public Health in Pakistan" at the A. R. Kemal Hall, Islamabad. The event brought together experts, researchers, and students to deliberate on Pakistan's growing water-quality crisis and its health and sustainable develop-

ment. The keynote speaker, Dr. Hifza Rasheed, Director General (Water Quality) at the Pakistan Council of Research in Water Resources (PCRWR), presented detailed data and analysis on the state of Pakistan's water resources, while Dr. Shujaat Farooq, Dean (Research) at PIDE, moderated

Dr. Shujaat Farooq opened the session by noting that access to safe and clean water is both a alarming implications for public basic human right and a cornerstone of national productivity.

Despite Pakistan's extensive natural endowments, he said, the country faces significant challenges including contamination, over-extraction, and institutional weaknesses that make water insecurity one of the nation's gravest public-health challenges.

Dr. Hifza Rasheed's revealed a comprehensive national overview Pakistan's per-capita freshwater availability has plummeted from 5,260 m* in 1951 to below 1,000 m* in 2024, officially placing the country in the "water-scarce" cate-

She warned that unsafe water causes to an estimated 53,000 child deaths every year and contributes to Pakistan's high rates of stunting-nearly 44 percent of children nationwide. Industrial waste, pesticides, and untreated sewage are polluting surface and groundwater, with arsenic levels dangerously high across southern Punjab and Sindh. Water quality in the Eastern Rivers (Ravi and Sutlej) has sharply deteriorated due to transboundary pollu-



tion and unchecked industrial tion lacking access to safe water discharges. Only 38 percent of domestic wastewater in Pakistan is effectively treated, and the country ranks among the top 10 nations globally with the largest popula-

In his concluding remarks, Dr. Shujaat Farooq, Dean (Research) at PIDE, reflected on Pakistan's paradox of abundance and scarcity, emphasizing that the country

is blessed with glaciers, rivers, and rainfall, yet continues to face acute water shortages due to over-extraction, lack of pricing mechanisms, and insufficient groundwater recharge

Thursday, October 23, 2025

Bull & Bears PSX 100-Share

'`` Index Fluctuation		
Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index		
Current	Prev. Close	
166,553.27	167,346.83	
Day's High	Day's Low	
168,163.21	166,230.89	
Index Value	Change	
39,735,385,675	-793.56	
Percentage	Time	
47%	22 Oct, 2025 4:30 pm	
Europe: FTS	SE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change	
9,515.00	+88.01	
Percentage	Time	
+0.93%	22 Oct, 4:35 pm GMT+1	
USA: Dow Jones	Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change	
46,734.01	-190.73	
	Time	
Percentage	Time	

roroomago	11110
-0.017%	22 Oct, 3:45 pm GMT+9

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average

GMT-4

Change

-8.27

Time

-0.41%

Index Value

49,307.79

Percentane

Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	185.45	190.45
Bahrain Dinar	746.7	754.2
Canadian Dollar	205.5	212.5
China Yuan	39.85	40.25
Danish Krone	44.55	45.15
Euro	331.75	335.25
Hong Kong Dollar	36.45	36.8
Indian Rupee	3.11	3.2
Japanese Yen	1.8762	1.9762
Kuwaiti Dinar	913.4	922.4
Malaysian Ringgit	67.3	67.9
NewZealand \$	164.9	166.9
Norwegians Krone	28.35	28.65
Omani Riyal	731.25	738.75
Qatari Riyal	77.45	78.15
Saudi Riyal	75.5	76.15
Singapore Dollar	216.95	221.7
Swedish Korona	30.10	30.40
Swiss Franc	355.05	357.80
Thai Bhat	8.72	8.87
U.A.E Dirham	76.85	77.85
UK Pound Sterling	380.75	383.75
US Dollar	282.65	282.85

State Bank Multan boosts women's economic role with special programs

👺 Quratul Ain Asim

MULTAN: State Bank Multan Chief Manager Zaheer Sabir has said that the central bank is working on several projects for the economic development and empowerment of women and Women Entrepreneurship Day will be celebrated in a grand manner on November 19, under which steps are being taken to provide special financial facilities, training programs and business opportunities for women.

He expressed these views yesterday during a meeting with President Mian Bakhtawar Tanveer Sheikh at the Multan Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Deputy Chief Adeel Khan, Assistant Director Kiran Amjad, Naveed Chughtai, Secretary General Awan Muhammad Shafiq and Sajid Ansari were also present on the occasion.

The Chief Manager said that women are playing an important role in Pakistan's economy, which is why the State Bank has launched various projects to bring women forward in the business field and connect them with the financial system, including special loan schemes, access to digital banking, and financial literacy programs so that it is easier for women to establish and expand their businesses.

Date distribution

on Wednesday.



Chief Manager Zaheer Sabir said that the be developed. government and the State Bank are making every effort to attract the business community towards the cashless system so that a transparent,

ISLAMABAD: Saudi Ambassador to Pakistan Nawaf bin Saeed A1-Maliky and Managing Director

Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal, Senator Capt. Shaheen Khalid Butt inaugurating "Date Distribution Program in Pakistan" while distributing the dates among the deserving individuals during a ceremony held

لمملكة العربية السعودية

امی اشتراک باکستان بیت المال

country, including Multan's Gardizi Market, secure and modern business environment can Gulshan Market, and Ghala Mandi. Speaking in the banking system.

on the occasion. President of the Chamber He said that QR codes are being provided to Mian Bakhtawar Tanveer Sheikh said that the shopkeepers in commercial centers across the government should provide relief to the business community and encourage them to keep capital

SM Group installs "wet scrubbing technology" to eliminate smog risk

👺 Zain Khan Malghani

MULTAN: S. M. Group of Industries, Chaudhry Zulfiqar Ali Anjum, has praised the Punjab Government for its sincere and well-coordinated efforts in implementing the Anti-Smog Policy using all available resources. He said that the government's timely actions are of great public health and maintaining clean air.

He emphasized that to eliminate smog, industrial units, the traffic sector, and the agricultural community must all play their responsible roles in line with government policy so that a smog-free and healthy environment can be

Chaudhry Zulfigar Ali has installed modern "Wet phere for all.



Scrubbing Technology" in its factories, which produces carbon-free emissions that do not remain suspended in the atmosphere. As a result, there is no risk of smog or importance for protecting haze being generated from these operations.

The renowned industrialist further said that on the other hand, vehicle emissions, the burning of rubber, wood, and sawdust in brick kilns, and setting fire to crop residues are among the major causes of smog. He stressed that to overcome these issues, ensured across the province. joint efforts by the government, citizens, and indus-Anium stated that the S. tries are essential to ensure a M. Group of Industries clean and transparent atmos-

Telenor Pakistan and AARI Partner to Modernize Punjab's Agriculture through Digital Solutions

g of the Dates Di

Example 2 Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Telenor Pakistan has announced a collaboration with the Avub Agricultural Research Institute (AARI), Faisalabad, to transform Punjab's agriculture sector through digital innovation, researchbased agri advisory, and sustainable farming practices.

Letter of Intent (LOI) was signed at Telenor Pakistan's Headquarters 345 in Islamabad by Ahsan Maykan, Chief Marketing Officer at Telenor Pakistan, and Dr. Sajid-Ur-Rahman DG, Chief Scientist Agri. (Research) from the Ayub Agricultural Research Institute (AARI), in the presence of senior officials from both organizations. Through this collaboration, AARI's extensive research will be integrated into Telenor Pakistan's largest digital agriculture platforms - Khushal Watan and Khushal Zamindar. These platforms will provide enhance productivity, and strengthen knowl-



millions of farmers with timely, research- edge sharing between researchers and the based crop advisories, enabling them to adopt climate-smart agricultural practices,

farming community.

Speaking on the occasion, Ahsan Maykan, Chief Marketing Officer at Telenor Pakistan, lenges."

said: "At Telenor Pakistan, we believe that the future of agriculture lies in the fusion of technology, data, and research. Through our collaboration with AARI, we aim to empower farmers with the right knowledge at the right time via Pakistan's most trusted digital agri platforms — Khushal Watan and Khushal Zamindar. Together, we are driving transformation in one of the most critical sectors of Pakistan's economy."

Adding to this, Dr. Sajid-Ur-Rahman DG, Chief Scientist Agri. (Research), AARI, remarked: "AARI's mission has always been to translate research into tangible benefits for farmers. By partnering with Telenor Pakistan, we are enabling our scientific expertise to reach farmers more effectively through digital innovation. This collaboration will help enhance agricultural productivity, promote sustainable practices, and strengthen resilience against climate chal-

MCB Bank posts strong performance with Rs. 87.48 billion profit before tax

S Commerce Desk

LAHORE: The Board of Directors of MCB Bank Limited (MCB), in its meeting held under the Chairmanship of Mian Mohammad Mansha, reviewed the Bank's performance and approved the condensed interim financial statements for the nine months ended September 30, 2025. The Board declared a third interim cash dividend of Rs. 9.00 per share (90%), in addition to the 180% dividend paid earlier, bringing the total cash dividend for the nine months of 2025 to 270%, one of the highest payout in the industry.

MCB Bank reported a Profit Before Tax (PBT) of Rs. 29.42 billion for the third quarter of 2025, taking cumulative PBT for the nine months ended September 30, 2025, to Rs. 87.48 billion. Profit After Tax (PAT) stood at Rs. 41.10 billion, translating into Earnings Per Share (EPS) of Rs. 34.68 compared to Rs. 40.88 in the corresponding period last year. The effective tax rate for the period was 53% (9M 2024: 49%), reflecting an increase in corporate tax rate for banking companies, enacted in the last quarter of 2024. On a consolidated basis, the Bank posted a PBT of Rs. 94.88 billion.

New Construction Project in Khaira Gali Aims for World-Class Living Experience and Tourism Boost

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: President of the Islamabad Chamber of Sardar Tahir Mahmood, has said that the real estate and construction sectors play a vital role in the stability and progress of the national economy. These sectors not only generate thousands of and government revenues. He policy support to these sectors, they can serve as a strong engine community. for economic growth.

ration ceremony of a private Abbasi is not only a milestone

Gali. The ceremony was attended by ICCI Senior Vice President Tahir Ayub, Vice President Commerce and Industry (ICCI), Chaudhry Muhammad Irfan, President of All Pakistan Anjuman-e-Tajiran Ajmal Baloch, project co-owners and former ICCI President Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari and Secretary of Anjuman-e-Tajiran Aabpara employment opportunities but Market Akhtar Abbasi, Secrealso contribute significantly to tary General of UBG and ICCI investment, business activities, Council Member Zafar Bakhtawari, ICCI Council Member added that if the government Mian Shaukat Masood, extends more facilitation and and several other prominent members of the business

Sardar Tahir Mahmood said He expressed these views that the project initiated by while addressing the inaugu- Ahsan Bakhtawari and Akhtar

construction project in Khaira in the business sector but also a business venture but also a spirit valuable addition to the scenic region of Galiyat. He emphasized that if real estate ventures are pursued with honesty and transparency, they can become an outstanding example of social

Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari said that this project is being developed to stand apart from other residential projects, offering residents a world-class living experience. He shared that after successfully organizing a tourism summit in Skardu, he had planned to initiate a project there, but on the advice of Akhtar Abbasi, they decided to develop it in Murree or Galivat, which proved to be an excellent choice.

Ajmal Baloch remarked that

of service, adding beauty to an already beautiful region.

Akhtar Abbasi stated that their project reached this level of progress in just six months, showcasing their determination, teamwork, and vision.

Hasnain Abbasi, son of Akhtar Abbasi, gave a detailed presentation on the project, saying:

The ceremony was also attended by ICCI Executive Members Mohsin Khalid, Roohail Anwar Butt, Zulqarnain Abbasi, Waseem Chaudhry, Nasir Chaudhry, Shumaila Siddiqui, Fatima Azeem, President of Talagang Chamber Malik Shabir Awan, and prominent trader leaders including Abdul Rehman Siddiqui, Waheed this project reflects not just a Cheema, Yousuf Rajput, Zahid



Ahmed Khan, Tahir Abbasi, Malik, Najeeb Malik, Shahid Chaudhry, Faizan Shehzad, and Naeem Akhtar Awan, Zahir Abbasi, Raja Safeer, Sajjad several others.

Rafiq, Yasir Jameel Abbasi, Abbasi, Imtiaz Abbasi, Naveed Sarwar, Saif ur Rehman, Khalid

Dar chairs high-level meeting on revival of national Hockey

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar chaired a high-level meeting on Wednesday to deliberate on measures for the promotion and revival of hockey in Pakistan.

The meeting was attended by the Minister for Inter-Provincial Coordination, Minister for Information, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Finance Tariq Bajwa, Director General Pakistan Sports Board and senior officials including the Secretary and Vice President of the Pakistan Hockey Federation, a DPM's Office news release said.

Senator Ishaq Dar emphasized that hockey holds a unique place in Pakistan's national identity, recalling the country's glorious history as a world



champion in the sport. He underlined that hockey, as a source of national pride, deserves renewed investment, attention, and strategic planning to restore its international stature.

The Deputy Prime Minister directed the concerned ministries and the Pakistan Hockey Federation to prepare a comprehensive roadmap for the sport's revival, focusing on grassroots talent development, modern coaching standards, infrastructure enhancement, and merit-based player growth.

He reaffirmed the government's full commitment to supporting initiatives that would reinvigorate youth participation and elevate Pakistan's presence on the global hockey stage.

"Reviving hockey is not just about winning matches; it's about reclaiming our legacy and inspiring future gener-

18th Chief of the Naval Staff Amateur Golf Cup 2025 Commences at Islamabad



ISLAMABAD: The Media Brief and Opening Ceremony of 18th Chief of the Naval Staff Amateur Golf Cup 2025 was held at the Margalla Greens Golf Club (MGGC), Islamabad. The ceremony marked the formal commencement of one of the most prestigious events on the national golf calendar.

Admiral Saqib Ilyas, Patron of Paki- projecting a positive image of the country stan Navy Golf (North), highlighted the salient features of the championship and activities within society. outlined details regarding its format and

The tournament will be held from 22 representatives.

to 26 October 2025, featuring competitions in Amateurs, Seniors, Ladies, and Juniors categories, along with an invitational match for guests and sponsors.

Since its inception in 2007, the Chief of the Naval Staff Amateur Golf Cup has evolved into a prominent fixture on Pakistan's golfing circuit. Beyond fostering competitive excellence, the event underscores Pakistan Navy's enduring commit-During the media briefing, Rear ment to promoting sportsmanship, and encouraging healthy recreationa

The opening ceremony was attended participation across various categories. by sponsors, golf players and media



Pakistan vs South Africa 2nd Cricket Test Match

South Africa Cricket Team in commanding position after brilliant battling

ISLAMABAD: The second Test match between Pakistan and South Africa being played at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium has entered an exciting phase. Once again, Pakistan's pride and dignity rest in the hands of Babar Azam and Mohammad Rizwan, as South Africa has taken the upper hand in the contest. Babar Azam is still at the crease, playing a determined and defiant innings, while Mohammad Rizwan too has become a wall of resistance. In their second innings, Pakistan has gained only a slight lead of 23 runs, with four wickets down.

The situation in the Rawalpindi Test has tilted in favor of South Africa. On the third day of play, the visitors took a remarkable first-innings lead and then caused further damage to Pakistan in the second innings with their sharp bowling. Even on a spin-friendly pitch, the toss win did not guarantee success for the home side. Kagiso Rabada stunned everyone by excelling with the bat instead of the ball, while Matthew Swami produced a stunning innings in partnership that turned the match around completely.

On Wednesday, the third day of the Test match at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium, what happened was beyond anyone's imagination. South Africa resumed their first innings at 184 for 5 in reply to Pakistan's total of 333. They lost their first wicket of the day after adding just one run — Kyle Verreynne was dismissed for 10, caught by wick-



etkeeper Mohammad Rizwan off Asif

After adding 19 more runs, Pakistan got the big wicket of Tristan Stubbs, who was trapped LBW by Asif Afridi after scoring 76 runs. Six runs later, Simon Harmer was also dismissed, LBW to Afridi for just 2 runs. At 235, South Africa lost their eighth wicket when Marco Jansen was trapped LBW by Nauman Ali for 12. At that stage, Pakistan still had a 98-run lead, with just two South African wickets remaining. What followed next made history.

South Africa broke their 28-year-old record against Pakistan for the highest partnership by the last two wickets. Starting from 236 for 8, Keshav Maharaj and Matthew Swami put on 71 runs for the ninth wicket. After Maharaj's dismissal, Kagiso Rabada joined Swami, and the pair added a spectacular 98 runs



two partnerships produced 169 runs, surpassing South Africa's previous record against Pakistan in Johannesburg.

Keshav Maharaj was dismissed for 30, but Kagiso Rabada played a careerbest innings, scoring 71 runs off just 61 balls, his maiden half-century in Test cricket. He was the last man out, caught by Abdullah Shafique off Asif Afridi. Matthew Swami remained not out on 89 from 155 balls. South Africa were bowled out for 404 in 119.3 overs, gaining a vital lead of 71 runs.

For Pakistan, debutant Asif Afridi was the standout performer, taking 6

wickets for 79 runs in 34.3 overs. At 38 oldest Pakistani Nauman Ali took 2

for the tenth wicket. Together, the last Afridi and Sajid Khan claimed one

Trailing by 71 runs, Pakistan began of 165 runs for the final two wickets their second innings under pressure. At the score of 12, Imam-ul-Haq (9) was trapped LBW by Simon Harmer. Only four runs later, Pakistan lost two quick wickets. Captain Shan Masood was dismissed for a duck by Harmer, and Abdullah Shafique followed shortly after, scoring just 6 runs, caught by Marco Jansen off Kagiso Rabada. Pakistan were struggling at 16 for 3.

At 60 runs, Saud Shakeel was caught in the slips by Aiden Markram off Harmer after scoring 11. On the other end, Babar Azam remained calm and composed, playing with great determination. He was later joined by Mohammad years and 301 days Rizwan, and together the two stabilized

old, he became the the innings for Pakistan. By the end of the third day's play, debutant to take Pakistan had reached 94 for 4, holding five wickets in an a slender overall lead of 23 runs. Babar innings, breaking a Azam was unbeaten on 49, while 92-year-old record. Mohammad Rizwan was not out on 16. For South Africa, Simon Harmer was wickets for 92 runs, the most successful bowler of the day, Shaheen taking 3 wickets.

Malakhra



KARACHI: Wrestlers compete in an ancient Sindhi form of wrestling called "Malakhra" as the match begins with both wrestlers tying a twisted cloth around the opponent's waist and each one then holds onto the opponent's waist cloth and tries to throw him to the ground.

Rizwan Ali declares MMA has no Pakistan-India rivalry: "Unlike cricket, I always win"

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: tensions between India and Pakistan play out in stadiums and on screens, one sport is proving there's a new battlefield beyond the boundary lines, Mixed Martial Arts



(MMA). But for Pakistan's undefeated phenom Rizwan Ali, who's set to face India's Rana Rudra Singh in Dubai on October 23rd at The Agenda Arena, the narrative is shifting

There is no real rivalry between Pakistan and India in MMA," Rizwan declares. "In cricket, we lose time and again, but in MMA, I always win. I've defeated every Indian opponent. How can there be a rivalry if they can't compete?'

This bold statement comes ahead of what's being dubbed as a showdown bigger than the Super Bowl, a fight with massive stakes, political undertones, and a growing international spot-

Promoted under the banner of ACA (Absolute Championship Akhmat), the elite Russian MMA promotion backed by Chechen President Ramzan Kadyrov, this event promises drama, discipline, and dominance.

The undefeated Rizwan Ali (10–0) has become Pakistan's most fearsome fighter, known for his technical superiority, unrelenting stamina, and knockout power. His opponent, Rana Rudra Singh, once a UFC hopeful from India, is determined to bring balance to a rivalry that, in Rizwan's view, doesn't exist.

With over 1.7 billion potential viewers, the Rizwan–Rudra face-off is being hyped as the most important MMA contest in South Asian history. But beyond the hype lies a deeper truth: Pakistan has dominated every Indo-Pak MMA matchup in recent memory, including three devastating finishes by Rizwan himself.

Despite his dominance, Rizwan remains focused and grounded: "My preparations for this fight are going extremely well. Rudra is tough, but I'm trying to finish him as soon as possible," Rizwan said. "I never take any opponent lightly, but I'm confident in my training and game plan. I'll do everything to outplay and outsmart him in the cage."

This fight could be Rizwan's launchpad into the UFC, as senior UFC scouts are expected to attend the Dubai event. Rizwan, however, views all fights with the same seriousness: "Whether it's UFC or ACA, a fight is a fight. It all depends on your fitness, your mindset, and your training. I'm ready for the UFC."

Rizwan credits his rise not just to hard work, but to his mentor and manager, Omar Ahmed, President of the Pakistan MMA Federation and founder of Brave Gym. "Meeting Omar Ahmed was a turning point in my life," Rizwan says with emotion. "He trained me, mentored me, guided me, and gave me international exposure. Because of him, I stand here undefeated at 10-0."

Omar Ahmed's vision is clear: to place a Pakistani fighter in the UFC and reshape Pakistan's identity in global sports. "We're not just building fighters; we're building a movement," Omar says. "Pakistan's MMA scene is no longer underground. It's national. It's real. And Rizwan is leading that charge."

Behind every great athlete is a strong support system, and for Rizwan, that includes his official sponsor, ACTIVIT, and its CEO, Rd. Rizwan Aftab Ahmed. "He's like a big brother to me," Rizwan said. "His support with finances, health, and nutrition has been magical. After Omar Ahmed, he's been the biggest reason behind my winning streak."

For Rizwan, MMA is more than a sport. It's a calling, a mission, and a message. "MMA makes you physically and mentally stronger. It's bigger than cricket. I hope my journey inspires young fighters in Pakistan to step up, train hard, and dream

Sports minister to lead Punjab contingent in National Games



LAHORE: Provincial Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs Malik Faisal Ayub Khokhar will lead the Punjab contingent in the 35th National Games which are scheduled to be held at Karachi from December 6 to 13. This information was shared by DG Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Khizar Afzaal Chaudhry while presiding over a meeting at the National Hockey Stadium on Wednesday. The meeting was convened to review the preparations of 35th edition of National Games.

Director Sports Rana Nadeem Anjum, Director Admin Abid Shaukat, Deputy Director Chand Perveen, Assistant Director Bilal Akram and Mohayuddin participated in the meeting.

Addressing the meeting, DG Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Khizar Afzaal Chaudhry said that the training camps of Punjab contingent for the preparation of National Games will start at different venues of Nishtar Park Sports Complex in November. "Expert coaches will supervise the training camp for the best preparation of Punjab athletes for the upcoming mega event".

He said that National Games are a major sports event of the country and keeping this factor in view, the Punjab coaches have been directed to impart top level training to Punjab's male and female athletes and in this regard no negligence will be tolerated.

He said that best facilities will be provided to all the male and female athletes during the training camps. "We are quite determined that Punjab contingent will grab top position in the medals table of the 35th edition of National Games".





The Spokesman

Guard of Honour

Romanian Air Force presents guard of honor to Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Babar Sidhu.



Air Chief calls on Chief of Romanian Air Force Staff during his visit to Romania

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed during a historic official visit to Romania called on Lieutenant General Leonard-Gabriel Baraboi, Chief of the Romafocused on strengthening bilateration between the two Air cises, exchange programmes

Upon his arrival at Romanian Air Force Headquarters, a Baber Sidhu, Chief of the smartly turned-out contingent Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force, of the Romanian Air Force presented Guard of Honour the Air Chief held detailed nian Air Force Staff. The visit discussions with Lieutenant eral defence ties and exploring advancing operational cooper-

and training of air and ground

dignitaries also exchanged views on regional security dynamics and reaffirmed the importance of to Air Chief Marshal Zaheer bilateral cooperation in Ahmed Baber Sidhu. Later maintaining both global and regional stability.

avenues for enhanced coop- ation, including joint air exer- fested in its recent success Force-to-Air Force collabora-

He also acknowledged PAF's progress achieved through indeginization under the visionary leadership of the Air Chief. Both dignitaries agreed to create robust institutional mechanisms for sustained cooperation in addressing shared aerial Lieutenant General Baraboi defence challenges. During General Baraboi centered on praised the professionalism the meeting, the two Air Chiefs of Pakistan Air Force mani- also discussed expanding Air rapidly evolving security envi-

against Indian aggression. tion and delved into prospects of forging defence-industrial partnerships in advanced aerospace technologies.

This visit of Chief of the Air Staff to Romania marks a significant milestone in Pakistan and Romania's military relations highlighting both nations' enduring commitment to peace, development and military collaboration in a

Kashmir committee urges timely completion of feasibility studies for airport in AJK

Bureau Report

mentary Committee on Kashmir directed the relevant authorities to complete the feasibility studies in a timely manner for the establishment of Azad Jammu & Kashmir

Kashmir held on Wednesday Committee on Kashmir.

at the New Civil Secretariat, Parliamentary Committee on Kashmir, Rana Muhammad Qasim Noon.

During the session, a of airports in all three divisions comprehensive review was emphasized the need to effecconducted on the implementation status of the deci-The 11th meeting of the sions made during the 10th internationally, and to further promote good governance, Parliamentary Committee on meeting of the Parliamentary

Muzaffarabad, under the Kashmir, Khushhal Khan ISLAMABAD: The Parlia-chairmanship of Federal provided the committee with a Pakistan's political, social, and economic

> Kashmir. Participants of the meeting tively highlight the Kashmir issue both nationally and in Azad Jammu and Kashmir. organize efforts in support of

Chief Secretary of Azad self-determination.

The meeting reaffirmed unwavering Minister and Chairman of the detailed briefing on the current commitment to continue its political, diplomatic, and situation in Azad Jammu & moral support to the Kashmiri people.

Furthermore, the committee agreed on the need to ensure political and economic stability prioritize public welfare, the Kashmiri people's right to and complete development globe.

projects in accordance with the needs of the people.

Concluding the meeting, Chairman and Federal Minister, Rana Muhammad Qasim Noon directed all concerned institutions to strengthen national unity, adopt an effective strategy, and intensify diplomatic efforts at international forums to ensure that the voice of the Kashmiri people is heard across the

Pakistan ranked world's third most polluted country; Karachi eighth among cities

跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has been ranked the third most polluted country in the world, while Karachi has emerged as the eighth most polluted city, according to the latest Air Quality Index (AQI) report.

The air quality in Karachi was recorded at an AQI level of 155, placing it in the "unhealthy" category.



Experts said the concen- and hazardous pollutants in air purifiers in homes and attributed to poor air quality

far exceeding the safe limit

Health specialists have advised citizens to wear masks outdoors and avoid unnecessary exposure to polluted air.

They also urged residents homes closed, refrain from exercising outdoors, and use tration of PM2.5 particles the city's air has reached 60.1 offices to minimise health each year.

The experts have warned that people suffering from respiratory diseases must take extra precautions due to the elevated levels of fine particulate matter.

Globally, air pollution is to keep the windows of their considered the second leading cause of death, with an estimated 8.1 million deaths

Palestine welcomes the landmark ruling by the International **Court of Justice**

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The State of Palestine welcomes the landmark ruling by the International Court of Justice on the "Obligations of Israel in relation to the Presence and Activities of the United Nations, Other International Organizations and Third States in and in relation to the Occupied Palestinian Territory."

The Court concluded that Israel in violation of its obligations as an occupying Power and a member of the United Nations, and in violation of its obligation not to impede concluded that the limited aid Israel has allowed in has not alleviated back to them.



has blocked humanitarian aid to the the catastrophic situation in the civilian population in the Gaza Strip Gaza Strip. The. Court recalled that Israel has also violated its obligation to respect the prohibition of use of starvation as a method of war and the forcible transfer and deportathe right of the Palestinian people tions of the Palestinian people and to self-determination. The Court affirmed that Palestinians that have been evacuated should be transferred

Musadik Malik commends Pakistan Navy for major antinarcotics operation in Arabian Sea

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Senator Dr. Musadik Malik, has lauded the Pakistan Navy for its successful large-scale anti-narcotics operation in the Arabian Sea, describing it as a significant step in safeguarding both public health and the marine environment.

"Drugs are not only devastating to human health but also have deep negative impacts on societal structures and ecological systems," Dr. Malik said in a news statement on Wednesday highlighting the broader consequences of narcotics trafficking.

the Navy's efforts to protect Paki- ecological sustainability.



stan's marine ecosystem from illegal activities and pollution, calling them "highly commendable."

He stressed that maintaining the integrity of the maritime environment is critical for the country's

PM Shehbaz commends **Information Secretary Ambreen Jan for dedicated** service on retirement

Wednesday lauded the services Pakistan's narrative at the interof Federal Secretary for Informanational level during the Markation and Broadcasting, Ambreen e-Haq. Jan, during her farewell call at the Prime Minister's Office.

was also present at the meeting, a endeavors. Prime Minister's Office

news release said. Ambreen Jan retiring from the civil service today after a distinguished career in

public service. The prime minister appreciated her significant contributions to the Government of Pakistan, particularly

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister highlighting her commendable Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on efforts in effectively projecting

Acknowledging her professionalism and leadership, the Prime Federal Minister for Information Minister extended his best wishes and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar to Ambreen Jan for her future



NA body slams weak emission controls, seeks four-week air quality plan

ISLAMABAD: The National Assembly's Standing Committee on Climate Change and Environmental Coordination has expressed strong concern over country's outdated vehicle emission standards and lack of enforcement, directing the Ministry of Climate Change to submit a plan within four weeks.

Chaired by MNA Munaza Hassan, the committee met at Parliament Euro-V and Euro-VI. House on Wednesday to review emission testing mechanisms and their role in improving air quality.

the committee that Pak-EPA lacks both and enforcement.

financial and technical capacity to effectively monitor and control vehicular

The committee was told that while the Capital Development Authority (CDA) had financed five new testing units, two of the current devices in use were borrowed from the Punjab EPA.

The country's vehicle emission standcomprehensive air quality improvement ards, the committee noted, remain stuck at Euro-II levels, far below modern international benchmarks such as

Chairperson Munaza Hassan observed that "there is no mechanism in place to check emissions or enforce During the briefing, officials from the compliance," calling for a time-bound Chief Commissioner's Office informed action plan to strengthen monitoring

Experts invited to the session highlighted that targeted interventions could reduce air pollution by up to 30 per cent.

They proposed measures such as staggered school and office timings, upgrading road infrastructure, promoting catalytic converters for older vehicles, and mandating emission tests during vehicle transfers.

They also suggested incentivising retrofitting and accelerating the transition to Euro-V compliant fuels.

The committee further urged the government to allocate greater funding for climate action and ensure that environmental priorities are reflected in in government's foreign policy and international engagements.

Concluding the meeting, Munaza Published by: Almass Ayoub Sabir from Zero Point Printers Rawalpindi



Hassan said: "We should at least try to make Islamabad a model city," underscoring the need for stronger coordination among government agencies to address deteriorating air quality. The meeting was attended by MNAs

Tahira Aurangzeb, Shaista Khan, Shaista Pervaiz, Syeda Shehla Raza, Mussarat Rafique Mahesar, Dr Shazia Sobia Aslam Soomro, Tamkeen Niazi, and Shahida Rahmani, along with experts Dr Faheem Khokhar and Dr Aazir Khan.

Officials from the Ministry of Climate Change, the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Administration, and the Pakistan Environmental Protection Agency (Pak-EPA), alongside climate experts were in