



Islamabad POST

Wednesday, August 20, 2025

Pakistan's Credible Daily Newspaper

Price Rs. 30

Beauty queen Nadeen to represent Palestine at Miss Universe pageant

Detailed News On Page-08

Tax policy role shifted from FBR: Fin Min

Detailed News On Page-08



Pak values ties with Ethiopia, says Gilani

Detailed News On Page-04



After KP, GB

Urban flooding cripples Karachi as rains wreak havoc

Wall collapse kills four in Gulistan-e-Jauhar; Sharea Faisal inundated; citizens advised to stay indoors

NAZIR SIYAL / DNA

KARACHI: At least ten people have been killed in rain-related incidents as a heavy downpour lashed Karachi on Tuesday with the Pakistan Meteorological Department warning of more showers to come. Monsoon rains fall across the region from June to September, offering respite from the summer heat and are crucial to replenishing water supplies. However, heavy downpours also trigger urban flooding, deadly floods, landslides and displacement, particularly in vulnerable, poorly drained, or densely populated areas. The Meteorological Department had predicted rains in the city from this week. According to the Met Office, as of 5pm, Gulshan-i-Hadeed recorded the highest level of rain at 145 millimetres, followed by Airport Old Area with 138mm, Keamari 137mm, Jinnah Terminal 135mm, University Road 132mm, Saadi Town 123mm, Defence Housing Authority Phase VII 121mm, PAF Base Faisal 114mm, Surjani Town 111.2mm, North Karachi 108.4mm, Korangi 96.6mm, Nazimabad 92mm, Gulshan-i-Maymar 75.2mm, PAF Masroor Base 75mm, Orangi Town 66.2mm and Bahria Town 4.8mm. The traffic police advised citizens to take precautionary measures in light of the situation, such as avoiding sudden braking, maintaining a slow speed and a safe distance from other vehicles on the road. As per the Met Office's statistics, the highest rainfall was recorded at Karachi airport (125mm) followed by Gulistan-e-Jauhar (122mm), Nazimabad (29 millimetres), Gulshan-e-Hadeed (75mm), University Road (59mm), Sharea Faisal (17mm), Gulshan-e-Maymar (11mm), airport (13mm), Korangi (14.6mm), Saadi Town (24mm), Orangi (12.2mm) and Keamari (30mm). The heavy showers also disrupted flight operations at Jin-

nah International Airport. At least eight flights were cancelled and 20 others delayed, with several inbound flights diverted to other cities. A Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) flight from Skardu (PK-456) was redirected to an alternate airport, while a Dubai-Karachi flight operated by Flydubai (FZ-335) was diverted to Multan. PIA also cancelled its Karachi-Quetta flights PK-310 and PK-311, along with Karachi-Islamabad flights PK-308 and PK-309. Two Sukkur-bound flights (PK-536 and PK-537) were also scrapped, while private carriers suspended their scheduled Dubai services. Departures and arrivals from Jeddah, Sharjah, Abu Dhabi, Colombo, Medina, Peshawar, and Toronto faced delays ranging between one to five hours, airport sources confirmed. According to Met Office, strong monsoon currents from Arabian Sea and Bay of Bengal are continuously penetrating the country, especially the southern parts. Under the influence of these meteorological conditions, widespread rain-wind/thundershower (with scattered heavyfalls at times very heavy) is expected in several Sindh districts, including Karachi, from August 19-22, with occasional gaps. It is also expected in Mithi, Tharparker, Umer Kot, Mirpurkhas, Hyderabad, Shaheed Benazirabad, Karachi, Thatta, Badin, Sajawal, Tando Allayar, Tando Muhammad Khan, Sanghar, Jamshoro, while at scattered places in Sukkur, Larkana, Khairpur, and Jacobabad. The PMD added that torrential rains may cause urban flooding in low-lying areas of Sindh, including Karachi. Furthermore, the downpour also resulted in electricity outages in multiple areas. However, K-Electric (KE) has said that the city was being provided with an uninterrupted power supply from more than 1,770 feeders out of 2,100. As a precautionary measure, power supply is temporarily suspended in low-lying areas, encroachments, and ditches, said the KE spokesperson, adding that the utility supplier's staff has been fully mobilised and is present in the field.



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Rotary International Foundation led by President Francesco Arezzo called on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in Islamabad. 19 August 2025. – DNA

Foreign Minister Wang Yi to visit Pakistan

DNA

ISLAMABAD: On the invitation of Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, China's Foreign Minister and member of the Politburo of the Communist Party of China, H.E. Mr. Wang Yi, will arrive in Islamabad to co-chair the 6th Pakistan-China Foreign Ministers' Strategic Dialogue. The high-level visit underscores the close and longstanding ties between Pakistan and China, built on the foundation of their "All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership." The dialogue will provide an opportunity for both sides to reaffirm their support on each other's core national

Continued on Page 06

Gen Sahir meets Uzbek President

DNA

TASHKENT: President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev received a delegation of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan led by General Sahir Shamshad Mirza, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee. The distinguished guest conveyed the sincere greetings and best wishes of Prime Minister of Pakistan Shahbaz Sharif to the Head of our State. The parties discussed further development of

Continued on Page 06

Meets Rotary chief

Polio-free Pakistan is our top priority, says PM Shehbaz

The prime minister, in a meeting with a delegation of Rotary International Foundation, led by President Francesco Arezzo thanked the organisation for its full cooperation

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday reaffirmed that the government's health sector team, polio workers, and all relevant institutions were determined to completely eradicate polio from the country. The prime minister, in a meeting with a delegation of Rotary International Foundation, led by President Francesco Arezzo here, thanked the organisation for its full cooperation, like other international organizations, in eliminating this deadly disease from Pakistan. He said that despite challenges, the government was resolved to secure the future of Pakistan's children through its unwavering commitment and hard work. There are difficulties in eradicating polio,

but it is not impossible. The key role of polio workers in polio campaigns is commendable, he remarked. The members of the delegation praised the government's polio eradication efforts and expressed hope that, with Prime Minister Shehbaz's special focus and leadership, Pakistan would soon be able to eliminate this deadly disease. Reaffirming Rotary International's commitment to continue supporting the government in its polio eradication efforts, they said that the organisation spent \$500 million on polio eradication in Pakistan last year and intended to allocate a substantial amount for this purpose this year as well. The delegation also appreciated the selection of the polio eradication team by

Continued on Page 06

Zelensky says ready for meeting with Putin

Trump pushes Ukraine to give up Crimea, abandon goal of joining Nato, but assures Ukraine's security in peace deal

FOREIGN DESK

WASHINGTON: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said on Monday he was willing to meet directly with his Russian counterpart to end the war. Speaking to reporters after talks with US President Donald Trump and several European leaders at the White House, Zelenskyy said he was ready for what would be his first face-to-face with Vladimir Putin since Moscow's

invasion nearly three and a half years ago. "I confirmed – and all European leaders supported me – that we are ready for a

Editorial on Page 05

bilateral meeting with Putin," Zelenskyy said following the summit. Zelenskyy has come under increasing pressure to cede territory to end the grinding war, as Russia makes a series of advances. Ahead of the

Continued on Page 06

Expedition marks 75 Years of Indonesia–Pakistan friendship

Rahmat Hindiarta says Pakistan has been one of the biggest recipients of Indonesian government scholarships, and we are proud that academic and cultural exchanges between our two nations are flourishing

ANSAR MAHMOOD BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: The Embassy of Indonesia in Islamabad hosted a press conference this afternoon to brief the media about the IBEX Red and White Expedition to Trango Tower (EMPTT) 2025. The event, held at the Embassy's Hall of Budaya Nusantara highlighted the significance of the expedition in strengthening bilateral ties between Indonesia and Pakistan while celebrating two major milestones for Indonesia. The IBEX expedition has been organized to mark Indonesia's 80th Independence Day on August 17, 2025, and also to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of bilateral relations between Indonesia and Pakistan. These twin celebrations symbolize not only Indonesia's national pride but also the deep-rooted friendship and cooperation that Jakarta and Islamabad have fostered over the decades. Delivering the opening remarks, Rahmat Hindiarta, Minister Counselor and Head of the Media and Culture Section at the Indonesian Embassy, underscored the broader vision behind the climbing mission. Flanked by Maj. Gen. (R) Asro, a senior adviser on climbing, Hindiarta emphasized that the expedition reflects Indonesia's commitment to expand people-to-people ties with Pakistan. "Pakistan has been one of the biggest recipients of Indonesian government scholarships, and we are proud that academic and cultural exchanges between our two nations are flourishing," he said. "Tourism from Pakistan to Indonesia has also grown, and initiatives like this climbing ex-

pedition are a part of our shared resolve to deepen the bonds of brotherhood." He that such collaborations are not only symbolic but also practical demonstrations of mutual trust, resilience, and shared spirit of adventure. The six-member Indonesian climbing team was being led by Freden Sembiring, a seasoned mountaineer. Speaking at the press conference, Sembiring shared details of the mission to scale Trango Tower, one of the most daunting granite towers of the

Karakoram Range located in Gilgit-Baltistan. "Trango Tower is among the most difficult rock-climbing challenges in the world, with its sheer vertical walls and extreme weather conditions," he noted. "We initially planned for a 15-day climb, but the expedition required us to adapt, cut climbing time, and make crucial decisions on the spot. It was challenging, but challenges are what we prepare for." Sembiring added that the team used Himalayan

techniques to navigate the rock-climbing conditions, which tested not just their technical ability but also their endurance and teamwork. "If we can handle this climb, we believe we can take on even more difficult tasks in the future. Pakistan's Alpine Club supported us immensely, and the hospitality of the local people made this journey unforgettable. We will definitely come back to Pakistan." Standing at 6,286 meters (20,623 feet), Trango Tower—also known as Nameless Tower—forms part of the Trango Group in the Baltoro Glacier region of Gilgit-Baltistan. The tower is renowned worldwide for its dramatic vertical rock faces, considered the largest sheer cliffs on Earth. Climbers from across the globe travel to Pakistan to test their skills on its granite walls, which combine both mountaineering and technical rock climbing. The press conference concluded with reaffirmations of the expedition's symbolic role in bringing Indonesia and Pakistan closer together. Both sides expressed their desire to continue building on past achievements in education, culture, tourism, and sports diplomacy. "Climbing Trango Tower is not just about scaling a mountain," Hindiarta remarked in his closing note. "It is about celebrating resilience, ambition, and friendship. Just as our climbers overcame steep obstacles on this rock face, our two nations will continue to overcome challenges and rise together." As the IBEX Red and White Expedition 2025 gains international attention, it stands as both an athletic triumph and a diplomatic milestone—celebrating Indonesia's independence, honoring the strong bond with Pakistan, and showcasing how shared adventures can elevate bilateral relations to new heights.





Warm Welcome

TO THE ROTARY INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT AND ROTARY FOUNDATION CHAIR IN PAKISTAN



Francesco Arezzo
Rotary International President | 2025-2026



Holger Knaack
Chair Rotary Foundation | 2025-2026

Francesco Arezzo is an orthodontist in private practice and owns an agricultural enterprise that produces extra virgin olive oil in Sicily. Arezzo is a graduate of the University of Padua and a member of the Italian, European, and American orthodontics associations, as well as the Italian and European lingual orthodontics associations. He is a dentistry graduate of the University of Cagliari, where he also received a master's in lingual orthodontics. He has served as vice president of the National Association of Italian Dentists for the province of Ragusa and was the founder and head for seven years of the Ragusa delegation to the National Trust for Italy. Arezzo is also the owner of an agricultural enterprise and producer of extra virgin olive oil in the Monti Iblei region of Sicily. He has been

vice president of the administrative council of the consortium controlling and regulating quality production of oil in that region. He owns two boutique hotel settlements there. He enjoys modern art and opera. A Rotary member for 36 years, Arezzo has served as vice chair of the Joint Strategic Planning Committee and as RI director, chair of the 2023 Melbourne Convention Committee, learning facilitator, and district conference presidential representative, among other roles. Arezzo's partner is Anna Maria Criscione, an entrepreneur in the tourism field. They have two daughters and two grandchildren. His daughter Raffaella spent a year in Florida as part of a Rotary Youth Exchange. Francesco and Anna Maria are Benefactors and Major Donors to The Rotary Foundation.

Holger Knaack was the owner of Knaack KG, a real estate company, and Knaack Bakery Enterprises, a family business founded in 1868. He holds a degree in business administration from the Kiel University of Applied Sciences. Knaack is a founding member of the Civic Foundation of the City of Ratzeburg and the founder and chair of the Karl Adam Foundation. A Rotary member since 1993, Knaack has served Rotary as president, treasurer, director, moderator, member and chair of several committees, Council on

Legislation representative, endowment/major gifts adviser, and learning facilitator. He served for six years as a multidistrict Rotary Youth Exchange chair and co-chaired the Host Organization Committee for the 2019 Rotary International Convention in Hamburg, Germany. Knaack and his wife, Susanne, have hosted more than 40 Rotary Youth Exchange students and are Major Donors to The Rotary Foundation. They are also members of the Paul Harris Society and the Bequest Society.

ROTARY SMART VILLAGE PROJECT: BUILDING RESILIENT COMMUNITIES IN PAKISTAN

The devastating floods of 2022 in Pakistan displaced over eight million people and destroyed more than two million homes, creating an urgent need for sustainable recovery. In response, Rotary Pakistan launched the Smart Village Project, a pioneering initiative aimed at rebuilding flood-affected communities with resilience, sustainability, and dignity at its core. Conceived by Rotary International Director and architect Muhammad Faiz Kidwai, the project goes beyond emergency relief. It focuses on long-term rehabilitation through climate-smart villages designed to withstand future disasters. Built on elevated land, these villages feature flood-resistant homes using indigenous materials, solar-powered wells, clean water treatment facilities, eco-toilets, and renewable energy solutions. Each village is equipped with digital connectivity, enabling access to online education, telemedicine, and entrepreneurship opportunities. The Smart Village Project also emphasizes community empowerment. Women are provided sewing machines and vocational training to generate income, while workshops equip families with skills in healthcare, education, and sustainable farming. By combining traditional knowledge with modern technology, the initiative fosters self-reliance and inclusive development. Rotary's Smart Villages stand as a model for climate adaptation and humanitarian innovation. They showcase how collective action, driven by compassion and foresight, can transform disaster into an opportunity for resilient, sustainable growth across Pakistan's most vulnerable regions.



ROTARY INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT AND TRUSTEE CHAIR TO VISIT PAKISTAN

In a rare and historic development, Rotary International President (2025–2026) Francisco Azzaro and Rotary Foundation Trustee Chair (2025–2026) Holger Knaack will jointly visit Pakistan, underscoring the country's global importance and the remarkable contributions of Pakistani Rotarians in polio eradication and community service. The visit of the two topmost Rotary leaders together is considered an extraordinary occasion in the organization's history. During their stay in the twin cities, the distinguished guests will be hosted at a formal dinner reception on 20th August at a local hotel by the Rotary Club Pakistan Corporate, District 3271. It is significant to note that Rotary Club Pakistan Corporate is the first and only Rotary club worldwide to carry the name of a country, reflecting both the pride and commitment of its members. The club operates in a hybrid format, bringing together professionals from across Pakistan and abroad who are united in advancing Rotary's mission of service above self. This visit is seen as a great honor for Pakistan in the global philanthropic community and a recognition of the country's role in one of Rotary's most ambitious humanitarian missions, ending polio worldwide.

ABOUT ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

HISTORY OF ROTARY

Rotary International was founded on February 23, 1905, in Chicago, Illinois, USA, by Paul P. Harris, a lawyer. It started as a small club where professionals from various backgrounds could network and exchange ideas. As the organization grew, it expanded its focus beyond professional networking to include community service. Today, Rotary International is a global humanitarian organization with over 1.4 million members, more than 46,000 clubs in over 200 countries, dedicated to creating lasting change in their communities and around the world.

MISSION & VISION



Together, we see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change — across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves.



To provide service to others, promote integrity, and advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace through fellowship of business, professional, and community leaders.

ROTARY CLUB PAKISTAN CORPORATE: A PLATFORM FOR LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE

The **Rotary Club of Pakistan Corporate (RCPC)** brings together highly accomplished leaders from diverse fields who share a passion for serving humanity and believe in the Rotary motto, **"Service Above Self."** Members of RCPC hold leadership positions in both the public and private sectors, including CEOs, Presidents, Board members, diplomats, and distinguished professionals from fields such as medicine, engineering, law, environment, academia, media, entertainment, and development. This collective of influencers and decision-makers is committed to making a lasting, sustainable difference through impactful service. RCPC is a hybrid Rotary Club, comprising members from across Pakistan and abroad. Rtn. Imran Ghaznavi Advisor RCPC who conceived the idea of a Hybrid Rotary Club and brought together the passionate humanists to work for the better future of communities in need. The current leadership team apart from the Advisor includes the **President and Vice President, based in Lahore, the immediate past President, and the Executive Secretary in Islamabad. Whereas, the Board of Directors are based across Pakistan.** Together, they lead projects aimed at improving lives and uplifting communities. **Board also Includes Secretary, Foundation Chair, Youth Contact Chair, Public Image Chair. Learning Facilitator, Membership Chair, Club Services Chair and Treasurer**

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- Service Above Self:** Uphold the core Rotary motto by encouraging members to engage in community service projects.
- Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR):** Partner with corporate organizations to promote sustainable development and integrate CSR into business practices.
- Professional Networking:** Facilitate leadership, networking, and collaboration opportunities among professionals for mutual growth and social good.
- Community Empowerment:** Focus on initiatives in healthcare, education, poverty alleviation, and skills development to uplift underprivileged communities.
- State-of-the-Art Cancer Hospital:** Establishing a cutting-edge cancer hospital in or near Islamabad to provide advanced healthcare services.
- Senior Citizen Clubs:** Creating a no-profit, no-loss Senior Citizen Clubs with world-class daycare and engagement facilities for individuals over 60 years old, starting in Islamabad and eventually expanding to major cities.
- Make Pakistan Green:** Supporting environmental sustainability through the Rotary Pakistan Orchard initiative, in collaboration with local authorities, to plant trees across the country.
- Youth Leadership Program:** RCPC will develop comprehensive leadership development program for youth specially from under privileges and marginalized communities.
- Smart Village Project:** Empowering the poorest communities in Pakistan through the Smart Village Project, providing them with sustainable resources and infrastructure.
- Polio Eradication:** Supporting Rotary's global effort to eliminate polio by providing polio-free water treatment equipment to vulnerable regions in Pakistan.

Briefs

Rana Mashhood Meets Turkish Student

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A meeting was held at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), Chairman Prime Minister's Youth Programme Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan, welcomed the visiting Turkish Student Delegation representing the Turkish Maarif Foundation (TMF; Türkiye Maarif Vakfı). The delegation's visit marks a significant milestone in strengthening the cultural and educational ties between Pakistan and Turkey. The meeting focused on the Youth Cultural Exchange Program, a new initiative designed to promote mutual understanding and collaboration in fields such as education, entertainment, and language. Additionally, the discussions set the foundation for future student exchange initiatives between both countries. The Turkish Maarif Foundation (TMF), established by the Turkish Parliament, is committed to providing educational services abroad, fostering global cultural and educational exchanges. Operating in 67 countries with a network of 332 institutions, TMF serves over 40,000 students and offers programs ranging from preschool to higher education. The Foundation also provides scholarships, dormitories, and educator training, and plays a pivotal role in international cooperation. Through fully funded scholarships and strategic partnerships, TMF supports students in broadening their academic and cultural experiences, thereby strengthening global ties.

Gilgit's Aman Faraz Durrani honored

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Aman Faraz Durrani, the youngest woman from Gilgit, was honored with the Pride of Pakistan Award during the 78th Independence Day celebrations, 'Marka-e-Haq', for her remarkable services in social welfare and humanitarian work. Durrani is the founder and CEO of the Durrani Welfare Trust, set up in 2017 to support orphans and underprivileged children. The Trust provides shelter, food, healthcare and education to more than 50 children, besides running various community support programs. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Trust distributed food rations among over 800 families, while it has also provided clothing to 300 families and food assistance to 500 others in Gilgit-Baltistan. It also operates a free ambulance service for needy citizens. The children of the Trust, known as "Our Stars," regularly participate in national events, including Independence Day and Pakistan Day, showcasing their patriotism. Their efforts have been praised by senior officials, including former Commander FCNA Maj Gen Kashif Khalil, who supported the Trust by constructing classrooms and funding teachers' salaries.—APP

Gilani, Ethiopian envoy discuss trade, climate, global coop

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani on Tuesday met Ethiopian Ambassador Dr. Jamal Beker Abdulla and discussed bilateral ties, trade, investment, environmental cooperation, and regional as well as global issues.

As part of the meeting, Gilani, senators, and the ambassador planted a sapling in the Friendship Garden at Parliament House to mark the ongoing tree plantation campaign.

Gilani said Pakistan and Ethiopia enjoyed historic ties and welcomed the opening of the Ethiopian Embassy in Islamabad and the start of direct Ethiopian Airlines flights between Karachi and Addis Ababa.

He termed both steps as key milestones in expanding relations and stressed the early signing of an air services agreement to boost trade and investment. He thanked Ethiopia for supporting Pakistan's candidature for a non-permanent seat at the UN Security Council (2025-26) and noted that cooperation at regional and international forums had further deepened ties.

Highlighting the role of parliamentary diplomacy, he pointed to the Pakistan-Ethiopia Parliamentary Friendship Group and called for stronger delegation exchanges and people-to-people contacts.

Gilani underlined that economic diplomacy was central to Pakistan's foreign policy and urged efforts to diversify trade. He highlighted Pakistan's well-known exports—including rice, surgical instruments, pharmaceuticals, and FIFA-standard footballs—as potential areas for Ethiopia to import.

He also identified opportunities in IT, science, education, and vocational training.

On climate change, the Chairman Senate praised Ethiopia's Green Dialogue Program and emphasized joint initiatives for a sustainable future. He also invited Ethiopia's parliamentary leadership to attend the Inter-Parliamentary Speakers Conference in Islamabad this November.

Ambassador Dr. Jamal Beker Abdulla endorsed Gilani's views, praised his role in promoting Pakistan's international relations, and assured Ethiopia's continued cooperation.



Pak and Bangladesh explore enhanced coop in energy and mineral sectors

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Petroleum, Mr. Ali Pervaiz Malik was called on by the High Commissioner of Bangladesh to Pakistan, His Excellency Mr. Md. Iqbal Hussain, at the Ministry of Petroleum. The discussions focused on strengthening bilateral cooperation in key sectors, including limestone, coal and petroleum products to foster mutual economic growth and energy security. Minister Ali Pervaiz highlighted Pakistan's commitment to deepening ties with Bangladesh, stating, "Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is keen to support our brothers in Bangladesh and enhance cooperation in various sectors. Pakistan values its relationship with Bangladesh and is eager to explore joint ventures that benefit both nations." The meeting explored potential avenues for partnership in the exploration sector, trade of limestone, coal, and petroleum products. Both sides emphasized the importance of knowledge-sharing and investment opportunities to maximize the potential of these sectors. The High Commissioner of Bangladesh appreciated Pakistan's willingness to strengthen

economic and energy cooperation, noting that such collaboration would contribute to regional stability and prosperity. He reiterated Bangladesh's interest in expanding trade and investment linkages

with Pakistan. This meeting underscores the commitment of both Pakistan and Bangladesh to deepen their ties and explore new opportunities for bilateral growth in the energy and mineral sectors.—DNA



Musadik Malik vows support, urges global climate justice

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Climate Change Musadik Malik on Tuesday reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to elevating climate change issues internationally, stressing that beyond political differences, the federal government is standing shoulder to shoulder with the people of GB, KP and AJK, mobilizing all resources to address the flood crisis. In a conversation with a private news channel, he conveyed his condolences to those impacted by the devastating floods. He recognized the scale of the disaster and the pain endured by the families affected. Every minister is on the ground, coordinating and utilizing all available machinery, ambulances and resources to restore connectivity and infrastructure in the flood-affected areas, he added. He explained that major highways and roads have been cleared within 24 hours, while specialized teams are working to repair severely damaged power grids and water systems. Malik emphasized that the federal government's top priority is to ensure all resources reach those who need them most without delay. Responding to a query, he stated that more than 700 people have died during current monsoon and over 100 are missing due to the devastating floods, describing it as a massive natural calamity. He also pointed out that rising temperatures are causing extreme weather events like cloudbursts, citing last year's incident in Sindh as an example. He noted that temperatures in KP and GB are increasing by about 4 degrees Celsius each year, worsening the impact of such natural disasters. Responding to a question about the Loss and Damage Fund, he explained that eight major countries, responsible for about 70% of global carbon emissions, are the primary recipients of the fund.—DNA

ICCI President Stresses Investment in Human Capital

DNA

ISLAMABAD: President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) Nasir Mansoor Qureshi has emphasized that in today's world, where science, technology and innovation determine the development trajectory of nations, investment in human capital is the most crucial pillar for sustainable economic and social progress. He said that education is the backbone of human capital and stressed the urgent need for creating a modern education system aligned with international standards, one that encourages critical thinking, creativity, and professionalism among the youth. "Training our younger generation with advanced knowledge and practical skills is imperative so they can compete globally and find opportunities in high-income sectors," he added. Nasir Mansoor Qureshi underlined that health is equally vital for national prosperity, as a strong and healthy society forms the foundation of economic productivity. He called upon the government to prioritize investment in modern healthcare infrastructure, including state-of-the-art medical centres, and to ensure easy access to quality healthcare services for all citizens.

The ICCI President further stated that promoting equality and inclusivity, regardless of gender, social status, or ethnicity, is essential to build a just society where every citizen can unlock his or her potential and contribute positively to national progress.

He also highlighted the role of ICCI in this regard, stating that the Chamber is not only working for the promotion of trade and industry but is also playing a proactive role in policy advocacy for education, skills development, and healthcare reforms. ICCI provides a platform for dialogue between government, academia, and the business community to foster initiatives that enhance human capital and strengthen the socio-economic fabric of the country.

He urged the government to take bold steps for the development of human capital, stressing that this is not merely an investment in education and health, but a strategic investment in the nation's future. "Educated, healthy and motivated citizens will serve as the real driving force behind Pakistan's sustainable economic growth and social development in the coming years," he concluded.

Literary Groups, NGOs Urge Support for Flood Victims

DNA

ISLAMABAD: World Humanitarian Day on Tuesday celebrated around the globe including Pakistan with enthusiasm and fervor. On this occasion, literary organisations and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) have united to appeal to the nation for collective support for flood-affected families across the country. In an exclusive interview with APP, Director General of the National Language Promotion Department (NLPD), Prof. Dr. Mohammad Saleem Mazhar, said that literary and cultural organisations all over the world exist to serve humanity by advocating love, peace, and prosperity for all human beings. "These organizations share and celebrate joy and happiness collectively, and stand with people in times of sorrow," he remarked. He regretted that in Pakistan, a large number of people had lost their loved ones, homes, and livelihoods due to the recent devastating floods, particularly in the northern areas.

"In this crucial time, the victims need our help and support just to survive. It is the need of the hour for all of us to come forward and fulfill our moral and ethical duty to help them," the DG NLPD urged.

Zafar Bakhtawari fetes business community

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Secretary General of the United Business Group (UBG), Zafar Bakhtawari, hosted a dinner at his residence in honor of the business community and trader organizations of Islamabad. A large number of prominent trader leaders and representatives of various markets attended the event. Distinguished guests included: Kashif Chaudhry, President of All Pakistan Anjuman-e-Tajran; Haji Muhammad Naem, Chairman Blue Area; Owais Satti, President Islamabad Chamber of Small Traders and Small Industry; Ahmed Khan, President F-10 Markaz; Naem Akhtar Awan, President G-11 Markaz; Zargham Shah, President G-12 Markaz; Kamran Kakakhel, newly elected President G-10 Markaz; Chaudhry Waheed Cheema, President I-8 Markaz; Chaudhry Tahir, Chairman Pakistan Business Forum; Yousaf Rajpoot, senior trader leader Blue Area; Ashfaq Ahmed Chattha, former Senior Vice President ICCI; Naveed Malik, former Senior Vice President ICCI, along with Chaudhry Nadeemuddin Gujar, Chaudhry Aftab Gujar, Malik Mohsin Khalid, Khayyam Abbasi, Waseem Chaudhry, Zawalur Rehman Abbasi, Imran Minhas, Ishaq Siyal, Malik Abdul Aziz, Ateeq-ur-Rehman, Faisal Mazmil, Sohail Chaudhry, Abbas Hashmi, Saif-ur-Rehman Khan, Chaudhry Ashraf Farzand, Nisar Mirza, Imran Bukhari, Ameen Pirzada, Shah Faisal, Riaz Khan, and Raja Khalid Abbasi, among others. Speaking on the occasion, Zafar Bakhtawari said: "Friends are the most valuable asset in life, and they must always be respected. Freedom is a great gift from Almighty Allah; Pakistan is the fortress of the Islamic world and the center of hope for Muslims around the globe. We must raise our voice for oppressed Muslims worldwide and also take practical steps for their support." Addressing the gathering, Kashif Chaudhry said: "Zafar

Bakhtawari is an ambassador of love. He has played a vital role in bringing life and vibrancy to Islamabad. Though a public life is never easy, he has been fortunate to have a noble life partner and righteous children. For the resolution of traders' issues, Bakhtawari has always made sacrifices and has fulfilled the

true essence of friendship and brotherhood. We pay tribute to his services. The business community must move forward with unity and collective efforts to solve its problems. We must also work together to support the flood victims." On the occasion, Naveed Malik stated that Zafar Bakhtawari's contributions in the fields of business, journalism, politics, diplomacy, and culture are highly valuable for the country, and the business community holds them in great regard. Other distinguished guests present also appreciated Bakhtawari's services, his spirit of friendship, and his social role, adding that the dinner was a fine reflection of trader unity, solidarity, and brotherhood.



Trump–Zelensky meeting fails to deliver breakthrough

U.S. President Donald Trump hosted Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky in Washington this week, joined by several prominent European leaders, in what was billed as a critical push toward ending the devastating war in Ukraine. Despite the high-profile gathering, no breakthrough emerged, leaving the future of peace in Eastern Europe as uncertain as ever. The talks followed Trump's earlier summit with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Alaska, where the U.S. leader had hoped to secure concessions from Moscow. That effort also ended without tangible progress. The Washington meeting, therefore, carried heightened expectations. Yet, once again, the road to peace proved far more complicated than Trump's public optimism suggested. At the heart of the impasse remain two fundamental disputes: Ukraine's refusal to accept Trump's quiet suggestion to "consider vacating" territories occupied by Russian forces since 2022, and Moscow's unwavering stance on retaining control over Crimea, which it annexed in 2014. Zelensky made it clear during the closed-door sessions that Ukraine will not legitimize Russian occupation by ceding sovereign territory. For Kyiv, any proposal involving territorial compromise is tantamount to surrender. On the other side, Russia continues to insist that Crimea is non-negotiable and shows no willingness to withdraw from regions in eastern Ukraine where its troops remain entrenched. These irreconcilable positions once again dashed hopes that Trump could present himself as the dealmaker capable of bridging the divide. Observers note that Trump's sense of urgency in resolving the conflict is tied not only to his political ambitions but also to his personal quest for international recognition. The U.S. president has repeatedly spoken of his desire to win the Nobel Peace Prize, openly declaring that a Ukraine peace deal would make him a strong candidate. Yet, with both Moscow and Kyiv refusing to budge, critics say Trump's strategy appears desperate rather than pragmatic. His trademark bravado — assuring reporters that "a deal will be done, sooner rather than later" — sounded increasingly hollow after two high-profile failures within a month. Still, Trump remains eager to claim progress, framing the meetings as "steps forward" even without tangible results. Joining Zelensky in Washington were key European leaders, including French President Emmanuel Macron, German Chancellor Friedrich Merz, and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen. Their presence was meant to demonstrate transatlantic unity in the search for peace. However, European officials privately expressed

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

Editor-in-Chief: Ansar Mahmood Bhatti
Deputy Editor: Abid Raza

Member APNS / ABC Certified

Vol: 06 Issue: 88

Email: dailyisbpost@gmail.com

Phone: 051- 8488394 / 051-2261960

Off 11: Awan Plaza, Block 18-A, G-8 Markaz Islamabad



frustration at Trump's approach, which many see as focused more on personal political gain than on sustainable conflict resolution. One EU diplomat noted, "Europe has borne the brunt of this war — millions of refugees, massive energy crises, and security risks. We cannot reduce this to a campaign narrative in Washington." European leaders also used the opportunity to press Trump on post-war reconstruction commitments, trade ties, and NATO funding — issues that remain sources of tension in transatlantic relations. While Trump emphasized his wish to "end the bloodshed in Europe," his critics argue that his credibility is undermined by glaring inconsistencies in his foreign policy priorities. Perhaps the starkest example of these inconsistencies is Gaza. As Trump spoke passionately about ending the war in Ukraine, European and Middle Eastern commentators pointed out his silence on the ongoing humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza. Despite repeated international appeals, Trump has largely avoided criticizing Israel's military campaign, which has killed tens of thousands of civilians and displaced millions. This double standard has not gone unnoticed. Analysts argue that Trump's insistence on being a peace broker in Ukraine while ignoring Gaza undermines his moral standing. "When it comes to Gaza, he simply shuts his eyes," a European journalist remarked, "and that makes his claims of wanting to 'stop bloodshed' ring hollow." Indeed, the Gaza issue looms as a major obstacle to Trump's Nobel ambitions. Even if he were to succeed in facilitating an agreement between Russia and Ukraine, many within the international community would still question whether his selective concern for human suffering merits the world's most prestigious peace prize. For Zelensky, the Washington trip was another attempt to keep Ukraine firmly on the global agenda. With war fatigue setting in across Europe and America, and with international aid slowing, Kyiv desperately needs continued political and military support. By standing firm in Washington, Zelensky signaled both to his domestic audience and international partners that Ukraine will not compromise its sovereignty. For Trump, the calculus is different. Yet his repeated inability to secure meaningful concessions from either side raises doubts about whether his approach is more performance than substance. The failure of both the Alaska summit with Putin and the Washington meeting with Zelensky underscores the complexity of the Ukraine conflict. Peace remains elusive not because leaders are unwilling to talk, but because the fundamental interests of the parties involved are deeply irreconcilable. Trump continues to insist that "progress is being made," but without a shift in Russia's or Ukraine's core positions, any deal remains a distant prospect. Meanwhile, the war grinds on, exacting a devastating human toll and destabilizing global security. As the world watches, Trump's balancing act between personal ambition, political survival, and the harsh realities of international diplomacy grows increasingly precarious. For Zelensky, Macron, Merz, and von der Leyen, the task is to keep Ukraine's plight central while resisting the temptation to reduce peace talks to a stage for political theater.

For now, the Washington meeting ends as it began: with hopes high, words plentiful, but peace still painfully out of reach.

The end of liberal hegemony

Dr. Muhammad Akram Zaheer



Trump's disruptive leadership, neoliberal economic shifts, and the rise of revisionist illiberal powers like China and Russia played roles, but these are symptoms rather than root causes. Instead, the underlying fragility stems from the system's liberal foundations its institutions, norms, and legalistic commitments. What was presumed to be a source of durability universal principles, legal binding, and inclusive norms proved to be the order's greatest weakness, rendering it rigid, bureaucratic and unresponsive to changing global realities

Today the liberal international order (LIO) is in decline and many of its supporters in the transatlantic world are mourning its passing. During the first Trump administration, denial prevailed, but today recognition is widespread. Political leaders across Europe and North America have reacted with a range of emotions from anger, blaming the Trump presidency for dismantling institutions, to appeals for a return to the rules based order. Yet others seem resigned, unable even to imagine viable alternatives to the system that once defined post Cold War global governance.

Trump's disruptive leadership, neoliberal economic shifts, and the rise of revisionist illiberal powers like China and Russia played roles, but these are symptoms rather than root causes. Instead, the underlying fragility stems from the system's liberal foundations its institutions, norms, and legalistic commitments. What was presumed to be a source of durability universal principles, legal binding, and inclusive norms proved to be the order's greatest weakness, rendering it rigid, bureaucratic and unresponsive to changing global realities.

Liberalism is not merely an ideology but the structural logic animating the international architecture constructed after World War II. The belief that durable peace and cooperation would follow from legalistic mechanisms and global norms ultimately bred overconfidence in the self healing power of institutions. As a result, the system became inflexible, unable to adapt when nationalist currents surged within member states and rival ideological powers gained strength. The very commitment to universality especially the notion that liberal norms applied equally across cultures rendered the order

unable to accommodate dissenting or non Western worldviews and thereby sapped its legitimacy and appeal.

The old order are not only unrealistic but counterproductive. Rather than clinging to memory or hoping for a U.S. recommitment to past multilateralism, the international community must confront the reality that the LIO is functional only under certain historical preconditions—conditions that no longer obtain. Therefore, it need more pluralistic and flexible global order that retains liberal legitimacy in principle, but loosens the strict legalistic discipline that hampered responsiveness. This "less legalistic system" would recognize cultural, normative, and political differences across regions and allow for variable geometries of cooperation. In other words, rather than imposing universal norms via institutional channels, democracy oriented states would operate through coalitions of the willing, issue based alignments, and informal networks that preserve core values without rigid institutional constraint.

During the Cold War and early post Cold War era, liberal powers wielded their leadership to build institutions, often embedding free trade with regimes that guaranteed domestic welfare protections a model described in academic literature as "embedded liberalism". However, as global economic integration deepened and domestic discontent grew within Western democracies manifesting in populist backlash and protectionist nationalism the public support base for the LIO eroded. In effect, liberalism's economic and ideological commitments planted the seeds of populist revolt and institutional skepticism.

Externally, non Western powers exploited the inflexibility and perceived moral

ized structure of the liberal order. China and Russia, unbound by liberal norms, maneuvered strategically within the LIO's institutional architecture joining WTO, UN agencies and other global institutions but manipulating the system from within, while simultaneously building alternative networks of influence. Thus, liberalism not only constrained adjustment but also empowered adversaries to subvert the order's own rules.

This breakdown has accelerated into what many describe as a "post Western era" a multipolar geopolitical landscape no longer dominated by liberal democratic frames. Global South nations, regional coalitions like BRICS, and issue based alignments increasingly mobilize on their own terms, often rejecting Western liberal universality. Important global challenges climate, public health, technology governance, migration are handled through patchwork arrangements, rather than the integrated system the LIO once represented.

This means democratic states should acknowledge that universalism is no longer viable. Next generation global governance should emphasize pluralism variable cooperation based on shared interests rather than formal institutional membership; overlapping multilateralisms; flexible norms; and a willingness to allow different pathways to legitimacy. The aim is to create a more resilient system capable of absorbing shocks, adapting to diversity, and resisting the kind of moral overreach that fuels backlash at home and distrust abroad. Of course, critics argue that weakening the legalistic structure risks a slide into relativism or an abandonment of liberal principles altogether.

The legacy of pilot officer Rashid Minhas Shaheed

Izmi Herlani

That fiery crash did not end his story, it ignited a flame of courage that has burned brightly for Fifty-four years, inspiring every generation of Pakistan Air Force Shaheens to guard the skies with the same devotion. Pilot Officer Rashid Minhas's martyrdom is not remembered simply as an act of sacrifice, it is remembered as a testament that Pakistan's honor is worth more than life itself. He became the youngest recipient of Nishan-e-Haider but the medal is only a symbol; the true reward lies in how his courage carved a path for generations of air warriors to follow. For him the cockpit was not just a seat of power, it was a sanctuary of values. When treachery tried to hijack his

On 20 August 1971, destiny tested a young man barely twenty years old, which he answered with a sacrifice so profound that it shook the very soul of Pakistan. Pilot Officer Rashid Minhas Shaheed, NH, did not simply sacrifice his life that day; he gifted the nation an immortal lesson in Loyalty, Courage and Faith. In the cockpit of his T-33 trainer aircraft he made a choice that few in history have dared to make. He wrestled his aircraft away from treachery, even knowing it meant certain death. His plane may have fallen to the ground but his spirit soared far above, higher than any machine could ever climb. That fiery crash did not end his story, it ignited a flame of courage that has burned brightly for Fifty-four years, inspiring every generation of Pakistan Air Force Shaheens to guard the skies with the same devotion. Pilot Officer Rashid Minhas's martyrdom is not remembered simply as an act of sacrifice, it is remembered as a testament that Pakistan's honor is worth more than life itself. He became the youngest recipient of Nishan-e-Haider but the medal is only a symbol; the true reward lies in how his courage carved a path for generations of air warriors to follow. For him the cockpit was not just a seat of power, it was a sanctuary of values. When treachery tried to hijack his mission, he did not hesitate; he did not waver. In that instant, Rashid Minhas embodied what every pilot must learn: that altitude is not measured in Feet but in Faith, and that the weight of wings is not in Metal but in Honour. Half a century later, Minhas's spirit is not locked in the past. It pulses through the very ethos of Pakistan Air Force today. His name is still spoken with reverence in cadet classrooms, still painted on Squadron walls, still whispered in the quiet moments before a night sortie. He is not History—he is Heritage. Every young pilot at Risalpur, every Shaheen at a fighter base, every engineer who turns a spanner on the tarmac knows that Rashid Minhas is watching. He reminds them that flying for Pakistan is not about speed or glamour, it is about bearing the nation's trust. He teaches that courage must always walk hand in hand with discipline and that in

the loneliest second of the loneliest flight, a pilot still carries the weight of an entire nation's hopes. This spirit was tested once more in May 2025, when the enemy attempted to impose its will on Pakistan's sovereignty. The skies grew tense, radar screens lit up and a conflict of hours felt like a battle of ages. Missiles, Drones, Electronic Warfare and Air Sorties blurred into a storm of speed and danger. And yet, through it all, Pakistan Air Force stood unshaken. Calm under fire, precise in action, measured in response—their every move echoed Rashid Minhas Shaheed's example. Where others saw chaos, our air warriors saw clarity. Where escalation tempted, restraint prevailed. Where the enemy sought to disrupt, PAF imposed order. With swift, decisive blows they shattered hostile designs and proved that Pakistan's skies remain inviolable. In those tense days, every M pilot who strapped into his jet was a reflection of Minhas—choosing loyalty over fear, conviction over hesitation and Pakistan over self. But Rashid Minhas's legacy is more than courage in crisis—it is Vision. His sacrifice reminds us that defence is not just about firepower; it is about foresight. Today, Pakistan Air Force carries that vision forward with a relentless drive to become a Next Generation Air Force. Modernization in PAF is not about shiny platforms alone—it is about weaving together Fighters, UAVs, Early Warning aircraft, Satellites, Cyber tools and Ground-based defences into one Seamless Shield. It is about making sure that machines are guided by men whose hearts beat with the same loyalty that drove Rashid Minhas Shaheed to his final act of sacrifice. The lesson of May 2025 was clear: battles are no longer won by hardware alone but by the Speed of Thought, the Unity of Action and the Strength of Conviction. And in each of these, PAF proved itself worthy of its heritage. At the center of this transformation stands Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, a leader of Vision and Courage, who has steered Pakistan Air Force into the dawn of a new age. Under his command Pakistan

Air Force has not just modernized, it has reinvented itself. He has driven PAF towards seamless Multi Domain Integration, where fighters, drones, space and cyber capabilities operate as one unified force. He has pushed for indigenization and self-reliance, ensuring Pakistan's defence cannot be compromised by external pressures. He has invested in human capital, believing—as Rashid Minhas did—that it is the spirit of the Pilot not the machine that wins battles. From artificial intelligence to space-based surveillance, from advanced training to strategic partnerships, his bold initiatives have transformed PAF into a force ready not just for today's skies, but for tomorrow's horizons. If Minhas gave us the moral compass, Air Chief Marshal Sidhu has given us the map.

Together, they define the Air Force of the future—Fearless, Focused and Formidable. For the young cadet awaiting his first solo flight, Rashid Minhas Shaheed is not a story in a textbook; he is a torch in the dark. He whispers that the real test of a pilot is not in maneuvers but in moral choices. He teaches that courage without conscience is chaos but courage with loyalty can move mountains. For the nation, his sacrifice is not a memory; it is a Mission. Every jet that roars into the skies, every radar that sweeps the horizon, every pilot who salutes the flag before strapping in carries his spirit. Rashid Minhas Shaheed is not gone—he is airborne, forever. On this 54th anniversary of his supreme sacrifice, we do not weep for Rashid Minhas Shaheed, we rise with him. His flame still ignites the heart of every Pilot, guides the judgment of every Commander and fuels the pride of every Pakistani. He reminds us that sovereignty is not bestowed; it is Seized, Shielded and Safeguarded. Fly true. Guard the skies. Put Pakistan first. This was Rashid Minhas Shaheed's creed. This is the creed of Pakistan Air Force and this will remain the creed of a nation that refuses to bow, refuses to break and refuses to forget.

Briefs

Polio-free Pakistan is our top priority, says PM Shehbaz

FROM PAGE 01
the prime minister and the measures taken by that team. The meeting was attended by Federal Health Minister Syed Mustafa Kamal, the Prime Minister's Special Representative for Polio Eradication Ayesha Raza Farooq, and relevant senior officials.

Zelensky says ready for meeting with Putin

FROM PAGE 01
White House meeting, Trump had pushed Ukraine to give up Crimea and abandon its goal of joining Nato — both key demands made by Putin. But Zelensky stressed he had been able to present a clearer picture of the battlelines to Trump, who he met in a one-on-one in the Oval Office. “This was the best of our meetings,” Zelensky said, according to a statement put out by his office. “I was able to show many things, even on the map, to all American colleagues regarding the situation on the battlefield.” Rather than concessions from Ukraine, the summit focused on arranging security guarantees in the event of a peace deal, French President Emmanuel Macron told reporters afterwards. Trump said the guarantees “would be provided by the various European Countries (in) coordination with the United States of America.” He assured that the United States would help guarantee Ukraine's security in any deal to end Russia's war there, though the extent of any assistance was not immediately clear. “When it comes to security, there's going to be a lot of help,” Trump told reporters, adding that European countries would be involved. “They are a first line of defence because they're there, but we'll help them out.” Zelensky hailed the promise as “a major step forward,” adding that the guarantees would be “formalised on paper within the next week to 10 days” and saying Ukraine offered to buy about \$90 billion worth of US weapons.

Foreign Minister Wang Yi...

FROM PAGE 01
interests, discuss regional and global developments, and explore new avenues for economic and trade co-operation. The two foreign ministers will also deliberate on enhancing bilateral cooperation in diverse fields, including connectivity, infrastructure development, and people-to-people exchanges. Both countries are expected to reaffirm their joint commitment to advancing regional peace, development, and stability. The visit is part of the regular high-level exchanges between Pakistan and China, reflecting the deep-rooted strategic trust and friendship between the two nations.

Gen Sahir meets Uzbek President

FROM PAGE 01
Uzbekistan-Pakistan multifaceted cooperation and strategic partnership in the context of implementing the agreements reached during the visit of the Prime Minister of Pakistan to Uzbekistan in February of this year. It was noted with satisfaction that mutual contacts and exchanges at various levels have intensified. Since the beginning of the year, trade turnover has increased by 23 percent, and cargo transportation by 50 percent. Trade houses have been opened in Karachi and Lahore. The frequency of direct flights has also grown. Issues of practical cooperation in the military and military-technical spheres, as well as in combating modern challenges and security threats, were reviewed.

Rizwan, Babar drop from Category A as PCB unveils central contracts

Shan Masood, earlier in Category B, now finds himself in Category D

DNA

LAHORE: Two senior players, Mohammad Rizwan and former skipper Babar Azam, who were previously in Category A, have been shifted to Category B in the Pakistan Cricket Board's (PCB) central contracts for the 2025-26 season. Shan Masood, earlier in Category B, now finds himself in Category D. The PCB announced on Tuesday that as many as 30 players have been awarded central contracts effective from July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026. The roster sees ten players each placed in Categories B, C and D, with no player selected for Category A this year. Compared to last year's 27 contracted players, the Board has expanded the pool to 30, including 12 fresh additions — Ahmed Daniyal, Faheem Ashraf, Hasan Ali, Hasan Nawaz, Hussain Talat, Khushdil Shah, Mohammad Abbas, Mohammad Haris, Mo-

PCB

Pakistan Cricket Board

MEN'S CENTRAL CONTRACT LIST 2025-26

CATEGORY-B

Abbr Ahmed

Babar Azam

Fakhar Zaman

Haris Rauf

Hasan Ali

Mohammad Rizwan

Saim Ayub

Salman Ali Agha

Shadab Khan

Shaheen Shah Afridi

CATEGORY-C

Abdullah Shafique

Faheem Ashraf

Hasan Nawaz

Mohammad Haris

Mohammad Nawaz

Naseem Shah

Noman Ali

Sahibzada Farhan

Sajid Khan

Saud Shakeel

CATEGORY-D

Ahmed Daniyal

Hussain Talat

Khurram Shahzad

Khushdil Shah

Mohammad Abbas

Mohammad Abbas Afridi

Mohammad Wasim Jr

Salman Mirza

Shan Masood

SALIENT FEATURES

• Contracts expanded from 27 to 30, showing PCB's intent to broaden opportunities.

• Fresh talent like Hasan Nawaz, Mohammad Haris and Sufyan Moqim included, a strong signal of youth promotion.

• Performance rewarded for five players – Abrar Ahmed, Haris Rauf, Saim Ayub, Salman Ali Agha and Shadab Khan – promoted to Category B.

• Nine players retained in their respective categories, providing continuity and recognition of steady contributions.

• Inclusion of domestic and emerging players highlights PCB's forward-looking approach towards team building.

hammad Nawaz, Sahibzada Farhan, Salman Mirza and Sufyan Moqim.

PCB issues central contract list, August 19, 2025. — PCB

Five players have been promoted owing to their performances over the past year: Abrar Ahmed, Haris Rauf, Saim Ayub, Salman Ali Agha and Shadab Khan, all moving

from Category C to B. Nine players have retained their contracts in the same categories, including Abdullah Shafique, Khurram Shahzad, Mohammad

Abbas Afridi, Mohammad Wasim Jr, Noman Ali, Sajid Khan, Saud Shakeel and Shaheen Shah Afridi. Eight players have missed out this year. Aamir Jamal, Haseebullah, Kamran Ghulam, Mir Hamza, Mohammad Ali, Mohammad Huraire, Muhammad Irfan Khan and Usman Khan — all previously in Category D — have not been offered contracts. The final list for 2025-26 places Abrar Ahmed, Babar Azam, Fakhar Zaman, Haris Rauf, Hasan Ali, Mohammad Rizwan, Saim Ayub, Salman Ali Agha, Shadab Khan and Shaheen Shah Afridi in Category B. Category C includes Abdullah Shafique, Faheem Ashraf, Hasan Nawaz, Mohammad Haris, Mohammad Abbas Afridi, Mohammad Wasim Jr, Salman Mirza, Shan Masood and Sufyan Moqim.

India announce squad for Asia Cup 2025

BCCI Announces India's 15-Member Squad for ACC Asia Cup 2025 T20I Tournament

SPORT DESK

MUMBAI: The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) on Tuesday confirmed their 15-member squad for the ACC Men's Asia Cup 2025. Suryakumar Yadav will continue to lead the side, while top-order batter Shubman Gill has been named vice-captain of the T20I side. A major highlight is the return of pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah, who last featured in the format during India's T20 World Cup triumph over South Africa in June 2024. Bumrah will lead

India's fast-bowling unit in the UAE, joined by left-arm Arshdeep Singh, Harshit Rana, and all-rounder Hardik Pandya. The squad also features a mix of youth and experience with the likes of Abhishek Sharma, Tilak Varma, and Rinku Singh alongside Kuldeep Yadav and Axar Patel.

The Asia Cup, to be staged in T20I format, begins on September 9 with Afghanistan taking on Hong Kong. Arch-rivals India and Pakistan are grouped together with the UAE and Oman, while Bangladesh, Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, and Hong Kong form

Group B. India and Pakistan are set to meet on September 14 in Dubai, with the possibility of another clash in the Super Four stage on September 21. The final will be played on September 28. India squad for ACC Asia Cup 2025. Suryakumar Yadav (c), Shubman Gill (vc), Abhishek Sharma, Tilak Varma, Hardik Pandya, Shivam Dube, Axar Patel, Jitesh Sharma (wk), Jasprit Bumrah, Arshdeep Singh, Varun Chakaravathy, Kuldeep Yadav, Sanju Samson (wk), Harshit Rana, Rinku Singh.

Bodybuilding Federation Turns Asian Event into Family Tour

BY OUR CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's sporting image has taken another hit as the Pakistan Bodybuilding Federation (PBBF) turned the Asian Bodybuilding Championship in Thailand into a “family tour,” appointing a husband, wife, and daughter as officials of the national squad — a glaring case of nepotism that has stunned the country's sports fraternity. A fresh example of favoritism has emerged in Pakistan's sporting arena, with the PBBF naming three members of the same household to official posts for the Asian Championship. According to details, the federation was formed through controversial elections held under the patronage of the Pakistan Sports Board (PSB). Its secretary, Sohail Anwar, appointed himself as coach and manager of the national team, while his wife, Maria Sohail, was nominated as a judge, and their daughter, Maryam Sohail, was included as a trainee judge. All three are accompanying the national squad in Bangkok. This marks the first time in Pakistan's sporting history that three members of one family have been officially included in an international touring squad. Surprisingly, the PSB also issued a No-Objection Certificate (NOC), clearing all three family members to represent Pakistan alongside the nine-member bodybuilding team. On the other hand, PBBF Secretary Sohail Anwar claimed that no government funds were used for the trip. “All expenses have been managed privately through sponsorship,” he maintained.

Malaika Noor wins silver for Pakistan at Asian Open Judo Championship

Pakistani Athletes Malaika Noor, Ashab Irfan Win Medals in Judo, Squash Events

AMMAN, JORDAN: Pakistan's Malaika Noor secured a silver medal at the Asian Open Judo Championship, delivering an impressive performance in the under-52 kg weight category. The tournament, held in Jordan, saw Malaika advance to the final after defeating athletes from three different countries, showcasing her strength, skill, and determination. In the final match, she faced a tough opponent from Saudi Arabia. Despite a strong effort, Malaika was unable to claim victory, finishing as the runner-up and earning a silver medal. Her achievement marks a significant milestone for Pakistan's female judo athletes. Earlier, Pakistan's squash talent Ashab Irfan secured a remarkable victory at the Johns Creek Open 2025, a \$12,000 PSA Challenger event in USA. Ashab defeated Malaysia's Nafeez Kiwi in a hard-fought final. Despite losing the first game, Ashab bounced back impressively to win the next three games and claim a 3-1 victory. The match lasted 40 minutes, showcasing Ashab's resilience and skill. The final scoreline read 8-11, 11-2, 11-2, 11-6 in favor of the Pakistani player, who showed dominance after the initial setback. This triumph marks Ashab Irfan's third PSA title of the year, underlining his consistent form on the international squash circuit.—DNA

Iga Swiatek powers past Paolini to lift Cincinnati title

Swiatek is now second all-time winner in WTA 1000 format history, trailing only Serena Williams (23)

POLAND: Iga Swiatek captured her first Cincinnati Open title on Monday by beating Jasmine Paolini 7-5 6-4, with the Pole third seed sending a powerful message ahead of the US Open. The six-times Grand Slam winner did not drop a set on her way to the title and was clinical in the final, converting all six of her break points to clinch her 11th WTA 1000 crown and first since last year's Italian Open. She is now the second all-time winner in the WTA 1000 format history, trailing only Serena Williams (23). “I want to thank my team. I don't know why I won tournaments that were like the last ones in terms of where I thought I would be playing well,” Swiatek

said. “Thank you for forcing me to become a better player and learning how to play on these faster surfaces. I'm shocked and super happy.” Paolini made the brighter start, surging to a 3-0 lead and pushing Swiatek to the brink of a double break. Yet the Pole responded with a five-game run and, after squandering her first chance to serve out the opening set, closed it on her second attempt. Swiatek carried her momentum into the second set, saving two break points at 4-3 before holding firm to move within one game of the title. She sealed victory at the first opportunity with a big serve, extending her perfect record against the Italian to 6-0.—APP

Swiatek beats Paolini to clinch WTA Cincinnati open title

Swiatek Wins First Cincinnati Title, Boosts Confidence Ahead of Upcoming US Open

CINCINNATI: Iga Swiatek filled in a piece of her career tennis puzzle on Monday as she won the ATP-WTA Cincinnati Open for the first time with a 7-5, 6-4 defeat of Jasmine Paolini. The final lasting for just under two hours featured 16 break-point chances, with the Polish winner converting on six of 10 while Paolini struggled to make the most of her break opportunities. The six-time Grand Slam singles champion's 11th career win at the WTA 1000 level has left her within striking distance of the all-time record of 13 titles held by Serena Williams. Swiatek won the Cincinnati without dropping a set. “It's always tough in Cincy,” Swiatek told the Tennis Channel after her maiden win in Cincinnati. “This gives me a boost of confidence. I'm happy with the work we've been doing. (The team) had to convince me to play in a different way. I'm now happy with that process; it all feels even better after the match. I'm glad I finished in straight sets.” The 24-year-old backed up her breakthrough Wimbledon trophy with the Midwest honours and now heads to the last Grand Slam of the season at the US Open with a major confidence boost after the 24th title of her career. Swiatek is due to partner Norway's Casper



Ruud in the US Open's revamped mixed doubles starting on Tuesday. The Pole said she is relishing that challenge on the slower courts of Flushing Meadows.

“I'm a good player. I can play on any surface,” she said. “They are slowing down the courts every year, kind of, so I'm not sure how it is now

there. But tennis is all about adjusting.” Swiatek also climbed to within 500 points of current WTA number one Aryna Sabalenka, with the lead at the top of the table likely to be in play at the Open when it begins on Sunday. Swiatek had stalled twice at the last two editions at the semi-final stage and now has only the Canadian tournament where she has not reached the final at a 1000 event. “Today was tough, we were both tight, but that happens in a final,” Swiatek said. “I was glad to close it out in the end. Not everything was perfect, but mentally I was there to play my best tennis. We did a lot of mental work. I was really composed and consistent about how I thought about my game.” Swiatek began on the wrong foot as she lost serve to trail 0-3. But the situation was only temporary as the former number one immediately began her turnaround. The Pole answered immediately with two breaks of serve and moved to a 5-3 lead. But Paolini earned another break in the 10th game, saving a Swiatek set point to square the final at five-all. Paolini dropped serve for 5-6, giving her opponent the chance to produce a love game and claim the opener 7-5 after just under an hour on court.—DNA

At least 358 dead as KP reels from floods tragedy

FROM PAGE 01

According to the latest data from the KP PDMA, 358 people have died in rain-related incidents since August 15, with Buner reporting the highest toll at 225. Another 181 people were injured, while the dead included 287 men, 41 women and 30 children. Buner was the worst-hit district in the province, where flash flooding and building collapses left 225 people dead, including 193 men, 23 women and nine children, according to the report. Another 120 people sustained injuries. Following Buner, Shangla district reported 36 deaths from flash floods, while 22 fatalities were recorded in Mansehra, another 22 in Bajaur, and 20 in Swat, where both flash flooding and infrastructure damage claimed lives. Flash flooding in the KP's Swabi district also left 17 dead, according to the PDMA. Due to separate roof collapse incidents, five people died in Lower Dir, and another two people lost their lives in Noshewra. Abbotabad, Torgghar, and South Waziristan recorded one death each, the report noted. According to the PDMA data, the total number of houses damaged throughout the province was 780, out of which 349 were completely destroyed and another 431 sustained partial damage. Buner suffered the most damage, leaving 162 houses destroyed. The number of cattle that perished was 427. “It has been forecasted that the current cycle of rains to continue intermittently until August 21,” KP PDMA Spokesperson Anwer Shahzad said in a statement. He said the authority had directed district administrations to intensify relief activities and provide immediate assistance to the victims. “The public is advised to contact PDMA's helpline at 1700 in case of any emergency or weather update,” Shahzad added. Relief efforts underway KP's Adviser to the Chief Minister, Barrister Muhammad Ali Saif, in a statement, detailed the relief efforts, saying rescue teams are fully engaged in flood-affected districts. An amount of Rs3 billion has been released for the ongoing operations, he said, adding that around 6,000 personnel are currently deployed as part of the rescue efforts. “A total of 5,210 people have been safely evacuated, he added. Additionally, Barrister Saif said a mobile application has been launched to issue financial compensation to the affected families. “One hundred and seventy-six (176) rescue centres have been established and at least 100 roads, previously severed due to floods, have now been cleared and restored,” he said. According to Barrister Saif, five army helicopters and one provincial helicopter were involved in the rescue efforts.

Rescue Operations...

FROM PAGE 01

This he said while addressing a press conference along with Director General Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) Lt Gen Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry and Director General National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) Lt Gen Inam Haider. He said the PM had categorically stated that it was a national catastrophe and all governments and departments will work collectively to overcome this tragedy. He said that NDMA was providing all necessary information to provincial governments and concerned institutions in real time in a well coordinated manner. He said that in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, districts of Buner, Shangla, Bajaur and Swat power distribution system was disrupted. He said on the directives of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Federal Minister for Power Sardar Awais Leghari was present in flood affected area to personally supervise the entire restoration process. Similarly, he said Minister for Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan Engineer Amir Muqam was in Bajaur whereas Minister for Communications Aleem Khan was supervising the restoration of the communication system in Gilgit.

Rotary
Club of Pakistan Corporate



District
3271

UNITE
FOR
GOOD

END
POLIO
NOW



ROTARY INTERNATIONAL: SERVING HUMANITY, BUILDING POSITIVE PEACE | By IMRAN GHAZNAVI

Rotary International stands as one of the world's most respected service organizations, driven by a clear mission to unite people of action and create lasting change. Founded in 1905, Rotary has grown into a global network of 1.4 million members across more than 200 countries, all working with a shared vision: a world where people unite and take action to create sustainable solutions for the challenges communities face.

At the heart of Rotary's mission is its Action Plan, which calls for increasing impact, expanding reach, enhancing participant engagement, and adapting to an ever-changing world. This plan is not only a roadmap for members but also a commitment to humanity. It demonstrates Rotary's belief that true service transcends borders, faiths, and ideologies, building bridges of understanding and promoting what Rotarians call "positive peace" - peace rooted in justice, equality, and opportunity.

Rotary's work has been most visible in times of crisis, when natural calamities devastate communities. From earthquakes in Türkiye to floods in Pakistan, hurricanes in the Caribbean, and wildfires in Australia, Rotary has consistently been at the forefront of humanitarian response. Through its Foundation and local clubs, relief reaches where it is needed most, ensuring that vulnerable families receive shelter, clean water, food, and healthcare in their darkest hour.

One of Rotary's signature contributions to humanity is its leadership in the global campaign to eradicate polio. Since 1988, Rotary has partnered with the World Health Organization, UNICEF, and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, helping reduce polio cases by more than 99 percent. Millions of children across Asia, Africa, and beyond have been protected through vaccination campaigns supported by Rotary volunteers. The fight is not yet over, but Rotary's unwavering commitment continues to inspire the global health community.

Equally important is Rotary's investment in the next generation of leaders. Through programs such as Rotaract, Interact, Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA), and Rotary Youth Exchange, young people are given opportunities to develop leadership skills, embrace service, and engage in cross-cultural understanding. These initiatives prepare youth not only to contribute to their local communities but also to become global citizens committed to peace and sustainable progress.

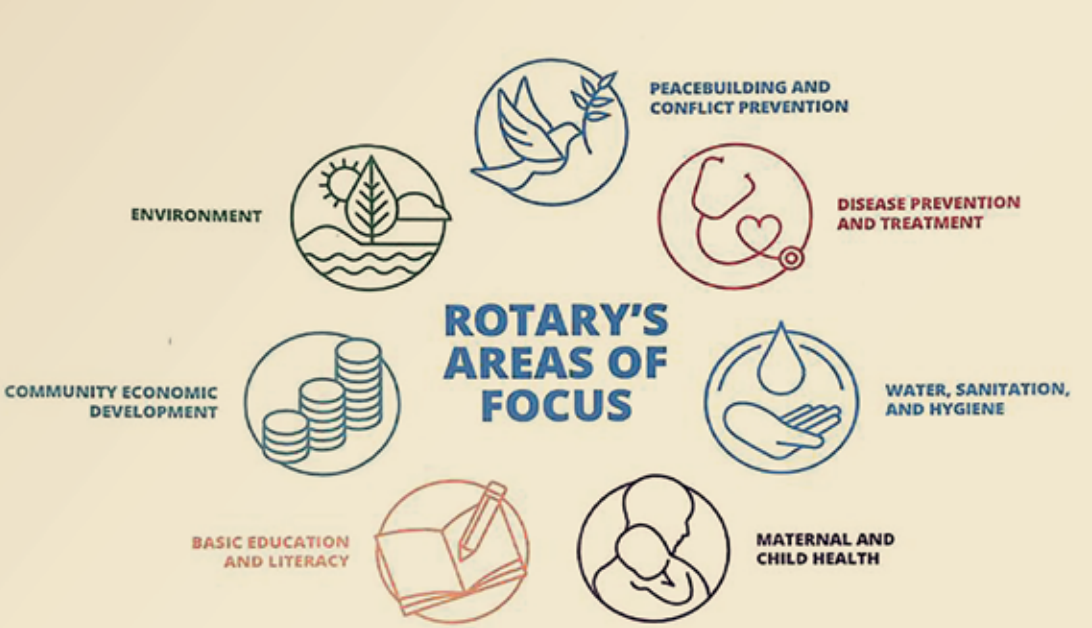
Beyond emergency relief and disease prevention, Rotary invests in long-term development. Economic empowerment programs enable struggling communities to build livelihoods and escape poverty. In rural regions, Rotarians help farmers access markets, provide vocational training, and support microfinance initiatives that particularly empower women. These initiatives transform families and strengthen local economies.

Maternal and child health remains a central focus. Every year, thousands of mothers and newborns die due to preventable causes. Rotary clubs work to change this by establishing healthcare facilities, providing trained midwives, and improving access to essential medical supplies. Similarly, in education, Rotary promotes literacy, strengthens schools, and provides scholarships to students who otherwise would have no opportunity to learn.

No less vital is the provision of clean water and sanitation. Access to safe drinking water is a basic human right, yet millions still live without it. Rotary projects construct wells, install filtration systems, and promote hygiene practices, ensuring healthier futures for countless communities.

The true strength of Rotary lies in its people—ordinary individuals doing extraordinary things. Together, they embody the motto "Service Above Self." Whether eradicating polio, responding to disasters, or empowering the next generation, Rotarians exemplify the spirit of giving that binds humanity. In serving others, they do more than meet immediate needs; they build foundations of peace, dignity, and hope for generations to come.

The author is a Senior Strategic Communication Specialist and Assistant Rotary Public Image Coordinator (Pakistan, Bangladesh and Indonesia) Region 10 Zone 1B as well as Convenor, Rotary Club Pakistan Corporate, RID 3271 Pakistan and can be reached ighaznavi84159@gmail.com



The ROTARY ACTION PLAN

TAKING ACTION FOR CHANGE



IMPACT
We want to put our resources behind programs that will have the greatest impact and that align with our areas of focus.
We're creating tools and guidelines for tracking and sharing our efforts. We're also developing an evaluation process that will help us make objective recommendations about what's working and what we should continue, start, or stop doing.

REACH
We're committed to exemplifying and embracing diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) in everything we do.
We're testing new products and alternative models that will allow more people to connect and take action with us in ways that work best for them.

ENGAGE
We're tearing down the walls between "us" and "them" and focusing on participants.
We're asking people how they want to participate, finding ways to meet them where they are, and making sure they know we value them.

ADAPT
We're streamlining operations so we can be more agile and responsive.
We're exploring the way we do things and trying new things to manage change so that our clubs, districts, and zones can more effectively communicate and work together.

Learn what your club can do at rotary.org/actionplan

MEMBERSHIP PROCESS



WHY BECOME A MEMBER OF ROTARY CLUB

TO CONTRIBUTE TO LOCAL AND GLOBAL COMMUNITY SERVICE.

NETWORKING WITH LIKE-MINDED PROFESSIONALS.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT AND PERSONAL GROWTH.

PARTICIPATE IN MEANINGFUL INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN PROJECTS.

Rotary
Club of Pakistan Corporate

Youth
Leadership
Program

District
3271

Your Path to Success

YOUTH LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Do you have big dreams for your future? We're here to help you achieve them through our Outstanding Youth Leadership Program!

RCPC (YLP)

Follow us on

rcpc@rcpc.org.pk

Rotaryyyp@gmail.com

rcpcyouthleadershipprogram

rcpcyouthleadershipprogram

@rotaryyyp

rcpcyouthleadershipprogram



Briefs

Dar urges
global
solidarity

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar on Tuesday called for renewed international solidarity and decisive action to confront a growing wave of humanitarian crises across the world. "Let us reaffirm our unwavering commitment to protect life, uphold human dignity, and advance peace. The challenges we face are immense, but through global solidarity, decisive action, and adherence to justice and humanitarian principles, the international community can alleviate suffering and restore hope by securing a just and peaceful future for all," Ishaq Dar said in a message on the occasion of World Humanitarian Day. The deputy PM honoured the courage, resilience, and compassion of humanitarian workers who risk their lives to protect distressed persons amid escalating humanitarian crises across the world.

Scientists
achieve
breakthrough
in diabetes
treatment

DNA

STOCKHOLM: An international team of scientists from Sweden and the United States has achieved a breakthrough in treating type 1 diabetes. In the world's first-ever transplant of genetically modified pancreatic islet cells, a patient regained the ability to produce insulin naturally. The goal of the procedure is to prevent the body from rejecting the transplanted cells. Before the cells were implanted, three genetic edits were made using the CRISPR tool. Two edits reduced the amount of particular antigens that adaptive T cells use to identify foreign objects. The third boosted production of a protein called CD47, which in turn blocks innate immune cell responses. The patient, a 42-year-old man diagnosed with type 1 diabetes since childhood, received islet cells taken from a healthy donor, which were injected into his forearm muscle. Within 12 weeks, the modified cells began producing insulin in response to glucose after meals – without the use of immunosuppressant drugs. According to the researchers, whose results were published in the New England Journal of Medicine, the study represents a pioneering step towards safer and more effective treatments for type 1 diabetes. They added that the approach could pave the way for similar applications in organ and cell transplantation for other diseases.

Uproar
over CEO's
Rs355m
package

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: In response to media report revealing that the CEO of a state-owned enterprise (SOE) amassed over Rs355 million in benefits within 32 months, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has constituted a high-level committee to overhaul the governance framework for SOEs. The notification, issued by the Cabinet Division on August 15, mandates the committee to review and streamline the appointment and governance processes of SOE boards to prevent such abuses of power. It is feared that billions from taxpayers' money are being misused by the top management of SOEs for their personal benefits. An official source said that the SOEs law, which was amended on the advice of the IMF, is being misused by SOEs' top management as was reflected in story. On August 8, media exposed how the CEO of an economic ministry-affiliated SOE, appointed in 2022 at a fixed monthly salary of Rs500,000, exploited "legal loopholes" to draw exorbitant perks.

President Zardari emphasizes
strengthening Pak-UAE ties

The President commended Ambassador Al-Zaabi for his dedicated services in Pakistan and congratulated him on a successful diplomatic tenure

SAIFULLAH ANSAR/DNA

ISLAMABAD: The outgoing Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to Pakistan, Hamad Obaid Al-Zaabi, paid a farewell call on President Asif Ali Zardari at Aiwan-e-Sadr on Tuesday. Welcoming the ambassador, President Zardari highlighted the significance of Pakistan's long-standing fraternal relations with the UAE and expressed Islamabad's strong desire to further deepen bilateral cooperation across all sectors. He said Pakistan greatly values its historical ties with the UAE, which are rooted in common faith, culture, and mutual trust. The President commended Ambassador Al-Zaabi for his dedicated services in Pakistan and congratulated him on a successful diplomatic tenure. He noted that the ambassador had played an instrumental role in fostering closer people-to-people linkages and enhancing economic, cultural, and diplomatic engagement between the two nations.



ISLAMABAD: The outgoing Ambassador of United Arab Emirates to Pakistan, Mr. Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Salem Alzaabi, paid a farewell call on President Asif Ali Zardari, at Awan-e-Sadr. – DNA

President Zardari also extended gratitude to the UAE leadership and government for their consistent support to Pakistan, particularly during times of difficulty. He said the people of Pakistan hold the UAE in the highest regard for its brotherly assistance, whether in humanitarian relief, investment, or development initiatives. Reiterating Pakistan's commitment to advancing mutual cooperation, President Zardari stressed that both countries should continue to work together in trade, investment, energy, and human resource development. He also expressed confidence that the enduring partnership between Islamabad and Abu Dhabi will continue to grow stronger in the years ahead. Ambassador Al-Zaabi thanked the Government of Pakistan for extending full cooperation during his diplomatic assignment and conveyed his deep appreciation for the warmth and hospitality he received. He reaffirmed that the UAE would remain a steadfast partner of Pakistan.

Beauty queen Nadeen to represent
Palestine at Miss Universe pageant

DNA

WASHINGTON: Beauty queen Nadeen Ayoub will become the first woman to represent the Palestinian people at the Miss Universe pageant. The Miss Universe Organisation (MUO) confirmed in a statement on Sunday that Ayoub would compete in the Miss Universe 2025, which is set to take place in November. "The Miss Universe Organisation proudly welcomes delegates from across the globe, celebrating diversity, cultural exchange, and the empow-

erment of women," the statement read. "Ms Ayoub, an accomplished advocate and model from Palestine, embodies the resilience and determination that define our platform," it added. Ayoub will join competitors from more than 130 other countries and territories at the 74th Miss Universe final, which will be held in Bangkok, Thailand. "We look forward to welcoming Ms Ayoub on the Miss Universe stage, where she will proudly represent Palestine, standing alongside contestants from every corner of the world," MUO said in the statement. Speaking to The National about this milestone, Ayoub said, "When you have that power, you have a responsibility to speak out. And I feel a huge responsibility." Acknowledging that Miss Universe is a huge platform, she said, "There's a big responsibility in speaking out about what's happening in Gaza. No one should be silent about the injustice that's happening. This is the time when Palestine needs to be represented on all platforms everywhere." Ayoub, now 27, was crowned Miss Palestine back in 2022. She made history that year by representing her country for the first time at the Miss Earth pageant, where she landed among the top five finalists. But she had to put her future plans as a title holder on hold after October 7, reported the outlet. Posting on Instagram on Thursday, Ayoub said she wanted to be a voice for the Palestinian people. "As Palestine endures heartbreak, especially in Gaza, I carry the voice of a people who refuse to be silenced. I represent every Palestinian woman and child whose strength the world needs to see. "We are more than our suffering – we are resilience, hope, and the heartbeat of a homeland that lives on through us."

Tax policy role shifted from FBR
to Finance Division: Aurangzeb

Finance minister says next budget to be presented in 2026 will be led by Finance and Tax Policy Office

DNA NEWS AGENCY

KARACHI/ISLAMABAD: Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb said on Monday that the task of formulating the upcoming federal budget has been reassigned to the Finance Division, working with the Tax Policy Office (TPO), effectively taking the responsibility away from the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), The News reported. "The Tax Policy Office is now moving to the Finance Division. The FBR has nothing to do with the policy [matters]," said Aurangzeb at a conference titled 'Unlocking Capital Market Potential for Banks'. "The next year's budget to be presented in 2026 will be led by the Finance and Tax Policy Office, and not by the FBR," he added. In February, the government announced the establishment of the TPO, which will be led by the finance minister and located in

the finance ministry building as part of the government's economic reform agenda. According to the notification, the TPO will develop tax policies and proposals using data modelling, as well as revenue and economic forecasting. The finance minister stated that the government aims to create an enabling environment and provide a supportive ecosystem, which includes ensuring policy continuity. Over the past two to three months, the government has introduced several policies: the tariff policy, the National Electric Vehicle Policy, the digital policy, and the cashless economy initiative. The government is actively working on an industrial policy that will be announced soon, aimed at creating a supportive environment and accelerating industrialisation in the country, according to the minister. "Haroon Akhtar [Special Assistant to Prime Minister for Industries & Production] is working day and night to get that [industrial policy] through the cabinet and make an announcement."

Pakistan, China discuss
global peace and security

DNA NEWS AGENCY

BEIJING: The 10th Round of Pakistan-China Bilateral Consultations on Arms Control, Non-Proliferation, and Disarmament was held on 18 August 2025 in Beijing. Ambassador Tahir Andrabi, Additional Secretary of the Arms Control, Disarmament, and International Security Division at Pakistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Mr. Sun Xiaobo, Director General of the Department of Arms Control at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China, led their respective delegations. The two sides engaged in a comprehensive exchange of views on issues related to global and regional peace and security. They also reviewed the situation in South Asia, with particular emphasis on the challenges to security and strategic stability. The discussions covered a wide range of topics related to disarmament and non-proliferation, focusing on the agenda of the UN General Assembly First Committee, the Confer-

ence on Disarmament, and key international disarmament agreements, such as the Biological & Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC) and the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC). The security implications of emerging technologies and artificial intelligence were also examined. Additionally, the dialogue addressed bilateral cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear technology and outer space. During his visit, Ambassador Tahir Andrabi also participated in an interactive roundtable at the China Arms Control and Disarmament Association (CACDA). The session was attended by distinguished former diplomats, practitioners, academics, and think tank experts. The Pakistan-China Dialogue on Arms Control, Non-Proliferation, and Disarmament is a key element of the broader strategic engagement between the two countries. Pakistan views this dialogue as an essential platform for meaningful consultations on security and stability, as well as on issues related to arms control, disarmament, and non-proliferation. The next round of consultations will be held in Islamabad in 2026.

Earthquake
of 5.2
magnitude
shakes
Islamabad,
Rawalpindi

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: A 5.2-magnitude earthquake jolted Islamabad, Rawalpindi and parts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa including Peshawar, the Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) said on Tuesday. No loss of life or property has been reported so far as tremors were also felt in KP's Mansehra, Swat, Chitral and Abbottabad. As per the Met Office, the earthquake occurred at 10:20am with its origin at the depth of 190 kilometres and epicentre in Afghanistan's Hindu Kush region. Today's tremors follow a 5.5-magnitude earthquake that struck northern Pakistan in the first week of August. The tremors, back then, shook homes across several cities and towns of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. According to seismic monitoring centres, the quake had a magnitude of 5.5 and originated in the Hindu Kush region of Afghanistan at a depth of 114 kilometres. Residents in Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Charsadda and Karak also reported feeling the quake.

PSX crosses
150,000 for
first time
as reforms,
forecasts lift
sentiment

DNA

KARACHI: The equity market extended its gains on Tuesday, crossing the 150,000 mark for the first time ever, with investors buoyed by improved economic forecasts and optimism over reforms in the energy sector. The Pakistan Stock Exchange's (PSX) benchmark KSE-100 Index settled at 149,770.74 points, up 1,574.32 points, or 1.06%, from the previous close of 148,196.42. The index climbed to an intraday high of 150,323.38, gaining 2,126.96 points, or 1.44%. The low for the session was recorded at 148,293.94, reflecting a rise of 97.52 points, or 0.07%. "Mutual funds liquidity is reraising the market. Plenty of cash taking medium term view. Valuations are not cheap anymore," said AAH Soomro, an independent investment and economic analyst.

MONAL

NOW SERVING ON
MURREE EXPRESSWAY

30 KM on Islamabad - Murree Expressway
Park Ridge Apartment, Lower Topa

+92 325 0000661-62 monalmurree