



Friday, September 05, 2025

Pakistan's Credible Daily Newspaper

Price Rs. 30

## UN chief deeply saddened by floods in Pakistan

Detailed News On Page-08

## New US CG takes charge in Peshawar

Detailed News On Page-08



## Wajiha, UN Fund explore Cooperation

Detailed News On Page-04



## Beijing Meeting

# Pakistan, China ink joint action plan 2024-2029

the Prime Minister underscored the major contribution of CPEC—an important project under President Xi's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)—to Pakistan's socio-economic development over the past decade

DNA

BEIJING: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Premier Li Qiang of the People's Republic of China reaffirmed their resolve to further strengthen the all-weather strategic cooperative partnership between Pakistan and China. Both sides agreed to continue working together on five new corridors under the next phase of CPEC.

A number of MoUs and agreements were signed to enhance cooperation in CPEC Phase-II, science and technology, information technology, media, and agriculture.

According to a statement issued by the Prime Minister's Office Media Wing, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif met Premier Li Qiang in Beijing. During the meeting, both leaders expressed satisfaction over positive developments in Pakistan-China relations. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif expressed heartfelt gratitude to the Chinese leadership and people for their unwavering support for Pakistan's regional integrity, sovereignty, and socio-economic development.

Building on the important consensus reached during the meeting between President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on September 2, both leaders reiterated their commitment to strengthening the strategic partnership. The signing of the Joint Action Plan (2024-2029) was termed a significant step in this direction. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said that the encouraging outcomes of Pakistan's government's tireless reform efforts were only possible due to China's strong support.

Continued on Page 06

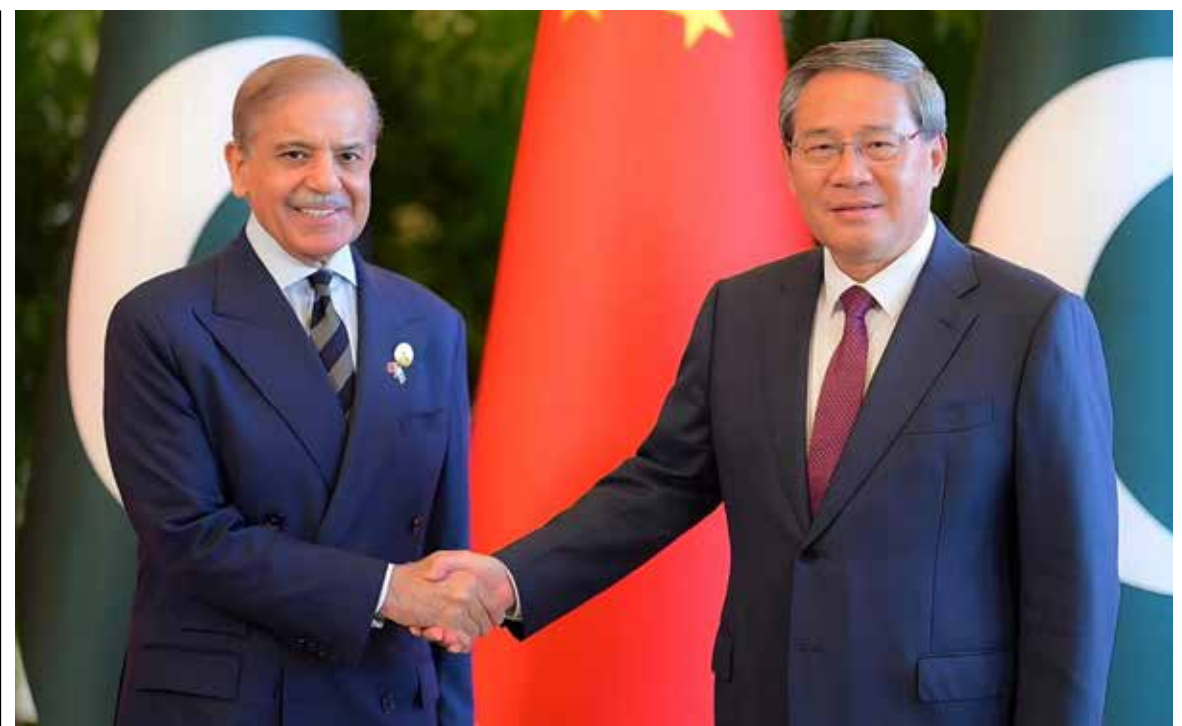
## Digital currency to get legal cover after framework

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) has agreed in principle to recognise digital currency once a comprehensive legal and regulatory framework is in place. This was disclosed by SBP Deputy Acting Governor Dr Inayat Hussain, while briefing the Senate Standing Committee on Finance, chaired by Senator Saleem Mandviwalla, at the Parliament House on Wednesday, reported The News.

The Senate panel considered the Virtual Assets Bill 2025 and it would continue its review in the next meeting for granting its assent. On the discussion of the Virtual Assets Bill 2025, the SBP informed that they would withdraw the notification for banning digital currency by declaring the digital currency as legal once the legal and regulatory framework are put in place. The committee deliberated on the Government Bill titled "The Virtual Assets Bill, 2025".

Continued on Page 06



BEIJING: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif meets with Premier Li Qiang of the People's Republic of China (4 September, 2025). – DNA

## US 'strongly condemns' suicide attack at BNP rally

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: The United States has strongly condemned the suicide attack in Quetta at a Balochistan National Party (BNP) public meeting which claimed at least 15 lives two days ago. "We offer our sincere condolences to the loved ones of those who were killed and injured," the US Embassy in Islamabad wrote on X. "The Pakistani people deserve to live free from violence and fear," the statement read. Expressing solidarity with Islamabad, the US Embassy said that Washington "stands shoulder-to-shoulder with Pakistan against reprehensible terrorist groups such as Daesh that has claimed responsibility for this attack,

Continued on Page 06

## NDMA warns of extended monsoon rains

MAHNOOR ANASR

ISLAMABAD: NDMA on Thursday said that the monsoon rains, ranging from moderate to heavy intensity, will continue until mid-September, bringing significant rainfall to southern parts of the country, particularly South Punjab and Sindh from September 6 onward, and urged people in at-risk areas to remain vigilant.

While talking to a private news channel, a representative of NDMA, Zahra Hassan, highlighted the importance of preparedness as the monsoon season continues. She warned that southern regions of Pakistan, including

Continued on Page 06

## New date soon

# ECP postpones Punjab by-elections due to flooding crisis

ECP noted that rescue and relief operations were also underway with various civil administration and law enforcement agencies engaged in evacuations and aid delivery

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has postponed the upcoming by-elections in five National Assembly seats and four provincial assembly seats in Punjab amid the flooding crisis in the province. The by-elections were supposed to be held in the following constituencies: NA-66 (Wazirabad), NA-96 (Faisalabad-II), NA-104 (Faisalabad-X), NA-129 (Lahore-XI-II), NA-143 (Sahiwal-III), PP-73 (Sargodha-III), PP-87 (Mianwali-III), PP-98 (Faisalabad-I) and PP-203 (Sahiwal-VI). The ECP said that the communication system in the province was badly disrupted due to the "unprecedented floods", along with a lot of other damage to connectivity and public infrastructure.

Continued on Page 06

## Death toll from Punjab floods rises to 46

DNA

LAHORE: The Punjab PDMA has said that 46 people have died so far and more 3,900 villages have been impacted across the province due to the severe floods. According to a PDMA statement shared by the Punjab government on X, a total of over 3.8m people have been affected, while 1.8m people have been rescued. Over 400 relief, 444 medical and 395 veterinary camps have been set up in the flood-hit districts.

Continued on Page 06

## Briefs

### CJCSC calls on Qatar's Deputy PM

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJCSC) General Sahir Shamshad Mirza, NI, NI (M) called on Deputy Prime Minister of Qatar and Minister of State for Defence Affairs Sheikh Saoud bin Abdulrahman bin Hassan bin Ali Al Thani and Qatar Armed Forces Chief Lt General (Pilot) Jassim Mohammad Ahmed Al-Mannal. The CJCSC is on an official visit to Qatar to attend second round of Higher Military Cooperation Committee (HMCC) meeting, said a news release issued by Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) here Thursday. During the interaction, both sides discussed the evolving regional security dynamics and reaffirmed their shared commitment to peace and stability at regional and global level.

### Pakistan, Japan hold political consultations

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The 14th Round of Pakistan-Japan Bilateral Political Consultations was held in Islamabad today. Pakistan side was led by Special Secretary (UN) Nabeel Munir, while Senior Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan AKAHORI Takeshi led the Japanese side. The two sides reviewed the entire spectrum of Pakistan-Japan bilateral relationship and reaffirmed the commitment to further enhancing cooperation in trade and investment, development, people to people exchanges and education among others. They also exchanged views on the regional peace and security situation in South Asia, the Middle East, and Asia Pacific.

## Justice Athar says

# Talk of 'hybrid system' is admission of dictatorship

He blamed what he said was the "lack of constitutional governance" in the country that was responsible for elite capture over the rule of law or the Constitution

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Supreme Court Justice Athar Minallah on Thursday said that the talk of a "hybrid system" prevalent in the country actually amounted to an admission to the presence of a dictatorship.

What had previously only been a term coined by analysts to describe the unique system of governance currently in vogue, is now apparently being worn as a badge of honour. Defence Minister Khawaja Asif had in July spoken in glowing terms about the 'hybrid regime' that currently runs the country. The term is used to describe the informal power-sharing arrangement, whereby the country's military holds a great deal of influence on the incumbent civilian setup and has a big say in the way the affairs of the state are managed.

In remarks on the issue while addressing the Karachi Bar Association (KBA) today, Justice Minallah said: "It is something to accept that people today say there is a hybrid system, that [actually] means there is dictatorship and there is no constitutional governance." He blamed what he said was the "lack of constitutional governance" in the country that was responsible for elite capture over the rule of law or the Constitution.

"I had to write in many high court orders that there is no rule of law or Constitution in the country; there is elite capture," he explained. He said that the history of the country's judiciary was "not something to be proud of for me". The judge said that his generation had passed its time, caused whatever destruction it could to the country, and should never be afraid to

Continued on Page 06

# KP continues to reel under terror as attacks surpass 600

Police report says 138 civilians, 79 police personnel martyred in province

DNA

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, which has been at the forefront of Pakistan's fight against terrorism, has witnessed more than 600 terrorism incidents in the first eight months of 2025. As per a police report, there were 605 terror incidents in the province till August, which resulted in the martyrdom of 138 civilians, while 352 others were left wounded. Whereas 79 police personnel were martyred and 130 were injured, the report added. In last month alone, 17 civilians were martyred and 51 were wounded, along with 13 police personnel martyrdom and 46 injuries in a total of 129 terror incidents.

Meanwhile, 351 suspects were named in terrorism incidents, 32 were gunned down and five were arrested in August. Bannu reported the highest number of terror incidents, 42, in the previous month. In North Waziristan, 15 terror incidents were reported, 14 in South Waziristan and 11 in Dir. The report comes days after six personnel of the Pakistan Army and the Federal Constabulary (FC) embraced martyrdom after Indian-sponsored militants attacked the FC Headquarters in KP.

Continued on Page 06

## UK Announces Additional £1.2 Million

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The United Kingdom has announced an additional £1.2 million (approximately PKR 45.4 crore) in humanitarian assistance to support anticipatory flood response efforts in Sindh. With this new allocation, the UK's total humanitarian support to Pakistan this year rises to £2.53 million (around PKR 95.8 crore), benefiting more than 400,000 vulnerable people across the country. The new funding is being channelled to non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in Sindh, where floods are predicted imminently. The assistance aims to strengthen community resilience and reduce the impact of potential disasters by enabling:

- Early warning systems and community evacuations

Continued on Page 06

**MURREE SPARKLETT'S**  
Bottled Drinking Water

**WATER TASTES BEST IN GLASS!!**

CARBONATED WATER ALSO AVAILABLE IN GLASS BOTTLE

**For Sales & Supply Contact:**

Adeel Butt 03334131756	Kaiser Waheed 03325808422	Riaz Muhammad 0335 5111043
---------------------------	------------------------------	-------------------------------



# Pak's first flora conservation station launched in Thar

Qasim Siraj Soomro, Member of the Provincial Assembly from Tharparkar appreciated the initiative, stating: "The people of Thar deeply value these efforts which help protect the threatened wildlife, including the rich flora

ISLAMABAD: There is a pressing need for the development and implementation of a comprehensive Biodiversity Conservation Action Plan to safeguard diverse plant species on the verge of extinction in Tharparkar. Experts highlighted that these plant species are facing a threat due to overgrazing, expansion of unsustainable agriculture, and excessive extraction of commercially and medicinally valuable plants to protect the area's unique and critically endangered plant biodiversity, Pakistan's first desert-region Flora Conservation Station has been launched in Thar Coal Block II on Thursday, said a press release issued here Thursday. Set up under the Partnership for Biodiversity Conservation in Thar, this conservation station has been established by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), in collaboration with Sindh Engro Coal Mining Company (SECMC) and Thar Foundation. With implementation support from local partner Baanhn Beli, the Flora Conservation Station builds on four years of IUCN-SECMC partnership and rigorous scientific research, which has included globally critically endangered vulture conservation efforts, ecological surveys, sustainable

saline agriculture and saline aquaculture, and environmental education programs. This facility enhances their ongoing efforts in Thar for conservation and propagation of indigenous plants, restoration of degraded rangelands, and safeguarding ecosystems that are essential for the livelihoods of local communities. Many of these species were documented during IUCN's ecological baseline survey (2020-2022), which recorded more than 149 plant species, including two globally threatened species such as the Indian Bdellium Tree and Desert Teak. By strengthening livestock grazing resources and promoting sustainable vegetation use, the project is expected to deliver long-term ecological resilience in Tharparkar. Speaking on the occasion, Qasim Siraj Soomro, Member of the Provincial Assembly from Tharparkar appreciated the initiative, stating: "The people of Thar deeply value these efforts which help protect the threatened wildlife, including the rich flora. Conserving our fast-declining plant species is not only vital for biodiversity but also for the livelihoods of our communities who depend on livestock and rangelands.

This conservation station gives us hope that future generations will inherit a greener and more sustainable Thar". Mahmood Akhtar Cheema, Country Representative, IUCN Pakistan, explained that Thar is home to some of the most unique and threatened plant species in the world, including those listed on the IUCN Red List. This initiative contributes not only to local ecological resilience but also helps achieve global biodiversity targets. "It is high time we must support conservation initiatives and reconnect local communities to the threatened biodiversity", he added. Amir Iqbal, Chief Executive Officer SECMC, stated: "With its critical role in enhancing Pakistan's energy security and rich ecological heritage, Thar stands as a beacon of hope, resilience, and national progress. As a socially responsible company, SECMC remains committed to uplifting local communities while leading sustainable development in the region. The launch of Pakistan's first-ever Flora Conservation Station, in partnership with our valued partner IUCN, is another milestone in our journey to safeguard Thar's unique biodiversity."



ISLAMABAD: Senator, Chairperson Senate functional committee on HRs Samina Mumtaz Zehri meeting with Australian High Commissioner to Pakistan, Neil Hawkins.

## Kundi urges business community to invest for eco uplift

ISLAMABAD: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Thursday said that Pakistan is rich in both talent and resources, stressing that the real need is to align abilities with purpose, ideas with action, and strategies with unity. He emphasized that the responsibility of stabilizing and strengthening the economy rests not only with the government but also with the business community. He was addressing the Union Developers CEO Summit and the unveiling ceremony of the book 100 CEOs at a local hotel, where he was invited as the chief guest. The event, organized by CEO Club Pakistan under the leadership of Ejaz Nisar, was attended by prominent business leaders. Awards were also distributed among CEOs for outstanding performance. Governor Kundi said that the summit was not just an event but a declaration that new leadership in Pakistan is ready to emerge honest, united, and determined to put the country on the path of development. He remarked that CEOs and investors are not merely players of the economy but also thought leaders who shape culture and drive innovation. Highlighting Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's resilience, he said the province has faced challenges but its people have consistently shown courage and a desire for progress. Extending an invitation to the business community, he urged them to invest in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's special economic zones, the growing IT industry, tourism, agriculture, and renewable energy sectors.—APP

## CS KP chairs meeting on the Good Governance Road-map

PESHAWAR :Chief Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Shahab Ali Shah on Thursday presided over a high-level review meeting on the Good Governance Road-map to evaluate progress against set targets in the Higher Education, Elementary and Secondary Education, and Social Welfare sectors. During the meeting, the Chief Secretary reviewed key reforms and initiatives aimed at transforming service delivery and outcomes. Secretaries of the Higher, Elementary and Secondary Education and Social Welfare departments and other relevant officials attended the meeting. The meeting discussed the introduction of sports activities in schools, ensuring 100% availability of furniture, fulfilling the "5-classroom and 4-teacher" criteria, enhancing teacher attendance to a 90% benchmark, revamping the examination system, and the outsourcing of underutilized schools. The Chief Secretary underscored that alternate examination models must be finalized and operational before the upcoming annual matriculation examinations. The review focused on uplifting underutilized colleges through outsourcing, transforming commerce colleges into applied studies centers, and introducing quality enhancement measures, including merit scholarships for students from financially disadvantaged backgrounds. The Chief Secretary reiterated that outsourcing of institutions is not privatization but a strategic intervention to bring in private sector expertise while safeguarding the rights of existing employees and retaining government ownership. The progress of multiple projects aimed at facilitating vulnerable communities, widows, orphans, senior citizens, and transgender persons was reviewed in the meeting. The initiatives include the establishment of social support institutions such as branches of Zamang Kor, Darul Amans, a Senior Citizen Home at Peshawar, a Braille Academy, and the Center of Excellence for Autism. The introduction of the Transgender Protection and Empowerment Policy and the comprehensive mapping of households across the province for the launch of a provincial socio-economic registry were also reviewed.—APP

## Vision Pakistan wins Aga Khan award for architecture

ISLAMABAD: Vision Pakistan, a skill development institute based in Islamabad, has been honored with the Aga Khan Award for Architecture 2025, one of the most prestigious accolades in the field of design and urban development. Selected as part of the 16th award cycle, the project was named among seven winning architectural works from Bangladesh, China, Egypt, Iran, Palestine, and Pakistan, each recognized for their exceptional design and social impact. Designed with contemporary sensibilities by DB Studios under the expert supervision of architect Saifullah Siddiqui, Vision Pakistan serves as a vocational training center for underprivileged youth. Infused with architectural elements drawn from both Pakistani and Arab traditions, the building stands as the heart of a charitable initiative committed to equipping young individuals with practical skills and renewed purpose. The charitable institution offers a supportive environment

where young people can learn essential skills for self-sufficiency, including tailoring, literacy, and life skills. Architect Siddiqui emphasized that his team considers climate change implications in every project they undertake, integrating environmentally responsible design principles into their work. The building itself draws inspiration from Pakistani and Arab architectural traditions, blending cultural heritage with contemporary functionality. Client Rushda Tariq Qureshi described the project as both aesthetically remarkable and socially transformative. "This is more than just a beautiful space," she said. "Any young person who has never been part of an organized classroom or envisioned a brighter future finds this place completely transformative." The recognition of Vision Pakistan marks a proud moment for Pakistan's architectural community, showcasing the power of design to uplift lives and foster inclusive development.—APP

## Drug-free Peshawar campaign expanded province-wide

PESHAWAR, Sep 04 (APP):The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government has decided to extend the "Drug-Free Peshawar Campaign" across the province, following the directives of Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur. In a high-level meeting chaired by Commissioner Peshawar Division Riaz Khan Mehsud and Minister for Excise and Taxation Khaleeq-ur-Rehman, officials reviewed the campaign's achievements and discussed future steps. The meeting was attended by senior administration officers, police officials, social welfare representatives, administrators of rehabilitation centers, and members of the Young Psychiatrists Association (YPA). The YPA offered its services for the establishment of a state-of-the-art 600-bed model rehabilitation hospital on four acres of land in Peshawar. The association also announced its collaboration with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to secure international funding for the project and to support large-scale rehabilitation programs. Participants were briefed on the progress of the campaign so far, including the recovery of hundreds of drug addicts through rehabilitation centers. It was decided that a comprehensive plan would be presented to the Chief Minister at a meeting scheduled for September 10 at the CM's House, where UNODC representatives would also be invited. Commissioner Riaz Mehsud directed the Additional Deputy Commissioner General to identify suitable land for the hospital and submit a report.—APP

## Muqam hands over relief goods to Afghans authorities

PESHAWAR: Federal Minister for States and Frontier Regions, Kashmir and Gilgit Baltistan Affairs, Engr Amir Muqam here Thursday handed over a huge consignment of relief goods to Afghans authorities for assistance of the earthquake victims. On the direction of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Federal Minister Engr Amir Muqam went to Torkhum border in Khyber tribal district where he delivered huge consignment relief goods containing necessary daily use items, food and medicines to authorities of Afghanistan for earthquake victims. Talking to media persons, Engr Amir Muqam said that the people and government of Pakistan stand with Afghans brothers and sisters in these hours of difficulty and this massive relief package was aimed to help the earthquake victims. At least 1469 people in Afghanistan were killed and around 3700 injured besides nearly five million affected in eastern Afghanistan when a 6 magnitude quake struck it on Sunday, collapsing mud-brick homes on sleeping families. He said Prime Minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif has expressed deep condolences and sorrow over loss of lives and prop-

erties during the earthquake in Afghanistan. On the Prime Minister's directions, Engr Amir Muqam said the relief goods consignment was handed over to Afghans authorities at Torkham border that connects Pakistan and Afghanistan. Soon after the powerful earthquake, the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Muhammad Ishaq Dar talked to his Afghan counterpart and assured every possible assistance and support. He said Pakistan has also suffered colossal losses due to natural calamities including foods that wreaked havoc first in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and later Gilgit Baltistan and Punjab province. Besides loss of lives and properties due to floods, he said that livestock, agriculture products, and communication infrastructure including roads and bridges were largely affected in Pakistan. Engr Amir Muqam appreciated the support of national building departments including NGOs and philanthropists organizations for assistance of flood victims. Besides representatives of National Disasters Management Authority (NDMA), Pakistani Consul General at Jalalabad Shafatullah and Afgan Consul General at Peshawar Hafiz Mohibullah were also present.—APP

## Prophet Muhammad's teachings a guiding light: Yousaf

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Sardar Muhammad Yousaf on Thursday, said that the auspicious occasion of Eid Milad-un-Nabi is a reminder to embrace the teachings of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) as a guiding light for humanity, leading towards success, tolerance, patience, compassion, and harmony. In an exclusive interview with APP, the federal minister said that the government will organize the 50th International Seerat-un-Nabi (PBUH) Conference on 12th Rabi-ul-Awwal, coinciding with the global celebrations declared by the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) to mark the 1500th birth year of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him). The minister said it was a great blessing and honor for Muslims to be part of the Ummah of the Last Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him). He added that the Seerat-un-Nabi Conference would be held at both the federal and provincial levels, with scholars and intellectuals highlighting the Prophet's (Peace Be Upon Him) universal message for peace and harmony. He further noted that the OIC's decision to mark the current Hijri year as the 1500th year of the Prophet's (Peace Be Upon Him) birth was aimed at promoting adherence to his teachings across the globe. "These activities seek to remind the entire Ummah that Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) was sent as the Last Messenger for all humanity, and his life is a source of guidance for peace, tolerance, and unity," the minister said. Meanwhile, Secretary of Religious Affairs Dr. Syed Ata-ur-Rehman said that Eid Milad-un-Nabi is being celebrated with great zeal and enthusiasm across the country. He noted that every year, the Ministry of Religious Affairs commemorates 12th Rabi-ul-Awwal by holding the International Seerat Conference, and this year, the 1500th birth anniversary of the Holy Prophet (Peace Be Upon Him) is being marked on a much larger scale with the participation of prominent international personalities. He shared with APP that this year, the number of delegates and speakers has significantly increased. The distinguished guests include the Deputy Grand Mufti, the Chief Justice from Palestine, and the Minister for Religious Affairs of Bangladesh. "It is a matter of great honor for us that after a long gap, our brotherly country Bangladesh is participating at the ministerial level in this joyous and historic occasion," he remarked. He also conveyed a message to the people of Pakistan to celebrate the day in a befitting manner. He informed that under the chairmanship of Federal Minister Sardar Muhammad Yousaf, a meeting of provincial ministers and secretaries was held to finalize arrangements, during which it was decided that conferences and events would also be organized at the provincial level to reaffirm commitment to following the Seerat of the Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him).—DNA

## Three Pak Navy commodores promoted as Real Admirals

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Commodore Muhammad Shahnawaz Khan, Commodore Asim Sohail Malik and Commodore Sohail Ahmad Azmie of Pakistan Navy have been promoted to the rank of Rear Admiral. Rear Admiral Muhammad Shahnawaz Khan was commissioned in Supply Branch of Pakistan Navy in 1993. The Flag Officer is a graduate of Pakistan Navy War College, Lahore and National Defence University, Islamabad. The Admiral has an illustrious career covering vast experience of various Command and Staff appointments including Commanding Officer General Stores Depot, Commanding Officer PNS RAZA, Director Procurement (Navy), Directing Staff PN War College at Lahore, Director Pay, Pension &



Accounts and Assistant Chief of Naval Staff (Education) at Naval Headquarters. The Admiral is currently serving as DG Munitions Productions (DGMP) at Ministry of Defence Productions Islamabad. Rear Admiral Asim Sohail Malik was commissioned in Operations Branch of Pakistan Navy in 1995. The Flag Officer is a graduate of

Pakistan Navy War College, Lahore and National Defence University, Islamabad. He has also done Defence Services Command & Staff Course from Bangladesh, Defence & Strategic Studies Course and Masters in operational research & analysis from China. The Admiral has an illustrious career covering vast experience of various Com-

mand and Staff appointments including Commanding Officer PNS ZARRAR and PNS SHAMSHEER, Commander 9 Auxiliary and Mine Warfare Squadron, and Chief Staff Officer to Commander Pakistan Fleet. He served at Naval Headquarters as Director Operational Research, Director Naval Operations, and Assistant Chief of Naval Staff (Operational Plan). The officer has also served as Commander Combined Task Force 150 at Headquarters Combined Maritime Forces (CMF) Bahrain. The officer is currently serving as DG C4I at Naval Headquarters Islamabad. Rear Admiral Sohail Ahmad Azmie was commissioned in Operations Branch of Pakistan Navy in 1996. The Flag Officer is a graduate of Britannia Royal Naval College Dartmouth, UK, Pakistan Navy War College, Lahore and National Defence University, Islamabad.

The Smooth Moving Connection

# freeline MOVERS

PACKING, SHIPPING & FREIGHT FORWARDING

### Our Services

- Packing
- Shipping
- Freight Forwarding
- Land, Sea & Air Freight
- Custom Clearance
- Relocations
- Office Removals
- Fine Art Handling
- Project Management
- Pet Relocation
- Warehousing
- Storage

**Head Office**  
3rd Floor, Yasin Plaza, 74-West, Blue Area, Islamabad.  
Tel: (+92 51) 2822471, 2274221, 2878029, 2272273, 2822711, 2874289 - Fax: (+92 51) 2825132, 2274227.  
E-mail: moving@freelinemovers.com - Website: www.freelinemovers.com

**Branch Offices:**

<p><b>Karachi</b> Room No 14, 415, 3rd Floor, Kalkhahar Mall, Main Tariq Road, 172 (Block-2, P.E.C.S.B.), Karachi. Tel: (+92 21) 3453808, 34539479 Fax: (+92 21) 34531742 E-mail: karachi@freelinemovers.com</p>	<p><b>Lahore</b> P-4, Gulberg Centre, Main Boulevard, Lahore. Tel: (+92 42) 3579181, 3579186 Fax: (+92 42) 35791428 E-mail: lahore@freelinemovers.com</p>	<p><b>Peshawar</b> Office No. C-6, 3rd Floor, Zuhra Plaza, Lafiq Road, Ring Road, Peshawar. Tel: (+92 91) 2502778 Fax: (+92 91) 2502898 E-mail: peshawar@freelinemovers.com</p>	<p><b>Kabul</b> House #4, Street #4, Charahi Anvari Road, Dhar-e-Nau, Kabul - Afghanistan. Tel: (+93 700) 777, 61 770969, 636, 61 778498, 636. E-mail: kabul@freelinemovers.com</p>
--	---	---	---



National Days and Armed Forces Days

SEPTEMBER
Sept01/Libya Revolution Day
Sept01/Tanzania Defence day
Sept01/Uzbekistan Independence Day
Sept07/Brazil Independence Day
Sept09/DPR Korea National Day
Sept09/Tajikistan Independence Day
Sept16/Malaysia Armed Forces Day
Sept16/Mexico National Day
Sept16/Papua New Guinea Independence Day
Sept18/Chile National Day
Sept21/Malta Independence Day
Sept23/Saudi Arabia National Day

Airlines

Turkish Airlines.....8494949



Emergency
Rescue (Police).....15
Bomb Disposal.....15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/ Islamabad.....1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance.1122 & Rescue Services.4451122
Motorway Police...9266044
Motorway Police.9270601-20
Women Police Stations Islamabad.....9222596
Rawalpindi.....9270601-20



Enquiry
Edhi Ambulance.....115
PIA Flight Info.....114
PIA Cargo.....9280979
Railway Inquiry.....117
Railway Exchange9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi.5555489
CAA.....9281092



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



Departments
CDA.....9221334-43
CDA.....9208301-04
Met Office.....9250360-6
RDA.....5555864
TMA.....5770886
Cantonment Board 9270151-3



Islamabad Metropolitan
Corporation.....9209224
Potohar Town.....9209224
Rawal Town.....5773343
Water Tank
Islamabad.....0321-5744480



ISLAMABAD: A high-level Palestinian delegation led by Dr. Mahmoud Al-Habbash, Chief Islamic Justice of Palestine and Adviser to the President on Religious Affairs and Islamic Relations called on Governor Sindh Kamran Tessori. Ambassador of Palestine and Maulana Tahir Ashrafi were also present on the occasion. —DNA

# CDA to develop 3 new graveyards to meet growing demand

Chairman CDA said that the free electric funeral bus service will ease the process of transporting the deceased to the graveyard

**DNA**

ISLAMABAD: An important meeting was held at the Capital Development Authority (CDA) Headquarters under the chairmanship of Chairman CDA and Chief Commissioner Islamabad, Muhammad Ali Randhawa. The meeting was attended by CDA Board Member Engineering, Syed Nafasat Raza, Member Planning Dr. Khalid Hafiz and other senior officers. In line with the directions of the Federal Minister of Interior, Mohsin Naqvi, several decisions were made during the meeting regarding the allocation of land for establishing new graveyards in Islamabad. Following the Federal Interior Minister's instructions, it was decided to develop graveyards at three newly

allocated locations in the city. Chairman CDA said that the new graveyards would be developed keeping in view the growing needs of Islamabad's population. During the briefing, it was informed that approximately 800 kanals of land have been allocated for a new graveyard at Pandorian. Similarly, land has also been allocated for new graveyards at Humak and Malpur. The meeting was informed that 200 kanals have been allocated for the new graveyard in Malpur, while over 10 kanals have been allocated for the graveyard in Humak. The new graveyards will facilitate the population of both urban and rural areas of Islamabad. Chairman CDA directed to promptly commence work on the development of model graveyards at all these sites. He directed that the construction of the graveyards should take into account the best model and international standards.

Chairman CDA directed that all facilities related to funeral and burial services must be ensured in the new graveyards. He also instructed the CDA to construct boundary walls and walkways in the new graveyards. He directed that provisions for a funeral hall, facilities for bathing the deceased, a mosque, ablution areas and all other necessary amenities must be ensured. Additionally, he instructed to ensure parking facilities, permanent installation of LED lights and water supply in the new graveyards. It is important to note that alongside the construction of new graveyards, the existing graveyards in the Capital City of Islamabad are being

upgraded on modern lines. Chairman CDA instructed that the existing graveyards be upgraded with boundary walls, security, permanent lighting arrangements and walkways. For public convenience, he also directed to provide special electric funeral buses for burials in both new and old graveyards. Chairman CDA said that the free electric funeral bus service will ease the process of transporting the deceased to the graveyard. He directed that all necessary resources be utilized to ensure the provision of the best possible facilities to citizens in their time of grief and difficulty. Chairman CDA said that the completion of the new graveyards will not only provide excellent facilities to the citizens of the Capital but will also meet the graveyard requirements of Islamabad City.

## PM urges support for relief of flood-hit countrymen

ISLAMABAD: As the world observes International Charity Day on Friday, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has urged the countrymen to extend every possible support for the relief and rehabilitation of the flood-hit people, reiterating the commitment to progress, prosperity, and a resilient future. The prime minister, in his message on the Day, said that in the wake of recent heavy rains and flooding, the spirit of charitable contributions had gained even greater significance. "The affected populations have suffered severe losses of livestock, livelihoods, and homes. They are in dire need of food, shelter, and healthcare facilities. The federal and provincial governments, along with the public and armed forces, are collectively engaged in ongoing rescue and relief operations," he remarked. He said that Pakistan joined the global community in observing the Day, highlighting the importance of charity, co-existence, and contributions to societal welfare, as the country's social history was a testament to the people selflessly helping others, irrespective of race or any prejudice. "The spirit of serving others marks Pakistan's social and cultural values. Pakistani volunteers and philanthropists have consistently provided financial and practical support to their fellow citizens during accidents, natural disasters, wars, and other emergencies, leading the country to rank among the most generous nations globally," he commented. The prime minister said that Pakistan's philanthropists take pride in efficiently providing services like free medical treatment, free meals, and free ambulance services under the umbrella of charitable initiatives reflecting the country's social and cultural values and Islamic teachings. He highlighted that the Government of Pakistan was successfully implementing various comprehensive programs aimed at poverty alleviation and welfare. —APP

## Edu minister awards SSC, HSSC top position holders

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training, Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui, on Thursday awarded the shields to the students who secured top position in Secondary School Certificates (SSC) and Higher Secondary School Certificates (HSSC) examination 2025 of educational institutions operating under Federal Directorates of Education (FDE). The awards were presented to the students in ceremony held at Islamabad College for Boys, G-6/3, under the title of "High Achievers Award" where the federal minister participated as the Chief Guest.

Minister of State Wajiha Qamar and Secretary of Education Nadeem Mehboob also attended the event as special guests, said a press release. Along with others parents, teachers and students also participated the event to appreciate the top position holders. Addressing the ceremony, Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui congratulated all the high achievers and highlighted that the remarkable success of students was a source of pride for the entire nation. He emphasized that daughters of the nation have always brought glory to Pakistan whenever provided with opportunities. The Federal Minister

praised the tireless efforts of teachers and parents, stating that their dedication forms the foundation of students' success. He acknowledged that without the guidance and hard work of teachers, these accomplishments would not have been possible. Dr. Siddiqui underscored that the ultimate goal was not just success but achieving educational excellence at par with global standards. He urged students to move forward with greater hard work, dedication and vision. Concluding his remarks, the Federal Minister paid tribute to the students and their parents for their outstanding achievements and contributions. —APP

## AIOU extends dates for upcoming convocation

ISLAMABAD: The Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) has extended dates for their upcoming convocations after the persistent demand from the students to participate in this historical gathering, offering relaxation in eligibility criteria also. The dates of grand convocation ceremonies that would be held in major cities across the country, following the schedule including Islamabad on November 12, Quetta on November 23, Lahore on December 7, Peshawar on December 21 and Karachi on January 4, 2026, said a press release on Thursday Vice Chancellor, Professor Dr. Nasir Mahmood has also approved an increase in the number of seats for convocation to accommodate more graduates. Additionally, minimum eligibility criteria of obtaining 70% marks has also been removed. "Now all graduates from Autumn 2022 to Autumn 2024 semesters will be able to participate, on "first come, first served" basis for additional seats allocated for this convocation," he said. He, therefore, urged the eligible students to complete their registration online without delay as deadline extended to September 14, 2025. —DNA

## Effective justice not only constitutional mandate but also moral responsibility

ISLAMABAD: Chief Justice of Pakistan, Justice Yahya Afridi, on Thursday observed that timely and effective justice is not only a constitutional mandate but also a moral responsibility. The chief justice chaired the sixth inter-active progress review session at the Supreme Court of Pakistan. The session brought together senior officials, stakeholders, and officers of the Supreme Court to assess monthly progress under the Reform Action Plan (RAP) and provide strategic guidance on pending initiatives and upcoming milestones. The meeting was attended by the Registrar Supreme Court, IT Advisor Hamayun Zafar, section heads of the Supreme Court, the Senior Director of the Federal Judicial Academy, and the Secretary

of the Law and Justice Commission of Pakistan (LJCP). During the deliberations, the Chief Justice was briefed on the substantial advancements achieved in the Court's reform agenda. Out of 89 identified initiatives, 30 have been fully implemented, 44 are in progress, and 14 are set to commence shortly. These milestones underscore the judiciary's commitment to modernizing its institutional framework and strengthening service delivery for the public. The Chief Justice also reviewed statistics on case disposal, categorization of cases, IT integration, financial management, and audit mechanisms. He expressed satisfaction that the rate of case disposal has surpassed new case institution, emphasizing that audit and

financial discipline are essential for ensuring transparency. He directed all departments to expedite pending tasks ahead of the next review meeting, stressing that sustained progress is crucial for maintaining public confidence in the judiciary. Reaffirming the Supreme Court's dedication to a litigant-focused approach, Chief Justice observed that timely and effective justice is not only a constitutional mandate but also a moral responsibility. He also commended the contributions of officers and technical experts. He reiterated the judiciary's resolve to foster innovation, inclusivity, and collaboration in building a justice system that is transparent, modern, and equitable. —APP

## PMYP, Destinations collaborate to revolutionize Pakistan's tourism

ISLAMABAD: In a major development, the Prime Minister's Youth Programme (PMYP) and Destinations, a pioneering digital tourism platform, have joined forces to unlock new opportunities for young people in Pakistan's tourism and creator economies. This collaboration marks the beginning of a new era in leveraging technology, innovation and entrepreneurship to engage young people in high-potential industries. According to an official, the partnership aims to accelerate the digital transformation of Pakistan's tourism and creator economies, providing a platform for young people to showcase their skills and talents. By harnessing the power of technology and innovation, PMYP and Destinations seek to empower young Pakistanis to drive economic growth and development in the country. This initiative is expected to have a significant impact on Pakistan's economy, creating new opportunities for young people and promoting entrepreneurship and innovation. The collaboration between PMYP and Destinations is a testament to the government's commitment to empowering young people and promoting economic development in the country. As part of this partnership, PMYP and Destinations will work together to identify and support young talent in the tourism and creator industries. The partnership will also provide training and capacity-building programs to equip young people with the skills and knowledge needed to succeed in these industries. —APP

## Commissioner reviews revenue matters

RAWALPINDI:Commissioner Rawalpindi Division Engineer Amir Khattak visited Tehsil Office Raja Bazar on Wednesday and reviewed revenue matters and public dealings. According to APP correspondent, he directed DC and AC to regularly visit Tehsil Offices and Registrar Offices to monitor revenue matters. The Commissioner emphasized the need to provide maximum convenience to citizens, limiting service provision time to 15-20 minutes. He also directed the establishment of proper seating facilities, clean drinking

water, and help desks for citizens visiting the Land Record Office. He instructed that wheelchairs be provided for disabled citizens and that steps be taken to immediately digitize the record room. This will enable citizens to access modern and transparent facilities. The Commissioner noted that Tehsil Office Raja Bazar has been made a model office, and this model is being implemented across the division. Additional DC Revenue have been directed to spend time in Registrar Offices daily to improve service delivery. —APP

## Steps to strengthen redressal mechanism discussed

ISLAMABAD: Member Minorities of the National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR), Manzoor Masih, alongwith Mamoona Malik (Assistant Director NCHR), held a meeting with Fauzia Waqar, the Federal Ombudsperson for Protection Against Harassment at Workplace. During the meeting, both offices discussed their respective mandates and exchanged insights on strengthening mechanisms for redressal and referral of complaints. The discussion also highlighted challenges such as lack of implementation of existing laws, and the need for stronger collaboration to ensure timely justice for victims of workplace harassment and discrimination. Fauzia Waqar briefed the NCHR team on the

procedures of the Ombudsperson's office, clarifying that not only cases of sexual harassment but also workplace discrimination and women's property rights fall under its jurisdiction. In response, NCHR shared its own complaint-handling mechanisms and advocacy work, reiterating its commitment to protecting fundamental rights without discrimination. Both sides agreed on the importance of institutional cooperation to safeguard vulnerable groups, particularly women and minorities, and emphasized that stronger coordination between NCHR and the Ombudsperson's office would help build a safer and more inclusive workplace environment in Pakistan. —DNA



## Briefs

**President lauds  
PPP USA for  
strengthening  
party's presence  
abroad**

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari on Thursday appreciated the leadership of Muhammad Khalid Awan, President PPP USA, and his team for their dedicated efforts in strengthening the Party's presence across the United States of America. In a letter to Mr. Awan, the president, who is also Co-Chairman of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) noted that the remarkable expansion of PPP USA, with the induction of hundreds of officials, is a milestone that reflects the hard work, unity, and commitment of the overseas chapter. He said this achievement has given new energy and visibility to the Party's ideals of democracy, social justice, and public service among Pakistanis living abroad. Acknowledging the contributions of PPP USA, the president said that in addition to strengthening the Party, their work also fosters closer ties between the people of Pakistan and the Pakistani-American community. He expressed the confidence that PPP USA will continue to play a vital role in carrying forward the Party's mission and values with the same dedication and spirit.—APP

**Wajiha , UN-  
ESCO's Fuad  
explore  
collaboration  
in education,  
heritage**

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Federal Education and Professional Training, Ms. Wajiha Qamar, held an important meeting with UNESCO Chief Fuad Pashayev to discuss avenues of collaboration in the fields of education and cultural heritage in Pakistan. During the meeting, both sides highlighted the significance of promoting inclusive, equitable, and quality education for all, in line with Pakistan's national education priorities and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Wajiha Qamar emphasized the Government's commitment to expanding access to education, reducing the number of out-of-school children, and enhancing quality standards through policy reforms and institutional strengthening. The discussions also focused on safeguarding and promoting Pakistan's rich cultural and historical heritage, particularly in building awareness among the youth and linking heritage preservation with educational curricula. Ms. Qamar appreciated UNESCO's longstanding partnership with Pakistan in these areas and stressed the importance of continued technical support, knowledge exchange, and joint initiatives. Fuad Pashayev lauded Pakistan's efforts in strengthening education systems and preserving cultural heritage, reaffirming UNESCO's support in advancing Pakistan's national priorities. He noted that UNESCO is keen to deepen cooperation, particularly in heritage preservation projects, capacity-building programs, and teacher training initiatives. The minister reiterated Pakistan's resolve to work closely with UNESCO to ensure education and heritage remain powerful tools for peace, social cohesion, and sustainable development.—APP

# Isolating Afghanistan means isolating Afghans, say experts

He underlined that only through mutual respect and trust the two neighbours could build a durable and mutually beneficial economic partnership that would be benign for the entire region

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Attempting to isolate Afghanistan means isolating the Afghans, which allows space for terrorist groups to operate in the country, said Kathy Gannon, renowned author and former Director for Afghanistan and Pakistan for the Associated Press. She also felt that just issuing ultimatums to the Taliban may not produce the desired results. Ms. Gannon was speaking at a roundtable discussion organized by the Institute of Regional Studies. While calling for engagement with various stakeholders in Afghanistan, including the Taliban government, the Afghan affairs expert stated that Western countries were drawing misleading conclusions about Afghanistan without active engagement with Afghans on the ground. "There has to be a rethink of policies and strategies concerning Afghanistan," she emphasised. Ms Gannon also shared that although there were considerable restrictions on the education and freedom of movement of women, she did see women working in public spaces and unaccompanied by men in Afghanistan during her visit to the country a few days ago. She also appreciated the relatively improved security environment and the reduction in corruption in Afghanistan. "The country of 42 million people is functioning. It's not functioning perfectly, but it is," noted Kathy Gannon. Well known author and Executive Director of the Centre for Research and Security Studies, Imtiaz Gul, called for a comprehensive multilateral and regional approach to counter terrorism emanating out of Afghanistan, because terrorism was a concern for all neighbouring countries. While appreciating the Taliban administration's desire to engage with regional countries,



and the rest of the world, he urged the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan to address their concerns as well. Pakistan's former envoy to the US, China and India, Ambassador Ashraf Jehangir Qazi, cautioned against a short-term and security-centric approach toward Afghanistan and called for a pragmatic, long-term, and broad-based strategy of 'generous engagement'. He also felt that the Afghans were best qualified to find solutions to the formidable challenges their country faced. President IRS, Ambassador Jauhar Sal-

eem, brought out the distinctions between the western perspective on Afghanistan focusing on the shortcomings of governance, lack of fundamental freedoms, and insecurity and terrorism emanating from Afghanistan that called for a policy of disengagement, and the more nuanced perspective presented by the speakers arguing positive persuasion through balanced engagement and enhanced cooperation. He underlined that Pakistan had always called for Afghan-based and Afghan-led solutions to the country's problems without foreign

intervention, and has stayed engaged with its important neighbour viewing it as a potential partner for promoting trade and connectivity. At the same time, he added that Pakistan expected Afghanistan to keep its commitment of not allowing its soil to be used by any terrorist groups to carry out terrorism against Pakistan. He underlined that only through mutual respect and trust the two neighbours could build a durable and mutually beneficial economic partnership that would be benign for the entire region.

## Suki Hydropower project marks first year of commercial operations

ISLAMABAD: The Suki Kinari Hydropower Station, a flagship project under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), has completed its first full year of commercial operations. Inaugurated in September 2024, the 884 MW facility has generated over 2.7 billion kilowatt-hours of electricity to date, contributing significantly to Pakistan's national grid and helping to reduce reliance on imported fossil fuels, according to a report carried by Gwadar Pro on Thursday. To mark the anniversary, SK Hydro hosted a Media Open Day at the newly inaugurated CEEC Pakistan Regional Office. Journalists from leading media houses were briefed on the project's performance and toured key facilities, including the CEEC Corporate Culture Exhibition Hall and the under-development "Smart Hydropower" centralized control room, which will further enhance operational efficiency. Project officials noted that the hydropower station has played a growing role in supporting Pakistan's transition to renewable energy, while also contributing to the diversification of the national power mix. Beyond energy production, the project has made notable contributions to local development. At peak construction, more than 6,000 workers were employed on-site, while a series of community-focused initiatives have been undertaken in the surrounding areas. These include afforestation drives, educational support programs, and the establishment of a trout hatchery aimed at preserving the region's ecological balance. Infrastructure upgrades, such as improvements to the N15 highway, have also been facilitated through project support, improving connectivity and economic activity in the region. Media representatives praised the quality of construction, operational standards, and the integration of intelligent management systems at the facility. Many described the Suki Kinari Hydropower Station as a model of CPEC cooperation, demonstrating how strategic energy investments can deliver clean power while also promoting economic and social progress.—DNA

## Court adjourns pre-arrest bail petitions of 9 accused

ISLAMABAD: A special court on Thursday adjourned the hearing till September 16, on pre-arrest bail petitions of nine accused named in the multi-million rupees corruption scandal in the national news agency Association Press of Pakistan Corporation (APP). Special Judge Central Humayun Dilawar heard the interim bail petitions of nine accused. During the hearing of the case, APP's legal advisor, Khurram Baig appeared in the court and took the position that our preparations are complete and we want to argue on the petitions. Three lawyers including Khurram Baig Advocate and Hasnain Haider Thahim submitted their power of attorney to the court on behalf of APP. The court marked the attendance of all the accused. The accused who appeared included former APP Executive Director Adnan Akram Bajwa, former account managers Imran Munir, Sajid Ali, former in-charge audit Tahir Ghuman, former assistant manager budget Murtaza, Khurram Shahzad, former secretary to MD Ejaz Maqbool, Idrees Chaudhry, and Shahid Latif. On the occasion, the judge inquired whether the lawyers of all the accused were present. On this, a lawyer told the court that some lawyers were busy in the High Court. On which, the judge Humayun Dilawar expressed his annoyance and remarked that "no excuse will work, if the lawyer of any accused is absent in the future, I will reject the bail in a minute." Adnan Akram Bajwa's lawyer requested the court to hear his client's plea separately; however, the court clarified that all the bail petitions would be heard simultaneously. The judge remarked that this is not a retail shop, I will not listen to the arguments one by one, all the lawyers should come prepared, and I will not tolerate frivolity. During the hearing, the lawyer of the accused Khurram Shahzad took the position that he was not aware of the charges against his client. On which the court directed FIA investigation officer Muhammad Junaid to

inform the accused of the charges. Investigation officer Muhammad Junaid told the court that accused Ijaz Maqbool, as a former Secretary to MD, illegally received cheques of Rs 750,000 and Rs 200,000, of which there is no record of official use. Accused Khurram Shahzad cashed a cheque of Rs 22.7 million from the salary credit sheet. More than Rs 7.9 million was transferred to the personal account of accused Murtaza, while millions of rupees were deposited in another account. Accused Imran Munir was a former manager account. During his tenure on the post, cheques of Rs 1.8 million, 2 million, 1.78 million and 1.47 million were illegally cashed, of which there is evidence of embezzlement. Accused Sajid Ali was also a former manager account. During his tenure, Rs 22.7 were transferred from the Provident Fund, while cheques worth more than Rs 9.8 million were also issued illegally. Accused Shahid Latif is accused of transferring pension funds to the accounts of serving employees, thus causing irreparable loss to the corporation's funds. Accused Tahir Ghuman, as the in-charge of audit, could not fulfill his responsibility. Every cheque issued should be checked against the ledger and the payment from the government bank account and the approved amount should be mutually the same. An FIR was registered against him for failure to fulfill official duties and facilitation. The investigation officer of the case, Muhammad Junaid, told the court that former Executive Director Adnan Akram Bajwa was responsible to monitor the financial affairs of the institution but he failed to fulfill it due to which the financial matters were not only mismanaged but also provided free opportunities for loot to the co-accused. On this occasion, the learned judge ordered that the hearing of the pre-arrest bail petitions of all the accused will be held together on September 16, and all the lawyers will come with case preparations. —APP

## Urgent action needed to prevent disease outbreaks after floods

ISLAMABAD: Medical professionals warned Thursday that unless urgent steps are taken the flood aftermath could become a breeding ground for diseases and advised that addressing the lack of clean water, hygiene, nutrition, vaccinations and proper waste disposal is crucial to prevent the spread of typhoid, malaria, dengue, mental and respiratory health issues. While speaking exclusively with a local news channel, infectious diseases expert Shoba Luxmi explained the potential health risks following the floods, highlighting the urgent need for proper hygiene and sanitation. She mentioned that dirty environments, filled with mud, flies and mosquitoes near flood relief camps can significantly increase the risk of disease transmission, leading to a surge in infections. These conditions, she warned, could overburden already stretched hospitals and health facilities, making it even more difficult to manage and treat those in need. She emphasized that maintaining cleanliness is critical in preventing the spread of waterborne diseases and infections, adding, providing soap, clean nets for sleeping and sanitizers to help curb the transmission of harmful bacteria and viruses. She further stressed the importance of having adequate nutrition for those affected by the flood, particularly vulnerable groups like children, pregnant women and the elderly. Luxmi mentioned that proper nutrition strengthens the immune system, which is vital in fighting off infections in such dire conditions. Finally, the expert called on authorities to ensure access to clean drinking water, which she stated is essential to avoid outbreaks of diseases like typhoid and cholera. "Access to safe water, proper hygiene and nutritional support must be prioritized in flood relief efforts," she said. —APP

**SCO's spirit  
injects  
momentum  
into Pak's Agri  
Modernization**

DNA

ISLAMABAD: spirit of Shanghai Cooperation Organization injects a new momentum into Pakistan's Agricultural Modernization, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Thursday. "We learned not only advanced agricultural knowledge and techniques in China, but also the spirit of innovation and collaboration that makes agriculture a force for prosperity," said a Pakistani trainee who returned from the SCO agricultural base in Yangling Demonstration Zone in Shaanxi province. In July of this year, the first batch of 292 Pakistani agricultural trainees completed a 90-day training program in China and returned to Pakistan to begin practical work in their respective fields. Ali, a trainee who runs a farm in Pakistan, said that water scarcity is common on farms in Pakistan. During his training in China, he saw Chinese farmers using drip irrigation technology to water crops while covering the cultivated land with plastic film. This not only saves water but also prevents diseases and controls weeds, which was entirely new to him. He plans to adopt this technology on his own farm and hopes it can be widely promoted in Pakistan. In addition to inviting Pakistani agricultural talents to train in China, China has also established extensive connections with Pakistani universities, including Rawalpindi Women University, the Federal Urdu University of Arts, Sciences & Technology, and the University of Swat, further expanding the reach of bilateral agricultural cooperation.—APP

**Criminal gets  
thrice death  
sentence for  
rape, murder**

RAWALPINDI: Additional Session Court in Rawalpindi has awarded three times death sentence to Irfan Azeem, convicted of kidnapping, rape and murder. The detailed trial was presided over by Additional Sessions Judge Afshan Ijaz Sufi here Thursday. According to the details, the verdict pertains to case FIR No. 522, registered on March 15, 2023, at Dharmial Police Station. Azeem was found guilty under Sections 302, 367-A, and 376(2)(i) of the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC) for the kidnapping, rapping, and murder of a 13 year old boy.—APP

# Pakistani Textile innovators forge new pathways

DNA

SHANGHAI: Five of Pakistan's leading textile and apparel manufacturers are capturing international attention at the ongoing Intertextile Shanghai Apparel Fabrics - Autumn Edition 2025, a global trade event took place from September 2 to 4. Their presence underlines the vibrant revival of Pakistan's textile sector, which is riding a wave of impressive export growth, according to Gwadar Pro. The industry kicked off the current fiscal year with extraordinary vigor, registering a 32 percent surge in exports in July alone. The sector has shown a positive growth trend in recent months, with June recording a year-on-year increase of 7.59pc. For the

entire Fiscal Year 2024-25, the sector's exports climbed 7.39 percent to \$17.887 billion, up from \$16.655 billion the previous year, signaling a robust and sustained recovery. Participating Pakistani companies are leveraging the expo-one of the oldest and most prestigious textile events in Shanghai-to foster crucial partnerships. Mr. Shehzad Ahmad Khan, the Pakistani Consul General in Shanghai, emphasized the strategic importance of the platform. "Pakistani companies have a long tradition of participating in Intertextile, which offers two vital segments: one for fabrics and another for apparel," he said. "This provides an excellent opportunity for collaboration with Chinese companies, particularly in acquiring cutting-edge technology for man-made

fabrics and exploring joint ventures in high-value apparel using wool, cotton, and specialty materials." The diplomat also highlighted the potential of the Sino-Pakistani partnership to target international markets collectively. "This type of exhibition enables Pakistani companies to not only upgrade their technological capabilities but also form strategic alliances for entering third-party markets." The timing of the expo aligns with high-level diplomatic engagement, including the Pakistani Prime Minister's visit to the SCO summit in Tianjin and the second Pakistan-China Investment B2B Conference in Beijing. Textile is one of the central themes in these discussions, with numerous joint ventures and technology transfer agreements related to

manufacturing facilities in Pakistan expected to be advanced, noted the Consul General. Among the Pakistani exhibitors is Azgard Nine Ltd, a producer of environmentally sustainable denim fabrics and garments for global markets. Deputy General Manager Sana Arshad expressed strong optimism based on past successes. "Our participation in the spring edition yielded positive results, and we are highly confident that this edition will open even more doors for innovation and partnership," she remarked. The China Textile Autumn Joint Expo 2025 unites four major specialized fairs- Intertextile, CHIC, Yarn Expo and PH Value-to form a 350,000-square-meter hub for industry innovation.

ASHRAF INDUSTRIES (PVT) LTD  
127 C, Industrial Estate  
Sialkot-51340, Pakistan  
Phones: +92-53-3258000 / 3256798  
E-mail: info@ashrafnet.pk

**Ashraf**



## India’s Water Politics: A Threat to Regional Peace

WATER is the lifeline of nations, and for Pakistan, a largely agrarian country, its survival and economy are directly tied to the steady flow of rivers originating from India. However, recent reports and repeated instances highlight how India is deliberately manipulating water flows to Pakistan – releasing water when it is not needed, and blocking it when Pakistan’s farmers and people desperately require it. This practice, often termed “water terrorism,” is not only unjust but also a dangerous game that could severely damage relations between the two neighbors. The 1960 Indus Waters Treaty, brokered by the World Bank, has been regarded as one of the most successful water-sharing agreements in the world. Despite wars and hostilities, the treaty has largely endured, giving India control over the eastern rivers (Ravi, Beas, Sutlej) while Pakistan received rights over the western rivers (Indus, Jhelum, Chenab). Yet, over the years, India has tried to exploit loopholes, building dams and barrages on the western rivers and controlling flows in a way that undermines Pakistan’s rightful share. When India suddenly releases large volumes of water during monsoon or floods, it causes devastation in Pakistan’s plains, destroying crops, homes, and livelihoods. Conversely, when Pakistan needs water during sowing or peak irrigation seasons, India often holds it back, creating drought-like conditions. This deliberate manipulation is more than just mismanagement – it is a clear attempt to weaponize water against Pakistan. Such tactics not only breach the spirit of the treaty but also raise serious humanitarian and security concerns. Pakistan has repeatedly raised this issue on diplomatic platforms, urging India to honor its commitments and act responsibly. But India’s increasing aggression and provocative statements from its officials reveal a mindset where water is being used as a pressure tool against Pakistan. Such actions amount to environmental warfare – impacting millions of innocent people, farmers, and future generations. The consequences of this “water terrorism” are far-reaching. First, it directly undermines trust between the two nuclear-armed neighbors, further straining already fragile relations. Second, it destabilizes regional peace, as water insecurity can ignite conflicts in a region where tensions are already high. Third, it sets a dangerous precedent – if water becomes a weapon, then the entire South Asian region, already vulnerable to climate change, could face catastrophic consequences. It is in India’s own interest to refrain from such destructive practices. No lasting peace or prosperity in South Asia is possible without cooperation on vital resources like water. Weaponizing water may bring temporary pressure on Pakistan, but in the long run, it will isolate India diplomatically and morally. The international community, especially guarantors of the Indus Waters Treaty, must take notice of these violations and hold India accountable. Water is not a weapon – it is a shared resource, a blessing of nature, and a fundamental human right. India should abandon the dangerous path of water politics and work towards cooperation rather than confrontation. The region needs peace, development, and stability – not artificial floods, droughts, and disputes created by human arrogance.

Pakistan’s First And Only Diplomatic Daily

Editor-in-Chief: Ansar Mahmood Bhatti

Deputy Editor: Abid Raza

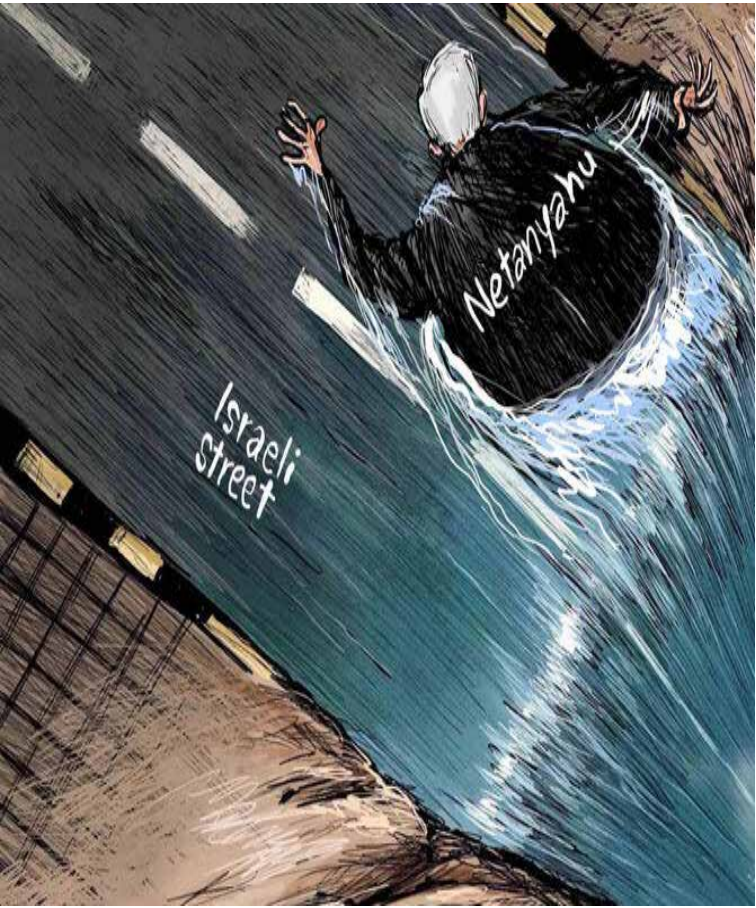
Member APNS / ABC Certified

Vol: 06 Issue: 101

Email: dailyisbpost@gmail.com

Phone: 051-8488394 / 051-2261960

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



## The United Nations: A toothless tiger

THE United Nations (UN) was founded in 1945 with the noble aim of maintaining international peace and security. Yet, nearly eight decades later, the organization stands as a shadow of its original vision—paralyzed by geopolitical rivalries, held hostage by veto-wielding powers, and rendered increasingly irrelevant in resolving the world’s most pressing conflicts. From the Israel-Iran tensions to the Gaza crisis, the Kashmir dispute, and the endless infighting in Africa, the UN has failed to act as an effective mediator. The Secretary-General, instead of being a moral authority, has been reduced to a helpless figurehead whose pleas for peace are ignored by warring nations and powerful Security Council members alike. If the UN can no longer fulfill its primary mandate, then it is time to ask: What is its purpose? The fundamental problem with the UN lies in its structure. The Security Council’s five permanent members (P5)—the United States, Russia, China, France, and the United Kingdom—hold veto power, allowing any one of them to block resolutions that threaten their interests. This has turned the UN into a battleground for great power politics rather than a platform for conflict resolution. The ongoing humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza is a glaring example of the UN’s impotence. Despite overwhelming global condemnation of Israel’s military actions, the US has repeatedly vetoed ceasefire resolutions, shielding its ally from accountability. The Secretary-General’s appeals for restraint are dismissed, and UN agencies like UNRWA are defunded and demonized. If the UN cannot even enforce its own humanitarian principles when a nuclear-armed state flouts international law, then what good is it? The recent exchange of missile strikes between Israel and Iran further exposed the UN’s irrelevance. Rather than mediating de-escalation, the Security Council remained deadlocked, with Western powers backing Israel and Russia and China refusing to take a strong stance. The Secretary-General’s calls for restraint were ignored, proving that the UN has no real authority when major powers are involved. The Kashmir dispute between India and Pakistan has been on the UN agenda since 1948, yet no meaningful progress has been made. India dismisses UN resolutions as outdated, while Pakistan uses them for rhetorical leverage. The UN’s failure to enforce its own mandates has left Kashmiris trapped in a cycle of violence and repression. If the organization cannot even facilitate dialogue after 75 years, why does it still pretend to care? From Sudan to the Democratic Republic of Congo, Somalia to the Sahel, Africa remains a hotbed of conflict. The UN’s peacekeeping missions (MONUSCO, MINUSMA, etc.) have been criticized for inefficiency, corruption, and even complicity in abuses. The Security Council pays lip service to African crises but refuses to authorize robust interventions when they do not align with Western or Russian interests. The current Secretary-General, António Guterres, has become a symbol of the UN’s impotence. His statements on Gaza, Ukraine, and other conflicts are met with indifference. When he invoked Article 99 of the UN Charter to force attention on Gaza, the Security Council barely reacted.

# SCO Summit 2025: Jeopardised by India’s Missteps

Qamar Bashir



The SCO Summit was convened at a critical moment in global geopolitics. The world today faces unprecedented instability: Trump’s aggressive tariff regime has weaponized global trade, disrupting supply chains and punishing economies, including India, China, and Russia. In South Asia, India and Pakistan recently faced a dangerous military confrontation that brought the region to the brink of a devastating war, averted only by a fragile ceasefire that saved thousands of lives. In Europe, the Russia-Ukraine conflict continues to destabilize global energy markets, while Trump’s attempts at mediation have thus far failed

THE Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Summit 2025 in China was one of the most significant geopolitical gatherings in recent years, bringing together three global superpowers—China, Russia, and India—alongside important regional players like Pakistan, Iran, and Central Asian nations at a time when the world stands on the edge of political, economic, and military upheaval. With NATO reasserting itself, the United States under President Donald Trump weaponizing tariffs, and regional flashpoints from Ukraine to Gaza and South Asia, this summit carried the potential to reshape global alliances and strengthen multilateral cooperation. Yet instead of emerging as a defining moment, the summit became a missed opportunity, largely because of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s confrontational conduct, misplaced priorities, and provocative statements that derailed the possibility of a unified SCO declaration and weakened the bloc’s collective response to Western dominance. The SCO Summit was convened at a critical moment in global geopolitics. The world today faces unprecedented instability: Trump’s aggressive tariff regime has weaponized global trade, disrupting supply chains and punishing economies, including India, China, and Russia. In South Asia, India and Pakistan recently faced a dangerous military confrontation that brought the region to the brink of a devastating war, averted only by a fragile ceasefire that saved thousands of lives. In Europe, the Russia-Ukraine conflict continues to destabilize global energy markets, while Trump’s attempts at mediation have thus far failed. In the Middle East, Israel’s relentless campaign in Gaza and the West Bank has resulted in widespread displacement, civilian casualties, and annexation of Palestinian lands, sparking outrage across Asia and beyond. Against this backdrop, the SCO—representing 40% of the world’s population and nearly 30% of global GDP—had a historic opportunity to chart an independent course, strengthen regional alliances, and collectively respond to Western economic, political, and military dominance. It could have laid the foundation for greater economic cooperation, explored trade settlements in yuan or local currencies, and spoken with a unified voice on sovereignty, security, and development. Instead, much of this potential was lost because of India’s confrontational approach and Modi’s controversial conduct, which distracted the forum from its central objectives and deepened divisions within the bloc. Prime Minister Modi used the SCO platform to pursue his domestic political agenda, prioritizing confrontation over cooperation. One of the clearest examples was his relentless focus on targeting Pakistan over terrorism. Despite the fact that all SCO members collectively condemn terrorism in all its forms, Modi repeatedly singled out Pakistan, making direct accusations and threaten-

ing punitive measures. His language transformed what should have been a constructive, collaborative conversation into a politically charged confrontation. Rather than using the forum to strengthen regional security frameworks, Modi alienated Pakistan and created unnecessary friction with China and Russia, both of whom see Islamabad as a strategic partner in South Asia. Tensions escalated further when Modi openly criticized China’s Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), declaring that “connectivity loses its meaning if it bypasses sovereignty,” an unmistakable reference to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), which runs through disputed territory in Kashmir. While sovereignty concerns may be valid, raising the issue in this forum and framing it as an attack on China undermined the spirit of regional integration that the SCO seeks to promote. With over 150 countries engaged in BRI-related projects and billions of dollars in infrastructure, trade, and investment flows tied to the initiative, Modi’s remarks risked alienating not just China but many other SCO members benefiting from the program. Instead of working toward solutions that accommodate national sensitivities while promoting connectivity, India created further discord at a time when unity was critical. The most controversial moment came when Modi directly urged Russia to end its war in Ukraine, a position that not only ignored the complex dynamics of the conflict but also bypassed the fact that Ukraine is not an SCO member. By effectively assigning blame to Moscow in the presence of President Vladimir Putin, Modi politicized the forum and further strained ties within the organization. At a time when the SCO could have provided a neutral platform for dialogue, India’s unilateral positioning alienated Russia and derailed the possibility of consensus on the conflict’s broader regional and global implications. The result of these actions was the loss of extraordinary opportunities that could have reshaped Asia’s strategic landscape. The SCO Summit had the potential to create alternative financial and trade mechanisms that would protect member economies from U.S.-imposed sanctions and Trump’s punitive tariffs, including the unprecedented 50% tariffs imposed on Indian exports. A unified SCO response to such measures would have sent a strong message of resilience to Washington. The summit could also have facilitated the creation of alternative supply chain frameworks and currency settlements, boosting regional self-reliance while reducing dependency on Western-controlled systems. Furthermore, a united SCO could have collectively condemned Israel’s ongoing atrocities in Gaza and the West Bank, asserting the bloc’s moral authority and influence on one of the world’s most pressing humanitarian crises. Similarly, the fragile India-Pakistan ceasefire could have been strengthened through mediation frameworks discussed within the summit. These measures would not only have stabilized the region but also positioned the SCO as a credible alternative to NATO and other Western-led alliances in shaping global security and economic priorities.

Instead, Modi’s confrontational stance turned the summit into a political battlefield, undermining its relevance and weakening its impact. By framing India’s positions as superior and by openly criticizing both Pakistan and China while indirectly challenging Russia, Modi alienated key partners and prevented the SCO from issuing a strong, unified declaration. At a time when collective strength was essential, India’s approach exposed internal divisions and diminished the bloc’s ability to assert its influence on the global stage. This failure carries far-reaching consequences. India’s conduct risks eroding its credibility as a serious multilateral player and raises doubts among SCO members about its reliability as a partner. More importantly, the fractured summit outcome allows the United States and its Western allies to continue exploiting divisions within Asia, maintaining dominance over trade, finance, and security frameworks without facing an effective counter-balance. The inability of the SCO to deliver a cohesive strategy strengthens Washington’s hand and undermines efforts to build a multipolar global order. The SCO must now confront difficult questions about its own structure, leadership, and objectives. If the organization is to remain relevant, it needs internal checks and balances to prevent any single member from jeopardizing its collective agenda. Its focus must return to economic integration, infrastructure development, and multilateral coordination in response to Western sanctions and financial coercion. Disputes between members should be addressed diplomatically and privately, ensuring that the organization presents a united front on critical issues like trade, security, and sovereignty. The SCO Summit 2025 was a rare moment when emerging powers had the chance to reshape the balance of global power and demonstrate Asia’s capacity to define its own future. Representing over 3 billion people, the organization had the influence and authority to strengthen regional integration, reduce dependency on Western systems, and challenge global inequities. But instead of a historic breakthrough, the summit exposed the vulnerability of an organization undermined from within. By pursuing narrow domestic political agendas in an international forum, Prime Minister Modi not only weakened India’s standing but also jeopardized the SCO’s ability to act as a credible counterweight to Western power. At a time when the world faces escalating conflicts, economic fragmentation, and deepening humanitarian crises, Asia needed leadership, vision, and unity. What it received instead was division, distraction, and paralysis. Unless the SCO learns from this failure and reforms itself to ensure collective purpose and discipline, it risks becoming yet another fractured body—unable to defend the interests of its members and irrelevant in shaping the new world order.

– Press Secretary to the President (Rtd)  
Former Press Minister, Embassy of Pakistan to France  
Former Press Attache to Malaysia  
Former MD, SRBC  
Macomb, Michigan, USA

# Tariffs, Jobs and the Future of Pakistan’s Auto Industry

Abu Khaldoon

Global practices offer lessons. In New Zealand, every imported vehicle undergoes a two-stage inspection, covering odometer tampering, emissions, damage, and safety, with independent verification of repairs. In Australia, the Road Vehicle Standards framework mandates that imports comply with strict environmental and safety norms before they can even be registered

EVERY so often, a policy decision emerges that goes far beyond statistics and spreadsheets; it speaks to the very direction in which a nation’s economy is headed. Pakistan’s newly announced National Tariff Policy is one such case. By slashing customs duties on imported vehicles from the current 100–50% range to a mere 15% over five years, eliminating regulatory duties that now reach up to 90%, and phasing out additional duties, the government has taken a step that may please importers and car dealers. But for Pakistan’s domestic auto industry, this is less a “reform” and more a looming storm. The automotive sector in Pakistan is not just about cars on roads; it is an industrial backbone. It hosts 13 global brands, is supported by over 1,200 parts manufacturers, and directly sustains 1.5 million jobs. Indirectly, nearly 3 million livelihoods depend on it. More than US\$5 billion has been invested in infrastructure, technology, and tooling in recent decades. To undermine such a base with abrupt liberalization is to gamble with one of the country’s few credible industrial success stories. The revenue stakes are equally serious. At present, the government collects nearly one crore rupees in tax on a luxury vehicle costing three crore. With a fiscal deficit exceeding one trillion rupees, removing such revenue streams raises a pressing question: where will the state make up the shortfall? Even more troubling than tariff cuts is the decision to allow commercial imports of used cars. No

country with established CKD (completely knocked down) manufacturing permits this, precisely because it erodes domestic production. In Pakistan, what began as a concession for overseas Pakistanis has been systematically misused for commercial trading. The fallout is not merely economic – it fuels informal money transfers through Hundi and Hawala, inviting scrutiny from watchdogs such as FATF. Global practices offer lessons. In New Zealand, every imported vehicle undergoes a two-stage inspection, covering odometer tampering, emissions, damage, and safety, with independent verification of repairs. In Australia, the Road Vehicle Standards framework mandates that imports comply with strict environmental and safety norms before they can even be registered. Pakistan, too, could adopt a similar model: pre- and post-shipment inspections, UN-standard certifications, mandatory data exchange with exporting countries, and legally binding commitments from importers to supply spare parts and after-sales services for at least a decade. Balancing protection with competition is key. Experts recommend lowering the tax depreciation rate from 1% to 0.25% (capped at 36%), setting minimum trade prices in consultation with stakeholders, and imposing a carbon levy on older imports to align policy with environmental objectives. Duties on smaller vehicles could be rationalized to improve accessibility for the middle class without dismantling domestic capacity. The pressures on the auto sector are already im-

mense. High taxes and erratic policies have pushed new cars out of the reach of ordinary citizens. At the same time, the global transition to electric vehicles is accelerating. With China offering competitively priced EVs, Pakistani manufacturers face a dual challenge of survival and transformation. While the government’s incentives for EV adoption are welcome, these must be integrated into a policy framework that supports existing production rather than replacing it. The Pakistan Automotive Manufacturers Association (PAMA) has emphasized two demands: retaining regulatory duties to protect local industry and banning unrestricted imports of used cars. Moreover, any tariff liberalization should be gradual, giving the sector time to build competitiveness instead of being blindsided by a flood of cheaper imports. This is not about resisting globalization. South Korea, Thailand, and China all nurtured their auto sectors through phased liberalization, protecting domestic industries until they were mature enough to face global markets. Pakistan, with its modest volumes and fragile economics, is not yet in that position. The choice is stark: pursue abrupt liberalization that dismantles decades of investment and jeopardizes millions of jobs, or adopt a balanced path that preserves industrial strength while preparing for the mobility future. For policymakers, the lesson is clear. Protect domestic industry today, and you secure not only jobs and investment but also the foundation of industrial resilience for generations to come.



## Briefs

## Pakistan, China ink joint action...

FROM PAGE 01  
He also expressed Pakistan's intention to soon issue Panda Bonds in the Chinese capital market. Highlighting economic co-operation, the Prime Minister underscored the major contribution of CPEC—an important project under President Xi's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)—to Pakistan's socio-economic development over the past decade. He emphasized the need for the early operationalization of Gwadar Port, the restructuring of the Karakoram Highway, and the upgrading of the ML-1 railway line. Both sides agreed to work together on the upgraded/Phase-II of CPEC, including five new corridors. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif stressed the vast potential for business-to-business cooperation and investment, informing the Chinese Premier about the upcoming Investment Conference in Beijing, where over 300 Pakistani and 500 Chinese companies are participating. He identified agriculture, mining and minerals, textiles, industry, and IT as priority sectors for mutually beneficial economic cooperation.

## Digital currency to get legal...

FROM PAGE 01  
The Bill aimed to regulate virtual assets following established International practices. It was also informed that the given Virtual Assets Authority will play a key role in combating money laundering, terror financing and other illicit activities. The Senate panel was informed that virtual assets are an evolving component of the modern financial ecosystem, offering new opportunities for innovation, investment, and economic growth. However, they also present significant regulatory challenges, particularly in ensuring investor protection, market transparency and the integrity of financial systems. To address these challenges, a dedicated regulatory arm for the licensing and supervision of Virtual Asset Service Providers (VASPs) is essential. Such an oversight mechanism not only safeguards investors but also fosters innovation, mitigates risks of misuse and promotes confidence in the virtual asset market.

## KP continues to reel under terror as...

FROM PAGE 01  
The military's media wing in its statement had said that five armed assailants attempted to breach the facility's perimeter and later rammed an explosive-laden vehicle into the boundary wall, causing a part of it to collapse. In the operation that followed, security forces gunned down five terrorists. According to a report released by the Pakistan Institute for Conflict and Security Studies (PICSS), an Islamabad-based think tank, the country witnessed 78 terrorist attacks during June, which resulted in at least 100 deaths. Among the fatalities were 53 security personnel, 39 civilians, six militants, and two members of local peace committees. A total of 189 people were injured, including 126 members of the security forces and 63 civilians.

## UK Announces..

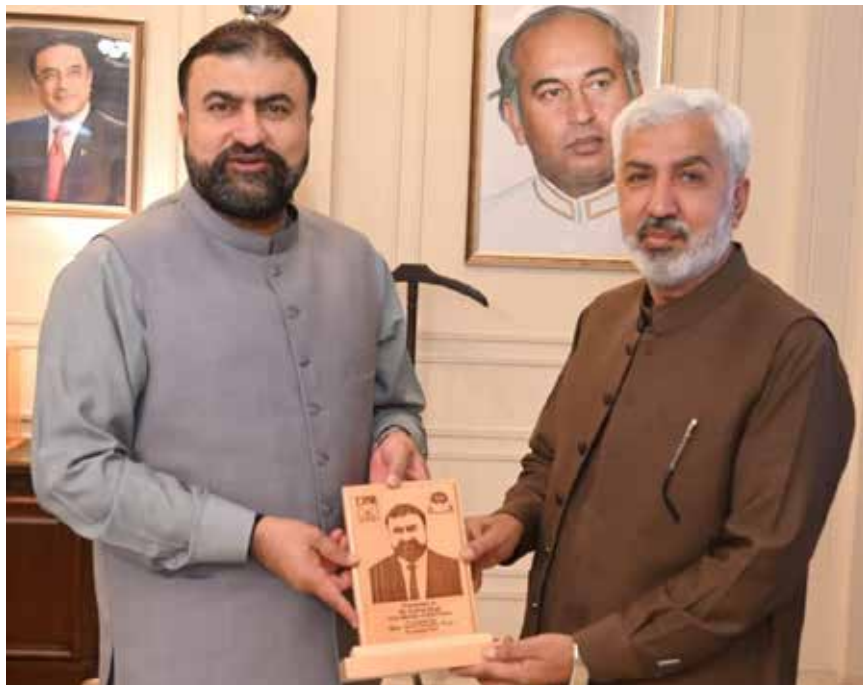
FROM PAGE 01  
• Identification of vulnerable households requiring urgent assistance  
• Pre-positioning of essential relief supplies and live-stock protection  
• Preparation and readiness of evacuation centres  
British High Commissioner to Pakistan, Jane Marriott CMG, OBE, underlined the importance of timely action. She said: "Sindh is in a critical window to prepare and reduce the impact of the upcoming floods. For every dollar spent on prevention, up to seven dollars are saved in response. More importantly, lives are saved, and destruction is avoided."

## Balochistan CM, President PHF discuss hockey uplift

*Mir Tariq Hussain Bugti expressed his gratitude to the Chief Minister, voicing his hope that the Balochistan government's support would continue. He emphasized that this collaboration is crucial for the growth of hockey not only in Balochistan but throughout entire country*

## DNA

QUETTA: In a significant meeting at the Chief Minister's House in Balochistan, Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF) President Mir Tariq Hussain Bugti met with Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti. The discussion centered on the progress of Pakistan's national hockey team and its participation in the Pro League.



During the meeting, the PHF President briefed the Chief Minister on the team's performance and recent activities. Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti extended his congratulations to the Pakistan Hockey Federation, commending the current leadership for their commendable role in promoting and developing Pakistan hockey both domestically and on the international stage. He also praised the players' recent performance, describing it as "laudable." The Chief Minister affirmed that the Balochistan government would continue to provide full support for the advancement of hockey in the region. Mir Tariq Hussain Bugti expressed his gratitude to the Chief Minister, voicing his hope that the Balochistan government's support would continue. He emphasized that this collaboration is crucial for the growth of hockey not only in Balochistan but throughout the entire country. At the conclusion of the meeting, PHF President Mir Tariq Hussain Bugti presented Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti with a souvenir.

## 'Biggest' Women's Asian Cup can help drive change, says top official

HONG KONG: Next year's Women's Asian Cup can help break down barriers for women in the region, a lead organiser told AFP, saying it will be the biggest tournament in its history. Australia will host the 12-team competition on March 1-21, having successfully staged the FIFA Women's World Cup in 2023 along with New Zealand. That competition broke records on and off the pitch while women's football has boomed in Europe, with this summer's continental championships in Switzerland played out to unprecedented crowds. Sarah Walsh, an Australian former international player and now chief operating officer of the local organising committee for next year's tournament, admitted that Asia is playing catch-up in that respect. Some countries in the region are lagging when it comes to gender equality in society, but football can play a part. "Any time we platform women, particularly on broadcast, or in the centre of the pitch when there's 40,000 people watching, absolutely (it can have a wider impact)," Walsh said on the sidelines of a Hong Kong football conference. "There are still inequalities in Australia, and I think that platforming the

Matildas on the world stage and where 75 percent of Australians watch has a significant impact on social attitudes towards women. "So when you think about that, of course it can also do it in other countries," she added. "(Football) has that ability to progress things by putting women at the forefront." The Australian women's team, the Matildas, reached the semi-finals of their home World Cup two years ago and regularly draw sell-out crowds, even for friendlies. Their last-four defeat to England in Sydney was attended by 76,000 spectators while 11 million people – out of a population of 27 million – tuned in to watch. There is no concern about the locals turning out en masse again in March for the Matildas, but Walsh knows that "it will be challenging to fill out the stadiums" for some other games. "Europe is leading the way with the Euros, but I think that we have a lot of catching up to do as well," said Walsh. As well as the Matildas, Japan, North Korea and title-holders China will all be serious contenders. At the other end of the scale, Bangladesh are at the Women's Asian Cup for the first time. "I spend more of my time thinking

about this than anything else," said Walsh about how the tournament can replicate the kinds of crowds and interest generated by the European equivalent. Organisers have multiple solutions, including drawing on Australia's multi-cultural communities. Early ticket sales have been promising, said Walsh. She told the World Football Summit in Hong Kong on Wednesday that next year's 21st edition "will absolutely be the biggest Women's Asian Cup ever". But Walsh said a one-off successful tournament, including strong television audiences in Asia, is just the start. "You only have to look at the investment that's happening, particularly in the Middle East, and how we think that might translate to women's football," she said, adding that while Saudi Arabia will not be at this Asian Cup, "it's just a matter of time." "It's all moving in the right direction," she said. We have a responsibility as hosts – and also in my role on the AFC (Asian) women's committee – to make sure that this isn't just 21 days of fun but that we are progressing the development of the countries that are playing in the finals... – APP

## Proposed Schedule for South Africa's tour of Pakistan Unveiled

*South Africa Set for Full Pakistan Tour in 2025 Featuring Tests, ODIs, and T20Is*

ISLAMABAD: International cricket in Pakistan is set for another major boost as the Men in Green will officially host South Africa for a full series, with the tentative schedule of the upcoming tour now released. The Proteas will play two Tests, three ODIs, and three T20Is in October and November 2025, marking their first Test appearance on Pakistani soil in more than four years. According to the proposed schedule, the two Tests are slated for October 12–16 and October 20–24, with the limited overs leg to follow from 28th of October. ODIs are scheduled for 28, 30 October and 2nd of November with T20Is taking place on 5, 8 and 9th of November. Exact venues will be finalized in consultation with the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) but Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium, Iqbal Cricket Stadium in Faisalabad, Multan Cricket Stadium and Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore are in the running. This will be South Africa's second trip to Pakistan in 2025 after participating in the February tri nation series alongside New Zealand. However, the upcoming series carries far greater weight, particularly the Tests, given South Africa's imposing record in the format. The defending World Test Champions will open their title defense against Shan Masood's side in their first assignment of the new cycle. Pakistan will have to overcome history against South Africa if they are to make this Proteas tour memorable. South Africa have dominated this rivalry, winning 17 of the 30 Tests played against Pakistan. The hosts have managed only six victories, with seven games ending in a stalemate. – APP

## Talk of 'hybrid system'...

FROM PAGE 01  
admit it, adding that they could not blame anyone else and that this had kept happening throughout the country's history. Justice Minallah said that, as per the oath, judges had to impartially decide cases in accordance with the law and defend the Constitution without fear or favour, adding that the judiciary at all levels was bound to the oath and answerable to God and the people. He explained that if there was a lack of constitutional governance in the country and he, as a judge, did nothing about it, he would not only be violating the Constitution but also his oath. "Unfortunately, we are taught distorted history, and no one tells us the truth. Our generation did whatever it could do; the most we can do now is to hand over the baton to you and at least tell you the truth."

## ECP postpones Punjab...

FROM PAGE 01  
It noted that rescue and relief operations were also underway with various civil administration and law enforcement agencies engaged in evacuations and aid delivery, adding that officials had also informed it of the non-availability of polling staff. The ECP said the provincial government had requested it to postpone the polls. "The commission by taking into consideration the issues highlighted herein above has come to the conclusion that due to non-availability of polling staff, requisite number of law-enforcing personnel, damage of infrastructure, disenfranchisement of voters due to displacement, election cannot be ensured with the optimum level of security as mandated under Article 218(3) of the Constitution."

## Death toll from Punjab floods...

FROM PAGE 01  
The Multan Electric Power Company (Mepco) has established around 100 flood relief camps to aid consumers amid severe flooding. "Staff are available night and day to address consumer complaints and provide assistance," a statement read. Mepco added that power supply has been suspended in flooded areas to protect 96,537 consumers. "We have closed 137 feeder branches under safety SOPs due to floodwater," the statement read. "There is uninterrupted power supply in 13 districts and teams are monitoring the situation around-the-clock."

## US 'strongly condemns'..

FROM PAGE 01  
and in the global fight against terrorism." On Tuesday night, the political rally in Balochistan capital was targeted by a suicide attack in a busy area near Shahwani Stadium, leaving more than a dozen dead and nearly 38 wounded. The provincial government formed an investigation committee to probe the incident. With the Balochistan Chief Minister Sarfraz Bugti directing the authorities to shift the wounded to Karachi if needed, President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif issued strong condemnations over the terror attack targeting the BNP's political gathering.

## NDMA warns of...

FROM PAGE 01  
Punjab and Sindh, as well as some parts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, are at heightened risk due to ongoing rainfall and potential flooding. She further emphasized that the threat could persist until mid-September, urging authorities and residents in these areas to remain vigilant and take necessary precautions to minimize the risk of damage and loss of life. She explained that while the rainfall intensity may lessen, the release of additional water from Indian rivers could still pose a threat of flooding in these areas, urging local authorities and residents to stay alert until mid-September.

## Lionel Messi final World Cup qualifier grabs the spotlight

Argentina's Lionel Messi passes the ball during a training session ahead of a World Cup 2026 qualifying football match against Venezuela, at the Argentina Soccer Association in Buenos Aires Tuesday

## SPORT DESK

BUENOS AIRES: Lionel Messi is set to play his final World Cup qualifier in Argentina on Thursday, while four South American teams are still competing for the remaining automatic places at the 2026 tournament in what could be a dramatic climax. The 38-year-old Argentina captain will take to the pitch at the Monumental Stadium in Buenos Aires to face Venezuela in what he describes as a very special match, with his family set to be in attendance, including his wife, children, parents and siblings. "It's going to be very special for me because it will be my last qualifying match. I don't know if there will be friendlies or more matches after that," the eight-times Ballon d'Or winner said last week. Argentina coach Lionel Scaloni told reporters on Wednesday that it was "going to be emotional, special and beautiful." "If it really is the last qualifying match, we have to enjoy it," he said. While Argentina have secured their World Cup berth, topping the table in South America's qualifying competition with 35 points, three automatic qualification spots are still to be determined ahead of Thursday's fixtures and the final matchday on Sept. 9. Ecuador and Brazil are already qualified with 25 points, followed by Uruguay and Paraguay with 24 points each and Colombia with 22 points. Venezuela with 18 points remain in contention, chasing a first World Cup appearance. Ecuador's remarkable recovery stands as one of the



campaign's most compelling storylines, having overcome a three-point penalty for a player eligibility issue to successfully secure qualification. Brazil's journey has been far bumpy, marked by coaching upheaval that saw Dorival Junior replaced following a 4-1 away defeat to Argentina, after which Carlo Ancelotti made his debut in a goalless draw with Ecuador. The qualifying cycle has produced many memorable moments, such as Colombia's first-ever World Cup qualifying win over Brazil when they earned a stunning 2-1 victory in Barranquilla in November 2023. Uruguay also bade an emotional farewell to their captain, Luis Suarez, who retired from international football during the 0-0 draw with Paraguay in September 2024.

## Pakistan's Shoaib Khan Zehri to face Indian rival in UBO World title clash

*Quetta-born boxer says his ultimate goal is to bring glory to country*

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani professional boxer Shoaib Khan Zehri is set to represent the country in the upcoming Boxing Organisation (UBO) World title bout in Turkiye, where he will go up against Indian opponent Thakur Kumar. The historic clash is scheduled to take place in Turkiye on September 27. Zehri will be Pakistan's sole representative in the prestigious event, marking a significant milestone in the nation's 76-year boxing history. The Quetta-born boxer expressed his determination ahead of the highly anticipated contest, saying that his ultimate goal is to bring glory to the country. "I will give my best to raise Pakistan's flag high," Shoaib said. "This fight is about Pakistan's honour. I am fully prepared and confident of beating my opponent," he added. The 27-year-old boxer also underlined the dedication and hard work he has put into his training camp. "I have trained hard for this challenge. My focus is on discipline, endurance and strategy," he said. "The youth from Balochistan and from all over Pakistan look up to me, and I want to show them that with commitment and hard work nothing is impossible," he concluded.

In recognition of his achievements, the Balochistan Police recently appointed Zehri as its goodwill ambassador. He was also conferred the honorary rank of Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) by Inspector General of Police Moazzam Jah Ansari on February 19. Notably, he is the second athlete from the province to be given this honour, following fast bowler Naseem Shah.

Zehri's accolades include being a WBC gold medalist, Asian Boxing Federation (ABF) Asian Champion, and Pakistan Boxing Council (PBC) national champion. He also heads Chief SKZ Promotion. The 27-year-old maintains an unbeaten professional record with six wins, one draw, and one cancelled bout. Zehri has steadily built a reputation as a disciplined



and technically gifted boxer. His latest victory came on November 8, 2024, at the Fitbox Fighting Championship, where he outclassed Ziaullah Amin to secure a unanimous decision. He defeated Muhammad Bilal in September last year at the Boxing Fight Show, again winning by unanimous decision. Zehri also convincingly beat Sajid Khan in January 2024 in a bout titled Shoaib vs Khan. Although his scheduled fight against Anocha Phuangkaew in March 2023 was cancelled, his 2022 campaign showcased his rise on the international stage. On November 30, 2022, he defeated Indonesia's Hendrik Barongsay via unanimous decision in The Challenger event. Two months prior, on September 28, 2022, Zehri secured a third-round victory over Thailand's Sorrnarn Sopakul in Fight of the Future. He also fought to a split draw against Irfan Ullah on July 31, 2022, at New Friend's Professional Boxing Fight Night – the only blemish on his otherwise flawless record. On June 10, 2022, he faced Ali Raza in the Khan vs Farooq event, where he impressed with a composed unanimous decision victory. – Agencies



## Briefs

Rupee gains  
04 paise  
against US  
Dollar

ISLAMABAD: The Rupee on Wednesday appreciated by 04 paise against the US Dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 281.66 against the previous day's closing Rs 281.70. However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs 282.4 and Rs 283.2, respectively. The price of the Euro decreased by 04 paise to close at Rs 328.29 against the last day's closing of Rs 328.33, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). The Japanese yen remained unchanged and closed at Rs 1.89, whereas an increase of 76 paise was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which was traded at Rs 378.50 compared to the previous day's closing of Rs 377.74. The exchange rates of the Emirates Dirham and the Saudi Riyal declined by 01 paise each to close at Rs76.68 and Rs75.06, respectively. \_APP

Gold, silver  
rates remain  
unchanged

ISLAMABAD: The prices of gold and silver remained unchanged in the local market on Thursday, according to the latest data released by the All Pakistan Sarafa Gems and Jewellers Association. The price of 24-karat gold per tola stood firm at Rs. 376,700, while the price of 10 grams of 24-karat gold also remained static at Rs. 322,959. Similarly, 22-karat gold per 10 grams continued to be traded at Rs. 296,056 without any fluctuation. In the international market, gold prices showed stability as well, with gold holding at US\$3,540 per ounce. The local silver market also reported no change. The price of 24-karat silver per tola was recorded at Rs. 4,315, and 10 grams of silver remained unchanged at Rs. 3,699. The international silver rate stood at US\$40.82 per ounce. \_APP

UK sanctions  
target  
Russians  
linked to  
deportation  
of Ukrainian  
children

LONDON: Britain on Wednesday imposed sanctions on 11 more individuals and entities affiliated with the Russian state, targeting those involved in what it said were Moscow's attempts to forcibly deport and indoctrinate Ukraine's children. Ukraine says that more than 19,500 children have been taken to Russia or Russian-occupied territory during the war without the consent of family or guardians, calling the abductions a war crime that meets the UN treaty definition of genocide. Moscow has said it was protecting vulnerable children from a war zone. "The Kremlin's policy of forced deportations, indoctrination and militarization of Ukrainian children is despicable," foreign minister David Lammy said in a statement, setting out Britain's latest round of sanctions against Russia for the war in Ukraine. Organizations such as the Akhmat Kadyrov Foundation which runs re-education programs for Ukrainian children and teenagers, subjecting them to militaristic training, and its president, Aymani Nesienna Kadyrova, are among those targeted, the statement said. The sanctions include asset freezes, travel bans and other penalties. The Russian embassy in London said the sanctions were unlawful and based on "unfounded claims" from Ukraine about the forcible transfer of children. "We call upon the UK authorities to refrain from making baseless accusations in future and to avoid hindering the efforts aimed at protecting the rights and interests of minors," it said in a post on social media. In March, a report by the United Nations Human Rights Office said Russia had inflicted unimaginable suffering on millions of Ukrainian children and violated their rights since its full scale invasion of Ukraine began in 2022. \_APP

## ICCI, NAVTTC partners to equip youth with market-relevant skills

ICCI President Nasir Mansoor Qureshi appreciated NAVTTC's transformative role in reshaping Pakistan's technical and vocational training sector

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Chairperson National Vocational and Technical Training Commission (NAVTTC) Gulmina Bilal Ahmad Thursday said that the Commission has launched multiple initiatives to equip youth with market-relevant skills and empower women in trades traditionally dominated by men. The Chairperson accompanied by Suleman Mirza, Director NSIS, and Zeeshan Ali of Takamol, visited Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) and held a meeting with ICCI President Nasir Mansoor Qureshi, said a press release issued by ICCI.

The meeting also included a delegation of overseas promoters led by Faheem Iqbal, Chairman Pakistan Overseas Employment Promoters Association (POEPA), along with Umar Hannan Qureshi, Convener Export of Manpower and Overseas Pakistanis Committee at ICCI.

The discussion focused on the problems faced by overseas promoters and explored a way forward to ensure smooth facilitation of manpower export.

Chairperson Gulmina Bilal Ahmad highlighted that NAVTTC has launched multiple initiatives to equip youth with market-relevant skills and empower women in trades traditionally dominated by men. She credited the Prime Minister's personal interest in Pakistan's skilling agenda as a driving force behind its nationwide impact. She further explained that NAVTTC, in collaboration with Takamol, ensures that Pakistani workers meet Saudi employment



requirements through mandatory skill verification tests conducted at approved centers in Pakistan.

NAVTTC plays a key role in facilitating this process to align with international standards. She assured that the genuine concerns of overseas promoters would be addressed and stressed that ICCI-NAVTTC collaboration will help impart skills demanded in international markets.

Speaking on the occasion, ICCI President Nasir Mansoor Qureshi appreciated NAVTTC's transformative role in reshaping Pakistan's technical and vocational training

sector. He emphasized that close collaboration between NAVTTC and the business community is crucial to developing a workforce aligned with industry and global market needs.

He assured ICCI's full cooperation in promoting training programs that enhance youth employment, empower women, and facilitate international labor mobility, particularly to Saudi Arabia, China, and other markets. He also offered ICCI's support for hosting joint programs, awareness sessions, and training workshops for the business community and youth.

Earlier, Faheem Iqbal and Umar Hannan Qureshi raised the concerns of overseas promoters, pointing to delays in approvals, irrational procedures, and the need to abolish the trade test requirement for loaders and unloaders by NAVTTC. They urged for reforms to facilitate manpower export and reduce bottlenecks. The meeting concluded with a mutual understanding that strengthened coordination between NAVTTC and ICCI will help streamline processes, resolve the issues of promoters, and better prepare Pakistan's workforce for overseas employment opportunities.

Pakistan embassy hosts talk by  
German historian Ursula

ABU DHABI: Pakistan Embassy in Abu Dhabi organized an engaging talk with Ms. Ursula Perlwitz, a distinguished German historian and traveler. Born on 23 May 1934 in Hamburg, Ms. Perlwitz resided in Karachi from 1963 to 1968 during her husband's posting with Lufthansa. With a passion for archaeology and languages, she has travelled extensively across Europe, Africa, and Asia. The discussion session was moderated by Dr. Saba Karim Khan, New York University Abu Dhabi. The event was attended by ambassadors & diplomats from various missions and members of the Pakistani community. In her remarks, Ms. Perlwitz fondly recalled her time in Pakistan, highlighting her extensive travels to all parts of Pakistan including Lahore, Islamabad, Peshawar, the beautiful northern areas, and former East Pakistan. She spoke of her fascination with Mughal art, her collection of miniature paintings, and her visits to historic sites such as Mohenjo-Daro and Harappa. Recalling the kindness and hospi-



talities of the Pakistani people, she said, "I was curious to go there and was very happy, and I loved it all. Pakistan's culture, cuisine, and strong women left a deep impression on me. Pakistan Zindabad!". During the interactive discussion, she candidly answered questions and expressed her desire to visit Pa-

kistan again soon. Ambassador Faisal Niaz Tirmizi thanked Ms. Perlwitz for sharing her rich experiences and cherished memories of Pakistan. "Your talk beautifully reflects your happiness and the kindness you found in Pakistan. You were a most charming lady then, as you are now, with a heart of immense beauty. —Agencies

Arab leaders put  
Palestine at center  
of Arab League  
ministerial talks

DUBAI: Palestine dominated the agenda as Arab League foreign ministers met in Cairo on Thursday, with leaders calling for an end to Israeli settlement activity and reiterating support for the establishment of a Palestinian state.

The session focused on efforts to persuade more Western countries to recognize Palestinian statehood and to halt what ministers described as "Israeli aggression against the Gaza Strip. UAE Minister of State Khalifa bin Shaheen Al-Marr urged an immediate end to "displacement and colonization in Palestinian territories," adding that the UAE has presented an official roadmap for establishing a Palestinian state. He also underscored the importance of stability in Libya and Syria, welcomed Lebanon's decision to restrict weapons to state control, and called on the international community to shoulder its responsibilities toward Yemen. Al-Marr further pressed for greater Arab economic cooperation, expanded partnerships, and a unified stance on peace and counter-terrorism at what he described as "a very dangerous moment" in the region. Jordanian Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi echoed the centrality of Palestine, describing joint Arab action as "a necessity that should be placed at the top of our priorities." He reaffirmed Jordan's support for Lebanon's stability and Syria's reconstruction while warning against "plans to divide" Syria. nArab League Secretary-General Ahmed Aboul Gheit delivered some of the strongest remarks, condemning Israeli policies and voicing support for Palestine, Lebanon, and Sudan.—DNA

UAE, South  
Africa discuss  
strengthening  
investment  
ties

ABU DHABI: Dr. Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, Minister of Foreign Trade, met with the South African Business Council in the UAE to discuss strategies for ways to increase trade, investment, and private sector collaboration between the two nations. The meeting underscored the UAE's commitment to strengthening its economic relationships with African nations, recognising the continent's increasing importance in global trade dynamics. During the discussions, Al Zeyoudi highlighted the impressive growth in trade between the UAE and South Africa, noting that the UAE's non-oil foreign trade with South Africa reached US\$8.5 billion in 2024 – a 14% increase compared to 2023 and a substantial 120% growth since 2019.

This trade boom continued in the first half of 2025, with non-oil bilateral trade reached US\$3.93 billion. South Africa is the UAE's second-largest non-oil trade partner on the African continent, reflecting the considerable potential and opportunities that exist for both nations' private sectors to further expand relations.

"The UAE is committed to enhancing its economic partnership with South Africa," Al Zeyoudi stated. "Today's discussions were focused on encouraging new avenues for private sector collaboration that will benefit both our nations. We are particularly excited about projects related to food security, logistics, infrastructure, tourism, and renewable energy in South Africa and across the continent. By working together, we continue to unlock new opportunities that not only drive economic growth but also contribute to the sustainable development of all our nations."—APP

Ex-first lady  
stripped of  
teaching  
license

SEOUL: Former first lady Kim Keon Hee has been stripped of her teaching license after a private university canceled her master's degree earlier this year, education officials said Thursday. The Seoul Metropolitan Office of Education (SMOE) has recently revoked Kim's teaching certificate after completing the relevant procedures, such as a hearing, they said. Kim, who is now detained at the Seoul Southern Detention Center, did not attend the hearing or submit any statement of opinion, they added. The SMOE has informed Kim, through the detention center, to review the hearing results and transcripts. The revocation will be finalized if she does not appeal the results. In June, Sookmyung Women's University in Seoul canceled Kim's master's degree earned from its Graduate School of Education due to thesis plagiarism. She had obtained her teaching certificate based on her master's degree in education. \_APP

PSX gains  
463 more  
points

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Stock Exchange's (PSX) benchmark KSE-100 Index continued with bullish trend on Thursday, gaining 463.85 more points, a positive change of 0.30 percent, closing at 152,665.72 points against 152,201.88 points last trading day.

A total of 954,327,333 shares were traded during the day as compared to 1,043,232,122 shares the previous trading day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs 46.053 billion against Rs 51.308 billion on the last trading day. As many as 480 companies transacted their shares in the stock market, 208 of them recorded gains and 240 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 32 companies remained unchanged. The three top trading companies were Bank of Punjab with 99,494,831 shares at Rs 18.36 per share, K-Electric Limited with 45,314,206 shares at Rs5.34 per share and Pak International Bulk with 38,556,661 shares at Rs13.44 per share. Hoechst Pakistan Limited witnessed a maximum increase of Rs 101.89 per share price, closing at Rs 4,101.27, whereas the runnerup was Sitara Chemical Industries Limited with Rs72.52 rise in its per share price to Rs797.70.—APP

Belarus, Uzbekistan  
to set up joint foreign  
trade company

VITEBSK, Sep 4 (BefTA/APP): Belarus and Uzbekistan are working on the creation of a joint specialized foreign trade company with offices in Minsk and Tashkent, Uzbekistan's Deputy Minister of Investments, Industry and Trade Khurram Teshabayev said during the plenary session at the 3rd Belarus-Uzbekistan Women's Business Forum in Vitebsk. He stressed that Uzbekistan places particular importance to strengthening trade and economic cooperation with Belarus. "Thanks to active, open, and constructive dialogue, interaction between our countries is showing steady and consistent growth. Over the past year, Belarus-Uzbekistan cooperation has been gaining momentum in all areas," Khurram Teshabayev said. "In order to further develop trade with our Belarusian partners, we are working on the creation of a joint specialized foreign trade company with offices in Minsk and Tashkent and trading houses featuring permanent showrooms. This measure will ensure more effective promotion of products in the markets of both countries, simplify logistics and customs procedures, and reduce delivery times and costs for participants in foreign economic activity". BefTA has learned Another area for effective and productive cooperation is agriculture. Uzbekistan is interested in advanced technologies, efficient agricultural solutions used in Belarus. The country hopes to deepen cooperation in the processing of agricultural products and their export.—APP



Beijing : Minister for Industry and Information Technology of People's Republic of China, Li Lecheng calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif

Palestinian govt warns of deepening  
health crisis amid Israeli genocidal war

RAMALLAH: The Government of Palestine warns of the grave and mounting consequences of the ongoing Israeli genocidal war and siege on the Gaza Strip, attacks by the Israeli occupation forces and colonial-settlers across the West Bank, as well as the financial strangulation imposed by the Israeli occupation on the State of Palestine, particularly impacting the health sector, which has now driven the Ministry of Health's accumulated debt to more than \$912 million, paralyzing the sector's ability to secure life-saving medicines, medical consumables, and essential services.

In the Gaza Strip, the situation is nothing short of catastrophic. Israel's ongoing genocidal war has deliberately dismantled the health system, reducing hospitals and medical infrastructure to ruins. Coupled with a total and suffocating Israeli siege that blocks the entry of food, medicine, and life-saving supplies, and reinforced by a systematic policy of starvation, this has produced an unparalleled humanitarian disaster. The few hospitals that remain partially functional are unable to provide even the most basic services. Children—our people's future—are the most affected, as they will bear the scars of starvation, deprivation, and denial of treatment, for decades to come, as they continue to bear the brunt of Israel's grave violations that threaten their lives, health,

and natural growth.

In the West Bank, the Israeli occupation's financial strangulation—directly resulting from Israel's ongoing withholding of Palestinian clearance revenues and the deliberate suffocation of public finances—is endangering the very foundations of healthcare delivery. The debt burden has left over 110 essential medicines and 170 categories of medical consumables and laboratory materials at zero stock, forcing thousands of patients to be referred to private and non-governmental hospitals, already suffering their own financial crises, effectively increasing the medical referral bill and purchasing of services. Patients with chronic diseases, such as diabetes, hypertension, heart and kidney disease, face life-threatening deterioration due to the lack of essential medicines and the inability to receive proper treatment. The absence of adequate medical care will have long-term consequences, leaving them to suffer life-long and irreversible consequences. The financial crisis for non-governmental hospitals is particularly evident in East Jerusalem hospitals, especially Al-Maqasid and Augusta Victoria, two of the most vital centers for cancer treatment and specialized care, and among the largest referral centers for the Ministry of Health patients. Their ability to operate is now at risk, endangering the

lives of countless patients who rely on their services. The Government reiterates that the Israeli genocidal war, siege, and financial strangulation are not only crippling the Palestinian healthcare system but also constitutes a direct threat to patient safety and the continuity of critical health services across Palestine.

The Government calls on the international community, Arab states, and donor partners to urgently intervene to: Pressure the Israeli occupation to halt its genocidal war on the Gaza Strip; Lift the siege and open Gaza's border crossings, allowing for the unimpeded entry of food, medicines and supplies; Enable the reconstruction and reactivation of Gaza's devastated health system; Pressure the Israeli occupation to release the withheld Palestinian tax revenues; Provide direct financial support to cover the accumulated debts of the Ministry of Health. Immediately replenish depleted stocks of medicines and medical supplies. Sustain the financial lifeline of Palestinian hospitals and referral centers.

The Government underscores that the right to health is a fundamental human right under international law, and the international community bears both a moral and legal responsibility to ensure that Palestinian patients are not denied access to essential healthcare due to the Israeli occupation's collective punishment measures.—Agencies



## Briefs

## 'Pink and green' protests call for a reset in Indonesia

JAKARTA: RESET SYSTEM" reads graffiti above an intersection in the Javanese city of Yogyakarta, painted hastily in vibrant green and pink after deadly protests swept Indonesia last week. Pink and green have quickly come to symbolise a solidarity movement after violent protests, sparked by discontent over economic inequality and lavish perks for lawmakers, rocked Southeast Asia's biggest economy. In the capital Jakarta, office worker Dila paused at her desk to apply a bright green and pink filter to her Instagram and WhatsApp profile pictures. "What we need now is solidarity among each other... because there's still a long way to go," said 28-year-old Dila, who declined to give her full name. Pink represents the colour of the hijab worn by a woman who stood outside the House of Representatives to protest, waving the national flag in defiance of police guarding the building. Green has come to symbolise 21-year-old delivery driver Affan Kurniawan, who was run over by an armoured paramilitary police vehicle and whose death stoked anger among workers who face big pay deductions and longer working hours. — APP

## Azerbaijan joins Türkiye's Ministerial Declaration

BAKU: As part of the visit to Türkiye, an Azerbaijani delegation led by Anar Aliyev, Azerbaijan's Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of the Population, met with Mahinur Özdemir Göktas, Minister of Family and Social Services of the brotherly country. During the meeting, the parties underscored that thanks to the Azerbaijani and Turkish Presidents' efforts, the relations between the two countries have been elevated to the level of strategic alliance. The two hailed the successful cooperation and constant development of ties in the field of social services between Azerbaijan and Türkiye. Anar Aliyev stated that the Ministerial Declaration on Foster Family, developed by the Turkish Ministry of Family and Social Services, serves as a crucial support for promoting the growth of children in a family environment. The minister highlighted the Declaration's role as a platform for international cooperation to improve foster care systems and expressed gratitude for the initiative. Noting the purposeful collaboration in social services and particularly within the context of the foster family model, Mahinur Özdemir Göktas emphasized that the consistent exchange of experiences is crucial. — APP

## Security guarantees sought by Ukraine 'danger' to Europe

MOSCOW: Russia said Thursday that the security guarantees sought by Kyiv were "guarantees of danger to the European continent", ahead of talks between Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky and European leaders on such assurances. The summit in Paris will be co-chaired by the leaders of France and the UK and aims to pile pressure on Russian President Vladimir Putin following a series of failed attempts to reach a ceasefire in the over three-year conflict. "The ideas of the Kyiv leader, which are essentially a carbon copy of the initiatives of European sponsors... are absolutely unacceptable," Moscow's foreign ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said. During a speech on the sidelines of an economic forum in Russia's far east, Zakharova called Ukraine's hoped-for guarantees "a springboard for terror, for provocations against our country". — APP

## MALAYSIAN FOOD FESTIVAL AT ISLAMABAD SERENA HOTEL



ISLAMABAD: High Commissioner of Malaysia Dato Azhar bin Mazlan, General Manager Islamabad Serena Hotel Christoph Hoefflich and others cutting ribbon to open Malaysian Food Festival, at Islamabad Serena Hotel. The food festival will continue till September 10. — DNA

## FBR proceeds against its officers involved in corruption

Based on a digital audit and internal investigations, FBR identified the user IDs through which the fraud was committed. As a result, on 9th July, 2025, FBR suspended one Deputy Collector and one Assistant Collector, whose credentials had been misused in the commission of this crime

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: In pursuit of its ongoing transformation agenda, the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) continues to prioritize transparency, accountability, and institutional integrity. A key pillar of this reform effort is the establishment of internal checks and a policy of zero tolerance towards corrupt practices. This includes profiling of FBR's workforce based on integrity and initiating disciplinary and criminal action where needed. It may be recalled that in order to strengthen control mechanisms and prevent the misuse of auctioned vehicles, FBR in August 2021 introduced the 'Auction Module' in its WeBOC system. This system enhancement was aimed at addressing the issue of multiple vehicles being registered against documents issued by Customs after the

auction of confiscated smuggled vehicles. Through this module, Motor Registration Authorities (MRAs) were enabled to verify auctioned vehicle details online before registration, significantly reducing reliance on paper-based manual verifications. The goal was to both strengthen institutional controls and facilitate legitimate buyers. However, despite these reforms, reports emerged in July 2025 regarding misuse of the aforementioned Auction Module. In response, FBR immediately initiated an inquiry into the matter. Since the module's launch, details of 1,909 vehicles had been uploaded into the system. Upon detailed scrutiny, it was discovered that 103 of these vehicles had been fraudulently uploaded using fake user identities. MRAs had already registered 43 out of these 103 smuggled vehicles, effectively granting them an appearance of legal clearance.

Based on a digital audit and internal investigations, FBR identified the user IDs through which the fraud was committed. As a result, on 9th July, 2025, FBR suspended one Deputy Collector and one Assistant Collector, whose credentials had been misused in the commission of this crime. The investigation further revealed that this was part of a wider criminal racket involving officials from MRAs and car dealers. Recognizing the gravity of the issue, FBR determined that the matter warranted action beyond internal disciplinary proceedings. Accordingly, a formal request by FBR was made on 9th July, 2025 for the constitution of a Joint Investigation Committee (JIT), comprising senior officers from the FIA, Customs, and Intelligence Agencies. The JIT was tasked with a comprehensive probe into the scam, including the manipulation of

the Customs digital system.

Following FBR's formal complaint to FIA dated 10th July, 2025, the JIT commenced its investigation. As a result, on 28th August, 2025, the FIA lodged an FIR against already identified officers, after being found involved in fraudulently legalizing smuggled vehicles. Today, these individuals have been formally arrested by FIA. It is also pertinent to mention that Customs Enforcement has so far lodged seven FIRs and arrested 13 individuals in connection with this broader scam. This action sends a clear and firm signal that the criminal elements within the organization will be identified, exposed, and proceeded against in accordance with the law. FBR remains fully committed to holding its officers accountable and ensuring that the integrity of public service is upheld at all levels and at all costs.

## Turkey bans concert by French singer

ISTANBUL: Turkish authorities Wednesday said they have banned a planned concert Friday in Istanbul by Enrico Macias after calls to protest the French singer's pro-Israeli views. The Istanbul governorate said in a statement that it had wanted to prevent any demonstrations on the sidelines of the concert "against the genocide of the terrorist state Israel in Gaza and its supporters". The 86-year-old singer told AFP that he has performed in Turkey for 60 years and is "deeply surprised and saddened not to be able to see my audience, with whom I have always shared values of peace and fraternity." Macias, who was born into a Jewish family in Algeria, has on several occasions defended Israel's lethal response to Hamas's deadly October 2023 attacks. "My problem is that I can't stand the violence of the terrorists," he said in an interview on YouTube in August. "And if there was violence on the Israeli side, it was because of Hamas," he said, while saying he had "nothing against the Palestinians." Macias has lived in France since 1961, where he has contributed to the popularity of Arab-Andalusian music. — APP

## All 2024-25 audit reports returned to AGP

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The speaker National Assembly has returned all annual audit reports for the audit year 2024-25, covering fiscal year 2023-24 (FY24), to the Auditor General of Pakistan (AGP), citing serious procedural violations amid controversy over the staggering figures of financial irregularities quoted in the documents. "It is a contempt of the National Assembly," the spokesman said, adding that the AGP office was even pressing NA officials to place the reports before the House despite the violations. The government, meanwhile, suspects that "someone inside the AGP office" is deliberately attempting to embarrass it by leaking the controversial audit reports, which cite an "unbelievable" Rs375,000 billion in financial irregularities during FY2023-24. The figure — 27 times the federal budget of Rs14.5 trillion and more than three times Pakistan's GDP of Rs110 trillion — has raised serious questions about the credibility of the audit process. Former Auditor General Javed Jhangir described the number as "abnormal" and in need of urgent review. "This staggering amount warrants careful re-examination," he told The News, pointing out that during his tenure, audit reports were never published before their presentation in parliament.

## Narendra Modi warns China

NEWS DESK

NEW DELHI: Images this week of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi holding hands with Russian President Vladimir Putin at a summit hosted by Chinese President Xi Jinping seemed to confirm what many experts have already concluded — the US has stumbled in its effort to draw India into its diplomatic orbit. Successive US presidential administrations have sought to cultivate the historically non-aligned India as a strategic counterweight to China and Russia. But as the images of Modi in Tianjin underlined, US President Donald Trump appears for now to have undercut that goal with a series of actions. These have included piling 50% tariffs on Indian goods and publicly browbeating New Delhi over what his administration sees as its opportunistic purchases of cheap Russian oil. The souring of the India relationship comes even as US adversaries China, Russia and North Korea have tightened their ties, despite Trump's desire to reset relations with each of them.

## New US CG Tom Eckert assumes charge in Peshawar



BUREAU REPORT

PESHAWAR: Senior Foreign Service Officer Tom Eckert has assumed responsibility as the Consul General at the United States Consulate General in Peshawar. "It is my pleasure to welcome Tom Eckert as our new Consul General in Peshawar," said U.S. Chargé d'Affaires Natalie Baker. "Tom joins a long line of distinguished diplomats who have represented the United States in Peshawar. He is the right person to maintain our history of diplomatic engagement that dates back to Pakistan's independence, and to build new relationships with the government and people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa; relationships that make us all stronger, safer, and more prosperous." Consul General Tom Eckert said, "I have heard so much about the culture, heritage, and famous hospitality of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. I am eager to strengthen our vital partnerships to promote economic opportunities and to work together toward a brighter and more peaceful future." Consul General Eckert joined the Department of State in 2003, and most recently served as the Senior Regional Security Officer and Chargé d'Affaires in Cyprus. He has also served in Gabon, Vietnam, Burma, Iraq, and Afghanistan. Originally from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Tom is married and holds a B.A. in Political Science from Kutztown University.

## UN chief 'profoundly saddened' by deadly floods in Pakistan

The UN chief commended Pakistan's response efforts, adding that he "commends Pakistani authorities for relocating more than one million people in Punjab"

UNITED NATIONS: UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has expressed grief over the devastating floods in Pakistan that have killed hundreds of people and displaced over a million. "The Secretary-General is profoundly saddened by the recent floods in northern Pakistan, which have reportedly claimed more than 400 lives," his spokesperson Stephane Dujarric said in a statement. The disaster, caused by a "severe monsoon exacerbated by climate change," has affected some 1.5 million people, leaving hundreds of thousands in need of humanitarian aid, according to the statement. It further noted that "more than 3,000 homes, over 400 schools, and some 40 health facilities have been damaged."

The UN chief commended Pakistan's response efforts,

adding that he "commends Pakistani authorities for relocating more than one million people in Punjab." He also "expresses his solidarity with the Government and people of Pakistan, extends his heartfelt condolences to the families of those who have lost their lives, and wishes a swift recovery to those who have been injured." The statement said the UN and its partners are "working closely with Pakistani authorities to rapidly assess the humanitarian impact of the floods, identify needs, and address gaps in the response." It added that "the Emergency Relief Coordinator, Tom Fletcher, has released \$600,000 from the Regional Humanitarian Pooled Fund to support relief and recovery efforts, and discussions are underway with the Government on a response plan." — APP

## At least 15 dead after Lisbon funicular derails

LISBON: A famed Lisbon funicular derailed Wednesday and smashed into a building, killing at least 15 and injuring 18 in one of the Portuguese capital's most popular tourist spots. "A tragedy that our city has never seen," Lisbon Mayor Carlos Moedas said of the accident involving the yellow Gloria funicular, one of the capital's best-known symbols. All of the victims have been recovered from the wreckage, said Tiago Augusto, an official with the Inem emergency services, adding that they included foreigners. Rescuers confirmed a toll of 15 dead and 18 injured. Details of their identities were not immediately available. Authorities declared Thursday a day of national mourning. The accident happened at 6:15 pm local time (1715 GMT)

on a steep stretch of tracks near Liberty Avenue. Images shared on social media showed the moments immediately following the tragedy, with the funicular appearing out of a cloud of smoke and debris, completely smashed against a wall. Another funicular was stopped a few metres away on the tracks as tourists and onlookers watched, stunned. The SIC television channel quoted a witness as saying that the funicular, which can hold about 40 people, hit a building as it sped down the steep street "at full speed". "It hit a building with brutal force and collapsed like a cardboard box; it had no brakes," the woman said. The Lisbon public transport operator said it had complied with "all maintenance protocols". "Everything was scrupulously respected," Pedro Bogas, the head of Lisbon Carris, said at the site of the accident, adding that maintenance of the funiculars has been done by an outside contractor for the past 14 years. General maintenance is carried out every four years and was last conducted in 2022, Carris said. Intermediate maintenance takes place every two years and was completed in 2024. Lisbon prosecutors were opening an investigation into the circumstances of the accident. — APP

## Gujrat sinks in deluge from 'record rainfall'

Torrential rain leaves Gujrat swamped, flooding villages and city areas

OSAMA BUTT

GUJRAT: Torrential rainfall wreaked havoc in Gujrat, submerging several villages while urban flooding caused water to accumulate in city areas, as Punjab reels from widespread inundation resulting from the ongoing surge in rivers. As much as 577 millimetres of rainfall was recorded in Gujrat on Wednesday, with rainwater drains spilling and inundating many adjoining villages and damaging crops. The water also entered the district jail and the premises of the sessions court. Due to water accumulation in the sessions court, several prisoners were transferred to jails in Lahore and Gujranwala. According to the Gujranwala Commission-

er, Gujrat received 577mm of rain in 24 hours, resulting in multiple areas being submerged and villages inundated. Meanwhile, the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) has said that heavy water flows were surging across major rivers and headworks in Punjab, amplifying fears of large-scale flooding downstream. In the latest update on Thursday, PDMA Director General Irfan Ali Kathia said that rescue efforts in Gujrat were facing challenges due to the heavy rains. However, he said, that the unusual scale of rain in Gujrat was not new as the area often receives heavy downpours. He added that the next 24 hours were critical for Multan as flood levels remained dangerously high in the Ravi, Sutlej, and Chenab rivers. While

giving details of the situation at major locations, the PDMA DG said that the flow at Marala Headworks on the River Chenab had reached 247,000 cusecs, while at Khan-ki Headworks the flow had risen to 526,000 cusecs. At Qadirabad Headworks, water discharge has climbed to 530,000 cusecs, and at Chiniot Bridge, the flow stands at 494,000 cusecs. At Trimmu Headworks, the flow has reached 253,000 cusecs. On the River Ravi, PDMA reported flows of 82,000 cusecs at Jassar, 98,000 cusecs at Siphon, and 97,400 cusecs at Shahdara. At Balloki Headworks, the discharge is 121,600 cusecs, and at Sidhna Headworks, it has reached nearly 140,000 cusecs. The River Sutlej is also witnessing significant inflows, with 319,295 cusecs record-

ed at Ganda Singh Wala, 132,492 cusecs at Sulaimanki Headworks, and 95,727 cusecs at Islam Headworks. At Panjnad Headworks, the flow currently stands at 169,032 cusecs, PDMA stated. Multiple rivers in Punjab, including Sutlej, Ravi and Chenab are witnessing increased water flow due to torrential rains coupled with the water discharge from India. Nearly 900 people have been killed in various flood-related incidents across the country since late June, while also causing widespread damage to infrastructure and properties. With vast swathes of land left inundated in floodwaters in Punjab, Sindh is also preparing for a possible super flood as the water flowing in the rising rivers is set to enter the region in a few days.