



# Islamabad POST

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**UK to continue flood assistance to Pakistan: Jane**

Detailed News On Page-08

**Pak values ties with C'wealth says Ishaq Dar**

Detailed News On Page-08



**Defence ties with Bahran excellent**

Detailed News On Page-02



## At UNGA

# Trump calls for immediate end to Gaza war

**"I had to end wars instead of the United Nations," says Trump**

NEWS DESK

NEW YORK: United States President Donald Trump on Tuesday called for an immediate end to the ongoing war in Gaza. Addressing the 80th United Nations General Assembly at UN headquarters in New York City, the US president said: "We have to stop the war in Gaza immediately. We have to immediately negotiate peace." Dozens of world leaders gathered at the United Nations to embrace a Palestinian state, a landmark diplomatic shift that faces fierce resistance from Israel and its close ally, the US. Trump rejected statehood for Palestinians, adopting the stance of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. "The rewards would be too great for Hamas," he said, repeating his call for the return of hostages taken by the Palestinian group. Trump said the US wants a ceasefire-for-hostages deal that would see the return of all remaining hostages, alive or dead. Turning to Russia, Trump warned he was ready to impose tough economic measures over the war in Ukraine. In his first UN address since regaining power in January, Trump said he wants US allies to impose the same measures on Russia he is proposing to try to force Russian President Vladimir Putin to pull back from the biggest war in Europe since World War II. The US president has warned about the possibility of sanctions on Russia several times but has yet to follow through. Lately he has demanded Europe stop all Russian oil purchases before he will take action. "In the event that Russia is not ready to make a deal to end the war, then the United States is fully prepared to impose a very strong round of powerful tariffs, which would stop the bloodshed, I believe, very quickly," he said. But for the measures to be effective, he said, "European nations, all of you gathered

Continued on Page 06

**Spain approves 'total' arms embargo against Israel**

DNA

NEW YORK: The Spanish government approved a "total" arms embargo on Israel, part of a package of measures aimed at halting what Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez called "the genocide in Gaza". The decree prohibits all exports to Israel of defence material and dual-use products or technologies, and the import of such equipment to Spain, Economy Minister Carlos Cuerpo said at a news conference. It also blocks requests for the transit of aircraft fuel with potential military applications and bans imports of products originating from Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian territories, including their advertising, Cuerpo said. "This decree is a big step forward and is pioneering at the international level when it comes to a total arms embargo on Israel," Cuerpo told a news conference after the cabinet approved the measure. The government says the decree "consolidates in law" a ban on military equipment sales or purchases with Israel that it had applied since the start of the Israeli offensive in Gaza

## Prime Minister meets Crown Prince of Kuwait

DNA

NEW YORK: DPrime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, who is currently on a visit to New York to participate in the 80th session of the UN General Assembly, held a bilateral meeting earlier today, with His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaleed Al-Hamad Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah, Crown Prince of the State of Kuwait. During their warm and cordial meeting, the Prime Minister recalled the long-standing, historic fraternal ties between Pakistan and Kuwait. He conveyed his respects and good wishes for the Amir of Kuwait, His Highness Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. While recalling that both countries had always stood by each other through thick and thin, the Prime Minister thanked the Crown Prince for Kuwait's expressions of solidarity following the recent floods in Pakistan. Expressing satisfaction over the positive trajectory of bilateral cooperation between the two countries, the Prime Minister expressed Pakistan's

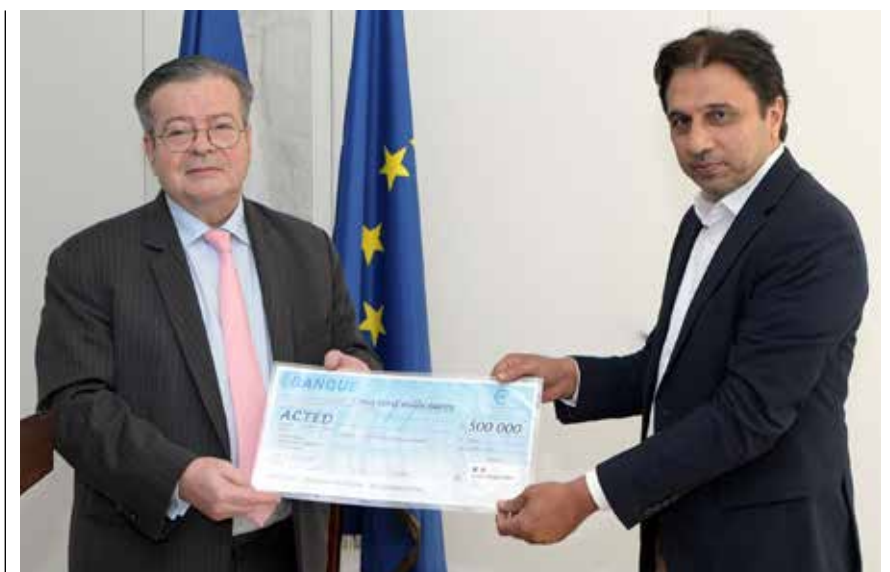
Continued on Page 06

## PHC grants Imaan Mazari protective bail

BUREAU REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The Peshawar High Court (PHC) on Tuesday granted rights activist Advocate Imaan Zainab Mazari-Hazir and her husband Hadi Ali Chatha transit bail, three days after the couple was booked following a clash with the president of the Islamabad High Court Bar Association (IHCBA). The police had registered a case against Mazari, her spouse, Zainab Janjua and several PTI-linked lawyers, including Naeem Panjwala and Fateullah Barkiunder, under anti-terror laws after the IHCBA alleged that the bar leadership was "assaulted" by the lawyers, the suspects had also raised slogans against state institutions. Mazari and the other booked lawyers had staged a protest on the premises of the IHC to oppose the suspension of Justice Tariq Mahmood Jahangiri from judicial work. The hearing was presided over by PHC judge Justice Syed Mohammad Attique Shah, who granted a protective bail to the couple and asked them to appear before a relevant court by October 9.

Continued on Page 06



ISLAMABAD: French Ambassador to Pakistan Nicolas Galey handing over grant cheque to the Country Director of ACTED Sarfraz Laldin, for the rehabilitation of the flood-affected people. - DNA

## Climate change affects

**France extends €500,000 support for flood-affected communities in Pakistan**

*Ambassador Galey also underscored the broader challenge of climate change, warning that such devastating episodes are likely to continue posing threats to Pakistan in the years ahead*

ANSAR M BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: French Ambassador to Pakistan Nicolas Galey has reaffirmed France's solidarity with Pakistan as devastating floods once again hit parts of the country in 2025, severely affecting communities in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and other regions. Speaking at an event organized with ACTED, one of France's major NGOs working in Pakistan, Ambassador Galey highlighted France's continued commitment to supporting vulnerable populations in times of crisis. Recalling the tragic circumstances of the ongoing flood season, which claimed lives and damaged key infrastructure, water and sanitation systems, and disrupted education and livelihoods, the Ambassador extended France's deepest sympathy and condolences to the people of Pakistan, particularly those directly impacted. He noted that ACTED, like other NGOs, quickly mobilized in coordination with the French Embassy and France's Crisis and Support Center (CDCS). The CDCS had previously been at the forefront of assistance to Pakistan during the catastrophic floods of August 2022. "This year, quite unfortunately, help and support is needed again," Ambassador Galey said. To respond to the crisis, the French government has allocated an initial grant of 500,000 to support flood-affected households. Through this assistance, ACTED will provide relief to 3,000 families in Swat and Guna, totaling about 21,000 individuals. The project will deliver a range of interventions including employment opportunities, rehabilitation of shelters and water systems, distribution of hygiene kits, livelihood improvement, and other integrated support measures. "ACTED will work to promote and restore dignity and resilience for these families and will implement the project in full coordination and transparency with the relevant authorities," the Ambassador said. Ambassador Galey also underscored the broader challenge of climate change, warn-

ing that such devastating episodes are likely to continue posing threats to Pakistan in the years ahead. He stressed that France's commitment to climate action remains unwavering—both in international forums, where it advocates for global climate resilience, and on the ground in Pakistan, where French support continues to reach those most in need. Ambassador Galey praised ACTED for its responsiveness and the quality of its project delivery, as well as the French Embassy team for their strong cooperation with NGOs. "France stands by Pakistan in these challenging circumstances," he said, expressing hope that the support will help restore hope, dignity, and resilience among the affected communities. It may be mentioned here that through a comprehensive, community-centred approach, and in coordination with the needs identified by Provincial Disaster Management Authority KP, Acted will create short-term employment opportunities via gender-responsive short term livelihood support, enabling affected populations to rehabilitate infrastructure such as debris clearance and irrigation channels, while also engaging in culturally appropriate livelihood recovery activities in parallel. Acted will rehabilitate shelters and distribute winterization kits to vulnerable families, the elderly, and persons with disabilities helping reduce exposure to harsh weather and related protection risks. In parallel, the project will ensure access to safe water sanitation, and hygiene, as well as continued learning opportunities for children. Acted will rehabilitate water supply schemes, pumping stations, and household latrines, complemented by hygiene promotion sessions, distribution of hygiene and dignity kits, and fumigation campaigns to reduce health risks. These interventions are designed and will be implemented in close coordination with Public Health Engineering department of KP.

## Briefs

**Punjab refuses to distribute flood aid via BISP**

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: Punjab Information Minister Azma Bokhari has refused to distribute flood aid through the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), saying that the provincial government was helping victims with its own resources. Speaking at a press conference in Lahore, she Bokhari: "Should we take advice from those who have turned Sindh into archaeological ruins?" The Punjab government was helping flood victims through its own resources and was not waiting for foreign aid, she added.

**Jaffer Express derails near Mastung**

BUREAU REPORT

QUETTA: Several passengers were injured when three carriages of the Jaffer Express derailed in Mastung's Dasht area on Tuesday following an explosion on the railway track, officials said. According to railway authorities, one carriage overturned while two others came off the track. The train was travelling from Peshawar to Quetta at the time of the incident. Rescue sources confirmed that ambulances had been dispatched from Quetta to Dasht to transport the injured to hospitals. Levies officials said multiple passengers sustained injuries in the accident. This is not the first time the train service has been attacked. Earlier in June, five bogies of Jaffer Express derailed after a blast took place on a railway track near Jacobabad. The train was en route from Peshawar to Quetta. The explosion damaged the railway line, disrupting train services in the area, however, no casualties were reported, they added.

## T20 Asia Cup 2025

# Victory against Sri Lanka keeps Pak hopes alive

**Saim Ayub, under pressure to deliver, failed to make any worthwhile contribution, continuing his poor run in the tournament**

SPORTS DESK

ABU DHABI: Pakistan kept their Asia Cup hopes alive with a crucial five-wicket victory over Sri Lanka on Tuesday. Despite yet another shaky start from the top order, the middle and lower-order batsmen held their nerve to guide the team to an important win. Hussain Talat and Muhammad Nawaz played a winning knock. Pakistan achieved the target in the 18th over. Chasing Sri Lanka's modest total, Pakistan once again faced early troubles as the top order faltered. Saim Ayub, under pressure to deliver, failed to make any worthwhile contribution, continuing his poor run in the tournament. Other top-order batters also struggled against disciplined Sri Lan-

kan bowling, raising concerns for the team management ahead of the next fixtures. However, Pakistan's middle order staged a strong recovery. Sensible batting partnerships stabilized the innings, with calculated stroke play and maturity ensuring that the required target was achieved with five wickets in hand. Earlier, Sri Lanka set a modest target of 134 runs for Pakistan. Put into bat first, the defending champions managed to accumulate 133-8 in their allotted 20 overs despite Kamindu Mendis's half-century. Sri Lanka got off to a shaky start to their innings as Shaheen Shah Afridi dismissed both openers - Kusal Mendis (zero) and Pathum Nissanka (eight) - in his first two overs.

Continued on Page 06

# Russian envoy lauds Pak policy of neutrality on Ukraine

*The Ambassador condemned recent terrorist attacks on civilian infrastructure in Russia's Bryansk and Kursk regions, which resulted in numerous casualties. He questioned the feasibility of negotiating with what he termed a "terrorist" regime*

CENTRELINE REPORT

ISLAMABAD: In a media briefing, Ambassador of Russia, Albert P. Khorev provided a comprehensive update on recent developments concerning the resolution of the Ukrainian conflict. Ambassador Khorev outlined Russia's continued efforts to achieve a diplomatic settlement, highlighting the resumption of direct Russia-Ukraine negotiations in May 2025. He reported tangible progress, including the exchange of over 1,000 prisoners of war and the transfer of the remains of 6,060 Ukrainian soldiers. However, he expressed serious concerns regarding what he described as the Kiev regime's unwillingness to engage substantively on ceasefire details. "The evidence is clear," stated Ambassador Khorev. "Despite insisting on an immediate ceasefire, Kiev has repeatedly demonstrated a lack of commitment to peace by rejecting limited truce initiatives and violating agreed-upon ceasefires. This suggests the true goal is not peace, but a pause to regroup and rearm with continued European financial and military aid, which has exceeded \$70 billion." The Ambassador condemned recent terrorist attacks on civilian infrastructure in Russia's Bryansk and

Kursk regions, which resulted in numerous casualties.

Continued on Page 06



ISLAMABAD: Russian Ambassador Albert P Khorev addressing a press conference in Islamabad. - DNA

## Russia warns US against any attempt to take Bagram airbase

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Russian Special Representative for Afghanistan Zamir Kabulov has warned the U.S. against any attempt to retake Bagram airbase following threats by U.S. President Donald Trump, according to reports. "Moscow doubts that the US will decide to invade Afghanistan to return the Bagram air base, as the results for Washington could be disastrous," Kabulov told RIA Novosti on Monday. On Sunday, US President Donald Trump said on Sept. 21 that "bad things" will happen if Afghanistan does not return Bagram air base. China has also criticized Mr Trump's remarks on Bagram. On 3 July 2025, Russia became the first country to formally recognise the Taliban as Afghanistan's legitimate government. Moscow's recognition of the Taliban government demonstrates that Russia has become

the first country to officially recognize it, which may be part of a strategy to strengthen relations with Afghanistan and maintain regional stability. Experts are of the view that Kabul, in turn, should consider cooperation with Moscow, which has experience in resolving the issue of militancy, which is seen as a stumbling block for Afghanistan. Resolving the problem of armed groups' activities will help stabilize the situation in the country, which will allow Kabul to count on developing trade and economic ties with neighboring states and Arab countries. This, in turn, will lead to the recognition of the Islamic Emirate's government by an even greater number of countries. In addition, Afghanistan's cooperation with Russia, China, Iran and Pakistan opens up the possibility for Kabul to integrate into the SCO, Continued on Page 06

## Gillani to grace 4th PESA awards 2025

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association (PPMA) will host the 4th Pharma Export Summit & Awards (PESA 2025) today on September 24 at Serena Hotel, Islamabad, to celebrate excellence in pharmaceutical exports and compliance with international benchmarks. The awards ceremony, scheduled from 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM, will have Syed Yusuf Raza Gillani, Chairman Senate of Pakistan, as Chief Guest, highlighting the government's commitment to promoting the pharmaceutical industry as a key pillar of Pakistan's economy. He will be joined by Mr. Haroon Akhtar Khan, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (Minister of State), Industries & Production Division, as Co-Chief Guest. The PESA Awards will honour companies and professionals who have significantly contributed to enhancing Pakistan's export footprint, innovation, and quality culture in line with global regulatory standards.—APP

## RCCI discusses tax matters of business community with RTO

RAWALPINDI: A delegation of the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI), led by Acting President Khalid Farooq Qazi, held an important meeting with Ms. Farhat Qayum, Chief Commissioner Inland Revenue (RTO) Rawalpindi, to discuss matters related to tax compliance and traders' issues. The Chief Commissioner underscored the critical importance of timely filing of annual income tax returns and payment of due taxes before the statutory deadline of September 30. She emphasized that compliance is not only an individual responsibility but also a collective duty of the business community to strengthen the country's tax culture and contribute to national development. Acting President Khalid Farooq Qazi appreciated the efforts of the RTO Rawalpindi and welcomed the establishment of a dedicated help desk at the RCCI office to assist members in filing their returns. He assured the full cooperation and support of the Chamber in creating awareness among traders and ensuring compliance with deadlines. The Chief Commissioner reassured the delegation that the department remains committed to facilitating taxpayers and providing all possible guidance to make the filing process smooth and efficient. She urged RCCI to play an active role in educating and mobilizing its members, stressing that timely tax payments are essential for economic stability and growth. The meeting was also attended by former RCCI Presidents Dr. Shaimail Daud and Raja Amer Iqbal, members of the executive committee.—APP

# Bahrain Commander lauds PAF's bravery in conflict with India

General Shaikh Mohammed Bin Isa Bin Salman Al Khalifa congratulated the Air Chief on the outstanding performance of Pakistan Air Force in the recent conflict against India, lauding the professional excellence, operational readiness and remarkable courage displayed by PAF personnel

DNA

ISLAMABAD: General Shaikh Mohammed Bin Isa Bin Salman Al Khalifa, Commander Bahrain National Guard, called on Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force at Air Headquarters, Islamabad. During the meeting both sides reaffirmed their resolve for sustained defence cooperation, placing special emphasis on joint training initiatives and deeper collaboration within the aviation industry. Chief of the Air Staff extended a warm welcome to the esteemed guest, as he briefed the visiting dignitary on the recent advancements of Pakistan Air Force, highlighting its comprehensive plans of modernization through infrastructure development, revamping of training and induction of niche capabilities. He further highlighted that these strategic initiatives are aimed at enhancing PAF's operational preparedness and technological edge in multi-domain warfare. The Air Chief emphasized that Pakistan and Bahrain enjoy deep-rooted religious and historical ties which are reflected in their exemplary military-to-military cooperation and reiterated his resolve to expand the bilateral defence collaboration particularly in the spheres of training, joint exercises and knowledge-sharing. During the meeting, General Shaikh Mohammed Bin Isa Bin Salman Al Khalifa congratulated the Air Chief on the outstanding performance of Pakistan Air Force in the recent conflict against India, lauding the professional excellence, operational readiness and remarkable courage displayed by PAF personnel. Commander Bahrain National Guard expressed his earnest desire for enhanced collaboration in the field of training and emphasized the significance of joint learning through exercises. He also conveyed the keen interest of Bahrain Air Force in undertaking bilateral exercises and joint training ventures with PAF, highlighting that such initiatives would serve as a platform for mutual growth and shared operational experience. The follow-up visit reinforced



the enduring bonds of brotherhood and defence partnership, with the visiting dignitary lauding PAF's indigenization drive and praising its leadership for safeguarding regional balance of power. It was also mutually agreed that as part of the forthcoming series of negotiations, Commander of the Bahrain Air Force will undertake an official visit to Pakistan in the

near future. The meeting between Chief of the Air Staff and Commander Bahrain National Guard underscored the unwavering commitment of both nations to broaden military cooperation, foster institutional collaboration and strengthen bilateral defence ties in the face of evolving regional challenges.

## Allegations against BISP, insult to poor women: Barrister

SUKKUR: Barrister Arsalan Islam Sheikh, Mayor Sukkur and Spokesperson for the Sindh Government on Tuesday has stated that Hafiz Naem-ur Rehman's allegations against the Benazir Income Support Program (BISP) are not only baseless and false but also tantamount to rubbing salt in the wounds of the poor people. He emphasized that labeling BISP as a "fraud" is an insult to the millions of mothers and sisters who rely on this program to light their homes and educate their children. The reality is that Hafiz Naem's issue is not with public service but with the name "Benazir". Barrister Arsalan Islam Sheikh pointed out that the funds collected under the Jamaat-e-Islami's Al-Khidmat Foundation have always been questioned for transparency. Collecting donations in the name of service and using them for political purposes is not philanthropy but a betrayal of public trust. Al-Khidmat Foundation has never presented an effective model for poverty eradication or large-scale public welfare at the state level. He added that BISP has been a lifeline for flood victims, a support for poor women, and a beacon of hope for millions of families.—APP

## Session held on competition law in digital era

ISLAMABAD: The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP), in collaboration with the International Islamic University Islamabad (IIUI) on Tuesday organized a session on "Competition Law in the Context of Changing Economic and Digital Landscape". The session was part of CCP's ongoing advocacy and outreach efforts to raise awareness among students, researchers, and academia about the significance of competition law and its role in ensuring fair markets, consumer welfare, and economic growth, said a news release representing the CCP, Salman Amin, Member CCP,

led the delegation, accompanied by Maryum Pervaiz, Secretary to the Commission/HOD Advocacy; Malha Qudus, Deputy HOD Carrels & Trade Abuse and Noman Ahmed, Assistant Director Mergers & Acquisitions. From IIUI, the session was graced by Dr. Zia ul Haq, Director General IRI and Dean, and Dr. H Ghufuran Ahmad, Director Students Affairs. Speaking on the occasion, the CCP officials highlighted the evolving challenges of regulating markets in the digital economy, including e-commerce, fintech, and online platforms. They emphasized how competition law

plays a vital role in preventing cartels, monopolistic practices, and deceptive marketing, while also ensuring that innovation and investment are not stifled. Salman Amin underscored that the commission is working to create a level playing field for businesses in Pakistan, adding that awareness among young scholars and future professionals is key to fostering a culture of compliance with competition law. The faculty members of IIUI appreciated CCP's outreach initiative and stressed the importance of linking legal education with practical regulatory challenges.—APP

## Five constructions demolished, 74 sealed

LAHORE: The Lahore Development Authority (LDA) on Tuesday sealed another 74 properties during its on going operation on illegal constructions and unauthorized commercial buildings within the LDA controlled areas. On the direction of Director General LDA, Tahir Farooq, the Town Planning Wing carried out actions across several localities including Sabzazar, Kot Lakhpat, Johar Town, Gulberg, New Garden Town, Gulshan Ravi, Shadman and Shah Jamal. During the crackdown, five illegal structures were demolished in Sabzazar and Kot Lakhpat areas. Additionally, 74 properties were sealed due to various violations.—APP

## Rose variety gives farmers up to Rs 1.5m per acre in profits

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani scientists have developed a new rose variety that can earn farmers up to Rs1.5 million per acre annually, opening a fresh window into the \$60 billion global floriculture market while providing resilience against rising temperatures. The breakthrough variety, Rosa Centifolia UAF, has been introduced by the Institute of Horticultural Sciences, University of Agriculture Faisalabad (UAF). Researchers say the flower's unique resilience and industrial versatility make it a "game-changer" for both local farmers and exporters, said a news release here on Tuesday.

"A single acre of this variety, with about 5,000 plants, can produce around one kilogram of premium-quality rose oil valued at Rs1.5 million," Dr. Iftikhar Ahmad, Professor of Floriculture at UAF, told Wealth Pakistan. "After deducting costs, the net profit comes

close to Rs740,000 per acre per year, making it highly lucrative for large-scale growers." For farmers unable to invest in oil extraction, the variety offers multiple alternatives. Selling rose petals alone can generate Rs400,000 per acre in revenue, leaving farmers with a net profit of about Rs260,000 annually from the second year onwards. Processing the flowers into rose water can yield 50,000 liters per acre, bringing in Rs1.5 million in sales and about Rs600,000 in net profit. Similarly, converting them into rose jam (gulqand) can generate Rs750,000 in sales per acre, with Rs240,000 net profit. "These different business models allow both small-scale farmers and industrialists to benefit according to their investment levels," said Dr. Iftikhar Ahmad. Unlike the traditional Surkha (red) rose, which struggles in high heat, Rosa Centifolia UAF continues to bloom even in temperatures above 40°C, producing fragrant, bunch-like flowers throughout the year. "This is a variety built for Pakistan's changing climate," Dr. Iftikhar said. "It maintains flower size, fragrance, and oil quality even under harsh conditions." The rose has a lifespan of 12-15 years and yields 500-700 flowers per plant annually, making it a long-term investment crop for farmers seeking stable income. Globally prized products such as rose oil, rose water, dried petals, and gulqand give the variety high export value. The oil's fragrance and purity are comparable to the globally renowned Rosa Damascena, while its rose water and jam quality surpass the Rosa chinensis commonly grown in Pakistan. With demand for natural products growing worldwide, Pakistan's entry into the high-value rose oil segment could significantly boost non-traditional exports.—DNA

## 581 feeders restored in flood-hit areas: Power Division

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Energy (Power Division) on Tuesday reported significant progress in restoring electricity across flood-affected areas of the country, with the majority of damaged grids and feeders now back online. According to the Division's latest report covering the situation up to September 23, a total of 51 grids and 588 feeders were impacted nationwide, out of which 373 feeders have been fully restored while 208 have been partially re-energized. In Faisalabad Electric Supply Company (FESCO) jurisdiction, 28 grid stations and 81 feeders were impacted. Of these, 63 feeders have been fully restored and 18 partially energized, with power supply for 5,066 consumers expected to be completely restored by September 24. Lahore Electric Supply Company (LESCO) faced disruption to 67 feeders, of which 66 are now fully restored and one is partially functional. Power has already been completely restored in the districts of Lahore, Nankana Sahib, Okara and Sheikhupura, while electricity for the remaining 441 consumers is expected to be restored by September 24. In Multan Electric Power Company (MEPCO) areas, 81 feeders affected. 33 feeders have been fully restored, while 141 are operational on a partial basis. Full restoration efforts will commence as soon as floodwaters recede in the region. The Gujranwala Electric Power Company (GEPCO) reported damage to 11 grid stations and 103 feeders. Out of these, 102 feeders have been fully restored, while 1 have been partially restored. Power supply for 22 affected consumers will be completely restored once the floodwaters recedes. The Peshawar Electric Supply Company (PESCO) made rapid headway, restoring 88 affected feeders fully and another 3 partially. Restoration work has been successfully completed in key districts, including Swat, Swabi, and Dera Ismail Khan. In Tribal Electric Supply Company (TESCO) areas, particularly in North Waziristan and Khyber, 18 feeders were affected. Restoration has been completed on all affected feeders. Meanwhile, in Hazara Electric Supply Company's Mansehra region, all three affected feeders have been fully restored. The Sukkur Electric Power Company (SEPCO) has temporarily restored 44 affected feeders in its jurisdiction, with permanent restoration expected in the coming days. The Power Division is working tirelessly to ensure full restoration as soon as possible to bring relief to all affected areas.—DNA

## AAPP organizes free medical camp organized for flood victims in Jalalpur Pirwala


DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Association of Aesthetic Physicians Pakistan (AAPP) organized a one-day free medical camp in the flood-affected areas of Jalalpur Pirwala, extending much-needed healthcare services to hundreds of people suffering from both infectious and non-infectious diseases.

The camp saw participation from nearly 20 expert doctors from across the country, who volunteered their time and professional expertise to examine and treat patients. Approximately 500 individuals were provided with free medical check-ups and on-the-spot distribution of medicines. Representatives of the Association emphasized that offering support to flood victims is both a moral and professional responsibility.


They reaffirmed the Association's commitment to serving not only disaster-affected communities but also other underprivileged and marginalized segments of society across Pakistan. These welfare efforts, they said, will continue in the future. Local residents and community members appreciated this humanitarian initiative and expressed hope that other organizations will follow suit in extending relief to those in need.





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## 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 Exchange 9270831-5
- WASA Rawalpindi.5555489
- CAA.....9281092

### Hospitals

- CMH.....5611111
- MH.....5611116
- Cantt Hospital.....9270907-11
- DHQ.....5556311-4
- RGH.....9290301-7
- Holy Family.....9290322-7
- PIMS.....9261170-79
- Polyclinic.....9218300-09
- Shifa International 4603666

### Departments

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

### Islamabad Metropolitan

- Corporation.....9209224
- Potohar Town.....9209224
- Rawal Town.....5773343

### Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Japan Akamatsu Shuichi cutting the ribbon to inaugurate the exhibition "Remains of Ruins" showcasing sculptures, paintings, and ceramic works at Sir Syed Art Gallery.

## Over 30 dengue cases reported in ICT during last 24 hours

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The district administration of Islamabad has intensified its dengue control campaign as 32 new dengue cases were confirmed in the federal capital during the past 24 hours, while anti-dengue teams carried out 2,079 inspections across different parts of the city. According to the latest dengue surveillance report, out of the newly reported cases, 20 patients were identified in rural areas and 12 in urban localities of Islamabad. The administration confirmed that surveillance teams are actively engaged in both preventive measures and enforcement of standard operating procedures (SOPs) to curb the spread of

the virus. During field inspections, officials conducted larvae sampling in various localities. The report highlighted that 26 samples tested positive, indicating the presence of dengue larvae, while 11 samples were found negative. Health officials warned that such findings reflect active breeding sites that require immediate attention and strict monitoring to prevent further transmission. In addition to inspections, large-scale anti-dengue operations were carried out in high-risk areas. The surveillance report noted that fogging was conducted at 2,162 sites, while spraying was carried out at 1,661 locations. The purpose of these operations is to eliminate mosquito breeding sites and reduce the risk of further cases. Author-

ities emphasized that high-risk zones are being prioritized for these preventive activities, particularly in areas where larvae were detected and new patients have been reported. The district administration also launched enforcement actions against individuals and premises found violating dengue SOPs. The report confirmed that several locations were sealed, and multiple individuals were taken into custody for negligence that could potentially contribute to the spread of the virus. Officials explained that common violations include failure to remove stagnant water, improper waste management, and lack of compliance with guidelines regarding construction sites and residential areas. A spokesperson for the

district administration stated that the anti-dengue campaign will continue without interruption until the complete eradication of the virus from the capital. The official stressed that dengue is a recurring seasonal challenge, and only sustained preventive efforts can bring long-term control. The administration has also urged residents to extend full cooperation with inspection teams by ensuring cleanliness in and around their homes, removing standing water, and allowing access for inspections and spraying operations. Meanwhile, health officials underlined the importance of community participation in the fight against dengue. They reminded citizens that the government alone cannot achieve eradication without public support.

## FGEHA okays Margalla Orchard Park Road Housing Scheme

ISLAMABAD: Federal Government Employees Housing Authority (FGEHA) has formally approved the development of the Margalla Orchard Park Road Housing Scheme during its 43rd Executive Board meeting, held at the Ministry of Housing & Works. According to a press release issued Tuesday, the Board sanctioned the tripartite development agreement for the project—a collaborative venture between FGEHA, Defence Housing Authority (DHA), and the Supreme Court Bar Association. In this regard, a formal signing ceremony of the development agreement between FGEHA, DHA, and the Supreme Court Bar Association will be held on September 26. The agreement has also been duly vetted and confirmed by the Ministry of Law. After the signing, development work on the project will formally commence at an accelerated pace, ensuring its timely completion. Under this project, FGEHA will provide its esteemed allottees with a modern, world-class residential environment, equipped with all necessary facilities. In addition, space has been allocated for commercial areas, parks, educational institutions, mosques, and other public amenities. On this occasion, Director General FGEHA, Captain (R) Zafar Iqbal, congratulated all allottees and reiterated that the rights of federal employees who have already been allotted plots remain fully protected. He reaffirmed the Authority's resolve to overcome past challenges and to continue its journey towards transparent and efficient service delivery. He further emphasized that serving members and providing quality residential facilities will remain the foremost priority.—APP

## Seafood exports grow 32.05% in two months

ISLAMABAD: Seafood exports from the country during the first two months of the current financial year grew by 32.05 percent as compared to the exports of the corresponding period of the last year, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics reported. During the period from July-August 2025, over 22,434 metric tons of fish and fish preparations worth \$46.356 billion were exported as compared to the exports of 17,363 metric tons valued at \$35.105 billion of the same period of the last year, it added. On year-on-year basis, seafood exports during August 2025 grew by 47.79 percent, as the country exported 10,696 metric tons worth \$23.909 million as compared to the

exports of 7,650 metric tons valued at \$16.178 million in August 2024, the data revealed. On month-on-month basis, seafood exports in August 2025 increased by 6.51 percent as against July 2025, when 11,738 metric tons of fish and fish preparations worth \$22.448 million were exported, it added. Meanwhile, the food group exports from the country during the period under review decreased by 23.46 percent as compared to the exports of the same period of the last year. Food commodities worth \$774.557 million were exported during July-August 2025 as compared to exports of \$1.011 billion of the same period of the last year. It

is pertinent to mention here that the overall exports from the country witnessed an increase of 0.65 percent during the first two months of the current fiscal year as compared to the corresponding month of last year. The exports in July-August (FY2025-26) were recorded at \$5.102 billion as compared to the exports of \$5.069 billion in July-August (FY2024-25). The imports during July-August 2025 also increased by 14.53 percent and were recorded at \$11.144 billion against the imports of \$9.730 billion last year. Based on the figures, the trade deficit increased by 29.63 percent by going up from \$4.661 billion last year July to \$6.042 billion, this year.—APP

## DGSE celebrates Int'l day of sign languages

Islamabad :The Directorate General of Special Education (DGSE), Ministry of Federal Education & Professional Training, hosted a vibrant celebration of the International Day of Sign Languages (IDSL) at the National Institute of Special Education (NISE), H-8/4 Islamabad, bringing together Deaf students, educators, and officials to honor the beauty and power of sign language. This year's global theme, "No Human Rights without Sign Language Rights," set the tone for a day dedicated to the recognition of sign languages as a fundamental human right and a vital medium of inclusion. Deaf students from the National Special Education Centre for Hearing Impaired Children (H-9/4) and the National Technical Centre for Special Persons (G-9/2) proudly showcased their talents and creativity. College-wing students delivered powerful speeches in a thematic sign language declaration on the importance of sign language for an inclusive society, inspiring the audience with

their eloquence and confidence. Students prepared posters and presented their art and craft exhibits, highlighting the cultural richness of Pakistan Sign Language (PSL). The acclaimed movie 'Iqbal', featuring a Deaf protagonist, was screened to encourage students to dream big and achieve their aspirations truly becoming "star catchers" in life. From the national anthem to recitation, naat, and all program segments, the entire event was conducted exclusively in Pakistan Sign Language, demonstrating its strength as a complete natural language. A special video message by Mr. Irfan Mumtaz, CEO of the Pakistan Association of the Deaf, uplifted participants with address of encouragement and pride in Deaf identity. The celebration was graced by Capt. (R) Asif Iqbal Asif, Joint Secretary (International Coordination), Ministry of Federal Education & Professional Training / Director General Special Education, who commended the students' achievements and reaffirmed

the Ministry's commitment to inclusive education. Senior Pakistan Sign Language Interpreter Ms. Nasreen Agahi also joined the celebration, bringing joy to students who deeply value her lifelong contribution to PSL advocacy. Adding to the spirit of the day, Muhammad Umair, Waleed, and Haroon-ur-Rasheed represented the Deaf community to the media, proudly sharing their delight in celebrating a day that honors their language and identity. The event concluded with a cake-cutting ceremony joined by all Directors and Officer In-Charges of DGSE, where students presented Islamic calligraphy artworks to the Director General as a token of appreciation for his unwavering support and for the Ministry's ongoing revamping initiatives in special education across the federal capital. In his remarks, the Director General credited the Ministry of Federal Education & Professional Training for championing reforms that empower persons with disabilities.

## ITP issues strict 01 Oct. licence deadline

ISLAMABAD: As the Islamabad Traffic Police (ITP) enforces an October 1 deadline for all drivers to obtain valid driving licences, citizens are grappling with overcrowded centres, poor facilitation, and lack of clear communication—turning a traffic safety measure into a logistical nightmare. The ITP has warned of strict punitive action after the deadline, but many say the hasty and unplanned implementation has left them struggling in chaos. An ITP official told media on Tuesday that Chief Traffic Officer (CTO) Captain (R) Hamzah Humayun directed that unlicensed drivers would face registration of cases, arrest, and impoundment of their vehicles after October 1. The official said the action will be applied without discrimination, regardless of social or professional background. Khuram Shehzad, a government employee, told media he already has a learner's licence but with the deadline approaching he faces hurdles. "I cannot get leave from office, and on the other hand the rush at driving tests is so overwhelming that it takes a whole day—I have personally witnessed it," he said. Another government employee, David, said he failed one of the driving tests because of confusion. "My car's tyre touched slightly during the manoeuvre. It is good that the ITP doesn't compromise on standards, but as employees, how can we dedicate an entire day again and again for this?" he remarked. Raja Tahir Azad, a citizen, told media that the number of counters at the headquarters was too limited. "We can renew our licences at facilitation centres, but for fresh tests we must visit the headquarters, where long queues and overcrowding are a major issue," he told media Zubair, a WAPDA employee, also voiced frustration. "The counters are few and the rush is unbearable. In the heat and confusion, people make mistakes—and then we are forced to waste another full day to repeat the process," he said. Rai Shah Nawaz, a student, added that ITP facilitation van schedules used to be available on social media and in news updates. "But this week there has been no information, which created extra problems for students like me," he said. An ITP official said the police are continuing to provide facilities through the Faizabad Traffic Office, F-6 Facilitation Center, and mobile facilitation vans.—APP

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## Briefs

## Chinese EV unit expands footprint in Pakistan

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Jiangling Group Electric Vehicle (JMEV) is strengthening its collaboration with its Pakistani partner, Capital Smart Motors (CSM), by advancing localized production and upgrading its retail network. This move reflects the Chinese automaker's accelerated expansion into right-hand-drive markets, Gwadar Pro reported on Tuesday. The two companies recently held talks in Pakistan to discuss KD (knock-down) assembly plans and market-specific product adaptations, according to a statement from JMEV's overseas division. Both parties engaged in practical discussions on market expansion, product localization, technical cooperation, and production capacity collaboration, marking a new phase of industrial synergy and mutual benefit in the new energy vehicle sector. JMEV's Deputy General Manager of Overseas Business, Wu Jianbo, stated that the company plans to introduce several new models tailored to Pakistani consumers, including the budget-friendly EV2 PLUS+, the compact EV3 PLUS, and the performance- and space-oriented ELIGHT 05S. "Our strategy is not just to export cars, but to build a sustainable ecosystem with local partners," Wu noted during the visit. The company's flagship right-hand-drive model, ELIGHT, has become a cornerstone of its overseas strategy. "Developed based on Jiangling's 78 years of automotive manufacturing experience, the vehicle meets EU safety standards, and its battery system is optimized for tropical climates to ensure stability in high-temperature and high-humidity conditions," Wu said. ELIGHT excels in spaciousness, range, and intelligent features, featuring a wheelbase of 2,750 mm. Powered by a 56.3 kWh battery and a 165 kW (221 HP) motor, it offers an NEDC-rated range of 500 kilometers. The vehicle supports three driving modes—Eco, Normal, and Sport—allowing users to adjust performance," Wu added. Overseas sales have become a bright spot for JMEV.—APP

## Secretary info, PIO extend condolences

ISLAMABAD: Federal Secretary Information and Broadcasting Amreen Jan and Principal Information Officer (PIO) Mobashir Hassan on Tuesday expressed deep grief over the death of senior journalist Mazhar Iqbal in a road accident. The federal secretary information and PIO extended heartfelt condolences and sympathy to the family of the deceased. Mazhar Iqbal was a principled, courageous and experienced journalist who always promoted journalistic values, Amreen Jan remarked. Mobashir Hassan said that Mazhar Iqbal was a reliable reference in the field of journalism. With his death, the media industry has lost an experienced and dignified personality. Amreen Jan and Mobashir Hassan prayed to Allah Almighty to rest the departed soul in eternal peace and grant courage to the bereaved family to bear this loss with fortitude. —APP

## Ahsan Bakhtawari greets newly-elected ICCI President

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Patron-in-Chief of the Azerbaijan-Pakistan Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry and member of the Central Core Committee of UBG, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, along with a large delegation, congratulated the newly elected President of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), Sardar Tahir Mehmood, Senior Vice President Tahir Ayub, and Vice President Chaudhry Irfan Gujar. The graceful congratulatory ceremony was attended by a large number of office bearers of different chambers, presidents of markets, and prominent members of the business community. Addressing the gathering, ICCI President Sardar Tahir Mehmood thanked former ICCI President Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari and all accompanying dignitaries, stating that as President, he would continue the policies of his brother, former ICCI President Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, and that resolving business community issues would be his top priority. He said traders mostly deal with CDA, therefore demanded that the ICCI President should be given representation on the CDA Board. He assured that he would raise the voice for the community at every level and added that he was fully aware of their challenges. "If I fail to fulfill the right of representing my community, I will step down and go home, but I will never show weakness," he declared. He further said that trade leaders understand the problems of their fraternity, and becoming a source of hope for people is a blessing of Allah. "The coming year, Insha'Allah, will be exemplary," he added. He said just as Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari's two-year tenure is being remembered with good words, their term too will be exemplary. Successful businessmen are the real custodians of the nation, as those who can run businesses successfully can also run the country efficiently. "This is a powerful platform, and we need to show others its importance. After the AGM on



September 24, I will share our annual plan in a press conference and then ensure its implementation," he said. Congratulating the newly elected President and his team, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari said that their year will be exemplary. "I always told those who praised me that Sardar Tahir will deliver even better than me. We are available 24/7 for your help and support," he said. He added that whatever he learned from the ICCI presidency will be shared with them so they can perform even better. "The entire business community has great expectations from you to solve their problems," he remarked. He emphasized that tax issues, CDA matters, and government policies pose major challenges, which must be faced collectively as a team. He called upon the Executive Committee to fully support the new President, saying the Chamber has reached this level due to the efforts of all presidents. "Sardar Tahir Mehmood's presence has made this a people's chamber; his open-door policy is his real success," he noted. He also stressed the need to strengthen linkages with the Women Chamber of Commerce and Small

Chamber so that issues of the business community are resolved at all levels. "In the face of current economic challenges, the business community is the backbone of Pakistan's economy, and the new leadership carries a huge responsibility," he concluded. President of Islamabad Chamber of Small Traders and Small Industry, Owais Satti, also assured full support to the new leadership, highlighting that traders in Islamabad face difficulties mainly due to complexities in the tax system, rising utility costs, and lack of policy continuity. He stressed the need to maintain close liaison with the government to improve the business environment and provide real relief to traders. "The Chamber should be made an institution that is not just symbolic but truly becomes the voice of traders," he said. ICCI Senior Vice President Tahir Ayub said he believes in teamwork and consultation, and the new team will make collective efforts to resolve business community issues. He particularly emphasized policy support for SMEs, calling them the backbone of Pakistan's economy. ICCI Vice

President Chaudhry Muhammad Irfan thanked Ahsan Bakhtawari and all those who joined them for congratulations, saying their target is to make ICCI a strong institution that plays an active role in policymaking. Those who accompanied Ahsan Bakhtawari for congratulations included: Jinnah Super Market President Asad Aziz, General Secretary Abdul Rehman Siddiqui, I-8 Markaz President Waheed Cheema, Blue Area President Yusuf Rajput, Bhara Kahu President Raja Zahid Dhinial, G-11 President Naeem Akhtar Awan, D-12 President Zargham Shah, E-11 former President Zahir Abbasi, Aabpara Market General Secretary Akhtar Abbasi, I&T Center G-10 President Chaudhry Zafar, ICCI Executive Members Ruheel Anwar Butt, Malik Mohsin Khalid, Zulqarnain Abbasi, Ishaq Siyal, Naveed Satti, Aftab Gujar, Umer Khayyam Abbasi, Aziz Malik, Shumaila Siddiqui, Fatima Azeem, Sadaf Abbasi, Chaudhry Amir Hamza, Faizan Shehzad, Owais Khokhar, Chaudhry Abdul Rauf, Naveed Malik, Ashfaq Chatha, Rana Qaiser, Zahid Rafiq, and many other distinguished personalities.

## Tarar grieved over death of senior journalist Mazhar Iqbal

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaulah Tarar on Tuesday expressed deep grief and sorrow over the death of senior journalist Mazhar Iqbal in a road accident. In his condolence message, the information minister extended his heartfelt condolences and sympathy to the family of the deceased. Lauding the services of Mazhar Iqbal, he said the deceased had played a prominent role in promoting freedom of the press and democratic values. Mazhar Iqbal was known as a journalist who never compromised on the standards and principles of journalism. Attaulah Tarar maintained. The minister said the vacuum created in the journalism sector by the death of Mazhar Iqbal will not be filled for a long time. Attaulah Tarar prayed to Allah Almighty to rest the departed soul in eternal peace and grant courage to the bereaved family to bear this loss with fortitude.—APP

## Pakistan, Bahrain reaffirm commitment to strengthen coop

DNA

ISLAMABAD: National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq and King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa of Bahrain, during their meeting at Al-Safriya Palace on Tuesday, underscored the spirit of cordiality and brotherhood that reflects the enduring friendship and historical ties between Pakistan and Bahrain. During the meeting, Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq conveyed warm greetings and messages of goodwill on behalf of the President of Pakistan, Asif Ali Zardari, and the Prime Minister of Pakistan Mian Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif. The leadership of Pakistan expressed their wishes for the continued prosperity and development of Bahrain. King Hamad graciously acknowledged these sentiments, extended his best wishes for the leadership of Pakistan, and prayed for the progress and well-being of the Pakistani people. The two leaders held an extensive exchange of views on important regional and international issues of mutual concern. They emphasized the importance of peace, stability, and cooperation in the region, with Speaker Ayaz Sadiq reiterating Pakistan's principled stance on the peaceful resolution of the long-standing disputes of Palestine and Kashmir. He strongly condemned the ongoing atrocities in Kashmir and Palestine and reaffirmed that sustainable peace in the region can only be achieved through just and lasting settlements of these disputes.

## National day of Saudi Arabia celebrated



DNA

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani joined Saudi Ambassador to Pakistan Nawaf bin Said Al-Malki at the Jinnah Convention Center, Islamabad, to celebrate the 95th National Day of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The highlight of the ceremony was the traditional cake-cutting, symbolizing the enduring friendship between the two brotherly nations. Speaking on the occasion, Chairman Senate Gilani lauded Saudi Arabia's remarkable progress under its Vision 2030 and reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to strengthening ties with the Kingdom in all fields, including trade, investment, and cultural exchange. Ambassador Al-Malki, in turn, emphasized the depth of the Pakistan-Saudi partnership, calling it a relationship rooted in shared faith, history, and mutual respect. Pakistan and Saudi Arabia enjoy excellent relations, often

described as "strategic, fraternal, and time-tested." The recent signing of a comprehensive defence pact between the two countries has further cemented this bond, reflecting the trust and confidence both nations place in each other. The agreement is expected to enhance cooperation in defence production, training, intelligence-sharing, and joint military exercises, underscoring the closeness of bilateral relations. The event was attended by members of the diplomatic corps, senior government officials, and representatives from civil society.

The celebration not only marked Saudi Arabia's national pride but also highlighted the special place the Kingdom holds in Pakistan's foreign policy framework. Observers note that at a time of shifting regional dynamics, the Pakistan-Saudi alliance remains a cornerstone of peace and stability in the Muslim world, with both countries pledging to work together for regional security and prosperity.

## China reports historic achievements in women's uplift in new era

ISLAMABAD: China has made historic strides in promoting gender equality and ensuring the all-round development of women, with officials highlighting the progress as a defining feature of the country's modernization in the new era. A white paper released by the State Council Information Office outlines the philosophy, principles, and policies that have transformed the status of Chinese women and reinforced the country's global role in advancing gender equality. The report credited the Communist Party of China (CPC) and

President Xi Jinping's leadership for placing women's empowerment at the heart of national rejuvenation. Since the 18th CPC National Congress in 2012, gender equality has been integrated into the "Two Centenary Goals"—building a moderately prosperous society and realizing national rejuvenation. Officials said this vision has created opportunities unprecedented in China's history for women to realize their potential and contribute to national progress. Chinese women have made remarkable gains in education, with female students now accounting for more than half of all university enrolments nationwide. This achievement has translated into stronger representation in the workforce, particularly in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields, where women are playing an increasingly visible role. —APP

## Pak, UN strengthen collaboration on climate change initiatives

Dr. Musadik Malik, UN coordinator discuss climate action, strengthen partnership for sustainable development and resilience in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Dr. Musadik Malik, met with United Nations Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator in Pakistan, Mohamed Yahya, to discuss ongoing and future climate change initiatives in the country. During the meeting, Yahya highlighted that 24 UN agencies are currently active in Pakistan, focusing on supporting development, resilience, and climate action. "The United Nations remains committed to working closely with Pakistan to advance environmental sustainability and resilience," he said. The discussions focused on large-scale UN programs in Pakistan, covering their scope, implementa-

tion strategies, and potential impact. Both parties explored ways to enhance cooperation in climate adaptation, mitigation, and sustain-



able development, aiming for tangible benefits for communities most vulnerable to climate change. Dr. Malik appreciated the UN's ongoing support, emphasizing the government's determination to strengthen collaborative frameworks. "We are committed to ensuring that our joint efforts translate into meaningful outcomes for those most affected by climate challenges," he said. Dr. Musadik Malik appreciated the UN's sustained partnership and underscored the Government's determination to strengthen collaborative frameworks that ensure tangible outcomes for communities most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.—DNA

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

## Poverty in Pakistan – a Nation left behind

THE latest report by the World Bank has delivered a sobering reality check for Pakistan. According to its findings, poverty in the country has surged by 7 percent, pushing the overall poverty rate to around 26 percent. This revelation should have shaken the conscience of policymakers, yet the silence and complacency surrounding the issue are deafening. What makes the situation worse is the World Bank's observation that no comprehensive household survey has been conducted in Pakistan for the past three years. Without reliable data, even the grim figure of 26 percent may understate the true scale of human suffering across the country. This rise in poverty is especially tragic given that the present government has repeatedly portrayed itself as "poor-friendly." Lofty slogans of social justice, subsidies for the marginalized, and promises of inclusive growth have proven hollow. The bitter truth is that poverty is not only rising—it is becoming entrenched. Millions of families lack access to basic amenities such as clean drinking water, healthcare, education, and affordable housing. For the poor, daily survival itself has become a battle.

The contrast between the elite and the ordinary citizen has never been starker. While a small, privileged class enjoys lavish lifestyles—driving imported cars, holding extravagant events, and siphoning resources through corruption—the masses are left with little more than despair. This glaring inequality is not merely an economic issue but a moral crisis, eating away at the very fabric of our society. It breeds resentment, weakens social cohesion, and threatens the stability of the state itself. Corruption lies at the heart of this malaise. When public resources meant for schools, hospitals, and social safety nets are diverted into private pockets, the poor are effectively told that their lives do not matter. The message is clear: if you are wealthy, the system serves you; if you are poor, you have no rights. Such a system cannot sustain itself. No nation can progress when nearly one-third of its population is trapped in poverty, robbed of opportunities, and denied dignity. What is most alarming is the absence of urgency in addressing the crisis. Poverty alleviation requires more than token subsidies or temporary relief packages. It demands structural reforms: an overhaul of governance, a crackdown on corruption, investment in education and healthcare, and policies that generate jobs rather than mere rhetoric. Equally important is the need for credible data collection. Without accurate statistics, policymaking becomes guesswork—and guesswork has already cost this country dearly. Pakistan stands at a crossroads. If the present trajectory continues—where corruption flourishes, inequality widens, and poverty deepens—the future will be one of perpetual economic stagnation and social unrest. But if leaders muster the will to act, prioritizing the welfare of the people over the comforts of the elite, there is still hope. The choice is stark, and the time is running out. Poverty is not just an economic indicator—it is a national emergency. Unless confronted with honesty and determination, it will condemn millions more Pakistanis to lives of hardship and hopelessness, while the dream of a prosperous Pakistan remains out of reach.



## Negligence and fee hike render Naseer Bunda Hockey Ground practically useless

THE once-vibrant Naseer Bunda Hockey Ground in Islamabad lies in a state of disrepair, a stark reminder of the Pakistan Sports Board's (PSB) negligence and poor administrative decisions. A place that once echoed with the rhythm of hockey sticks and the dreams of young athletes now wears a deserted look. The reasons are many, but the most glaring is the sharp increase in ground usage fees that has effectively priced out local clubs and athletes. In recent months, the PSB raised the ground usage fee by nearly 300 percent, a move that has shocked and disappointed the local hockey community. What was once an affordable space for budding players and clubs to train has now become inaccessible to most due to the exorbitant charges. With no teams or clubs able to afford the revised fee, the ground sees little to no activity—leading to rapid wear and tear of the turf, unmaintained facilities, and a visible decline in its overall condition.

Reports suggest that washrooms are in a filthy condition, water pumps are out of order, and general maintenance is non-existent. The very turf that was supposed to be preserved through better financial planning is now deteriorating faster due to non-usage and lack of upkeep. Ironically, the PSB's decision to increase revenue through the hike has likely backfired, as the absence of bookings means less revenue instead of more. One wonders whether anyone at PSB has formally assessed the revenue trends before and after the price hike—a basic step in policy-making. It appears not. Despite repeated appeals and written requests by local clubs to reconsider the revised fees or to offer concessions for student and grassroots teams, both the Pakistan Sports Board and the Ministry of Inter-Provincial Coordination have remained unmoved. Their inaction signals not only indifference but also a disturbing disconnect from ground realities and the needs of the hockey community.

Pakistan's national sport has long been in decline, and missteps like these only further alienate young players from pursuing hockey professionally. Naseer Bunda Hockey Ground was meant to be a cradle of talent, nurturing the next generation of national players. Instead, it now symbolizes the decay of the sport itself. There is a pressing need for introspection at the PSB and the ministry level. If the goal is to promote sports, particularly hockey, then facilities must be made affordable, accessible, and maintained to a standard that encourages participation. Charging steep fees while failing to provide basic amenities is a disservice not only to the sport but also to the nation's youth. Until the authorities take corrective action—including revisiting the fee structure, restoring basic facilities, and consulting with stakeholders—the future of hockey in Islamabad, and by extension in Pakistan, remains bleak. It's time for decision-makers to ask the tough questions: Is this revenue model working? Is it serving the goals of sports development? If the answers are negative, as they appear to be, then bold corrections must follow—and fast.

## Self Checkout; Journey into Heart of US Society

Qamar Bashir



African American customers, too, left strong impressions. Many carried themselves with confidence and self-reliance, often declining assistance from associates. While some interactions required careful navigation, the majority revealed a pride in independence and a determination to manage their affairs on their own terms. Meanwhile, white Americans stood out for their openness and generosity, often splitting household expenses equitably between spouses, and approaching associates with courtesy and ease. Young white couples shopping with children brought life and laughter to the store aisles, their children's golden hair and innocent chatter a reminder..

THE American economy is again showing signs of vitality. With the Federal Reserve cutting interest rates, the hope of lower borrowing costs has sparked renewed optimism in trade, investment, and employment. Markets are responding with resilience, businesses are regaining confidence, and households are cautiously optimistic about relief from inflation. Yet behind the statistics, the true pulse of the nation is best felt not in the halls of power, but in the daily interactions between ordinary citizens. For a newcomer, one of the richest ways to understand America is not only through its politics and headlines but through working shoulder to shoulder with its people, in their neighborhoods and workplaces. My journey since migrating in September 2024 has been exactly that—a yearlong immersion into the everyday life of the United States.

My introduction came swiftly through politics. Soon after arrival, I was hired by Working America, a grassroots canvassing arm of the AFL-CIO, tasked with door-to-door outreach. The mission was ambitious: convince voters in Michigan, a critical swing state, to support Vice President Kamala Harris and Senate nominee Alyssa Slotkin. The campaign invested heavily—over 400 workers were hired at competitive wages, mobilized to tilt the state blue. Yet, despite the effort, Harris and Slotkin both lost resoundingly, while Donald Trump's message resonated strongly with voters. That experience of knocking on doors and engaging in candid conversations with American families was invaluable. I learned firsthand that the economy outweighed all other concerns for most households. Voters were blunt, pragmatic, and deeply invested in their livelihoods.

From politics, my path shifted to commerce when I joined Home Depot, one of the largest consumer hardware chains in the world. With over 2,300 stores across the United States, Canada, and Mexico, Home Depot is more than a retailer—it is a cultural institution. Its aisles of lumber, hardware, gardening supplies, and household goods are where America's do-it-yourself ethos thrives. Over the course of a year, I interacted with more than 10,000 customers, an experience that revealed the diversity of American society, from the elderly woman lifting 50-pound bags of mulch on her own to immigrant laborers purchasing tools to build a future in their adopted land. My colleagues reflected the same diversity. Many were students in their twenties, eager to earn mon-

ey while completing their education. Others were retirees, working to stay active and engaged. Supervisors were consistently encouraging, patient, and generous with their knowledge, creating a work environment built on cooperation and mutual respect. The culture of sharing—skills, stories, and even personal aspirations—was profoundly enriching. These interactions created a microcosm of America itself: multigenerational, multiethnic, and bound together by a shared pursuit of opportunity. Among customers, patterns emerged. The majority were middle-aged or elderly white Americans, often shopping as families. I witnessed countless examples of parents supporting their adult children in building or renovating homes—contributing not just financially but with their own expertise and labor. These acts of solidarity underscored a family-centric ethos, where generations stand behind one another in pursuit of stability and growth. Elderly women, in particular, impressed me with their resilience, unflinchingly hauling heavy bags of soil and fertilizer, embodying a spirit of independence that refused to yield to age.

Alongside them were immigrants from Ukraine, Poland, France, the Middle East, and Asia. Many were cautious with credit card transactions, double-checking details to protect themselves from fraud. South Asians, particularly Indians and Pakistanis, were polite, efficient, and meticulous in their purchases, often focused on home painting, plumbing, or gardening. East Asians—Chinese, Koreans, Vietnamese—approached shopping with equal caution, reflecting cultural habits of vigilance. Latino customers, frequently laborers, arrived in groups, often with limited English but remarkable resourcefulness, buying tools and materials for construction and repair work.

African American customers, too, left strong impressions. Many carried themselves with confidence and self-reliance, often declining assistance from associates. While some interactions required careful navigation, the majority revealed a pride in independence and a determination to manage their affairs on their own terms. Meanwhile, white Americans stood out for their openness and generosity, often splitting household expenses equitably between spouses, and approaching associates with courtesy and ease. Young white couples shopping with children brought life and laughter to the store aisles, their children's golden hair and innocent chatter a reminder of the vitality of family life. Religion, too, surfaced in subtle ways. Conversations revealed that many Americans are deep-

ly Christian, with regular Bible reading shaping their worldview. When I explained Islam's respect for Jesus and Mary, and the Quran's insistence on reverence for previous prophets, several were surprised and intrigued. For many, this was their first time hearing of the similarities between Islam and Christianity. These dialogues, though small, were powerful in bridging understanding and dispelling misconceptions.

Through these experiences, I came to appreciate the dual fabric of American life: the resilience and industriousness of ordinary people, and the larger political and economic forces shaping their choices. On one hand, Trump's "America First" agenda resonates strongly, promising to curb illegal immigration, reduce homelessness, combat gangs, and restore national pride. On the other, skepticism exists—rising costs of essentials frustrate households, even those who support the administration. Yet, optimism endures, rooted in the belief that once policies mature, they will deliver tangible benefits. What struck me most was the balance between leadership and people. Politicians and policymakers set the stage, but it is in the hands of ordinary Americans—lifting heavy bags of fertilizer, saving meticulously for home repairs, canvassing neighborhoods, or splitting bills at the checkout—that the nation's resilience resides.

One year after arriving in the United States, I feel enriched not just by professional experiences but by a deeper understanding of the American character. From politics to retail, from elderly gardeners to immigrant laborers, from religious dialogues to economic frustrations, I have seen America up close. And what I have found is a society marked by hard work, generosity, independence, and a cautious but enduring hope for a better tomorrow.

For me, this is the true greatness of America: not only in its vast economy or global influence, but in the everyday dignity of its people. Their struggles and triumphs, their resilience and openness, their ability to debate leadership yet unite in family and community—these are what sustain the nation. As America moves forward under shifting political winds and evolving economic realities, it is this spirit of ordinary people that will continue to make it great.

— 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

## Never Entrust Your Defense to Others

Muhammad Mohsin Iqbal



Consider the numbers. Ten thousand American troops are permanently stationed in Qatar, their salaries, food, accommodation, and weaponry financed not by Washington but by Doha. Year after year, billions are spent to sustain this foreign army, an army that, when tested, offered nothing but silence. The same story repeats across the Arab world

WHEN Israel rained fire upon Qatar, the world looked not only at the skies but also toward the ground; toward the vast American base at Al-Udeid, the largest U.S. military installation in the Middle East, a fortress built with Arab wealth and housing nearly 10,000 troops, equipped with the most advanced aircraft and weapons of war. This base, long hailed as Qatar's ultimate security guarantee, stood motionless. Neither its jets took flight nor its soldiers moved. The defense purchased at such enormous cost evaporated into thin air when it was most needed. What unfolded was not an accident or lapse, but a deliberate silence. For the rulers of the Muslim world and for the Ummah at large, the lesson is clear—never entrust your defense to others, for when the decisive hour arrives, they will not fulfill the responsibility they were given. Allah Almighty has already warned the believers: "O you who believe! Do not take the Jews and the Christians as allies. They are [in fact] allies of one another. And whoever is an ally to them among you—then indeed, he is [one] of them." (Surah Al-Ma'idah, 5:51).

Consider the numbers. Ten thousand American troops are permanently stationed in Qatar, their salaries, food, accommodation, and weaponry financed not by Washington but by Doha. Year after year, billions are spent to sustain this foreign army, an army that, when tested, offered nothing but silence. The same story repeats across the Arab world. In Kuwait, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, and the Emirates, tens of thousands of U.S. troops are stationed—estimates range from 40,000 to 50,000—all at the expense of their Arab hosts. These nations, which should have built their own strength, are instead drained by the cost of sustaining a garrison loyal only to its benefactor. What defense did this mercenary force provide when Israel struck Qatar? None. Not a single aircraft scrambled, not a single missile intercepted. Bases once portrayed as fortresses turned out to be silent monuments to

wasted wealth. History is full of such betrayals. Those who entrusted their sovereignty to outsiders always found themselves abandoned.

The Prophet Muhammad said: "Do not seek light from the fire of the polytheists." (Musnad Ahmad, Hadith 2346). How piercingly this applies today, when Muslim rulers sought protection from foreign powers only to be consumed by the very fire they thought would give them light. The Arab rulers who sought safety in American protection must face a bitter truth; Washington's first loyalty has never been to them. Its unwavering bond is with Israel. The episode in Qatar has exposed this reality before the world. U.S. bases are not guardians of Arab security; they are instruments of American policy. And when that policy dictates silence in the face of Israeli aggression, silence is what follows—no matter how many billions have been paid or how many promises were made.

As we know, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) is a political and military alliance of 32 countries from North America and Europe. Its enduring role is to guarantee the freedom and security of its members through political and military means. If NATO could work for Europe and North America, why should there not be a similar Muslim alliance, rooted in the strength of the Arab world, Pakistan, Iran, Turkey, Indonesia, Malaysia, and other like-minded nations, to safeguard the Ummah?

Such an alliance could emerge under different banners, such as MATO—Muslim Alliance Treaty Organization, IMDO—Islamic Military Defense Organization, MDSA—Muslim Defense & Security Alliance, or OISA—Organization of Islamic States for Alliance. Whatever the title, the essence would remain the same: an organization built upon collective will, collective security, and collective dignity, rather than dependence on hired guardians.

The Ummah must now ask itself: how long will its rulers pour the wealth of their nations into sustaining

foreign armies that will never defend them? How long will Muslim lands serve as hosts for garrisons that eat from their tables yet defend another's flag? How long will the treasures of the faithful be emptied to purchase illusions of security?

The Qur'an declares: "And never will Allah grant to the disbelievers a way [of triumph] over the believers." (Surah An-Nisa, 4:141).

Yet, when believers themselves surrender their authority and invite outsiders to control their defense, they open the door to humiliation with their own hands.

The Middle East is home to hundreds of millions of people, with resources among the richest in the world. Their strength, if united, could be formidable. Yet they have been persuaded to depend on outsiders, to contract out their survival, to believe that mercenaries can guard honor. The attack on Qatar should serve as the final awakening.

The truth is undeniable. No nation can buy its defense. No sovereignty can be preserved through outsourcing. Security must be forged by one's own hand, and dignity must be defended with one's own blood. To rely on others is to invite betrayal, and to finance one's betrayer is to commit the gravest folly. The rulers of the Muslim world must now look into the mirror of Qatar's ordeal and ask: will they continue to hire protection from those who stand with Israel, or will they build strength within their own people and armies? The choice is theirs, but history will not forgive negligence. For nations that fail to defend themselves are not only defeated; they are erased.

The betrayal of Qatar should resound in every palace and every parliament of the Muslim world. Let it not be forgotten. Let it not be excused. Let it awaken the Ummah to the truth long denied; reliance on foreign guardians is a road to humiliation, while reliance on one's own strength is the only path to survival.

## Briefs

## Trump calls for immediate end to Gaza...

FROM PAGE 01

here, would have to join us in adopting the exact same measures." He planned a meeting later in the day with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. Trump argued that other world leaders should adopt his tough-on-migrants policy, touting his own efforts to arrest and deport migrants in the United States illegally, a stance that many countries around the world have viewed skeptically. "It's destroying your country, and you have to do something about it on the world stage," he said. Trump, who has cast himself as a peacemaker in a bid to win the Nobel Peace Prize, complained that the United Nations did not support his efforts to end conflicts around the world. He twinned his complaint with a personal grievance about the U.N.'s infrastructure, saying he and first lady Melania Trump were briefly marooned on a U.N. escalator and that his teleprompter was not initially working. "These are the two things I got from the United Nations - a bad escalator and a bad teleprompter," Trump said, noting that Melania Trump nearly fell when the escalator stopped abruptly.

## Russian envoy lauds Pak policy...

FROM PAGE 01

He questioned the feasibility of negotiating with what he termed a "terrorist" regime. A significant portion of the briefing addressed internal policies within Ukraine. Ambassador Khorev criticized recent legislative acts, such as the "On the Foundations of the State Policy on National Memory of the Ukrainian People," which he stated entrenches Russophobia, glorifies Nazi collaborators, and violates Ukraine's constitutional and international human rights obligations. He detailed the erosion of democratic freedoms under martial law, including restrictions on speech, movement, and political opposition. On the international stage, Ambassador Khorev noted that a global majority, including Pakistan, supports Russia's UN resolutions against the glorification of Nazism. He expressed regret over what he characterized as biased approaches and double standards within the UN Secretariat, influenced by Western nations. The briefing also touched upon the recent high-level talks between the Presidents of Russia and the United States in Anchorage, Alaska. Ambassador Khorev acknowledged a "demonstrated understanding" from the U.S. administration regarding the root causes of the conflict, including NATO expansion. However, he lamented that the mutual understanding achieved was "completely rejected" by the Kiev regime and European sponsors. Ambassador Khorev firmly rejected the deployment of French or German troops to Ukraine under any pretext, stating it is "unacceptable and will not resolve the conflict." He also dismissed claims of "Russian aggression" against NATO states as a myth designed to prolong the war.

## Victory against Sri Lanka...

FROM PAGE 01

The 2022 champions, however, were in a comfortable position by the end of the batting powerplay as they had piled up 53 runs despite losing another wicket. But Pakistan captain Salman Ali Agha's decision to bring Hussain Talat in pushed Sri Lanka to the back foot as the all-rounder struck twice in his first over, bringing the total down to 58-5 in 7.3 overs. Following the slump, star all-rounder Wanindu Hasaranga (15) joined Kamindu in the middle for a cautious 22-run partnership until getting cleaned up by Abrar Ahmed in the 13th over. Kamindu, on the other hand, stood his ground firm and went on to score a fighting half-century for Sri Lanka. He was dismissed by Shaheen in the penultimate over, soon after he amassed the milestone.

## Brig ® Naseem Akhtar launches memoir "Caught in the Crossfire"

*The memoir has been widely praised for its candid narrative and historical significance, providing unique perspectives on national security, military strategy, and behind-the-scenes operations*

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Brigadier ® Naseem Akhtar Khan unveiled his highly anticipated memoir, "Caught in the Crossfire," at a prestigious event held at the Islamabad Club. The book presents a compelling firsthand account of his strategic insights into the evolving security landscape, drawing from his deep involvement in some of the most volatile events of the past four decades. Through his reflective narrative, Brigadier Khan examines how regional turmoil and its dramatic outbursts have profoundly shaped not only Pakistan's national stability but also the broader global security outlook. The launch event brought together a notable gathering of military veterans, corporate professionals, journalists, diplomats, authors, and close family members. Senior journalists, advocates, and comrades from various regiments also graced the occasion. While sharing his thoughts "Brigadier ® Naseem Akhtar Khan reflected on the values, challenges, and triumphs that defined his service. He stated, "This memoir is not just my story—it is a tribute to the courage, dedication, and sacrifices of countless individuals who serve our nation. I hope readers gain a deeper understanding of the complexities and commitments that shape our defense landscape."

The memoir has been widely praised for its candid narrative and historical significance, providing unique perspectives on national



security, military strategy, and behind-the-scenes operations. Published by Pen & Sword Books (UK) and marketed by Cas-

mate Publishers (USA), the book "Caught in the Crossfire" is globally available on Amazon.com. In Pakistan, it has been re-

printed by Vanguard Books and is available at all leading bookstores. For direct orders, please visit [www.caughtinthecrossfire.net](http://www.caughtinthecrossfire.net).

## Pakistan team claims inaugural C'wealth beach handball crown

Hero of final was Shahid Bashir, who delivered standout performance and was named Player of the Match

KARACHI: Pakistan clinched the inaugural Commonwealth Beach Handball Championship 2025 title on Monday, defeating Sri Lanka in the final to seal an unbeaten run that marked a historic moment for the sport of handball in the country. In the championship decider, Pakistan overpowered Sri Lanka 2-0

with set scores of 26-18 and 28-12, showcasing both attacking flair and defensive resilience. The triumph in Kuldhuffushi City completed a flawless campaign for the green shirts, who won every match from the group stage to the final. Pakistan began their journey in em-

phatic style, outclassing archrivals India 2-0 in their opening match. They followed with victories against Maldives, Sri Lanka, South Africa, and Bangladesh in the group stage to secure a place in the semifinal. On Sunday, Pakistan eased past Bangladesh once again to book their spot in the final. The hero of the final was Muhammad Shahid Bashir, who delivered a standout performance and was named Player of the Match. His contribution proved decisive in securing Pakistan's first international beach handball crown. In the bronze medal playoff, host nation Maldives gave their fans something to celebrate by defeating Bangladesh and claiming third place. The inaugural Commonwealth Beach Handball Championship concluded with Pakistan standing tall as its first-ever champions.

**Final Medal Standings:**  
Gold - Pakistan (Unbeaten champions), Silver - Sri Lanka, Bronze - Maldives



## Record number of countries win medals at World C'ships

TOKYO: A record number of nations won medals at the World Athletics Championships in Tokyo, with a total of 53 countries making it on to the medal table at the 20th edition of the event which concluded on Sunday. The previous record of 46 was set in Osaka in 2007 and equalled in Budapest two years ago, with Samoa, Saint Lucia and Uruguay winning their first ever World Championships medals at this year's competition. There was one world record set in Tokyo, with Sweden's Mondo Duplantis breaking the pole vault world record for the 14th time with a leap of 6.30 metres. American sprinter Melissa Jefferson-Wooden completed a sprint treble in the 100m, 200m and 4x100m relay while two other athletes won double gold in individual events, Kenyan distance runner Beatrice Chebet and Spanish race walker Maria Perez. "What we have seen over the past nine days here in Tokyo is an indelible and compelling celebration of human sporting endeavour," World Athletics President Sebastian Coe said. "Tokyo has set the stage for some of our sport's most extraordinary performances." A total of 619,288 fans attended the World Championships in Tokyo, four years on from the Olympic Games at the same venue was held without crowds due to the Covid-19 pandemic. - Agencies

## PSG's Dembele, Barca's Bonmati win Ballon d'Or awards in Paris

Spain and Barcelona forward Lamine Yamal finishes second, PSG's Vitinha takes third place

PARIS: Ousmane Dembele was named the world's best player of the season as he claimed the Ballon d'Or on a night of triumph for his Paris St Germain club, while Barcelona's Aitana Bonmati, a serial trophy winner, claimed the women's award on Monday. The 28-year-old France forward Dembele, who needed time and the guidance of PSG coach Luis Enrique to fulfill his potential as he inspired the capital club to their first Champions League title last season, became the sixth French player to lift the award and the first since Karim Benzema in 2022. He beat Spain and Barcelona forward Lamine Yamal, with his PSG teammate Vitinha taking third place.

"What I have just experienced is exceptional, I have no words for it, what happened with PSG. I feel a bit of stress, it's not easy to win this trophy, and to have it presented to me by Ronaldinho, a legend of football, is



exceptional," Dembele said on stage at a Paris ceremony where he was supported by several teammates, the others being in Marseille for the Ligue 1 clash against OM which they lost 1-0. "I want to thank PSG who came to get me in 2023. It's an incredible family. The president Nasser (Al-Khelaifi) is like a father to me. - Agencies

## Navy to stage 4th Chief of Naval Staff all Pakistan hockey tournament 2025

Commander Central Punjab, Rear Admiral Sohail Ahmad Azmie, shared details of the tournament, which is scheduled to be held from 25 September to 4 October 2025 at National Hockey Stadium, Lahore

LAHORE: A media briefing for 4th Chief of the Naval Staff All Pakistan Hockey Tournament 2025 was held in Lahore. Commander Central Punjab, Rear Admiral Sohail Ahmad Azmie, shared details of the tournament, which is scheduled to be held from 25 September to 4 October 2025 at National Hockey Stadium, Lahore. While addressing the media personnel, Commander Central Punjab highlighted that sports instil discipline, patience and tolerance in society. He said that Pakistan Navy provides its officers and sailors equal opportunities to engage in healthy activities, enabling them to represent Pakistan nationally and internationally. He further stated that while hockey's past has been glorious, the game has unfortunately declined

due to numerous reasons. Pakistan Navy has been organizing this tournament in collaboration with Pakistan Hockey Federation to promote hockey and to express

national unity since 2016. The 3rd Chief of the Naval Staff All Pakistan Hockey Tournament was successfully held in Karachi in 2021 and received high acclaim.

Eight top teams including Pakistan Army, Pakistan Navy, Pakistan Air Force, Mari Engineers, Rangers, Police, Port Qasim and National Bank of Pa-

kistan are participating in the 4th edition of CNS All Pakistan Hockey Tournament. Commander Central Punjab underscored that the tournament will provide players with an excellent platform to showcase their talent, raise awareness about the significance of hockey among youth and offer thrilling contests for spectators. Pakistan Navy will also award cash prizes to the top three teams, along with special prizes for the Best Player, Top Scorer, and Best Goalkeeper of the tournament. He also expressed heartfelt gratitude to Pakistan Hockey Federation, Sports Board Punjab, Sponsors and the management of National Hockey Stadium Lahore for extending full support to Pakistan Navy in organizing this event. - Agencies



## Russia warns US against any attempt...

FROM PAGE 01 which will allow it to become a full-fledged regional player. However, to achieve this goal, the Afghan government should take a more rational approach to interaction with the United States and its allies, primarily in the issue of the Trump Administration's quest for deployment of military facilities on the territory of Afghanistan. Their appearance, in addition to problems in relations with Moscow and Beijing, will most likely lead to destabilization of the situation in Afghanistan itself and, as a consequence, to a split within the Taliban movement and the beginning of internal confrontation. The Afghan government has come up with a very reasonable response to President Trump's recent threats to the Islamic Emirate in connection with Bagram air base. The U.S. instead of threatening Kabul, must re-check the understanding reached during the nearly 18-month tough negotiations in Qatar, which led to the signing of the landmark Doha agreement. It was agreed upon during Doha talks that there would be no military presence in Afghanistan of the U.S. and any other country, but the U.S. will have normal relations with Afghanistan in different fields including economic and trade.

Mr Trump's repeated calls for taking Bagram air base to keep an eye on China and other regional countries must be an eye opener for the Taliban government. China, which became the first country to accredit a Taliban diplomat as an ambassador in December 2023, enjoys good relations with the Islamic Emirate and several countries are investing in the country ravaged by over 40-year war. The U.S. must know that Taliban rulers would never allow anyone to spoil their relations with China. Wang Yi, the Chinese Foreign Minister, in his visit to Kabul in August, told Taliban leaders of his country's intention to include Afghanistan in the Built and Road Initiative (BRI).

## Prime Minister meets Crown...

FROM PAGE 01

keen desire to strengthen these ties further, particularly in trade, investment, agriculture, livestock, manpower export and health. The Prime Minister said that Pakistan was looking forward to hosting the Kuwaiti Crown Prince for an official visit to Pakistan later this year, dates for which are being finalized through diplomatic channels. The two leaders also exchanged views on regional and international issues, including the situation in the Middle East. The Crown Prince appreciated Pakistan's diplomatic efforts to effectively project the plight of the Palestinian people before the international community as well as playing an important role for peace in the region. Both leaders affirmed their resolve to collaborate closely, both bilaterally as well as on multilateral forums.

## PHC grants Imaan Mazari...

FROM PAGE 01

Mazari and her spouse appeared in the court today along with their lawyers Ataullah Kundi, Jahanzeb Mehsud, and Tariq Afghan. Meanwhile, Additional Attorney General Sanaulah appeared on behalf of the IGCBA. Advocate Ataullah Kundi told Justice Shah that "a case was registered against the two petitioners in Islamabad," to which he asked whether both of the petitioners were lawyers. Kundi responded: "Yes, both of them are lawyers and would like to appear in the court." Addressing the petitioners, Justice Shah asked if this was their first time in Peshawar, to which Mazari replied in the affirmative, prompting Justice Shah to remark, "At least you came to Peshawar on the pretext of the FIR." "You people never come to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa anyway," he added.

## Briefs

Rupee gains  
03 paise  
against US  
Dollar

ISLAMABAD: The Rupee on Tuesday appreciated by 03 paise against the US Dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 281.42 against the previous day's closing of Rs 281.45.

However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs 282.25 and Rs 282.45, respectively. The price of the Euro increased by Rs 1 to close at Rs 331.71 against the last day's closing of Rs 330.71, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). The Japanese yen remained unchanged to close at Rs 1.90, whereas an increase of Rs 1.05 was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which was traded at Rs 380.48 compared to the previous day's closing of Rs 379.43. The exchange rates of the Emirates Dirham and the Saudi Riyal came down by 01 paise each and closed at Rs 76.61 and Rs 75.03, respectively.—APP

## Gold price increases by Rs 5,100 per tola

ISLAMABAD: The price of 24 karat gold increased by Rs 5,100 on Tuesday and was sold at Rs 398,800 per tola as compared to Rs 393,700 on the last trading day, according to All Pakistan Sarafa Gems and Jewellers Association.

The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also rose by Rs 4,372 to Rs 341,906 from Rs 337,534, whereas 10 grams of 22 karat gold increased to Rs 313,425 from Rs 309,517, it added.

The price of per tola and 10 grams of silver witnessed an increase of Rs 42 and Rs 36, respectively, closing at Rs 4,637 and Rs 3,975.

The price of gold in the international market increased by \$51 to \$3,770, whereas silver was traded at \$44.10 with an increase of \$0.42, the association reported.—APP

## Kazakhstan to receive 300 American freight locomotives in \$4.2b deal

ASTANA : Agreements worth approximately \$4.2 billion were signed with the American company Wabtec in the presence of U.S. Secretary of Commerce Howard Lutnick. The signing ceremony took place as part of the Kazakh President's working visit to the United States, Kazinform News Agency cites Akorda.

The documents provide for the delivery of 300 freight locomotives with enhanced specifications to Kazakhstan, as well as associated maintenance services. A recognized global leader in transportation technology, the company is a key partner in the modernization of Kazakhstan's railway industry. The Wabtec Kazakhstan locomotive assembly plant has been successfully operating in Astana since 2009. Over this period, the company has invested more than \$230 million. Since its launch, the plant has produced over 600 locomotives for Kazakhstan Temir Zholy (KTZ) and for export. The level of production localization has reached 45%. In July 2024, Wabtec opened a new technology and engineering center in Kazakhstan, which has become a hub for innovation and professional training. As earlier reported, President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev is on a working visit to New York, where his program began with a meeting with the head of the Canadian multinational company Cameco to discuss uranium sector cooperation. He later met with Jared Cohen, President of Global Affairs at Goldman Sachs Global Institute, Amit Sevak, President and Chief Executive Officer of Educational Testing Service, and Halle Butvin, Director of Special Projects at the Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage. Today, the Head of State held meetings with Chairman of the Board of Directors of PepsiCo Foundation Stephen Kehoe, Senior Vice President of Amazon David Zapolsky, Chief Executive Officer of Cerberus Capital Management Frank Bruno.—APP

## Pak, ASEAN ambassadors pledge to boost trade, economic ties

"All ASEAN countries already enjoy cordial relations with Pakistan, but there is immense potential to go further," he said. "Through technology transfer, value addition in agriculture, and a skilled human resource base, we can take our trade from the current level to its true potential"

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan on Tuesday hosted the ambassadors of seven ASEAN member states at the Ministry of Commerce, reaffirming Pakistan's commitment to deepen trade, investment, and people-to-people ties with Southeast Asia. The meeting was attended by the ambassadors and senior diplomats of Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand, Brunei Darussalam, Vietnam, and Myanmar — reflecting strong ASEAN representation in Islamabad.

Welcoming the envoys, Minister Jam Kamal Khan said Pakistan seeks to expand its engagement with ASEAN beyond trade to long-term cooperation in technology, skills development, and infrastructure.

"All ASEAN countries already enjoy cordial relations with Pakistan, but there is immense potential to go further," he said. "Through technology transfer, value addition in agriculture, and



a skilled human resource base, we can take our trade from the current level to its true potential."

The Minister briefed the ambassadors on Pakistan's new trade policy, vehicle import policy, tariff ration-

alization measures under Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, and ongoing progress toward a Free Trade

Agreement (FTA) with the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). He also highlighted Pakistan's role as a gateway to Cen-

tral Asia, with its ports gaining significance under new transit trade agreements designed to reduce costs for regional partners.

## Indonesia, EU sign long-awaited trade deal

DENPASAR: Indonesia and the European Union finalised negotiations on a trade agreement Tuesday after nearly a decade of talks, a senior minister said. The Indonesia-European Union Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) is the third deal Brussels has signed with Southeast Asian countries, after Singapore and Vietnam. The pact was signed by EU Trade Commissioner Maros Sefcovic and Indonesian Minister of Economic Affairs Airlangga Hartarto in Bali and will open investment in strategic sectors such as electric vehicles, electronics, and pharmaceuticals.

"By finalising this agreement, the EU and Indonesia are sending a powerful message to the world that we stand united in our commitment to open rules-based and mutually beneficial international trade," Sefcovic said after the signing. "In all, EU exporters will save some 600 million euros (\$708 million) a year in duties paid on their goods entering the Indonesian market, and European products will be more affordable and available to Indonesian consumers." EU President Ursula von der Leyen said in a statement. Indonesia has been in talks with the EU since 2016, but negotiations for a trade deal initially saw little progress. Issues such as palm oil and deforestation posed stumbling blocks, but US President Donald Trump's sweeping tariff policy "created the urgency" to expedite an agreement, said Deni Friawan, researcher at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies. The trade deal also included a protocol on palm oil, the EU said in a statement, without providing details. President Prabowo Subianto travelled to Brussels in July and announced with EU chief Ursula von der Leyen that the two sides had reached a "political agreement" to conclude the deal after 19 rounds of negotiations. Indonesian chief economic minister Airlangga Hartarto said uncertainties caused by the "tariff war and protectionism" between major countries pushed the two sides "to seek certainty through a stable bilateral agreement". "This is a ten-year journey that has resulted in a milestone that reflects our commitment and the commitment of stakeholders to an open, fair, and sustainable economic assistance," he told a news conference. The agreement was expected to "mitigate risks from the impact of the global tariff war", Airlangga told AFP in a statement. "This signing came at the right moment. It was finalised because of Donald Trump's tariff war, and we need to seek an alternative market in Europe, and Europe has the same interest, they need a market to penetrate," Bhima Yudhistira Adhinegara, executive director of the Center of Economic and Law Studies, told AFP. Around 80 percent of Indonesian exports to the EU will be tariff-free after the deal comes into force, Airlangga said in June. It is expected to benefit the country's top shipments to the bloc including palm oil, footwear, textiles and fisheries, he added. The EU is Indonesia's fifth-largest trading partner with bilateral trade reaching \$30.1 billion last year. The agreement would further open up EU access to the Indonesian market of around 280 million people, Deni said.—DNA

## Asylum seeker jailed for sex assault on teen that sparked UK protests

LONDON: An Ethiopian asylum seeker, whose arrest in July sparked angry protests outside the hotel near London where he and other migrants were being housed, was jailed for 12 months on Tuesday for sexually assaulting a teenage girl and another woman. The protests outside the Bell Hotel in Epping, about 30km north of the British capital, became a touchpaper for a string of country-wide demonstrations amid rising tensions over immigration. Hadush Gerberslasie Kebatu was convicted at Chelmsford Magistrates' Court earlier this month of sexually assaulting a 14-year-old girl and a woman, attempting to sexually assault the girl, inciting her to engage in sexual activity and one count of harassment. Kebatu had acknowledged that he was aware of the unmet his offending had caused and that other law-abiding asylum seekers had been impacted by it as it drew a response from the public not just in Epping but across the country, Judge Christopher Williams told him. "It resulted in mass demonstrations and the fear that children in the United Kingdom are not safe," the judge said. Immigration has become the dominant political issue in Britain, eclipsing concerns over a faltering economy, as the country faces both a record number of asylum claims and arrivals by migrants in small boats across the Channel. Kebatu, who had arrived in Britain on a small boat and only moved to the Bell Hotel about a week before the incident, had denied all the accusations, saying he was "not a wild animal."—APP

## Palestinians, Jordan say Israel to indefinitely close West Bank crossing

RAMALLAH, Palestinian Territories: Palestinian and Jordanian authorities said Israel was indefinitely closing the only crossing between the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Jordan from Wednesday. There was no immediate confirmation from Israeli officials on Tuesday, which is a public holiday. "The chairman of the Palestinian General Authority for Crossings and Borders, Mr. Nazmi Muhanna, announced that the Israeli side has informed us of the closure of the Al-Karama crossing starting tomorrow, Wednesday... until further notice, in both directions," a statement from the Palestinian borders authority said, referring to the Allenby crossing. The crossing in the Jordan Valley is the only international gateway for Palestinians from the West Bank that does not require entering Israel, which has occupied the territory since 1967. The Jordanian Public Security Directorate also announced the closure of the crossing, which is also known as the King Hussein Bridge, saying it was being shut "to passenger and cargo traffic by the other side until further notice." The crossing has been largely closed since a Jordanian truck driver shot dead an Israeli soldier and a reserve officer at the border last week. The announcement comes hours after France joined a flurry of Western countries in formally recognizing a Palestinian state, drawing sharp rebuke from Israel.—APP

## Spanish PM for full UN membership for Palestinian state

WASHINGTON: Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez, an outspoken critic of Israel's war in Gaza, called Monday for a state of Palestine to be admitted to the UN after a French-led summit on recognition. "This conference marks a milestone, but it's not the end of the road. It's only the beginning," Sanchez said at the United Nations General Assembly. "The State of Palestine must be a full member of the United Nations," he continued. "The process for the State of Palestine to join this organization must be completed as soon as possible, on an equal footing with other states," he said. "Second, we must take immediate measures to stop the barbarism and make peace possible." The left-wing Spanish prime minister has been one of the most vocal critics of Israel's devastating offensive in Gaza launched in response to the October 7, 2023 attacks by Hamas. Spain, alongside Ireland and Norway, already recognized a Palestinian state in May. Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Saar recently described Sanchez as "antisemitic" and a "liar" after the Spanish leader expressed admiration for pro-Palestinian protesters who disrupted Spain's Vuelta cycling race. The attack on Sanchez led Spain to summon Israel's top diplomat in Madrid.—APP

## 'ICCI, IWCCI and ICSTSI to work for ease of doing business environment'

ISLAMABAD: ICCI President Sardar Tahir Mehmood has vowed to make the Chamber the true voice of the voiceless and the shield of the business community by asserting that every policy relating to business community must be framed by onboarding the real stakeholders. He added that the business community has always delivered in difficult times and helped the nation overcome economic crises, therefore, its voice must be heard at every policy forum. He expressed these views while addressing a grand felicitation ceremony at the S.M. Munir Auditorium held in his honor along with the newly elected Senior Vice President, Tahir Ayub, and Vice President, Mohammad Irfan Chaudhry, on their unopposed election. The event was attended by Patron-in-Chief of Azerbaijan-Pakistan Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Secretary General United Business Group, Zafar Bakhtawari, ICCI Executive and Council Members, leading businessmen, and office bearers of various traders' associations of Islamabad. Sardar Tahir Mehmood while highlighting ICCI's vision, said the Chamber does not merely represent its 15,000 members but being the federal Chamber also stands for the interests of 260 million people of Pakistan, he demanded the inclusion of ICCI's President in the CDA Board to ensure representation of the business community. He further announced that a detailed calendar of activities and initiatives will be unveiled in a press conference next month to present ICCI's proactive agenda.— Patron-in-Chief Azerbaijan-Pakistan Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, congratulated the new ICCI leadership and expressed confidence that the team will serve the business community in a manner that makes its tenure exemplary. He assured full support of the business community for ICCI's efforts to obtain a business-friendly environment in the region. He also called for closer collaboration among ICCI, Islamabad Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry (IWCCI), and Islamabad Chamber of Small Traders and Small Industries (ICSTSI) to achieve common objectives. Mohammad Owais Satti, President ICSTSI, also felicitated the ICCI leadership, while Senior Vice President Tahir Ayub reiterated the commitment of the team to serve the business community without discrimination and to ensure unity in the ranks.—DNA



## Syria to establish new parliament, testing inclusivity pledge

DAMASCUS: Syria is preparing to establish the first parliament since Bashar Assad was toppled, a milestone in the transition from his rule but one that has stirred new concerns about political inclusivity under President Ahmed Al-Sharaa. Regional committees have selected electoral colleges that will elect two-thirds of the 210-member People's Assembly, on October 5. Sharaa appoints the remaining third. The authorities say they resorted to this system rather than universal suffrage due to a lack of reliable population data and displacement after years of war. The process is unfolding as Sharaa tries to consolidate his hold over a fractured nation, with suspicion of his Sunni Islamist-led administration running deep among minority Kurds, Druze and Alawites. How will the election take place? The process is run by an 11-member body appointed by Sharaa in June. This body in turn appointed regional sub-committees that selected members of regional electoral colleges, after local consultations.—APP

## WB lauds Sindh's swift recovery under SFERP

The World Bank mission commended Sindh's resilience efforts, underscoring that the province now stands better prepared to withstand future climate-related disasters

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: A World Bank mission praised the Government of Sindh for the successful implementation of the Sindh Flood Emergency Rehabilitation Project (SFERP), jointly executed by the Sindh Irrigation Department and the Planning & Development Department. Launched after the devastating 2022 floods, the project has rehabilitated key infrastructure, restored livelihoods, and strengthened Sindh's disaster response capacity. The delegation, led by Ms. Catherine Signe Tovey, Practice Manager for Urban, Resilience, and Land, noted that Sindh completed the



project ahead of schedule and with high quality standards, adopting a "build back better" approach informed by lessons from the 2010 floods. Ms. Tovey said: "In light of Pakistan's climate vulnerabilities, building resilience is not just important, it is urgent. SFERP reflects collective effort, sustainability, and global best practices in post-disaster recovery." Achievements under SFERP include, 97% infrastructure rehabilitation and 100% livelihood restoration across 19 districts including Jamshoro, Dadu, Thatta, Badin, Tharparkar, Larkana, Sukkur, and others. Completion of 825 km of 141 flood-affected roads, 98% institutional strengthening and 96% project management milestones achieved. Project Director Ghulam Asghar Kanasro emphasized that the initiative focused on equitable recovery, especially for vulnerable groups such as women, children, and the poor. Senior officials from Rescue 1122 and the Irrigation Department highlighted that all infrastructure was rebuilt to enhance engineering and climate resilience standards. The World Bank mission commended Sindh's resilience efforts, underscoring that the province now stands better prepared to withstand future climate-related disasters.

Briefs

US MP warns of mily 'misunderstanding' risk with China

"We need to have a better conversation about de-conflicting," says US Representative Adam Smith

MONITORING REPORT

BEIJING: The leader of a US congressional delegation to China warned Tuesday of the "risk of a misunderstanding" between the two countries' militaries as advances in defence technology move at breakneck speed. Adam Smith, the most senior Democrat on Washington's Armed Services Committee, told journalists in Beijing that China needs to talk more about its military with other global powers "for basic de-confliction".

Over 35,000 parents say no to polio drops in Sindh

KARACHI: Nearly 35,000 parents in Sindh have reportedly refused to get their children vaccinated against poliovirus, with the majority of refusals reported from Karachi. The Pakistan Polio Eradication Programme, in collaboration with the Expanded Program on Immunisation (EPI), had carried out a vaccination campaign in 25 districts of the province from September 1 to 7. The latest campaign had initially targeted 2.1 million children, but a significant number of children in Sindh, particularly Karachi, remained unvaccinated, the sources said.

With poverty at 25.3%, World Bank urges bold reforms

85% people working in lower-income sectors; salaries only increased by 2-3% between 2011 and 2021

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: The World Bank (WB), in a report released Tuesday based on 25 years of official household surveys in Pakistan, stressed the need for bold, sustained and people-centered reforms to reduce poverty, strengthen resilience and protect vulnerable populations. The report titled "Reclaiming Momentum Towards Prosperity: Pakistan's Poverty, Equity and Resilience Assessment", marked the first comprehensive evaluation of poverty and welfare trends in the country since the early 2000s.

nowcasted projections, geospatial analysis, and unique administrative data sources. Official poverty estimates are based on multiple rounds of the Household Integrated Economic Survey (HIES), using Pakistan's national poverty line and methodology, which remained the most relevant tool for policymaking. For international comparisons, the report applied global poverty thresholds updated in June 2025. Beyond 2018-19, which is the latest available survey round, it used micro-simulation models to project poverty estimates. New poverty estimates and trends based on survey data would be produced once the recently collected HIES 2024-25 data is released.

reduction in Pakistan was primarily driven by rising non-agricultural labor income, as more households shifted away from farm work to low-quality service jobs. However, it said, slow and uneven structural transformation has hindered diversification, job creation, and inclusive growth. "As a result, low productivity across sectors has constrained income growth. Over 85% of jobs remain informal and women and youth remain largely excluded from the labor force," the report said.

Furthermore, unplanned urbanization has led to 'sterile agglomeration' - crowded settlements with low living standards. "Progress in poverty reduction is threatened by structural vulnerabilities," said Christina Wieser, Senior Economist and one of the lead authors of the report. "Reforms that expand access to quality services, protect households from shocks, and create better jobs—especially for the bottom 40 percent—are essential to break cycles of poverty and deliver durable, inclusive growth," she added.

UNSC rejects South Korea's draft resolution on Iran nuclear deal

Russia strongly criticized the move, calling it "provocative and unlawful," and accused European powers of manipulating the Security Council presidency. Moscow maintained that the European request could not be regarded as a valid notification under Paragraph 11 of UNSC Resolution 2231, which outlines the "snapback" mechanism for reimposing sanctions on Iran

DNA

UNITED NATIONS: A draft resolution on Iran's nuclear program, tabled by South Korea in its capacity as President of the UN Security Council (UNSC), failed to gain support during a vote held on Thursday. The resolution was submitted following an August 28 request by the United Kingdom, Germany, and France, who alleged that Tehran had materially violated its obligations under the 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

sure on non-permanent members to back the resolution. In a surprising development, South Korea abstained from voting on its own draft, signaling what diplomats interpreted as an acknowledgment of the "legal and procedural nullity" of the proposal. Analysts noted that Seoul's decision underscored concerns about the potentially destabilizing consequences of renewed pressure on Iran. With the resolution failing to gain traction, it was removed from the Council's agenda, leaving no obligations on member states to reinstate previous restrictions against Tehran.

Pak calls for Russia-Ukraine rapprochement

DNA

UNITED NATIONS: On the heels of reported incursions into Polish and Romanian airspace by Russia, Pakistan has called for dialogue and restraint to prevent an escalation of the situation. "Cessation of hostilities and return to diplomacy remain the ONLY path for achieving sustainable peace," Ambassador Asim Iftikhar Ahmad, permanent representative of Pakistan to the United Nations, told the UN Security Council which met in an emergency session on Monday.

Ahmad said that Pakistan stands for sovereignty and territorial integrity of all member States that must be respected universally. "The ongoing conflict in Ukraine, now into its fourth year, has generated numerous challenges both for the regional and international peace and stability," he said. Pakistan had repeatedly drawn attention to the negative consequences of this conflict, and the need to bring it to an end. The Pakistani envoy called on the parties to demonstrate restraint, avoid escalation, and scrupulously adhere to the international humanitarian law.

UK Pledges Ongoing Support to Pakistan's Climate Fight

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: The United Kingdom has reiterated its commitment to stand with the government and people of Pakistan in the face of climate change and the ongoing flood situation. British High Commissioner to Pakistan, Ms. Jane Marriott, expressed this resolve during her visit to Lok Virsa, Shakarparian, where she planted a tree as part of a plantation drive. Speaking informally to the media, the High Commissioner said that Pakistan is among the countries most affected by climate change. She stressed that tackling climate change requires joint global action and reaffirmed that the United Kingdom will continue to work closely with Pakistan in resilience-building projects.



Pakistan reaffirms commitment to strengthen Commonwealth role

Welcoming the Secretary-General to her first CFAMM since assuming office in April 2025, Dar commended her efforts in accelerating the implementation of CHOGM-2024 outcomes and pushing forward reforms to reinvigorate the organization

DNA

UNITED NATIONS: Pakistan on Tuesday reaffirmed its commitment to strengthen the Commonwealth role in tackling global challenges and advancing collective prosperity. Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar addressed the Commonwealth Foreign Affairs Ministers Meeting (CFAMM). Welcoming the Secretary-General to her first CFAMM since assuming office in April 2025, Dar commended her efforts in accelerating the implementation of CHOGM-2024 outcomes and pushing forward reforms to reinvigorate the organization.



"The climate crisis is an existential threat to many of our members. Pakistan, as one of the most climate-vulnerable countries, has experienced this reality firsthand," Dar said, calling for sustained focus on climate action, adaptation, financing, and resilience-building across the Commonwealth.

He also underscored Pakistan's leadership in advancing the Commonwealth youth agenda, digital transformation, trade, and entrepreneurship. "Our young people must be empowered to shape a more prosperous and peaceful future," he stressed, while reaffirming Pakistan's role in driving the Commonwealth Connectivity Agenda to strengthen digital, physical, regulatory, and supply chain links among members. Concluding his remarks, Dar emphasized Pakistan's readiness to work closely with the Secretary-General and all member states to promote peace, sustainable development, climate resilience, and inclusive growth, ensuring that the Commonwealth remains impactful and relevant for future generations.

ATC turns down Khan's plea to stop proceedings in GHQ attack case

Court also rejects petition seeking provision of CCTV footage of September 19 case proceedings

NEWS DESK

RAWALPINDI: An anti-terrorism court (ATC) in Rawalpindi on Tuesday rejected Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan's plea seeking the halt of court proceedings in May 9 case involving attack on General Headquarters (GHQ). ATC Judge Amjad Ali Shah conducted the hearing today over two petitions filed by Khan, urging the court to provide the CCTV footage of the court proceedings on September 19 and stopping the proceedings till the high court's order on the transfer of the jail trial. During the hearing, where Khan was presented virtually before the court via WhatsApp link, the PTI founder's lawyer Faisal Malik contended that they did not want to become part of the case proceedings sans consultation with the former prime minister. To this, the court said: "During the last hearing, you consulted with the PTI founder who [then] boycotted the proceedings".

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