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**Finance Minister briefs Germany envoy about economic initiatives**

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**Mohsin Naqvi hits back at the Indian PM**

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**Pak captain donates his match fee**

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**Says civil-mily page same**

# Shehbaz Sharif welcomes Trump Gaza peace plan

Says recently signed Pakistan-Saudi defence pact was not against any other country, as Pakistan was not in any power struggle but was pursuing a focused approach to achieve economic prosperity by exploiting its immense resources

CENTRELINE REPORT

LONDON: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif welcomed on Monday US President Donald Trump's plan to bring the Israeli invasion of Gaza to an end. His statement came in a post on X as the US president greeted Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu at the White House for talks on the US-led peace plan. Before the meeting, Trump had told reporters he was "very confident" that there would be peace in Gaza. Asked if all parties were on board with his 21-point plan, he repeated, "very confident". Meanwhile, PM Shehbaz posted on X: "I welcome President Trump's 20-point [sic] plan to ensure an end to the war in Gaza. "I am also convinced that durable peace between the Palestinian people and Israel would be essential in bringing political stability and economic growth to the region," the PM wrote. He added, "It is also my firm belief that President Trump is fully prepared to assist in whatever way necessary to make this extremely important and urgent understanding to become a reality." Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on

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**Israeli PM apologises to Qatar Trump 'very confident' Gaza deal will deliver**

NEWS DESK

WASHINGTON: U.S. President Donald Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu give thumbs-up at the White House in Washington, D.C., U.S., September 29, 2025. — Reuters President Donald Trump said Monday he was "very confident" of a Gaza deal as he welcomed Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to the White House for talks on a US-led peace plan. "I am, I'm very confident," Trump told reporters when asked if he was confident there would be peace in Gaza. He repeated "very confident" when asked if all parties were on board with his 21-point plan. The United Arab Emirates (UAE) is pressing Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to accept

President Donald Trump's Gaza peace proposal at their meeting later on Monday and to abandon any plan to annex the West Bank, a delegate with knowledge of the matter told Reuters.

The Israeli leader faces pressure to annex the West Bank from far-right politicians who want to extend sovereignty over the area and snuff out hopes for a Palestinian state. A senior Israeli official has said that Netanyahu will give Israel's response to Trump's Gaza peace proposal when he meets the US leader at the White House on Monday. The UAE position on Trump's Gaza peace plan was communicated to Netanyahu by its Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed in a meeting with the Israeli leader on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York on Friday, the delegate said.



ISLAMABAD: Acting President Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani receiving Mr. Nuriddin Muidinkhonovich Ismoilov, Speaker of the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis of Uzbekistan at Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad on 29th Sep 2025. — DNA

**Friendly bonds**

## Pak-Uzbek trade to be raised to USD 2 bn, says Acting President

Meets Mr. Nuriddin Muidinkhonovich Ismoilov, Speaker of the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis of Uzbekistan

ANSAR M BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Acting President of Pakistan, Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani, received Mr. Nuriddin Muidinkhonovich Ismoilov, Speaker of the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis of Uzbekistan, in Islamabad. The two leaders reaffirmed the strong and historic bonds between Pakistan and Uzbekistan, grounded in shared history, culture, religion, and values. Welcoming the visiting dignitary, the Acting President said Pakistan deeply values its fraternal ties with Uzbekistan, which are gaining momentum across political, economic, and parliamentary domains. Recalling his visit to Uzbekistan in April 2025 for the 150th Inter-Parliamentary Union, he expressed gratitude for the warm hospitality extended. He also appreciated the Road Map for Accelerated Imple-

mentation of Agreements signed in June 2025 in Istanbul. The Acting President underscored the importance of inter-parliamentary exchanges and parliamentary diplomacy in strengthening bilateral cooperation. He noted the positive trajectory in trade relations, reaffirming Pakistan's commitment to raising bilateral trade to US\$ 2 billion in the next four years. Welcoming Uzbekistan Airways' resumption of direct flights between Tashkent and Lahore/Islamabad, he termed it a significant step toward enhancing connectivity. He also highlighted the strategic importance of the Trans-Afghan Railway Project, describing it as a game-changer for regional trade and integration. Acting President Gilani expressed hope that the President of Uzbekistan, H.E. Shavkat Mirziyoyev, would visit Pakistan soon, reaffirming Pakistan's commitment to deepening cooperation for regional peace, prosperity, and development.

## Briefs

**Typhoon Bualoi brings havoc to Vietnam**

NEWS DESK

HANOI: Typhoon Bualoi tore through Vietnam's coast on Monday, killing at least 13 people and injuring 46, the government said, while accompanying strong winds and rains damaged homes, snapped power links, and flooded roads. Bualoi weakened into a depression heading for Laos after having made landfall early on Monday, and had whipped up waves as much as eight metres (26 ft) high as it moved along the northern central coast, the national weather agency said. Among the missing are fishermen whose boats were washed away off the province of Quang Tri, while another fishing boat lost contact, the government's disaster management agency said.

**Tax returns date not be extended**

FAISAL SHAIKH

ISLAMABAD: The FBR said on Monday that the deadline for filing income tax returns for the 2025 tax year would not be extended beyond September 30 (Tuesday). In a statement, the board said: "The FBR has taken notice of unverified reports circulating on various media platforms claiming that the deadline for filing income tax returns for tax year 2025 will be extended. "Some elements have also attempted to link this perceived extension to the recent floods." Millions of people have been affected and hundreds of casualties have been reported across the country during the recent floods and monsoon rainfall. "It is pointed out that a vast majority of taxpayers reside in areas unaffected by floods and have had ample time to discharge their national obligation of filing returns," the FBR said.

**Degree cancellation order challenged**

## SC suspends IHC order barring Justice Jahangiri from work

Apex court issues notices to relevant parties, AGP office; case hearing adjourned till today

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court on Monday suspended the Islamabad High Court (IHC) order barring Justice Tariq Mehmood Jahangiri from judicial work. The apex court issued notices to relevant parties, including office of the attorney general of Pakistan, and adjourned the case hearing till tomorrow. The decision was announced by a five-member constitutional bench, headed by Justice Amin-ud-Din Khan, on an appeal filed by Justice Jahangiri challenging the IHC's September 16 order. Other members of the bench included Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail, Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar, Justice Syed Hasan Azhar Rizvi, and Justice Shahid Bilal Hassan. The development comes after a two-member bench of the IHC, led by Chief Justice (CJ) Sardar Muhammad Sarfraz Dogar and comprising Justice Mohammad

Azam Khan, restrained Justice Jahangiri from performing judicial duties until the Supreme Judicial Council's (SJC) decision on a petition pending against him. The petition was filed by lawyer Mian Dawood.

Following the verdict, five IHC judges, including Justice Jahangiri, separately approached the SC against the divisional bench's order. The four other judges were Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kiyani, Justice Babar Sattar, Justice Saman Rifat and Justice Ejaz Ishaq Khan. The case centers on a controversy regarding Justice Jahangiri's LLB degree, which was cancelled last week by the University of Karachi. According to the university's notification dated September 25, the university syndicate, in its meeting on August 31, 2024, approved "Resolution No 06" in compliance with the competent authority's decision, upholding the recommendation of the Unfair Means Committee (UFM).

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**Imran Khan may be shifted from Adila to another prison**

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Sources have revealed that PTI founder Imran Khan and his wife Bushra Bibi may soon be shifted from Adila Jail to another facility. Reportedly, a special jail has been prepared near Qasim Market in Rawalpindi, a highly sensitive and protected area falling under military jurisdiction. While official reasons for the move are being described as "security-related," political observers suggest there

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**CM Maryam lambasts PPP critics**

Chief minister says Punjab delivering modern transport, rejects criticism of provincial projects

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz has said that if others carried out development in Sindh, she would welcome it, but insisted that "at least something must be done". Addressing a ceremony in Faisalabad on Monday, she stressed that Punjab's progress should not become a source of discomfort for others. CM Maryam pointed out that Punjab had built motorways, metro bus projects, and the Orange Line,

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## US president mentions 'massive' Pakistan oil deal

Over 30 int'l companies have come to Pakistan with hope of finding oil, but left due to high cost and low reward

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The newfound camaraderie between the US and Pakistan was on full display this week as US President Donald Trump welcomed Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Chief of Army Staff (COAS) Field Marshal Asim Munir, into the Oval Office, heralding them both as "great leaders", The Guardian reported. Having been cold-shouldered by successive US presidents, this was the first time a Pakistani prime minister had been invited to Washington in more than six years. It was also the unprecedented second time this year that COAS Munir held an intimate meeting with President Trump. Islamabad's charm offensive with Trump since his re-election has included handing over to the US a high-profile member of the Daesh affiliate in Afghanistan and publicly crediting the US president with preventing hostilities between India and Pakistan escalating into all-out war, even nominating Trump for the Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts. Yet what has appeared most effective is Pakistan's touting of its allegedly untapped natural resources —

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## Iran executes 'one of most important spies' for Israel

Iran has executed many individuals it accuses of having links with Israel's Mossad intelligence service

DNA

TEHRAN: Iran executed a man named Bahman Choubasl on Monday, the judiciary's news outlet Mizan said, saying the defendant was "one of the most important spies for Israel in Iran". Entangled in a decades-long shadow war with Israel, Iran has executed many individuals it accuses of having links with Israel's Mossad intelligence service and facilitating its

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earn redeem experience

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## ICCI President vows to guard business community

ISLAMABAD: President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), Sardar Tahir Mehmood Monday reaffirmed that ICCI will continue to play an active advocacy role for the resolution of issues faced by the business community with relevant departments in order to promote ease of doing business in the federal capital.

He said ICCI will continue to serve as the strong voice of traders and industrialists and will resist unilateral decisions that create hurdles for economic growth. He expressed these views while addressing the inauguration ceremony of a new Cash and Carry in Naval Encourage as Chief Guest, said a press release.

Highlighting ICCI's recent achievements, he said that on a writ petition filed by ICCI, Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kiyani of Islamabad High Court set aside the notification regarding enhancement of property tax and ordered that the tax rates applicable in 2001 would remain in force.

He added that ICCI is preparing to file further petitions in the High Court to safeguard the interests of the business community and residents of Islamabad. He also referred to ICCI's role in persuading the Federal Board of Revenue to withdraw its requirement in income tax returns for declaring Fair Market Value (FMV) and Current Market Value of immovable properties in addition to the declared transaction values.

He noted that the reversal came after strong protest by the business community and direct intervention of the Prime Minister. APP

## Bugti directs CMT to ensure projects monitoring

QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister, Mir Sarfraz Bugti, has directed the Chief Minister's Inspection Team (CMT) to intensify oversight of all ongoing development projects across the province, ensuring effective accountability and strict adherence to quality works.

The directive was issued during a high-level review meeting on the Public Sector Development Program (PSDP), where CMT presented its performance report. CM Sarfraz Bugti expressed serious concern over reports of incomplete and substandard schemes, calling for immediate corrective measures. The CM underscored the sanctity of public resources. "Every single rupee of public funds is a trust of the people, and substandard projects will not be tolerated under any circumstances," he declared. He warned that officers and contractors responsible for negligence or misuse of funds would face strict disciplinary action, and that the accountability process would be made more rigorous and transparent. Sarfraz reiterated that the provincial government is committed to protecting public interests and will not allow any compromise on the quality or integrity of development initiatives.

To reinforce oversight, CM Sarfraz Bugti instructed CMT to conduct regular field inspections of all PSDP schemes. In a symbolic move, he directed the team to begin its inspections from his own constituency, Bakkar, demonstrating personal accountability and leadership by example. APP

# UBG terms smaller provinces creation need of hour for progress

S.M. Tanveer said that very soon the interest rate will come down to single digits, electricity prices will decrease, and these measures will accelerate the wheel of industry

CHAKWAL : United Business Group (UBG) Patron-in-Chief S.M. Tanveer has said that the creation of smaller provinces and administrative units is the need of the hour for the country's economic prosperity and for sustainable solutions to public issues. He said that when smaller provinces are established, the benefits of development will reach the grassroots level. He was addressing the Annual General Meeting of the Chakwal Chamber of Commerce and Industry, which was attended by a large number of business community members. The event was also addressed by UBG Secretary General Zafar Bakhtawari, President of Chakwal Chamber Aamir Najeeb Bhutta, former President Khawaja Arif, UBG Punjab President Aamir Atta Bajwa, and FPCCI Executive Member & former Chakwal Chamber President Waqar Zafar Bakhtawari. S.M. Tanveer said that very soon the interest rate will come down to single digits, electricity prices will decrease, and these measures will accelerate the wheel of industry. He stressed that for economic revival and improvement of the business environment, the government and business community must move forward together. He said that industrial growth is the only guarantee for creating job opportunities and eliminating poverty. He added that branding the trading community as thieves and looters is regrettable, as this community is in fact the backbone of the national economy. S.M. Tanveer further said that UBG's mission is to find practical solutions to the problems of traders and industrialists so that investors can move forward with confidence. "Together we must lay the foundation of a Pakistan that ensures a strong economy, sustainable development, and a prosperous nation," he said. UBG Secretary General Zafar Bakhtawari in his



address said that Chakwal is the land of martyrs and veterans, rich in both mineral and human resources. An industrial estate should be established here so that local resources can be utilized. He said that Chakwal's archaeological and historical sites have great appeal for tourists worldwide, and by promoting them, the country can earn valuable foreign exchange. President of Chakwal Chamber Aamir Najeeb Bhutta said that the business community has always played a key role in the country's economic growth, and through the platform of UBG, these efforts will continue in an even more effective manner. Former President Khawaja

Arif said that traders have always stood by the nation in difficult times and contributed to its progress. UBG Punjab President Aamir Atta Bajwa and Waqar Bakhtawari said that the business community is united and will continue its struggle for the resolution of all issues through solidarity. In the end, the speakers paid tribute to the late Qazi Muhammad Akbar for his valuable services to the business community and national development, and expressed the resolve to carry forward his mission by continuing to play an active role in the welfare of traders and the strengthening of the national economy.

## CCP issues advisory on dealership agreements, exemption Compliance

ISLAMABAD: The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) has cautioned undertakings that dealership, distribution, agency, and wholesale agreements containing restrictive provisions may fall within the scope of prohibited agreements under Section 4 of the Competition Act, 2010.

Such agreements are void ab initio under Section 4(3) unless specifically exempted, prior to execution, by the Commission under Sections 5 and 9 of the Act, said a release issued on Monday. Exemptions are granted only when agreements meet the criteria laid down in Section 9 and the Competition (Exemption) Regulations, 2020—namely, when they enhance production or distribution, encourage technical or economic progress, and allow consumers a fair share of resulting benefits. The Commission reminded businesses that Exemption Orders are conditional. APP

# Recent catastrophic floods left millions homeless, exposed to diseases: Gilani

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Acting President Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani, met with Ms. Coco Ushiyama, the Representative and Country Director of the World Food Programme (WFP) in Pakistan at President House Islamabad. Welcoming Ms. Ushiyama, the Acting President expressed pleasure on receiving such an honourable and dedicated humanitarian leader, especially at a crucial time when Pakistan is grappling with the devastating consequences of floods and the looming threat of malnutrition among vulnerable communities. He expressed confidence that her extensive expertise in humanitarian response and strategic management would greatly benefit the people of Pakistan.

He highlighted the role of parliamentary diplomacy in fostering partnerships to address shared global challenges and achieve national development goals. The Acting President drew attention to Pakistan's acute vulnerabilities to cli-

mate change, noting that recent catastrophic floods have left millions homeless, hungry, and exposed to disease. He pointed out that the destruction of crops, loss of livestock, and rising poverty, especially in South Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, require urgent and sustained international support. He called for real-time assistance from global humanitarian organizations to ensure immediate relief and long-term rehabilitation of the affected communities. Emphasizing the importance of strengthening collaboration between WFP and Parliament, the

Acting President noted that joint coordination could help ensure well-informed decisions and targeted interventions for the most vulnerable groups at the grassroots level. He also underscored the importance of WFP programmes in Pakistan, including the Nashonuma initiative and the school nutrition programme, and stressed the need to expand these interventions, particularly in flood-hit areas. Looking towards the future, the Acting President urged for broadening the scope of climate resilience projects, such as the Integrated Climate Risk Management

programme supported by the WFP and Green Climate Fund, to cover flood-prone regions of southern Punjab. Such projects, he noted, would improve early warning systems, strengthen resilience, and mitigate the risks faced by vulnerable communities. He expressed trust in WFP's ability, in coordination with the Government of Pakistan and local representatives, to contribute to improved livelihoods, reduced hunger, and enhanced resilience of the people. He suggested establishing direct channels of communication between WFP and the Parliament to enable accurate needs assessment and ensure targeted interventions.



## Punjab CM open electro bus service in Faisalabad

FAISALABAD Punjab Chief Minister (CM) Maryam Nawaz has inaugurated Faisalabad's first-ever electro bus service project on Monday amid historic public reception which would help in transforming public transport landscape of the city with a modern and eco-friendly system. The launch created a festive atmosphere across the city as thousands of citizens, students and political workers thronged the streets, showered rose petals and raised passionate slogans to welcome the historic development. The electro-bus convoy began its inaugural journey from the University of Agriculture Faisalabad where little girls in colorful traditional dresses and boys wearing turbans lined up to greet the Chief Minister (CM) Punjab. The students held aloft large portraits of former Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, the late Begum Kalsoom Nawaz and Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz while chanting slogans celebrating her as the "Guaranteee of a Bright Pakistan, Pride of the Nation, Voice of the Youth and Identity of Progress". Responding warmly, CM Maryam Nawaz appeared at the bus doorway, waved to the jubilant gathering, personally received the portraits from students and remarked with emotion "Seeing you, I could not resist meeting you". During her symbolic journey from Agriculture University to Jinnah Garden, the Chief Minister mingled with children inside the bus, posed for selfies and acknowledged the youth's overwhelming affection. On the roadsides, historic crowds of men, women and children turned out to welcome her, filling every corner with cheers and festivity. At University Chowk, Jail Road and other major points, the political workers showered tons of rose petals on the moving bus and released dozens of white pigeons into the sky as a gesture of peace and celebration. The electro-bus project hailed as a milestone for Faisalabad is not only a political achievement but also a major step toward modern, inclusive and environment-friendly transport. Provincial Minister for Transport Bilal Akbar briefed the gathering that Faisalabad division will be allocated 150 electro-buses in total while 30 buses would start operation in Faisalabad city during the first phase. He informed that the buses would initially operate on two major routes including a 22-kilometer track from Yousaf Town to Sagle City and an 18-kilometer route from University Roundabout to Sadhar. These buses are expected to cater to more than 24,000 passengers daily in addition to significantly reducing reliance on outdated and polluting transport, he added. A spokesman of district administration said that electro buses are equipped with modern facilities such as Wi-Fi, mobile charging ports, CCTV cameras and separate compartments for women. These buses would reflect a new era of comfortable, safe and accessible mobility. APP

# Flawed policies leaving India behind amid emerging realities in region

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A recent report by the Institute of Regional Studies (IRS), Building Peace in South Asia: Post-Pahalgam Scenario, argues that India's policies are contributing to its growing marginalization both within the region and globally. The report, the outcome of a joint dialogue between IRS and the Beaconhouse Centre for Policy Research (BCPR) following the May 2025 crisis between Pakistan and India, brings together insights from leading Pakistani experts. It assesses the regional crisis in depth and suggests a way forward for Pakistan. Launching the report, IRS President Ambassador Jauhar Saleem stated

that the May 2025 military escalation revealed a shift in India's strategic doctrine—from a nuclear-calibrated, status-quo approach to a more assertive, risk-tolerant posture. He cited Operation Sindoor as an example of India's attempt

to reshape deterrence by raising costs for Pakistan. Ambassador Saleem underscored Pakistan's measured and responsible response, which prioritized regional stability while safeguarding national sovereignty and reaffirming the country's

commitment to principled peace. Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed observed that India's flawed policies are increasingly isolating it in South Asia and beyond. He also noted a shift in U.S. policy, pointing out that the previous American ad-

ministration had withdrawn India's strategic cover. This, he argued, left Indian policymakers aware that Washington would not support a high-stakes confrontation with China—marking a dramatic recalibration in India's strategic outlook.



# ISSI hosts Int'l seminar on President Xi Jinping's GGI

Ambassador Sohail Mahmood, Director General ISSI underlined that GGI, anchored in the five core concepts of sovereign equality, international law, multilateralism, a people-centered approach, and practical results, seeks to strengthen inclusivity, democratization, and effectiveness in global governance

ISLAMABAD: The China-Pakistan Study Centre (CPSC) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI), in collaboration with China Media Group (CMG), hosted an International Seminar on the "Global Governance Initiative (GGI): China's Vision of a Just and Fair Order". Ms. Wang Lei, Country Head of CMG, in her remarks, described GGI as a continuation of China's commitment to a just international order and a shared future for mankind. She underscored the vital role of the media in enhancing communication, building mutual trust, and deepening the China-Pakistan friendship. Ambassador Sohail Mahmood, Director General ISSI, in his welcome remarks highlighted the significance of President Xi Jinping's timely initiative announced at the SCO Plus meeting in Tianjin earlier this

month. He underlined that GGI, anchored in the five core concepts of sovereign equality, international law, multilateralism, a people-centered approach, and practical results, seeks to strengthen inclusivity, democratization, and effectiveness in global governance. He emphasized that GGI complements President Xi Jinping's three earlier initiatives – Global Development Initiative (GDI), Global Security Initiative (GSI), and Global Civilization Initiative (GCI) – offering an alternative vision of a peaceful, stable and cooperative world. These three initiatives were already serving as global public goods. Highlighting Pakistan's strong support, Ambassador Sohail Mahmood said that GGI would reinforce the UN-centered multilateral system, accelerate progress toward the SDGs, and complement the BRI, especially

CPEC. He suggested that besides utilizing SCO as the platform to promote GGI, new mechanisms such as 'Friends of GGI' may be created to garner the broadest possible support of the UN membership. He reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to working with China and the international community in this direction. Maj. Gen. (R) Fazle Elahi Akbar, Chairman FSDS Bangladesh, in his keynote address, lauded the Global Governance Initiative (GGI) as a beacon of hope for a world beset by conflict, unilateralism, and injustice. He underlined that GGI offers a fairer alternative to the existing global order. Highlighting its potential to address pressing crises in the Middle East, including Gaza and Palestine, he emphasized that GGI can promote peace, justice. DNA



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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



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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



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PIA Flight Info.....114


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Railway Inquiry.....117

Railway Exchange9270831-5

WASA Rawalpindi..5555489

CAA.....9281092



Hospitals

CMH.....5611111

MH.....561116

Canth Hospital.....9270907-11

DHQ.....5556311-4


RGH.....9290301-7

Holy Family.....9290322-7

PIMS.....9261170-79

Polyclinic.....9218300-09

Shifa International 4603666



Departments

CDA.....9221334-43

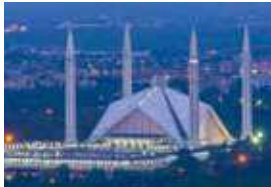
CDA.....9208301-04

Met Office.....9250360-6

RDA.....5555864

TMA.....5770886

Cantonment Board 9270151-3



Islamabad Metropolitan

Corporation.....9209224

Potohar Town.....9209224

Rawal Town.....5773343

Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480

# Pak to direct \$2b annual WB funds to population challenge

Senator Aurangzeb also underlined the important role of UNICEF and other development partners in supporting Pakistan’s efforts, particularly through close collaboration with the Ministry of Climate Change, Ministry of Population Welfare, and Ministry Of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination

ISLAMABAD: Ms. Pernille Ironside, UNICEF Representative in Pakistan, called on Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, at the Finance Division. The Finance Minister appreciated the technical support and knowledge transfer provided by UNICEF in Pakistan. He highlighted the two existential challenges facing the country—climate change and population growth—particularly their impact on child stunting and learning poverty. He discussed the Country Partnership Framework signed with the World Bank, noting that nearly two-thirds of the USD 2 billion expected every year under the program over the next year would be directed toward addressing population-related challenges. The Minister emphasized the importance of making the best use of available resources to address these pressing issues. Senator Aurangzeb also underlined the important role of UNICEF and other development partners in supporting Pakistan’s efforts, particularly through close collaboration with the Ministry of Climate Change, Ministry of Population Welfare, and Ministry Of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination. He stressed the need for greater coordination in identifying priority areas and projects requiring interventions, and in providing technical support and capacity building to the relevant ministries. He further emphasized the importance of effective coordination between federal and provincial governments for the operationalization of such projects. Ms. Ironside reaffirmed UNICEF’s commitment to Pakistan, noting that UNICEF is actively working with relevant ministries and stakeholders across a



broad range of sectors, with a particular focus on child care and girls’ education. She highlighted UNICEF’s provision of technical expertise through strategic partnerships and its leadership role in driving initiatives aligned with national

priorities. She explained that UNICEF follows a multi-sectoral approach to community welfare, prioritizing projects in education, health, and climate resilience. She also discussed avenues for further strengthening UNICEF’s role and contri-

bution in Pakistan. Both sides reiterated their resolve to continue working together to address challenges faced by children and communities in Pakistan and to further strengthen cooperation for sustainable development.

## Excise deptt moves against token tax defaulters

ISLAMABAD: The Excise and Taxation Department Islamabad has launched a phased crackdown on token tax defaulters, beginning with vehicles registered between 2001 and 2005. Talking to APP, Director Excise & Taxation Department Islamabad, Bilal Azam said the owners have been directed to clear their dues without delay or face suspension and cancellation of their vehicle registrations. The Islamabad Excise Department has been pursuing a systematic plan to recover outstanding road and token taxes from vehicle owners who have not paid their dues for years. Director Bilal Azam said the department initiated the drive in stages, starting with older vehicles and gradually moving toward more recent registrations. He said the first phase of the crackdown targeted vehicles registered between 1980 and 1990. Authorities identified defaulters and published their vehicle numbers through a public notice in newspapers. Owners were given a 15-day period to settle their outstanding road and token taxes. Those who failed to pay within the given time had their registrations suspended. If the dues remained unpaid even after an additional month, the registrations

were permanently cancelled under the West Pakistan Motor Vehicle Ordinance, 1965, he added. Director Bilal Azam said this move set the foundation for a consistent approach to deal with defaulters across different registration years. Following the same procedure, the department extended the campaign to vehicles registered between 1991 and 2000. A proclamation was issued to inform owners of their dues, giving them a 15-day grace period to make payments. He said defaulters who ignored the notices saw their registrations suspended first, and if payments were not made after further reminders, their registrations were permanently cancelled. The uniformity of the process ensured transparency and gave every vehicle owner a fair chance to comply before facing cancellation, he added. Bilal Azam said the campaign has now entered its latest stage. A new proclamation has been issued for vehicles registered between 2001 and 2005. Owners of these vehicles who have not yet cleared their token tax have been instructed to pay immediately. Failure to comply will result in suspension of registrations, and if dues remain unpaid, permanent

cancellation under the Motor Vehicle Ordinance. He emphasized that the department has given repeated opportunities to defaulters to clear their obligations, and those who continue to delay will face strict administrative action. He said that one of the key features of the campaign has been the department’s use of public notices to ensure transparency. Vehicle numbers of defaulters are published in newspapers, allowing owners to be aware of their pending dues. This practice also ensures that no one can claim lack of information as an excuse for non-payment. By adopting a transparent process, the department aims to create accountability and ensure that all vehicle owners contribute their due share to the system. Director Bilal Azam stated that token tax is not just a financial obligation but also a civic responsibility. Regular payments contribute to a more organized transport system and reduce the risk of legal complications for vehicle owners. He said the Excise Department has appealed to all vehicle owners in Islamabad to pay their taxes on time to avoid penalties. —APP

## Training course launched on Space-Based Disaster Management

ISLAMABAD: The Inter-Islamic Network on Space Sciences and Technology (ISNET), in collaboration with the Pakistan Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (SUPARCO), has inaugurated a five-day international training course on “Space-Based Disaster Management – Moving from Response to Proactive Preparedness” at SUPARCO Headquarters. The program runs from September 29 to October 03 and is part of ISNET-SUPARCO’s Annual Program of Special Short Courses. The course brings together disaster management professionals, researchers, and policymakers from OIC member states, including Tunisia, Libya, Senegal, and Iraq, to strengthen regional capacity in disaster risk management through the use of space science applications. The training is designed to shift the traditional focus from reactive disaster response to proactive preparedness. Participants will be trained in Geographic Information Systems (GIS), satellite remote sensing, disaster monitoring, and rapid damage assessment techniques. Special sessions include the use of Google Earth Engine, Disaster Watch, and advanced flood modeling through HEC-RAS 2D software, enabling experts to identify high-risk flood zones and strengthen early warning systems. Administrator ISNET, Ms. Sadaf Sajjad, highlighted the growing need to integrate space-based technologies into disaster preparedness frameworks. She said that space science is no longer optional—it is an essential part of modern disaster management. —APP



ISLAMABAD: Water gushes out of Rawal Dam after its spillways were opened on Monday. – DNA

## CTO inquires after injured ITP officer

DNA  
ISLAMABAD: Chief Traffic Officer (CTO) Capt (retd) Hamza Humayun on Monday visited the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) to inquire after Islamabad Traffic Police (ITP) officer ASI Saleem, who was seriously injured during duty in a road accident. An official told APP that the CTO met the injured officer, asked after his health, and obtained details from the hospital administration about the medical facilities being provided. He said the CTO directed that senior officers be deputed on special duty to look after the injured officer and ensure every possible medical support. He assured complete institutional cooperation and encouraged the officer, stating: “Police officers are my family, and I stand by them in their difficult times. Taking care of injured officers and their families is the foremost responsibility of the department.” According to police sources, ASI Saleem had been critically injured in an accident on Srinagar Highway and was shifted to PIMS for treatment.

## ITP officer injured in car accident

DNA  
ISLAMABAD: An Islamabad Traffic Police (ITP) officer, ASI Saleem, was seriously injured after being hit by a Honda City car while on duty at Srinagar Highway near Police Line Turn. An official told APP on Monday that the vehicle involved in the accident, along with its driver Naheed Akhtar, was taken into custody and shifted to Shams Colony Police Station. He said ASI Saleem was immediately shifted to the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) for medical treatment, where doctors provided urgent care. He said all possible measures are being taken to ensure the best medical facilities for the injured officer. Chief Traffic Officer (CTO) , Capt (retd) Hamza Humayun, took immediate notice of the incident and ordered strict legal action against those responsible. He directed that every possible medical facility be ensured for the injured officer, adding: “These officers are my family, and I stand with them in their time of pain and hardship.”

## Kamal announces complete digitalization of PNC

“We will restore the lost credibility of the nursing profession and transform the Pakistan Nursing Council into a modern, effective, and internationally recognized institution,” said Mustafa Kamal

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Health, Syed Mustafa Kamal, has announced the complete digitalization of the Pakistan Nursing Council (PNC) to enhance efficiency, transparency, and merit-based practices in its operations. Chairing a high-level meeting on the affairs of the Council, also attended by the Federal Health Secretary and Additional Secretary, the Minister said that all functions of the PNC will soon be computerized to minimize human intervention and eliminate inefficiencies “We will restore the lost credibility of the nursing profession and transform the Pakistan Nursing Council into a modern, effective, and internationally recognized institution,” said Mustafa Kamal. Highlighting the critical role of nurses in Pakistan’s healthcare system, the minister pointed out the acute shortage of nursing professionals in the country. Pakistan faces a shortfall of nearly 900,000 nurses, while the global shortage stands at around 2.5 million. He reaffirmed the government’s commitment to strengthen the sector through comprehensive reforms, robust policies, and modern digital systems. Mustafa Kamal stressed that nursing is one of the most vital pillars of the health sector, adding that bold initiatives are underway to bring the profession in line with international standards. “We will modernize the nursing sector, ensure merit-based practices, and introduce effective reforms so that Pakistan’s nursing workforce can meet both national and international demands,” he noted. The minister concluded by reiterating that reforms in the nursing sector will continue with a strong emphasis on transparency, modernization, and capacity-building to uplift the profession and ensure quality healthcare delivery across the country.—APP

## ‘PML-N’s service-oriented politics wins public trust’

FAISALABAD:Prime Minister’s Political Advisor Senator Rana Sanaullah Khan said that service-oriented politics of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) under visionary leadership of Punjab Chief Minister (CM) Maryam Nawaz has earned the respect and trust of the people which clearly reflected in the overwhelming public response during her Faisalabad on Monday. During welcome address at the inauguration ceremony of Electro Bus Service in Faisalabad, Rana Sanaullah said that enthusiastic crowds lining the roads to receive Chief Minister Punjab symbolized the strong bond between her leadership and the common man. He said that Maryam Nawaz had always placed the common man at the center of her political vision. Earlier, the people had to wait long hours in queues to receive free medicines, but under her reforms, the medicines were delivered at doorsteps of the patients. Similarly, various initiatives such as disabled cards, credit cards and service cards ensured dignity and convenience for disadvantaged groups, he added. He recalled that during floods, governments traditionally provided relief, but Maryam Nawaz went a step further by declaring flood-victims as “guests of the state” and she personally spent time with them which was a matter of pride for the nation. He highlighted that Maryam Nawaz had introduced reforms in every sector whereas the critics could only raise two points against her. They raised the first point that Maryam Nawaz received extensive media coverage, although it was only natural since she delivered new projects and good news daily, he added. He said that the second point which was raised that Maryam was elected as CM Punjab because she was daughter of Nawaz Sharif. Rana Sanaullah said that having such a lineage was a matter of pride but her political position was earned on merit as she had endured imprisonment, personal losses and political struggles with resilience. He reminded the gathering that Maryam Nawaz had stood by party workers during difficult times. She visited Quetta after sectarian killings when no other government representative including the then premier came forward to listen to the victims’ families. “Such courage and perseverance are the true qualifications in politics. Maryam Nawaz has proved herself and attained the office of Chief Minister Punjab on merit. She is the leader of PMLN and, God willing, she will be the future Prime Minister of Pakistan”, he added. He urged Maryam Nawaz not to respond to baseless criticism as detractors did not deserve attention. He thanked her for announcing a massive development package for Faisalabad and said that the city had transformed from a large town in 2008 into a major city by 2018 and now under her leadership, it would become a modern metropolis. He recalled that during her earlier visit, the Chief Minister had promised a metro bus service and an IT university for Faisalabad. Work on the Rs.100 billion metro bus project was progressing rapidly. Now she should fulfill the promise of an IT university as well.—APP

## Briefs

## China, Pakistan expand TVET industrial coop

DNA

ISLAMABAD: China and Pakistan expanded cooperation in Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) sector during the China-Pakistan International TVET-Industrial Cooperation and Exchange Seminar held in Beijing. The event, hosted by China Pakistan TVET-Industrial Centre of Excellence (CPTICE), gathered over 50 participants, including senior leadership from Pakistan's Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training and over 10 Chinese institutions, CPTICE said, according to Gwadar Pro. During the seminar, five Chinese institutions formally joined CPTICE, marking the expansion of the alliance. The new institutions are North China University of Water Resources and Electric Power, Wuxi University of Technology, Lanzhou Resources and Environment Voc-Tech University, Shanghai Urban Construction Vocational College and Tianmen Vocational College. In addition, five MoUs were signed with prestigious Chinese institutions in sectors like EVs, agriculture, intelligent manufacturing and infrastructure, Pakistan's Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training said separately. The Ministry said that 11 Chinese institutions joined the Pakistan-China International Industrial-Academic Integration Alliance (CPIA). Also, 8 Chinese experts were appointed for the CPIA expert bank in strategic fields including pharma, automotive and agri-engineering, marking the official establishment of the alliance's expert database.

## IRSA releases 144,100 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Monday released 144,100 cusecs of water from various rim stations with inflow of 148,600 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, Tarbela Dam has attained its maximum conservation level of 1550.00 feet, which was 148.00 feet higher than the dead level of 1402.00 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam were recorded as 88,400 cusecs and 88,000 cusecs, respectively. The water level in the River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1240.75 feet, which was 190.75 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded as 13,000 cusecs and 8,900 cusecs, respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded as 106,700, 109,100, 109,900, and 76,300 cusecs, respectively.—APP

## Pak-China scientists deliver rice research breakthroughs

Upon their return, the hands-on, research-oriented experience is expected to translate into practical innovations that can directly benefit Pakistan's agricultural sector

DNA

ISLAMABAD, September 29 (): Pakistani and Chinese scientists have recently published two high-impact research papers that promise to cut post-harvest losses, strengthen rice quality and deepen agricultural cooperation between the two countries. The Rice Research Institute Kala Shah Kaku (RRI-KSK) called them "a data-driven success" and "the result of a powerful international collaboration between Northeast Agricultural University, China, Rice Research Institute Kala Shah Kaku, Pakistan, and partners from Germany." "Together, we tackled pressing issues in rice quality improvement and processing efficiency, core priorities for the rice industry in Pakistan and across Asia," the institute said, according to a report carried by Gwadar Pro. The first paper, published in the Journal of Agriculture and Food Research, focused on improving drying and tempering practices for extra-long rice varieties. According to the study led by Dr. Faraz Ah-

mad Khan, Scientific Officer at RRI-KSK, a process set at 53°C for 60 minutes with an initial moisture content of 17.5% produced the best results for milling and cooking quality. This preserved grain integrity, minimized cracks, and maintained cooking properties, ensuring higher head rice yields and better quality for export markets. Rice is Pakistan's second-largest export earner, with an annual production of about 9.7 million tons that generates billions of dollars in revenue. Yet, poor post-harvest practices cause major losses, particularly for Basmati and extra-long grain varieties. The study co-authored by Chinese researcher Naveed Mahmood of Northeast Agricultural University noted that "extra-long rice is exported to more than 66 countries, and head rice yield is critical for the economics of the milling sector." By adopting the optimized drying process, he emphasized, Pakistan could reduce waste and enhance its competitiveness in international markets. The team also applied artificial intelligence (AI) to modernize agriculture. Machine learning models, especially the

k-nearest neighbors (k-NN) algorithm, were used to predict rice quality under different drying scenarios. "Digital tools like k-NN can accurately guide farmers and millers toward practices that ensure both efficiency and quality," the study observed, underscoring the growing role of smart technologies in farming. Second study: Ultrasound pre-treatment of soy protein isolate The second paper, published in Food Chemistry, examined the effects of ultrasound pre-treatment on soy protein isolate (SPI) before different drying methods like freeze-drying, spray drying and oven drying. The study found that ultrasound exposure influenced the nutritional and functional properties of SPI. Lysine, for instance, was the most heat-sensitive amino acid, with levels dropping by up to 13.65% in pretreated dried samples. Spray drying improved foaming stability and reduced browning, while freeze-drying better preserved emulsification activity and oil-holding capacity. Microscopic analysis showed porous structures in freeze-dried samples and compact, wrinkled structures

in spray- and oven-dried ones. According to the RRI-KSK statement, "the Chinese counterparts led the lab-based analysis with cutting-edge instrumentation, ensuring highly precise evaluations of grain quality and processing responses. Their contribution added world-class scientific depth to the study, producing robust experimental results. On the other end, our team ... led the data analysis, modeling, and statistical interpretation using advanced tools like RStudio and Python." The institute added, "by optimizing conditions and identifying genotype responses through data science, we offer evidence-backed strategies to rice breeders, processors, and exporters." RRI-KSK is actively collaborating with Chinese institutions on high-yield and quality rice cultivation. Last month, three of its scientists were selected for a six-month training program in China under the Prime Minister's Initiative for Capacity Building of 1,000 Agricultural Graduates. Upon their return, the hands-on, research-oriented experience is expected to translate into practical innovations that can directly benefit Pakistan's agricultural sector.

## US, UK &amp; China, top 3 destinations of Pakistani exports

ISLAMABAD: The United States (US) remained the top export destination of Pakistani products during the first two months of the current financial year 2025-26, followed by the United Kingdom (UK) and China. Total exports to the US during July-August 2025-26 were recorded at US\$1,111.891 million against the exports of US\$950.128 million during July-August 2024-25, showing an increase of 17.02 percent, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). This was followed by the UK, wherein Pakistan exported goods worth US \$385.111 million against the exports of US \$366.370 million last year, showing an increase of 5.11 percent. China was the third top export destination, where Pakistan exported products worth US \$354.470 million during the months under review against the exports of US \$323.435 million, SBP data revealed.

Among other countries, Pakistani exports to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) stood at US \$320.782 million against US \$400.977 million last year, while the exports to Germany were recorded at US \$305.660 million against US \$287.169 million last year, data said. During July-August 2025-26, the exports to Holland were recorded at \$242.996 million against \$247.343 million, whereas the exports to Italy stood at \$215.521 million against \$186.984 million. Pakistan's exports to Spain were recorded at \$242.159 million against the exports of US \$231.945 million, while the exports to Afghanistan were recorded at \$109.319 million against \$146.655 million last year. The exports to Bangladesh stood at US \$116.276 million against US \$122.004 million. Similarly, the exports to France during the months under review were recorded at US \$88.548 million against US \$82.680 million, while the exports to Belgium stood at US \$86.513 million against US \$100.402 million.—APP



ISLAMABAD: Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan addressing a ceremony organized by the KP government. DNA

## Pak proposes ASEAN-level trade access

Highlighting China's pivotal role, Iqbal described Pakistan-China ties as "iron-brotherhood" founded on trust, adding that Phase-I transformed Pakistan's infrastructure while Phase-II will transform its people's lives.

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has unveiled an ambitious proposal under the second phase of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), seeking to align its youth, exports, and regional connectivity with China's growth model. According to Gwadar Pro, Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal, briefing the media after the 14th meeting of the CPEC Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) in Beijing, said that Pakistan had suggested 10,000 joint PhD scholarships in artificial intelligence, engineering, and emerging sciences at China's top universities over the next decade. He described the move as a "knowledge corridor" to equip Pakistan's youth with cutting-edge research skills for a technology-driven economy. "The next two decades belong to the youth of Pakistan. By 2047, we aim to build a \$3 trillion innovation-based economy with their contribution," Iqbal remarked, stressing the need to train a new generation of Pakistani scholars and innovators in China's premier institutions. JCC also discussed joint research labs in AI and quantum computing, a CPEC Future Skills program in robotics, fintech, and biotechnology, and Pakistan's proposal to secure ASEAN-level tariff concessions for its exports to China. Currently, Pakistan's exports to China amount to only US \$ 3 billion out of Beijing's US \$ 2 trillion annual imports. CPEC Phase-II, Iqbal said, would revolve around five corridors: growth, livelihood, innovation, green energy, and regional connectivity. These include initiatives ranging from vocational training and poverty alleviation inspired by China's success model, to climate resilience programs, Balochistan's mineral corridor, and multimodal links to Afghanistan and Central Asia. Reassuring Beijing on security, the minister emphasized: "Chinese citizens in Pakistan are our family. Isolated attacks are foreign-sponsored designs that will not be allowed to derail this partnership." Highlighting China's pivotal role, Iqbal described Pakistan-China ties as "iron-brotherhood" founded on trust, adding that Phase-I transformed Pakistan's infrastructure while Phase-II will transform its people's lives.—DNA

## Cardiologist urges lifestyle modifications

ISLAMABAD: Cardiologists Dr. Mamoon Qadir, on World Heart Day on Monday (today), with the theme "Don't Miss a Beat," call for increased awareness and prevention by promoting healthy routines, early detection, and prompt treatment to lower the burden of heart-related illnesses. Talking to a private news channel, Dr. Mamoon Qadir explained that many cardiovascular conditions develop silently over time, making early diagnosis and regular checkups essential to preventing serious complications. He highlighted the critical role of awareness and early intervention in fighting heart disease, which remains one of the leading causes of death globally. "Raising public awareness is key because timely medical attention can save lives and improve long-term outcomes," he added. Dr. Qadir also pointed out the growing threat of obesity, a major risk factor for heart disease. "Excess weight puts additional strain on the heart.—DNA

## Dr. Azra encourages public confidence in HPV vaccine

ISLAMABAD: Sindh's Health and Population Welfare Minister, Dr. Azra Fazal Pechuho, issued a stern warning about the escalating cervical cancer crisis, decrying the dangerous spread of vaccine misinformation on social media platforms and highlighting the Cyber Crime Department's uncompromising approach against perpetrators as the vaccination campaign is extended to October 1. While in an exclusive conversation with a private news channel, the Sindh Health Minister expressed deep regret over the educated community's role in spreading propaganda against the vaccine on social media. She highlighted that only 33% of girls have been vaccinated so far in Sindh and misinformation from even well-educated individuals is severely hindering efforts to increase this number. The minister warned that such irresponsible behavior would not be tolerated and urged the public to trust credible sources for information. She reaffirmed that the government and Cyber Crime Department are committed to taking strict action against those spreading false information to safeguard the health of the community. She said that with the extension of the vaccination drive, special focus will be placed on areas with high vaccine refusal rates to ensure broader coverage and protect more girls from cervical cancer. She acknowledged that the HPV vaccine is expensive but emphasized that initially it is being provided free of cost to encourage maximum participation and remove financial barriers. Dr. Azra Fazal Pechuho also urged parents and guardians to prioritize their children's health by getting them vaccinated and to disregard false information circulating on social media.—APP

## Gwadar development image shines

ISLAMABAD: Gwadar development image bedazzles all businessmen at the 3-day 9th Industrial Expo 2025 that held in Lahore. "Gwadar is a resounding opportunity for all leaders of chamber of commerce and industries to put their heads together to formalize a joint action plan for the overarching growth of Gwadar anticipated to be hub of \$10 billion economy under CPEC development framework," Gwadar Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCCI) President Jeehand Hoth in an exclusive interview with Gwadar pro. On the first day held at Hall No 1 and Hall No 2, he said that participation of Gwadar businessmen as well as hundreds of traders and industrialists engaged in business of manufacturing and processing machinery, light industry, industrial equipment.—APP

## Teaching with mercy: an Islamic perspective on compassionate education

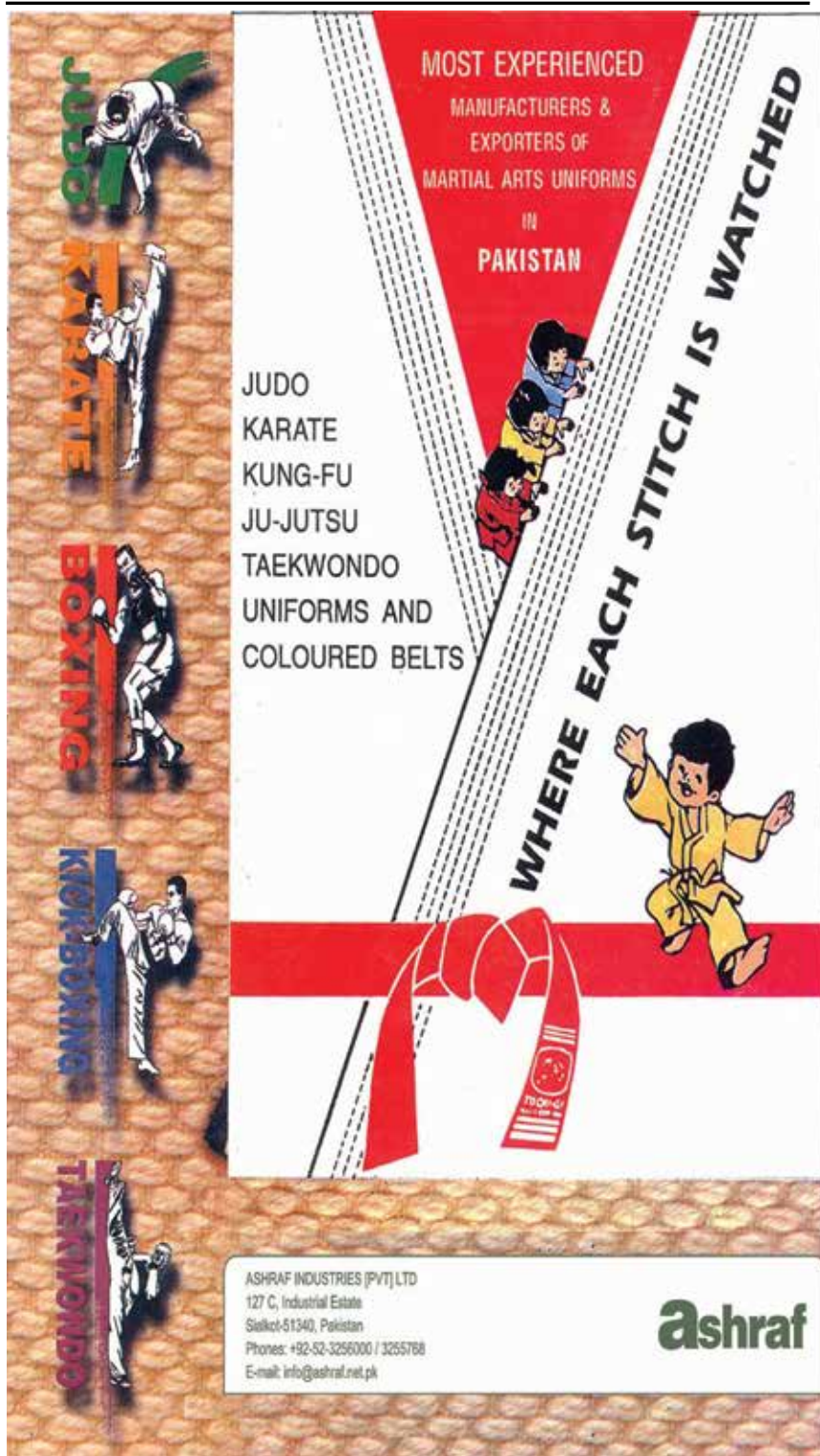
SABAHAT ALI

Education is a sacred trust that extends beyond the mere transmission of knowledge. Teachers bear the profound responsibility of nurturing the dignity, character, and emotional well-being of their students. This article explores the Islamic perspective on compassionate teaching, highlighting Qur'anic principles and Prophetic traditions that emphasize mercy and inclusivity. It further examines the importance of extending empathy to both young and adult learners, drawing on historical examples such as Albert Einstein, Thomas Edison, and Winston Churchill, whose early struggles in school underscore the risks of rigid pedagogy. The article argues that effective education must embrace diversity in learning capacities and temperaments, creating an environment where all students feel accepted, valued, and inspired to realize their potential. Compassionate teaching, Islamic perspective, Qur'an, Prophetic traditions, adult education, student diversity, Albert Einstein, Thomas Edison, Winston Churchill, dignity in learning, The image of a teacher surrounded by her students embodies an eternal principle, that edu-

cation is not confined to textbooks and instruction, but is an act of compassion, patience, and responsibility. A true educator does not merely impart information; they nurture souls, foster dignity, and extend mercy to every learner, whether compliant or challenging, gifted or struggling. This verse underscores that each learner, whether academically gifted or intellectually challenged, polite or disruptive, possesses divine honor. Thus, no student should be neglected, dismissed, or humiliated. The Prophet Muhammad exemplified this ethic in his dealings with others. When a Bedouin disrupted the mosque with inappropriate behavior, the Prophet did not scold or shame him. Instead, he calmly explained the sanctity of the place, transforming the incident into a moment of gentle instruction. His conduct demonstrates that correction rooted in compassion has greater transformative power than reprimand. He also declared: "He is not of us who does not have mercy on young children, nor honor the elderly." (Sunan At-Tirmidhi) Embracing Diversity in Learning: Students bring diverse backgrounds, abilities, and temperaments into the

classroom. Some are restless, others quiet; some thrive in academics, while others wrestle with foundational concepts. Their shared need, however, is to be valued, understood, and accepted. History offers striking examples of misunderstood learners. Albert Einstein, later recognized as one of history's greatest scientific minds, was dismissed by his teachers as slow and unruly. His unconventional thinking led to criticism, and he was even expelled from school for challenging authority. Had his potential been judged solely by conventional standards, the world might never have benefited from his revolutionary insights. Thomas Edison, who later became one of the greatest inventors, was labeled as "difficult" and was sent home from school because his teacher considered him unteachable. Winston Churchill, who went on to lead Britain with unmatched resolve during its most difficult hour, struggled academically and faced repeated failures in school. These examples remind us that the classroom is not the ultimate measure of genius; rather, it is the patience, encouragement, and foresight of

teachers that often unlock hidden potential. The need for empathy in education is not confined to children. Many adults re-enter learning environments burdened by insecurities, social anxiety, or the stigma of past failures. Some struggle with literacy, while others grapple with adapting to modern learning methods. This verse reassures learners that their struggles do not define them; with patience and guidance, they can rise above their challenges. Education, at its core, is an act of compassion. A teacher's sacred responsibility is not only to instruct but to uplift, to see potential where others see weakness, and to nurture dignity in every learner. Whether guiding a noisy child, a rebellious adolescent, or an anxious adult, the educator mirrors the Qur'anic principle of human honor and the Prophetic model of merciful guidance. By extending patience and love to the unlovable, the slow, and the disruptive, teachers fulfill both a social obligation and a spiritual trust. They become not only transmitters of knowledge but also guardians of hope, shaping individuals who may one day transform the world, just as the misunderstood Einstein, Edison, and Churchill did.



## Pakistan Asia Cup defeat to India: a tale of Mismanagement

PAKISTAN'S much-anticipated Asia Cup 2025 clash against arch-rivals India turned into yet another heartbreak for the Green Shirts. In what was expected to be a close contest, Pakistan faltered badly, managing only 146 runs in their innings, eventually conceding defeat to the tournament's number one ranked side. While the scoreboard tells one part of the story, the underlying causes of this defeat are far more alarming, pointing to chronic mismanagement, questionable leadership, and a lack of meritocracy in team selection. The match began with some promise as Pakistan's openers provided a steady platform. For a brief period, there was hope that the team could post a respectable total against a formidable Indian bowling attack. However, once the opening partnership was broken, the middle order once again crumbled under pressure. This pattern has become a recurring theme for Pakistan cricket in recent years: bright starts followed by inexplicable collapses. Against a team like India, who are known for capitalizing on opponents' weaknesses, such a lack of resilience is unforgivable. The inability to rotate strike, poor shot selection, and a visible lack of planning doomed Pakistan's innings, leaving the bowlers with very little to defend. Much of the criticism following the loss has centered on newly appointed captain Salman Aga. Handed the reins of the team at a critical time, Aga's leadership raised more questions than answers. His field placements were unimaginative, his bowling changes lacked strategy, and most concerningly, he appeared out of his depth when the game was slipping away. It is not entirely fair to blame a young player thrust into the captaincy role prematurely. Leadership in cricket is as much about temperament as it is about talent, and Aga, though promising with the bat, is clearly not ready to shoulder such responsibility. The decision to appoint him skipper reflects poorly on the Pakistan Cricket Board's decision-making process. India's dominance in world cricket is no accident. Their consistent policy of picking players purely on merit, avoiding favoritism, and sticking with a long-term vision has paid dividends. Every player in the Indian lineup is deserving of his place, having proven himself through domestic and international performances. This culture of accountability ensures that no undeserving player occupies a position in the squad. Pakistan, by contrast, has allowed politics, nepotism, and favoritism to dictate selections. As a result, several players with questionable credentials continue to feature in the national side, while more deserving talents are ignored. It is this fundamental difference in approach that explains why India sits comfortably as the world's top team, while Pakistan continues to

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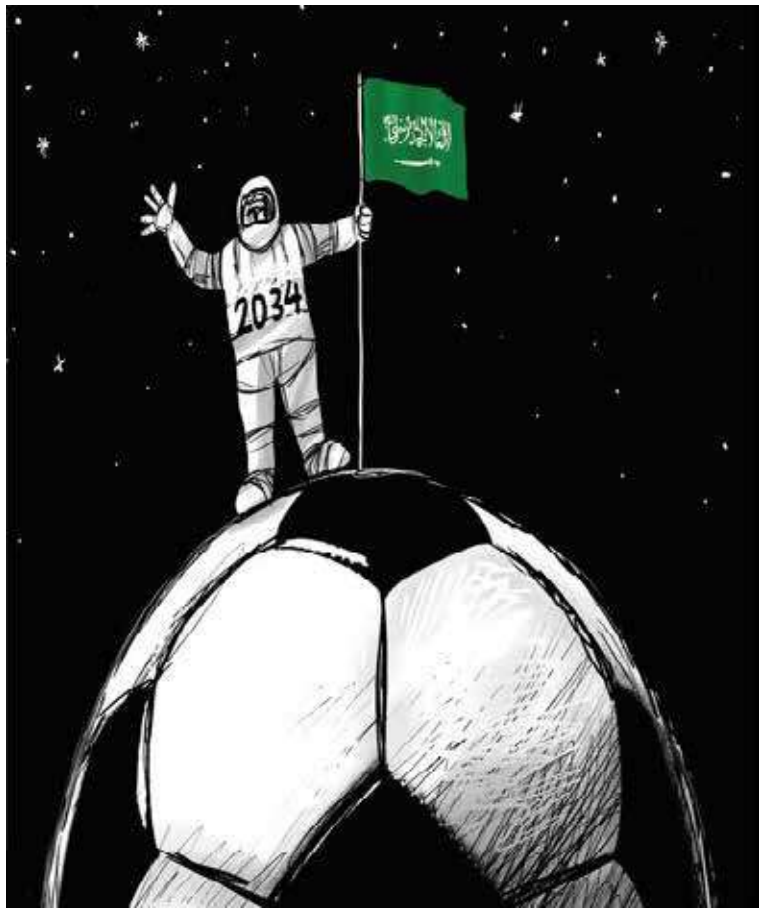
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struggle for consistency.

Beyond the players, the spotlight now falls on the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) and its leadership. Chairman Mohsin Naqvi has come under sharp criticism for his inability to run the board effectively. His tenure has been marked by ad-hoc decisions, frequent changes in management, and a tendency to surround himself with hand-picked cronies lacking experience or credibility in cricket administration.

Reports of corruption, favoritism, and lack of transparency have further eroded public trust. Many observers believe that the real problem lies not with the players but with the system that selects and manages them. Unless this culture of mismanagement is addressed, Pakistan will continue to stumble, no matter how much individual talent the country produces.

At least four players in the current squad, including captain Salman Aga, are widely considered unfit for international cricket at this level. Their continued presence in the team underscores the lack of accountability in the selection process. Names like Babar Azam and Mohammad Rizwan, once the backbone of Pakistan's batting, are being discussed as possible reinclusions, given the team's desperate need for experience and stability. The absence of senior players who can anchor the innings and mentor younger talents is glaring. A balanced team requires both youth and experience, but Pakistan's current setup seems to ignore this principle. The result is a fragile middle order, a leadership vacuum, and repeated failures on the big stage. If Pakistan cricket is to recover from this downward spiral, it must begin with soul-searching at the highest levels. Cosmetic changes will not suffice. What is needed is a complete overhaul of team management and selection committees. Deserving players must be brought into the side, irrespective of politics or personal affiliations. The culture of nepotism and favoritism has to end if Pakistan wants to compete with the best.

Moreover, senior players must be reintegrated into the squad to provide balance and guidance. Leadership roles should be assigned based on merit and maturity, not experimentation or favoritism. Until these steps are taken, Pakistan cricket will continue to suffer humiliations like the one witnessed against India.

Ironically, Pakistan still came close to challenging the number one team in the world. With better planning and leadership, the result might have been very different. This near miss should serve as a wake-up call: talent alone is not enough. Without structure, strategy, and merit, even the most gifted players cannot deliver consistently.

India's victory was not just a result of superior skill but of a system that rewards merit and accountability. Pakistan's defeat, on the other hand, was a symptom of deeper structural flaws that continue to plague the national team. Pakistan's loss to India in the Asia Cup 2025 was not just about runs and wickets; it was about vision and management. Until the PCB reforms itself, embraces meritocracy, and puts an end to favoritism, Pakistan cricket will remain stuck in a cycle of underachievement and disappointment. The humiliation at the hands of India should not be brushed aside as just another loss—it should be remembered as a turning point. If lessons are not learned now, then more humiliations await.

## Sumud Flotilla To Gaza: Humanity at Sea

Qamar Bashir



Israel had not expected such defiance from civil society. Used to intimidating states and dictating conditions, it now faced fragile ships bearing the courage of the people. Almost immediately, the flotilla was harassed. Off Greek waters, drones swooped low; explosions and stun devices rattled decks, activists claimed. In Tunisia, a fire consumed a key aid boat, which organizers blamed on a drone strike though authorities denied it. Mechanical breakdowns added to the peril — one vessel, the Family Boat, suffered catastrophic failure and lagged behind. Yet despite disruption and fear, the flotilla pressed forward

THEY said humanity would stand by while Gaza was starved. They said states would avert their eyes as children cried for bread and water. Yet when Muslim governments folded, when Western nations chose silence, and when the United Nations looked on powerless, civil society — that stubborn conscience of the world — took up the mantle. In this desperate week of insensitivity and inability, ordinary men and women filled the vacuum left by governments, setting sail with aid that should have been delivered through corridors of diplomacy and justice. Thus emerged the Global Sumud Flotilla, a fleet of resolve as much as vessels, charting a dangerous course across the Mediterranean. Some fifty small ships and boats, crewed by activists, lawyers, journalists, parliamentarians, and volunteers from over forty countries, embarked on a mission larger than their holds. They carried roughly a hundred tons of food, medical supplies, and water, but above all they carried the moral weight of seven billion people whose red blood still insists that dignity and survival are not negotiable.

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In Tunisia, a fire consumed a key aid boat, which organizers blamed on a drone strike though authorities denied it. Mechanical breakdowns added to the peril — one vessel, the Family Boat, suffered catastrophic failure and lagged behind. Yet despite disruption and fear, the flotilla pressed forward. Their blood was red, their purpose unwavering, and no intimidation could deter them.

As the convoy pushed closer to Gaza, the unexpected happened: two European governments decided to stand visibly with it. Spain ordered a naval ship from Cartagena to monitor and assist the flotilla, declaring that the aid boats posed “no threat to Israel.” Italy, condemning the drone attacks as “intolerable,” dispatched

a frigate to protect its nationals onboard and signaled its support for a humanitarian sea corridor. Their escorts are not overwhelming fleets, but their symbolism looms large. For the first time in years, EU states placed themselves — even cautiously — between Israel's blockade and the conscience of the world.

Yet symbolism alone cannot carry the weight of a humanitarian crisis. Now is the moment for powerful states that still possess diplomatic and kinetic leverage — Turkey, Saudi Arabia, China, France, Germany, the United Kingdom, Pakistan and others — to move beyond statements and commit real protection and logistical support. If these nations deploy naval escorts, open safe corridors, offer port facilities, and use every lawful means at their disposal to protect civilian ships, the flotilla's mission could be made safer and the principle of saving lives reinforced. Such collective resolve would signal that the world's conscience is not merely rhetorical but backed by governments willing to defend humanitarian action.

Israel's response has been unyielding. Foreign Minister Gideon Saar warned in stark terms that Gaza's coastal waters are a “combat zone” and that no ship will be allowed to enter. Officials insist that if aid is genuine, it should be offloaded at Ashkelon port, under Israeli control, from where Israel promises to transfer it into Gaza. Yet the promise rings hollow: for months Israel has restricted and slowed aid to a trickle, starving civilians under siege. For the flotilla, docking at Ashkelon would betray the very principle of their voyage — delivering aid directly to the starving without Israel's interference. The organizers have therefore refused.

Now the confrontation nears its climax. The flotilla lies a few hundred nautical miles from Gaza, with organizers estimating arrival within days. Israeli naval forces are reportedly mobilized to intercept them, echoing the bloody precedent of 2010 when a raid on the Mavi Marmara left activists dead and the world in uproar. The fear is palpable that history could repeat itself, that once more peaceful civilians will meet armed comman-

ders in international waters.

But whether or not the ships succeed in reaching Gaza's shore, the symbolic victory is already secured. This flotilla embodies the conscience abandoned by states. It represents the mothers in Europe, the students in Asia, the workers in Africa, the citizens of the United States — all who see starvation as an abomination and refuse to reduce Palestinian survival to a bargaining chip. By taking the risk states would not, the Global Sumud Flotilla has already pierced the blockade of indifference.

And yet the test is cruelly real. On one side, determined civilians sail with supplies of life. On the other, a powerful military insists they must be stopped. Between them lies not only the fate of cargo, but the very question of whether humanity still has meaning in the face of brute force. If Israel crushes the flotilla, it will deepen the stain already seared onto its name: the deliberate starvation of two million souls. If the flotilla prevails, it will write a chapter where people, not governments, rose to redeem humanity.

This is no longer about tonnage of aid. It is about moral freight. It is about whether law serves power or whether it can still protect the powerless. It is about whether the hunger of children can outweigh the pride of armies. And as the boats draw closer to Gaza, the world is forced into its own reckoning: stand with humanity, or stand aside as cruelty sails unhindered. Let us hope, in these decisive hours, that the flotilla prevails. Let us hope that the dignity of human life triumphs over siege, that courage outweighs cruelty, and that the Mediterranean does not become yet another graveyard of hope. For in these boats, humanity itself is on board. And history will judge not only what becomes of them, but what becomes of us all.

— 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

## The Italian intifada in response to Gaza genocide

Dr. Ramzy Baroud

Despite this, Italian weapons continued to flow into Israel. Even when Rome decided not to ship new weapons to Tel Aviv, old military contracts previously signed with the Italian arms giant Leonardo were still being honored, despite the fact these weapons were used directly in the Israeli genocide in Gaza. Italian society remained, at least for a while, confused and apparently docile in the face of the Israeli crimes. Not only did Meloni “honor” the country's commitment to Israel at the expense of hundreds of thousands of innocent Palestinians...

WHAT is happening in Italy today regarding Gaza is unprecedented in the history of solidarity between the country and any other international cause anywhere. A popular uprising is underway, the consequences of which are likely to alter not only Rome's position on the Israeli genocide in the Strip but also the country's entire political structure. To understand why such a conclusion is a rational one, we must consider two important factors: the popular mobilization throughout the country and the historical context of Italy's political attitude toward Palestine and the Middle East. When the Israeli genocide in Gaza started, the language and political posturing of the far-right government of Giorgia Meloni were more or less consistent with the political positions adopted by other European leaders. In her visit to Israel on Oct. 21, 2023, Meloni's language was that of unconditional condemnation of Palestinians for the Oct. 7 attack and equally unconditional support of Israel and its “right to defend itself.”

That position remained consistent until a few months ago, when the Israeli genocide reached a level that was too extreme even for Meloni to ignore. This was expressed by Italian Defense Minister Guido Crosetto, who stated in August that Israel had “lost its sanity and humanity.” Despite this, Italian weapons continued to flow into Israel. Even when Rome decided not to ship new weapons to Tel Aviv, old military contracts previously signed with the Italian arms giant Leonardo were still being honored, despite the fact these weapons were used directly in the Israeli genocide in Gaza. Italian society remained, at least for a while, confused and apparently docile in the face of the Israeli crimes. Not only did Meloni “honor” the country's commitment to Israel at the expense of hundreds of thousands of innocent Palestinians in Gaza, but it also came at the expense of Italy's progressive constitution, which states that the country “rejects war as an instrument of aggression against the freedom of other peoples.”

On the other side, Italian society remained, at least for a while, confused and apparently docile in the face of the Israeli crimes and the support of its government for the ongoing genocide. This apparent docility did not necessarily reflect the Italian people's lack of interest in events outside of their borders. Instead, it reflected three major political and historical factors that are worth noting.

One, the Italian media has, as of late, been divided into two main groups: private media, owned largely by the family of late Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi — a far-right media mogul and close ally of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu — and public media, beholden to the dictates of the government. Expectedly, both have remained committed to the Israeli hasbara line that criminalizes the Palestinians and absolves Israel.

Two, the lack of organizational platforms in Italy, which were previously positioned within the activities of popular-based unions. Historically, Italy's powerful unions were directly linked to political parties that had substantial representation in the Italian parliament. Together, they managed not only to pull political strings but even to influence policies, nationally and internationally. Three, all of the above is related to the major repositioning of Italian politics between the post-Second World War First Republic (1948-1992) and the Second Republic (1992 to the present). That major realignment was directly related to the collapse of the Soviet Union, the dismantling of Italy's communist party — once the West's most powerful and relevant — and the rise of center-right politics.

The latter event not only forced a dramatic change in Italy's domestic politics but also its foreign policy attitude, moving away from the far more balanced position regarding the Israeli occupation of Palestine, for example, to the embrace of Israel's most far-right politicians.

This embrace became most apparent during the years of Berlusconi but it was also accentuated in Deputy Prime Minister Matteo Salvini's Lega par-

ty, known even among Italians for being the natural inheritor of Italy's fascist legacy. Meloni is in direct opposition to the aspirations of her own people, from all political and ideological backgrounds. But things began changing thanks to the extent of Israel's criminality in Gaza, the rising global solidarity for Palestine and the elaborate grassroots mobilization within Italy itself since the start of the genocide.

Italian dockworkers last week led a nationwide strike against the war on Gaza and arms shipments to Israel. The action drew on a long history of worker resistance to militarization, especially in ports used to transport weapons. Organized by grassroots unions and solidarity networks, the mobilization underscored a broad refusal among workers to be complicit in government policies that sustain war and genocide. Suddenly, Italian unions are back on the streets, not simply to negotiate better wages but to reclaim their position as a vanguard of solidarity at home and abroad. The consequences of this event alone could usher in a major change in the political attitude of the Italian people.

As Meloni's government continues to refuse to recognize the state of Palestine, she positions herself in direct opposition to the aspirations of her own people, from all political and ideological backgrounds. This could cost her dearly in future elections.

Italy is now on the cusp of another historic moment, the outcome of which could either entrench the country further in the far-right camp or take it back to a position that is far more consistent with its radical history of antifascism, social mobilization and internationalist resistance.

Regardless of where the pendulum of history swings, there is no denying that what is happening in Italy at the moment is no less than a political uprising, an intifada.

— Dr. Ramzy Baroud is a journalist, author and the editor of The Palestine Chronicle.

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## Briefs

## Shehbaz Sharif welcomes Trump...

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Monday said that the recently signed Pakistan-Saudi defence pact was not against any other country, as Pakistan was not in any power struggle but was pursuing a focused approach to achieve economic prosperity by exploiting its immense resources.

"Saudi Arabia and Pakistan are brotherly countries, bound by decades and centuries-old ties. This pact is against no one but a formalisation of these ties... Every Muslim has a belief and ready to sacrifice his life to safeguard Roza-e-Rasool and Makkah al Mukarramah, so through this pact, we addressed both our worldly interests and our religious values," the prime minister said, talking to the newsmen here. He said that without indulging in any power struggle, Pakistan was striving to achieve its economic goals by addressing poverty, unemployment and exploiting immense potential in agriculture, artificial intelligence, mines and minerals as well as youth bulge by providing them education and skill training.

The prime minister apprised the media of his "fruitful and successful" visits to New York and Washington, particularly, the meeting on Gaza situation co-chaired by President Trump and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and attended by leaders from Pakistan, Qatar, UAE, Saudi Arabia, Indonesia, Jordan and Egypt.

"There was an encouraging discussion and I'm confident that it will come up with a positive outcome for Gaza ceasefire... After the meeting, my expectations have greatly risen... In our meeting too in Washington, President Trump's words were reassuring. Insha Allah, I hope you will hear good news very soon," he remarked.

Condemning the unprecedented Israeli oppression and killings in Gaza, the prime minister said that at the UN General Assembly, Pakistan had effectively raised its voice in support of the people of Palestine and Kashmir, Pakistan's water rights and also the Marka-e-Haq in which India had faced a humiliating defeat.

## Iran executes 'one of most important...

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operations in the country. "The main goal of Mossad in attracting the defendant's cooperation was to obtain the database of governmental institutions and create a breach in Iranian data centres, along with which it also pursued other secondary goals, including investigating the route of importing electronic equipment," Mizan said. The Supreme Court had rejected the defendant's appeal and confirmed the death sentence on charges of "corruption on earth", it said.

The Iran-Israel conflict escalated into a direct war in June when Israel struck various targets inside Iran, including through operations that relied on Mossad commandos being deployed deep inside the country. Executions of Iranians convicted of spying for Israel have significantly increased this year, with at least 10 death sentences carried out in recent months.

## Imran Khan may be shifted...

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could be deeper motives behind the sudden decision. The Qasim Market facility is said to have been specially renovated to house high-profile prisoners, raising questions about why Adiala, already a secure prison, is being bypassed. The potential transfer has triggered speculation about government intentions, with some analysts pointing to possible political calculations ahead of upcoming developments. Neither the Punjab government nor the jail authorities have issued an official statement, but the reports have already stirred fresh debate about Imran Khan's incarceration.

## Imran Ghaznavi wins first prize gross at diplomatic golf fixture

*A Golf tournament was organized under the auspices of the diplomatic mission in Islamabad in Gold City Islamabad, in which ambassadors and diplomats of different countries and personalities from different walks of life participated*



## DNA

ISLAMABAD: Imran Ghaznavi secured the First Prize Gross in the Guest Category at the Golf Tournament. The tournament witnessed vibrant participation from the diplomatic corps as well as distinguished representatives of Pakistan's public and private sectors. It served not only as a sporting competition but

also as a platform for strengthening diplomatic ties, fostering goodwill. A Golf tournament was organized under the auspices of the diplomatic mission in Islamabad in Gold City Islamabad, in which ambassadors and diplomats of different countries and personalities from different walks of life participated. During this time, diplomats from different countries, golf lovers and peoples from different walks of life appreciated

the organization of the golf tournament.. The Additional Secretary, MOFA Hamid Asghar Khan, the Ambassador of Vietnam to Pakistan is Pham Anh Tuan, Ambassador of Poland to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Maciej Pisarski, Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Pakistan, Yezhan Kistafin, Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Pakistan, Khazar Farhadov, Ambassador Syria to Pakistan Dr. Ramez Alraee, Ambassador of Myan-

mar to Pakistan, Wunna Han, Ambassador of Italy to Pakistan, Ms. Marilina Armellini and diplomats from different Countries including Indonesia, Malaysia and EU countries also participated in the Golf tournament. Awards were distributed among the winning players of the golf tournament, including ambassadors and diplomats from Vietnam, Italy, Poland, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Brunei and Myanmar.

## Pakistan donate Asia Cup final fees to victims of May strikes, Agha slams India's conduct

"They're not disrespecting us by not shaking hands, they're disrespecting cricket," says skipper Agha at post-match presser

DUBAI: Pakistan skipper Salman Ali Agha said Monday the team would donate their Asia Cup final match fees to families of civilians and children killed in the May Indian attacks, while slamming India's "disappointing" conduct during the tournament.

"We stood there and took our medals. I don't want to use harsh words but they've been very disrespectful," Pakistan lost the final to India in a last-over thriller on Sunday. The post-match presentation was delayed for more than 90 minutes after the

captain Suryakumar Yadav and believed Yadav would have shaken hands if it had been his decision. "He shook hands with me in private at the start of the tournament," Agha said. "Both at the pre-tournament press conference and when we met in the ref-

ere's meeting. But when they're out in the world in front of the cameras, they don't shake our hands. I'm sure he's following the instructions he's been given, but if it was up to him, he'd shake hands with me." The Pakistan skipper said there was no precedent for teams refusing to shake hands, calling it damaging to the spirit of the game. "This is the first time I've ever seen this happen," he said. "Whatever happened in this tournament was very bad, and I hope it stops at some stage because it's bad for cricket. Everything that happened today was a consequence of all that happened before. Of course the ACC president will give the trophy to the winners. If you won't take the trophy from him, how will you get it?" As in the previous two India-Pakistan matches, neither side exchanged handshakes before or after the final. Players stayed in separate huddles while waiting for the ceremony to begin. "I'm not just a Pakistan captain, I'm a cricket fan," Agha said. "If a kid's watching in India or Pakistan, we're not sending them a good message. People think of us as role models, but if we're behaving like this, we're not inspiring them. What happened shouldn't have happened, but you should ask the people [India] responsible for this rather than me."

Before ending the press conference, Agha spoke about the team's decision to support victims of the recent Indian attacks. "As a team, we are donating our Asia Cup final match fees to the families of civilians and children affected in the Indian attacks on Pakistan," Salman Agha said in his closing remarks before wrapping up the press conference. - APP



"What India have done this tournament is very disappointing," Agha told reporters after the final in Dubai. "They're not disrespecting us by not shaking hands, they're disrespecting cricket. Good teams don't do what they did today. We went to pose with the trophy on our own because we wanted to fulfil our obliga-

Indian side refused to accept the trophy from ACC president and PCB chairman Mohsin Naqvi, who is also Pakistan's interior minister. It capped a series of incidents where India avoided contact with Pakistan players and officials throughout the tournament. Agha said he had no personal issue with Indian

Before ending the press conference, Agha spoke about the team's decision to support victims of the recent Indian attacks. "As a team, we are donating our Asia Cup final match fees to the families of civilians and children affected in the Indian attacks on Pakistan," Salman Agha said in his closing remarks before wrapping up the press conference. - APP

## Indian cricketers mocked for posting 'fake Asia Cup trophy' photos online

Men in Blue return from Dubai stadium without being handed silverware following refusal to collect trophy from ACC chief Mohsin Naqvi

DUBAI: Indian cricketers are facing backlash after sharing photos online with what appears to be a "fake trophy", just hours after the Men in Blue refused to accept the official Asia Cup 2025 silverware. The move has sparked ridicule, with many questioning why the players would pose with a replica while snubbing the real prize, raising eyebrows over what exactly they were celebrating.

Indian skipper Suryakumar Yadav and batters, including Shubman Gill, Tilak Varma and others, uploaded images of themselves posing with a trophy sticker, added to the images via editing, on social media platforms.

Indian cricketers mocked for posting fake Asia Cup trophy photos online The images prompted a wave of mockery from fans, with many questioning the purpose of a fake trophy display when the (Indian) team refused to collect the trophy from ACC Chief Mohsin Naqvi. One user wrote: "Another fake trophy... just like the fake 'Op Sindoor' glory. Shine outside, hollow inside."

Defence analyst said: "From the Delusional Cricket Team celebrating imaginary trophies, to the Delusional Air Force Chief, and the Delusional Government cheering like a cartoon, India truly lives in an alternate reality of its own imagination. Funny people!" - DNA

## Barca beat Real Sociedad to top Liga as Yamal returns

BARCELONA: Lamine Yamal returned from injury to help Barcelona beat Real Sociedad 2-1 on Sunday and move top of La Liga by one point. After Real Madrid were thrashed 5-2 by rivals Atletico Madrid in a derby on Saturday, Hansi Flick's side had the chance to claim pole position above Xabi Alonso's side. Alvaro Odriozola gave Real Sociedad the lead against the run of play in the first half but Jules Kounde headed the Spanish champions level.

Yamal, who missed the last four games with a groin injury, created the winner for Robert Lewandowski just moments after coming on as a second-half substitute.

"I'm very happy for (Yamal), very pleased that he's back on the pitch because we're going to need him," Kounde told Movistar. Barcelona held the game at the Olympic stadium, where they have played for the last two seasons, after the city council refused them a permit to reopen their Camp Nou home earlier in the week. Flick handed 17-year-old attacking midfielder Dro Fernandez his debut, also starting Roony Bardghji on the right wing and bringing in veteran Wojciech Szczesny for injured goalkeeper Joan Garcia. Barcelona dominated the ball in the first half but found it hard to beat Real Sociedad goalkeeper Alex Remiro. - APP

## President felicitates Pakistani boxer

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari on Monday congratulated Pakistani Boxer Sameer Khan for historic win in World Bantamweight title. This is the first-ever win for Pakistan in this category. In a statement issued by the President House, Asif Zardari said Sameer Khan's win was a moment of pride for the nation.

"Sameer Khan has brought glory to Pakistan at the international level," the president said adding that the young boxer's hard work, determination and passion was commendable. - APP

## SC suspends IHC order barring...

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The notification stated, "Justice Jahangiri was found guilty of using unfair means and has been barred for three years from admission to any university or college, as well as from appearing in any university examination." Furthermore, the University of Karachi clarified that Justice Jahangiri had never been enrolled as a student at Islamia Law College, Karachi, in 1989.

Earlier, the Sindh High Court (SHC) had suspended both the University of Karachi's Unfair Means Committee decision and the syndicate's declaration invalidating the judge's degree. The petitioner had challenged the UFM committee's decision to cancel Justice Jahangiri's degree on August 17, 2024. Since then, the SHC has also dismissed similar petitions concerning the judge's degree on grounds of non-prosecution, despite objections raised by the defence counsel.

## US president mentions...

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namely oil, minerals and gas - for US exploration. In July, Trump wrote on his social media platform Truth Social that "we have just concluded a Deal with the Country of Pakistan, whereby Pakistan and the United States will work together on developing their massive Oil Reserves. We are in the process of choosing the Oil Company that will lead this partnership". The messaging was affirmed by Natalie Baker, the US charge d'affaires in Islamabad, who told local media that US firms had been "showing keen interest in Pakistan's oil, gas and mineral sectors, in line with President Donald Trump's vision".

Pakistan has already reaped rewards from its promise of oil. After an agreement in August, Trump gave Pakistan a generous 19% tariff on imported goods, the lowest of all south Asia nations and far below the punitive 50% tariffs that its neighbour and nemesis India is facing.

## CM Maryam lambasts PPP critics

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as well as expanded road networks. "If Punjab speaks about constructing canals, why does it trouble you? Why object to Punjab's initiatives?" she asked, adding that when her government provided relief in electricity bills, some went to the IMF with complaints. The provincial chief executive underlined that she could list "hundreds of projects" launched in Punjab, while criticising those who, she said, interfered in provincial matters unnecessarily.

"My water, my money - what pain does that cause anyone? Those advising Punjab should keep their advice to themselves," she remarked. Maryam announced that Punjab is providing modern transport facilities, including 150 new electric buses for the Faisalabad division, and pledged that metro bus construction in the city would begin in the coming weeks. She added that electric buses would also reach Jhang and Chiniot, while Rawalpindi would soon get modern electric trains. She said the fare for the new buses had been fixed at just Rs20 so as not to burden citizens.

"Punjab is providing its people with transport comparable to Europe."

## PRCS Chairperson meets Ambassador of Pakistan in Norway

Ambassador Mrs Sadia Altaf Qazi commended PRCS for its dedicated efforts in humanitarian response and resilience building across Pakistan, recognizing the PRCS role in supporting vulnerable populations during emergencies

## DNA

OSLO (NORWAY): The Chairperson of the Pakistan Red Crescent Society, Mrs Farzana Naek, held a meeting with Pakistan's Ambassador to Norway, Mrs Sadia Altaf Qazi, in Oslo. During the meeting, Chairperson PRCS apprised the Ambassador on the PRCS auxiliary role to the Government of Pakistan and reiterated its strong commitment to supporting vulnerable communities, particularly in the aftermath of the recent devastating floods that have affected millions across Pakistan. She emphasized that, as global humanitarian funding continues to shrink, the Pakistani diaspora could play a vital role in extending support to flood-affected populations.

Mrs Naek stressed that engaging the Pakistani community in Norway would not only be helpful for the provision of immediate relief for flood-affected people but also reinforce PRCS's long-term recovery efforts. She further underlined PRCS's extensive nationwide presence, with seven provincial branches, 62 district branches, and a dedicated network of 1.7 million volunteers serving communities across the country.

Ambassador Mrs Sadia Altaf Qazi commended PRCS for its dedicated efforts in humanitarian response and resilience building across Pakistan, recognizing the PRCS role in supporting vulnerable populations during emergencies. She also discussed potential funding opportunities through the engagement of the Pakistani diaspora and collaborations with organizations operating in Norway.



## Briefs

## Bangladesh reduces Hajj package fee

DHAKA: The Bangladeshi government will reduce the cost of Hajj packages in 2026, authorities said on Monday, following three consecutive years of failing to fill its allocated pilgrimage quota. Bangladesh, one of the most populous Muslim-majority countries, has been granted by Saudi Arabia a quota of over 127,000 pilgrims, but since 2023 has been struggling to meet it. In 2024, only 85,000 Bangladeshi pilgrims were able to embark on the spiritual journey that is one of the five pillars of Islam, because of high inflation and flight fares to the Middle East. In 2025, the number increased by only 2,000, despite major price reductions to Hajj packages, up to 20 percent in some cases. With last year's reduction in place, for 2026 the government is cutting the price by another \$100, hopeful there will not be a repeat of the previous situation. "We hope that the reduced Hajj package rate will be affordable, and it will help increase the number of Hajj pilgrims from Bangladesh, compared with recent years," Abdul Awal Hawlader, additional secretary at the Ministry of Religious Affairs, told Arab News.—APP

## Turkiye helps rescue Gaza aid activists after ship breaks down

ISTANBUL: Turkiye helped evacuate activists aboard a Gaza-bound aid flotilla after one of the vessels broke down and began taking on water, organizers and Turkish state-run news agency Anadolu reported Monday. The Global Sumud Flotilla, which includes Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg among its participants, departed from Barcelona earlier this month aiming to break Israel's blockade of Gaza and deliver humanitarian aid to the besieged Palestinian territory. The United Nations has warned of widespread starvation in Gaza amid Israel's ongoing military offensive. In a statement posted on Instagram, the flotilla organizers said the mission was temporarily halted after one of the ships, Johnny M, sustained a leak in its engine room "All participants have been safely transferred to another vessel. Some will be reassigned to other ships, while others will be brought ashore," the statement said. According to Anadolu, the vessel was located in international waters between Crete, Cyprus and Egypt when it issued a distress call early Monday. Turkish authorities, including the Turkish Red Crescent, coordinated the evacuation effort. Semih Fener, the captain of one of the ships dispatched to assist, told Anadolu the incident was due to a technical malfunction, not a sinking.—APP

## Zelensky proposes joint aerial shield with allies

WARSAW: Ukraine has offered to build a joint aerial defense shield with its allies to protect against threats from Russia, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said on Monday, after a series of airspace incursions that caused alarm on NATO's eastern flank. NATO leaders have said that Russia has been testing the alliance's readiness and resolve with airspace incursions in Poland and the Baltic states, and Kyiv says its experience in dealing with aerial threats would be valuable. "Ukraine proposes to Poland and all our partners to build a joint, fully reliable shield against Russian aerial threats," he said in an address to the Warsaw Security Forum delivered via video link. "This is possible. Ukraine can counter all kinds of Russian drones and missiles and if we act together in the region we will have enough weapons and production capacity." Ukraine has already said that its troops and engineers will train their Polish counterparts on countering drones.—APP



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb chairing the kick-off meeting with the visiting IMF Review Mission at the Finance Division.

## Moldova's pro-EU party wins key polls after Russian meddling claims

"If during the night there are falsifications, tomorrow we won't recognise (the result of) the parliamentary elections... and we will ask for elections to be repeated," he said late Sunday outside the electoral commission, where he went with some supporters

CHISINAU: Moldova's ruling pro-EU party won parliamentary elections with the backing of more than half of voters, according to near-complete results on Monday for polls overshadowed by accusations of Russian interference in the ex-Soviet country. The small European Union candidate nation, which borders Ukraine and has a pro-Russia breakaway region, has long been divided over whether to move closer with Brussels or maintain Soviet-era relations with Moscow. Sunday's elections were seen as crucial for the country to maintain its push towards EU integration, launched after Moscow's 2022 invasion of Ukraine. With over 99.5 percent of ballots counted, the Party of Action and Solidarity (PAS) headed by President Maia Sandu had garnered 50.03 percent of the vote to elect members of the 101-seat parliament. That compared to 24.26 percent for the pro-Russian Patriotic Bloc, according to results published on the election commission's website. The support for PAS – whose leaders did

not address waiting reporters late Sunday – was slightly lower than the 52.8 percent that it won in 2021. "Statistically speaking PAS has guaranteed a fragile majority," analyst Andrei Curararu of the Chisinau-based think tank WatchDog.md told AFP on Sunday as the party took the lead in the count. But he warned that "danger" had not passed, "as a functional government is difficult to form". "The Kremlin has bankrolled too big of an operation to stand down and could resort to protests, bribing PAS MPs and other tactics to disrupt forming a stable pro-European government," he added. The ballot was overshadowed by fears of vote buying and unrest, as well as "an unprecedented campaign of disinformation" from Russia, according to the EU. Moscow has denied the allegations. Igor Dodon, a former president and one of the leaders of the Patriotic Bloc, has called on people to "peacefully protest" on Monday, accusing PAS of stealing the vote. "If during the night there are falsifications, tomor-

row we won't recognise (the result of) the parliamentary elections... and we will ask for elections to be repeated," he said late Sunday outside the electoral commission, where he went with some supporters. Earlier Sunday, voter Natalia Sandu said the election was "important because we're at a crossroads". "Our hope, and our expectation, is that we will stay on the European path," the 34-year-old homemaker told AFP. "The alternative is unthinkable, I refuse to even imagine sliding back into the past," she added. Turnout stood at around 52 percent, similar to that of the last parliamentary elections in 2021. Voters in the country of 2.4 million – one of Europe's poorest – have expressed frustration over economic hardship, as well as scepticism over the drive to join the EU. "I want higher wages and pensions... I want things to continue as they were during the Russian times," Vasile, a 51-year-old locksmith and welder, who only gave his first name, told AFP at a polling station in Chisinau.

Some 20 political parties and independent candidates ran for the 101 parliamentary seats. After casting her vote, pro-EU President Maia Sandu warned of the "massive interference of Russia". Moldova's cybersecurity service said Sunday it had detected several attempted attacks on electoral infrastructure, which were "neutralised in real time... without affecting the availability or integrity of electoral services". In the breakaway region of Transnistria, authorities, in turn, accused Chisinau of "numerous and blatant" attempts to limit the vote of Moldovans living in the separatist territory by reducing the number of polling stations and other tactics. The government has accused the Kremlin of spending hundreds of millions in "dirty money" to interfere in the campaign. In the lead-up to the vote, prosecutors carried out hundreds of searches related to what the government said was "electoral corruption" and "destabilisation attempts", with dozens arrested.

## New Zealand govt criticized for failing to recognize Palestine

LONDON: New Zealand's failure to recognize Palestinian statehood has been met with criticism across the country from politicians and activists. The government was expected to recognize Palestine in line with the likes of the UK, Canada and Australia at the UN General Assembly in New York. However, Foreign Minister Winston Peters did not take that step in his address on Saturday. "With a war raging, Hamas remaining the de facto government of Gaza and no clarity on next steps, too many questions remain about the future state of Palestine for it to be prudent for New Zealand to announce recognition at this time," he said. It came as a surprise to many after Prime Minister Christopher Luxon's previous assertion that recognition by New Zealand was a matter of "when, not if." Former Prime Minister Helen Clark criticized the decision not to recognize Palestine, saying it places New Zealand "very much on the wrong side of history." She told broadcaster RNZ: "As more and more countries move to see that the recognition of Palestine is part of a process of moving towards a solution, New Zealand is lagging behind for reasons which make very little sense at all." Elsewhere, members of Protestant and Roman Catholic churches chained themselves to the immigration minister's office in protest. Earlier this month, thousands took to the streets of Auckland to demand that the coalition government recognize Palestinian statehood. The Justice for Palestine human rights group said the inaction shows that New Zealand is "a country confused about its position in the world."—APP

## Hunger, disease making Sudan's humanitarian disaster worse

BAGHDAD: An Iraqi man has been sentenced to life in prison for human trafficking after he recruited Iraqis to fight for Russia against Ukraine, court officials said Monday. The Najaf Criminal Court said in a statement that the convicted man had "formed groups and sent them to fight in foreign countries in exchange for financial compensation" and that the verdict was issued based on Iraq's anti-human trafficking law. Iraqi judicial official and a senior security official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to comment, said the man, who they identified as Risan Falah Kamel, was convicted of recruiting fighters and sending them to fight on the Russian side. Foreign fighters have joined both sides in the war that began with Russia's invasion in 2022. Earlier this year, Ukrainian officials said that significant numbers of Chinese nationals were fighting for Russia's invading army and that they had gathered detailed intelligence on more than 150 mercenaries Moscow allegedly recruited through social media. China denied the allegations. American and South Korean officials also say that North Korea has sent thousands of troops and ammunition to help Russia on the battlefield. Ukraine officials said early on in the war that over 20,000 people from 52 countries had come to Ukraine to help it defend itself against Russia's aggression. Ever since, the numbers of foreign fighters in the ranks of the Ukrainian military have been classified. Last year, Russia military captured a British national fighting with Ukrainian troops who had occupied part of Russia's Kursk region. Sudan issued what it described as a "red alert" warning of potential floods in five provinces along the Nile River, citing rising water levels in its two main tributaries, the Blue and White Nile. The Sudanese irrigation ministry issued the alert Sunday and it remained in effect Monday. The ministry urged residents in Khartoum, River Nile, White Nile, Sennar, and Blue Nile provinces to practice caution as floods may affect agricultural lands and houses. Some farmers in the River Nile province were forced to quickly sell their onion crops as flooding was reported in lowland areas, which would affect farming, Shendi Now, a Facebook site, reported recently. The Sudanese irrigation ministry warned Sunday that water flow has been high for four consecutive days as dams in the area discharged excess water. The water levels were expected to decrease throughout the week. The situation is the result of a man-made error, said Abbas Sharaky, a Professor of Geology and Water Resources at Cairo University. Ethiopia earlier this month inaugurated the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam, Africa's largest dam, to boost the economy. The nearly \$5 billion dam, located on the Blue Nile tributary of the Nile River near Ethiopia's border with Sudan, will produce more than 5,000 megawatts and is expected to double Ethiopia's electricity generation capacity, according to officials. —APP

## Pakistan, Finland to deepen cooperation in minerals sector

Ali Pervaiz Malik outlined the government's vision, saying, "Pakistan is decisively shifting from primitive ways of mining to sophisticated, mechanized, and responsible mining

## DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Petroleum Ali Pervaiz Malik on Monday met a Finnish delegation led by Hannu Ripatti, Ambassador of Finland to Pakistan; Piia Karhu, President, Minerals at Metso; and Willie Eerola, Honorary Consul General of Pakistan to Finland. According to a news release, the meeting focused on Pakistan's transformative agenda for its mineral sector and the growing opportunities for international investment and collaboration. Ali Pervaiz Malik outlined the government's vision, saying, "Pakistan is decisively shifting from primitive ways of mining to sophisticated, mechanized, and responsible mining. We have updated the regulatory setup by harmonizing the mineral framework, ensuring our mining becomes globally competitive." He highlighted the Reko Diq project as the "torchbearer for Pakistan's mineral sector" and assured the delegation of a stable and conducive environment for investors. Metso's President of Minerals, Piia Karhu, lauded the government's initiatives, noting they reflected Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's strong resolve to uplift the sector. She confirmed Metso's role as a key supplier for the Reko Diq project and announced plans to expand into other projects in Pakistan. "We also plan to train local human resources, aligning with Pakistan's goals for sustain-

able development and skill enhancement," Karhu said. The minister welcomed Metso's investment and focus on local capacity building. "Training Pakistan's workforce in mining will not only bring prosperity but also provide a skilled labor force

much needed worldwide," he said. Both sides agreed to enhance cooperation between Pakistani and Finnish companies in the mining sector, aiming to leverage Finnish technological expertise to unlock Pakistan's vast mineral potential responsibly and efficiently.



## UAE president arrives in Egypt for visit

DUBAI: UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al-Nahyan arrived on Monday arrived in Cairo for a visit to Egypt. Sheikh Mohamed and his delegation were welcomed by Egypt's President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi upon their arrival at Cairo International Airport, state news agency WAM said. The two leaders discussed the longstanding fraternal ties between their nations and their shared commitment to enhancing them, WAM added. The UAE Ruler is being accompanied by Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al-Nahyan, Deputy Chairman of the Presidential Court for Special Affairs, Sheikh Mohammed bin Hamad bin Tahnoun Al-Nahyan, Adviser to the UAE President, alongside a number of ministers and senior officials.—APP

## Hamas urges Israel to halt strikes as it searches for 2 hostages

GAZA CITY: Hamas's armed wing urged the Israeli military to temporarily halt air strikes and withdraw from part of Gaza City on Sunday as it tried to locate two Israeli hostages it said it had lost contact with. "The lives of the two prisoners are in real danger, and (Israeli) forces must immediately withdraw to the south of Street 8 and halt aerial operations for 24 hours starting from 18:00 today to allow attempts to rescue the prisoners," the Ezzedine Al-Qassam Brigades said in a statement. In an earlier announcement, the armed group said the loss of contact was due to Israeli military operations over the previous 48 hours in two southern Gaza City neighborhoods where Israeli forces have stepped up air and ground assaults. In the past, the Islamist movement announced that it had lost contact with an Israeli-American hostage, who was released a few days after that announcement. Since launching its offensive on Gaza City, the Israeli military has repeatedly ordered Palestinians to move south. On Sunday, Gaza's civil defense agency, a rescue force operating under Hamas authority, said 38 people had been killed by Israeli fire, including 14 in Gaza City.—APP

## PSX continues with bullish trend, gains 1,590 points

ISLAMABAD: The 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) continued with bullish on Monday, gaining 1,590.68 points, an increase of 0.98 percent, closing at 163,847.69 points against 162,257.01 points on the previous trading day. A total of 1,285,638,674 shares valuing Rs.65,768 billion were traded during the day as compared to 1,714,917,163 shares valuing Rs.70.74 billion on the last trading day. As many as 482 companies transacted their shares in the stock market; 235 recorded gains and 216 sustained losses, whereas the share prices of 31 remained unchanged. The three top trading companies were WorldCall Telecom with 118,937,336 shares at Rs.1.82 per share, followed by K-Electric Limited with 78,201,486 shares at Rs.7.15 per share, and Hascol Petrol with 63,522,783 shares at Rs.13.67 per share. The top gainers were Rafhan Maize Products Company Limited, share prices of which increased by Rs.293.03 to close at Rs.10,799.13, and Sapphire Fiber Limited, which rose by Rs.115.43 to close at Rs.1,269.70. The major losers were Unilever Pakistan Foods Limited, which declined by Rs.1,807.70 to close at Rs.30,500.31, and PIA Holding Company LimitedB, which fell by Rs.1,404.97 to close at Rs.25,284.63. In the futures market, 208,409,500 shares were traded as compared to 633,777,000 shares on the previous trading day, while the total value stood at Rs.14,070 billion against Rs. 35.935 billion previously.—APP

