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PM directs expediting relief, rehabilitation activities in flood affected areas

Directs Chairman NDMA to provide full cooperation to provinces and PDMAs

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday directed acceleration of relief and rehabilitation operations in flood-affected people.

The prime minister chaired a review meeting on the current flood situation and ongoing rehabilitation efforts immediately after his address at the United Nations General Assembly in New York, PM Office Media Wing said in a press.

The prime minister reiterated that they would not rest till complete rehabilitation of the people in flood-affected areas.

He said that he had raised the voice of Pakistanis affected by the ad-

verse impacts of climate change before the world at the UN General Assembly. "Developing countries like Pakistan are continuously suffering from natural disasters caused by climate change," he added.

The prime minister directed Minister for Planning Ahsan Iqbal to strictly monitor relief and rehabilitation operations and to hold regular review meetings in this regard.

He also directed the Chairman NDMA to provide full cooperation to provinces and PDMAs.

The prime minister further directed the completion of damage assessments in the affected areas on an emergency ba-

sis.

Assessment of crops and infrastructure damages after the floods should be completed as soon as possible to facilitate comprehensive planning for relief and rehabilitation efforts, he stressed.

The prime minister instructed the National Highway Authority (NHA) to expedite restoration work on the section of the M-5 Motorway affected by flooding from the Sutlej River.

The breach near Jalalpur Pirwala on the motorway should be repaired immediately, he further directed.

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ZHOB: Balochistan Governor Jaffar Khan Mandokhel inaugurates Skills Education Centre in collaboration with UNICEF and European Union at Model Higher School Zhob.

Calls for full implementation of NAP Diplomacy reaches historic peak, world acknowledges Pak stance: Talal Ch.



FAISALABAD (APP): Interior State Minister Senator Talal Chaudhary on Saturday said that Pakistan's diplomacy had reached its historic peak for the first time due to joint vision and strenuous efforts of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Army Chief Field Marshal Asim Munir.

Addressing a press conference, he said that global powers, including the United States, Gulf States and Arab world, are now recognizing Pakistan's position while the recent defence agreement with Saudi Arabia would soon bring tangible benefits for people of Pakistan.

"This is a crucial moment in the history as Pakistan's voice is being heard and respected at international stage," he added.

Highlighting diplomatic successes, he cautioned that the internal front was still dominated by the

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13 killed, 28 injured in two devastating road accidents in Balochistan

QUETTA (APP): In Balochistan, two devastating traffic accidents claimed 13 lives and left 28 others injured.

The deadliest incident occurred in Panjgur, where a passenger coach collided with an oil tanker, triggering a massive fire. The crash resulted in nine fatalities, including six bus passengers, two individuals traveling in a Zambad (a light commercial vehicle), and one motorcyclist.

Authorities confirmed that six of the deceased were residents of Khuzdar. Preliminary investigations by police suggest that over speeding was the primary cause of the accident. Rescue teams swiftly transported the injured and de-

ceased to the Hospital, where identification efforts are ongoing.

In a separate incident near Khanuza in Quetta-Zhob highway, a passenger coach en route from Quetta to Islamabad collided with a car and overturned. The crash claimed four lives and injured 25 others. The Medical Emergency Response Centre responders moved the victims to a nearby hospital, and the bodies of the deceased are being handed over to their families.

These back-to-back tragedies have once again spotlighted the critical issue of road safety in Balochistan, where reckless driving and poor infrastructure continue to pose serious risks to public safety.



QUETTA: Provincial Minister for Education Raheela Hameed Khan Durrani cutting the cake on the eve of Girls Guide Association annual ceremony.



NEW YORK: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting to review damages and relief operations in the wake of recent floods.

Governor inaugurates skills education center to bridge education-employment gap

ZHOB (APP): Governor of Balochistan, Jaffar Khan Mandokhel, inaugurated a new Skills Education Center at the Model Higher Secondary School in Zhob, describing it as a visionary initiative aimed at bridging the gap between academic learning and market-driven skills. The center is designed to equip youth with practical competencies aligned with contemporary employment demands.

The project was made possible through the collaborative support of UNICEF and the European Union (EU), for which the Governor expressed deep appreciation.

In his address, Governor Mandokhel highlighted the transformative impact of skills-based education. He added that the initiative would enhance the employability, entrepreneurial spirit, and creativity of our students through skills education. Calling the center

a "new hope and a ray of light," he reaffirmed the government's commitment to modernizing education and empowering youth.

He outlined a forward-looking vision in which graduates of the center will contribute meaningfully to economic development, reduce unemployment, and foster sustainable progress within their communities.

Calling the center a "new hope and a ray of light," he reaffirmed the government's commitment to modernizing education and empowering youth.

During his visit, the Governor visited various sections of the center and engaged with students, posing questions and encouraging dialogue. He emphasized the dual responsibility of educators—not only to impart modern knowledge but also to nurture character and moral values among students.



NEW YORK: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar met with President of the UN General Assembly, Annalena Baerbock on sidelines of 80th UNGA session.

Naqvi, FBI director discuss counterterrorism, illegal immigration

WASHINGTON (INP): Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi held a meeting with U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Director Kash Patel on Saturday, during his official visit to Washington.

The two officials discussed cooperation in key areas including counterterrorism, illegal immigration, and officer exchange programs.

In a post on X, Naqvi described the meeting as "excellent" and praised the FBI director's professionalism.

"Had an excellent

meeting with FBI Director Kash Patel. We discussed cooperation on illegal immigration, counter-terrorism, and officer exchange programs. His professionalism and vision make him a great partner to work with," the minister wrote.

Washington DC: Had an excellent meeting with FBI Director Kash Patel. We discussed cooperation on illegal immigration, counter-terrorism, and officer exchange programs. His professionalism and vision make him a great partner to work with.

BAP vows to work with federation for province's development

Khalid Magsi elected as BAP President, while Manzoor Kakar as Secretary General

QUETTA (ANN): The Balochistan Awami Party (BAP) has reaffirmed its commitment to working alongside the federation for the province's development, with its leadership emphasizing unity, service, and future electoral success.

Speaking at the central council session held at Quetta's Boys Scouts, newly elected central president Nawabzada Khalid Hussain Magsi, central secretary general Manzoor Khan Kakar, and former Senate Chairman Sadiq Sanjrani addressed party members and supporters. During the session, the central and provincial cabinets were also formed, with Magsi and Kakar taking oath as president and secretary general respectively. Nawabzada Khalid

Magsi expressed gratitude to those candidates who withdrew in his and the secretary general's favor. He said BAP is the only party that does not distinguish between its workers and leadership. "Our manifesto is to resolve the people's issues, and the record of our past government stands as proof of our work. If given the chance again, we will continue serving the people in the same way," Magsi stated.

Newly elected Secretary General Manzoor Kakar described BAP as "a bouquet" representing diverse voices, adding that the party leadership had served the people of Balochistan and initiated numerous development projects. He emphasized that party workers must be valued if

Elimination of al-Khwarji vital for peace in country: President

Security Forces kill 17 Indian sponsored khwarji in Lakki Marwat

PM commend security forces for eliminating 17 Khwarji

RAWALPINDI (APP): Security forces killed 17 Indian sponsored khwarji in an intelligence based operation in Lakki Marwat District, on reported presence of khwarji belonging to Indian Proxy, Fitna al Khwarji.

"During the conduct of operation, own troops effectively engaged the khwarji location and resultantly, seventeen Indian sponsored khwarji were sent to hell," said a news release issued by Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR).

"Weapons and ammunition were also recovered from the killed khwarji, who remained actively involved in numerous terrorist activi-

ties against the Security Forces and Law Enforcement Agencies as well as killing of innocent civilians," it further said.

Sanitization operation is being conducted to eliminate any other Indian sponsored khwarji found in the area, as the Security Forces of Pakistan are determined to wipe out the menace of Indian sponsored terrorism from the country.

President Asif Ali Zardari congratulated the security forces on their successful operation in district Lakki Marwat that resulted in the elimination of seventeen Indian-sponsored terrorists belonging to Fitna al-Khwarji.

The President paid

tribute to the courage and sacrifices of the forces, saying their efforts reflect the nation's firm resolve to eradicate Indian proxy terrorism from Pakistan.

He said the complete elimination of Fitna al-Khwarji and its networks was vital for lasting peace and stability in the country.

President Zardari reaffirmed that the entire nation stood united with its valiant armed forces in the fight against terrorism.

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday appreciated the security forces for eliminating 17 Khwarji in District Karak, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Shell explosion kills 4 children, injures five in Bajaur

PESHAWAR (APP): At least four children were killed and as many injured when explosives shells left behind by Khwaraj went off in Bajaur district on Saturday.

Police said in Bajaur's Laghari area, children started playing with undetonated explosives shells left behind by the Khwaraj and blasted with huge explosion, killing four innocent children and another 4 injured.

The tragic incident occurred in Mamund Tehsil of Bajaur, where explosives shells left behind by the Khwaraj fell into the hands of children.

Police said this is the same area where, just a few weeks ago, a video of Khwaraj playing cricket with children had gone viral.

CM Sarfraz Bugti greets newly elected BAP leadership, praises transparent intra-party polls

QUETTA (APP): Chief Minister of Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Bugti, has extended warm congratulations to the newly elected central and provincial office-bearers of the Balochistan Awami Party (BAP), following the party's recent intra-party elections.

Hailing the electoral process as a "shining example of transparency and democracy," CM Bugti commended the party's commitment to internal democratic values.

In his message, the Chief Minister congratulated the newly elected leadership. Nawabzada Khalid Hussain Magsi as Central President, Senator Manzoor Kakar as Central Secretary-General.

The BAP party

elected Sardar Saleh Muhammad Bhootani as Provincial President (Balochistan) and Haji Mitha Khan Kakar – Provincial General Secretary.

CM Bugti expressed confidence that the new leadership would reinforce BAP's dedication to public service and continue advancing the party's role in both provincial and national politics. He underscored BAP's significance as a coalition partner at the federal and provincial levels, noting that its organizational strengthening would positively influence governance and political stability.

"The BAP intra-party elections are a testament to the party's robust democratic practices and commitment to transparency," he stated.



MASTUNG: Inspector General Police Balochistan Muhammad Tahir addressing Police Darbar during his visit to Mastung.

Pakistani crew freed after Israeli drone strike & Houthi hostage crisis in Yemen

ISLAMABAD (APP): Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi confirmed on Saturday that the Pakistani crew of an LPG tanker attacked in Yemen has been safely released.

In his message on Social Media platform X Naqvi wrote that the vessel carrying 27 crew members, including 24 Pakistanis led by Captain Mukhtar Akbar, two Sri Lankans, and one Nepali, was struck by an Israeli drone on September 17, 2025, while docked at Ras al-Esa port, an area under Houthi control. One LPG tank exploded, but the crew managed to contain the fire.

Shortly afterward, Houthi boats intercepted the tanker, and the crew was held hostage aboard the ship.

Balochistan to modernize revenue system for transparency, citizen ease

Kurd announces digitization of land records, new service centers, and a helpline to eliminate corruption

QUETTA (ANN): Provincial Revenue Minister of Balochistan, Mir Asim Kurd Gello, has said that ensuring transparency and providing fast, efficient services in the Revenue Department is among the government's top priorities. To address public complaints, a dedicated helpline is also being established.

Speaking to various delegations, the minister stated that the provincial revenue system is being restructured on modern lines to provide better and more transparent services to the public. He added that all registries, land records, and other revenue-related matters will be fully computerized to minimize difficul-

ties for citizens. According to Minister Gello, the initiative will not only reduce corruption but also save citizens valuable time.

Furthermore, modern service centers will be set up across all districts of Balochistan, enabling citizens to obtain accurate and timely information regarding their lands and properties.

"Our goal is to eliminate the difficulties faced by the people and establish a transparent, modern revenue system," he said. Public circles have welcomed these reforms, emphasizing that they will ease citizen services and strengthen trust in government institutions.

Salman Agha says Pakistan team fully focused on winning Asia Cup final

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan captain Salman Ali Agha said on Saturday that the team was fully focused on winning final of the Asia Cup against India and least bothered by the clamor outside the playing fields.

Speaking at the pre-final press conference at the DICS, Dubai, he said "we are not concerned what the media or cricket experts say about us, we have come here to win the final of Asia Cup." On losing precious two fixtures in Dubai against India, Agha said the Pakistan team will try to make fewer mistakes against India in the final of the Asia Cup 2025 to lift the trophy. "Indian made fewer mistakes as compared with Pakistani team and that's why they got the better of us in both the fixtures in Asia Cup," he said while Salman acknowledged that Pakistan-India games are pressure games and it will be a misstatement to claim there is no pressure.

Admitting his poor form at the Asia Cup 2025, Pakistani captain said he was working on his batting. On strike-rate of former captains Babar Azam and Muhammad Rizwan due to lower strike rates, Salman Ali Agha said that strike rate is not of paramount importance and a cricketer must play what the situation demands of him. It will be a misnomer if a player bats with a strike rate of 150 but does not address the situation.

Salman Ali Agha said no changes in the team combination was in the offing and a team in the final will be picked after having a look at the pitch for the final against India.

On maintaining discipline on the field, Pakistan captain said, "I give freedom to the players to express themselves on the team but no one should bring disrepute to the game of cricket on the field."

Responding to the no

hand-shake saga on September 14, Salman said no hand-shake tradition was a bad omen for gentleman's sport, adding that had not seen or heard of no hand-shake in a game of cricket during his cricketer career.

Salman Agha was tacit in admission of the barring woes of the Pakistan team in the Asia Cup 2025, expressing the hope that the team will give its best against India in the final on Sunday.

Salman Agha dispelled the impression that toss had any effect on the result of a game, adding that toss did not play any significant in the outcome of any game so far.

On Saim Ayub's poor show with the bat in the Asia Cup, the captain said Saim's contribution in bowling and fielding was excellent if he did not do well with bat, expressing the hope that final against India will see the best of Saim Ayub.



ZHOB: Balochistan Governor Jaffar Khan Mandokhel enquiring after health of injured police officials during accidentally firing incident.

Foreign terrorist, Daesh network behind Peshawar suicide attack: CTD

PESHAWAR (APP): The Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) Saturday announced a significant breakthrough in the investigation into May 11 suicide attack on a police vehicle in Peshawar's Chamkani area, identifying the bomber as an Azerbaijani foreign national named Imran Galiyev.

CTD sources indicate that Galiyev, who is suspected of belonging to a Daesh network, arrived in Islamabad on April 28, 2024, but no record of his exit from the country exists.

The primary objective of the attack, which occurred three kilometers away from target, was a prominent religious-political leader, confirmed to be JUI chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman, who was addressing

ing a rally at that time.

The investigation revealed that Galiyev was supported by an extensive domestic network spanning Karak, Peshawar, and Quetta.

These accomplices provided the terrorist with accommodation, financial assistance, and, crucially, fake identity cards.

The CTD has successfully acted against this support structure, arresting the network responsible for supplying fake identity documents in Kohat.

Financial tracing exposed that operation was funded through a mix of traditional and modern transfer methods. Millions of rupees were channeled to terrorists using local services like Easypaisa and illicit hawala system.



HYDERABAD: Players in action during a cricket match between Govt. Ghulam Hussain Boys High School and The Spark School teams as part of the Inter-School PCB Talent Hunt Program at Niaz Cricket Stadium.

Morkel downplays Hardik, Abhishek fitness concerns

DUBAI (INP): Morne Morkel, India's bowling coach, has allayed concerns around the fitness of Hardik Pandya and Abhishek Sharma leading into Sunday's Asia Cup final against Pakistan in Dubai.

Hardik held his left hamstring and walked off the field after bowling the first over of Sri Lanka's innings on Friday, in which he dismissed Kusal Mendis for a first-ball duck. Hardik didn't return to take the field for the remainder of the innings.

"Hardik had cramps, he will be assessed tonight and tomorrow morning, we'll then take a call on

that," Morkel said at the post-match press conference. India's bowling coach was merely reiterating what India captain Suryakumar Yadav said at the post-match presentation.

Meanwhile, Abhishek too spent the entire second half of Sri Lanka's innings off the field. Abhishek showed signs of discomfort in the ninth over, when he clutched onto his right thigh while running. He eventually left the field in the 10th over, just before a Pathum Nissanka six was signalled dead ball because he hadn't left the field before Varun Chakravarthy began to run in to bowl.

Panthers Club wins Inter-University Clubs Tenpin Bowling C'ship

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Panthers Club has emerged victorious in the Inter-University Clubs Tenpin Bowling Championship 2025, held here at Leisure City Bowling Club.

The team, comprising Rana Afzal, Mustafa, Awais, Maroyam, and Aima, defeated the Scorpions Club with an impressive lead of 50 pins in the final match. They were awarded a cash prize of PKR 25,000 and gold medals.

The runners-up, Scorpions Club team members were Junaid Shafique, Saad, Manahil, and Eshal.

Ijaz-ur-Rehman, President of Pakistan Tenpin Bowling Federation, expressed his enthusiasm for organizing championships at the grassroots level to nurture young talent.

The aim is to train male and female youth to represent Pakistan at national and international levels.

Wrestlers demand govt establish Desi wrestling federation

MULTAN (APP): Rustam-e-Pakistan Bashir Bhola Bhala and other renowned wrestlers from South Punjab, demanded the government establish 'Desi Wrestling Federation' for promotion of traditional desi wrestling.

Addressing a press conference at the Multan Press Club here on Saturday, the wrestlers said that desi wrestling was our traditional game and urged the government to take immediate steps for protection and the promotion of traditional wrestling.

Bhola Bhala said that the "Akhara was the nursery of wrestling. If desi wrestling ends, where from wrestlers would come in future."

Malik Qamar Pehlwan, said that all Pahlwans (wrestlers) were united under one platform for promotion of traditional wrestling. They all have decided to play their role to save this game.



Mr. Zulfiqar Ali Shah along with National & International Sailing Officials and Pakistan Navy organizers at the closing ceremony of 2nd Chief of the Naval Staff International Sailing Regatta 2025.

Second CNS International Sailing Regatta-2025 ends at PNS RAHBAR

KARACHI (APP): The 2nd Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS) International Sailing Regatta 2025, held from 23 to 27 September 2025 in the waters off Karachi concluded with an impressive closing ceremony held at PNS RAHBAR, Karachi.

The ceremony was graced by Zulfiqar Ali Shah, Minister for Culture, Tourism, Antiquities and Archives, Government of Sindh, who attended as the Chief Guest.

The week-long championship witnessed enthusiastic participation of sailors representing Egypt, Iran, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Pakistan. The tournament featured competitive races in the categories of Laser Standard/ILCA 7, Laser Radial/ILCA 6, and Windsurfing RSX. A total of twelve races were

successfully conducted in each category, with 38 participants, both national and international, showcasing their skills throughout the event.

In his address, the Chief Guest congratulated the participants for their remarkable performance and extended best wishes to the international teams. He also lauded Pakistan Navy's efforts in promoting sailing and water sports in the region.

Later, the Chief Guest awarded prizes to the winners and appreciated the high level of skills displayed throughout the event.

Khairulnizam bin Mohd Afendy from Malaysia secured first position in the Laser Standard/ILCA 7 category, while Arthit Mikhail Romanyk from Thailand finished as runner-up. Meanwhile, in the La-

ser Radial / ILCA 6 category, Noppassorn Khunboonjan from Thailand claimed the top spot, followed by Muhammad Asnawi Iqbal bin Adam from Malaysia in second place.

Moreover, in the Windsurfing RSX category, Muhammad Irfan from Pakistan clinched first position, whereas Tariq Ali from Pakistan took the runner-up title.

Players from Pakistan and Malaysia topped the list, each securing a gold, silver, and bronze medal. Meanwhile, players from Thailand won a gold and a silver medal each, and Egypt claimed one bronze medal.

The ceremony was attended by a large number of dignitaries from armed forces, foreign embassies and civil organizations.

Pak team reaches Kazakhstan for ATF Int'l Competition

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Pakistan 12 & under tennis team has reached Kazakhstan, to participate in the ATF 12 & under Intercontinental Team Competition 2025, scheduled to take place in Shymkent from September 27 September to October 5. As many as 12 nations from across the globe are participating in the tournament, said a press release. This event brings together top young talent from various regions, and Pakistan will be participating for the first time.

The team was selected following their outstanding performance in the Finals of the ATF 12 & under Team Competition, held in Singapore from August 25 to 30. In preparation for this global event, the team underwent an intensive training camp at the PTF Complex from September 14 to 25.

Participating Nations include Australia, Africa (CAT), China, Chinese Taipei, South America (COSAT), Hong Kong, Kazakhstan, Korea, New Zealand, Pacific Oceania, Pakistan and Thailand.

Pakistan Team Comprises Muhammad Shayan Afridi, Rashid Ali Bachani, Muhammad Ibraheem Hussain Gill, Muhammad Abid (Team Captain).



KARACHI: Jamaat-e-Islami Emir Hafiz Naeem ur Rehman addresses seminar at Jinnah Auditorium City Court.

PM directs..

Continued from page 1

The prime minister directed the secretary communications and the NHA chairman to immediately visit the affected section of M-5 and assess the damage.

He also ordered all necessary measures to be taken to prevent the spread of waterborne diseases in the flood-affected areas.

Special measures should also be taken to cultivate appropriate crops in flood-hit areas," he emphasised.

Chief secretaries of all four provinces, including Gilgit-Baltistan and Azad Kashmir, also participated in the meeting.

The NDMA chairman briefed the prime minister on the current situation in flood-affected areas and the rehabilitation plan.

The meeting was in-

formed that approximately 350,000 affected individuals have returned to their homes from relief camps and tent settlements.

In Sindh, a number of people were still residing in camps, but as the floodwaters were receding rapidly, they would soon return home as well.

The meeting was further informed that the distribution of food and relief supplies was ongoing.

The government of Punjab was especially commended in the meeting for taking exemplary steps for the rehabilitation of the affected population.

Suggestions were also presented regarding crop losses and rehabilitation of farmers. The prime minister directed that a comprehensive report on the damage assessment should be compiled and presented within a week.

Naqvi to pay Rauf's fine personally

DUBAI (INP): Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Chairman Mohsin Naqvi has reportedly announced to personally pay Haris Rauf's fine imposed by the International Cricket Council (ICC).

The pacer was penalised 30% of his match fee for using "abusive language" during the India-Pakistan September 21 tie at the Dubai international stadium.

Meanwhile, his teammate batter Sahibzada Farhan left with a warning for his celebration during the Super Fours fixture against arch-rival India at the ongoing Asia Cup.

Following the development, local media reported that the PCB chairman will personally cover Rauf's penalty.

Diplomacy reaches historic..

Continued from page 1

fight against terrorism which continued to prolong due to the incomplete implementation of the National Action Plan. He criticized the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government and said that despite receiving Rs 600 billion for counter terrorism measures, the province has failed to modernize the Counter Terrorism Department, complete Safe City project or adequately equip security forces.

"In Tirah Valley, the militants are using women and children as human shields and deploying modern drones to attack Pak

forces. Such elements can only be dealt with force as writ of the state cannot be compromised under any circumstances," he added.

Referring to recent operations, he mentioned that 17 militants were killed in Karak as a result of coordinated efforts between federal and provincial forces. However, he stressed that this is not just the federal government's responsibility rather provincial administration must also play their role. The rallies and political statements cannot substitute for action; he said and added that anyone helping the terrorists would be treated as their

accomplice. The state minister paid tribute to the sacrifices of officers like Major Adnan Shaheed who laid down their lives to save their colleagues and said taking a firm stand against terrorism is the foremost duty of leadership. He assured that the government is committed to provide healthcare, education and transportation facilities to the public. He said stability in the economy and tangible relief for the masses would be visible soon, he added. He said that alignment of national development and defence strength will further reinforce Pakistan's global standing.

Punjab to beat smog with modern forecasting technology: Marriyum

LAHORE (APP): On the special directions of Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif, Pakistan's first-ever modern air quality forecasting system has been developed in Punjab. Equipped with the latest technology, the system will predict weather conditions and air pollution across the province, while weekly reports will be issued for public awareness.

Senior Provincial Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb, in a statement, said that the forecasting system has been designed on international models such as Windy and Euro, integrating the global air index with local needs.

She noted that the initiative combines real-time monitoring with advanced scientific models and will play a key role in reducing pollution in major urban centers like Lahore and Faisalabad.

She informed that 41 state-of-the-art air quality monitoring stations have already been installed across Punjab, with the number set to reach 100 in the coming months. These stations will continuously monitor levels of air pollution, weather patterns, and urban air quality.

The senior minister said that the modern system will not only provide timely information on pollution levels but will also guide citizens about health precautions and protective measures. "Thanks to Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif's vision, this system will enable research-based policy making and strengthen Punjab's scientific capacity to combat environmental challenges," she added.

Marriyum Aurangzeb added that the initiative forms part of the government's comprehensive strategy to eliminate smog.

Alongside, a strict crackdown is underway against the burning of crop residues, while measures are being taken to regulate vehicular emissions and industrial fumes. She stressed that citizens also have a responsibility to play their role in controlling environmental pollution, urging people to avoid unnecessary outdoor movement during smog season. Special caution, she said, must be observed by children, elderly persons, and patients with respiratory conditions.



RAWALPINDI: Athletes wrestle during trials for the Rustam Rawalpindi competitions in November at Liaquat Bagh Akhara Dada Pehlwan Rustam Rawalpindi.

Tourism key driver of sustainable growth, peace: Governor Kundi

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Saturday highlighted the transformative role of tourism, terming it not only a source of economic growth but also a means to foster sustainable development, social harmony, and intercultural connections.

In his special message on the occasion of World Tourism Day, Governor Kundi said this year's theme, "Tourism and Sustainable Transformation," carries a global message that tourism can lay the foundation for a responsible, effective, and enduring model of development for future generations.

He underlined that Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is richly endowed with natural beauty, cultural heritage, historical landmarks, and the unmatched hospitality of its people.

"The towering mountains, lush valleys, rivers, lakes, and remnants of ancient civilizations attract

tourists from across the world," he added.

However, he cautioned that environmental challenges such as climate change, glacial melting, and extreme weather are increasingly threatening this natural heritage.

"Alongside tackling climate change, improving law and order is also critical to strengthening tourism," he said.

Governor Kundi endorsed President Asif Ali Zardari's stance that without timely action, environmental degradation would not only harm Pakistan's tourism destinations but also weaken local economies and restrict employment opportunities.

He stressed the urgent need to focus on green certification, community-based tourism, and ecotourism.

He further said that tourism development can empower women and youth, build a positive narrative against extremism, and promote lasting peace.

TENDER NOTICE

Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, It is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA GOB. The Preservation and Conservation of Persian Leopard in HCNP and other Potential Areas of Province invites bids from Eligible Bidders for execution of following works for the Year 2025 based on Composite schedule rates 2018 on Percentage Rates Tender Fee 1000 PKR and Bid Security 2% for each work

| S.No | Name of Work's | E/Cost |
|------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| 1 | SOLARIZATION OF 10 COMMUNITY HOUSES TSE-252609872893 | 3,000,000 |
| 2 | Preparation of SEED BALLS UNDER DEVELOPMENT AND DIBLING/WATER HARVESTING STRUCTURES FORMATION FOR SOWING OF SEEDS/SEED BALLS BY LABOR TSE-252609870923 | 3,468,000 |
| 3 | Construction of Game Watcher Huts/Observatory Points TSE-252609863053 | 5,000,000 |
| 4 | Plantation Of 500 acres Using Water Harvesting Structures TSE-252609863023 | 13,167,912 |
| 5 | CONSTRUCTION OF GABION STRUCTURE UNDER DEVELOPMENT SCHEME "CONSERVATION OF LEOPARD IN HAZARGHANJI CHILTAN NATIONAL PARK AND OTHER POTENTIAL AREAS OF THE PROVINCE TSE-252609862993 | 4,950,000 |
| 6 | CONSTRUCTION OF CHECK DAM UNDER DEVELOPMENT SCHEME "CONSERVATION OF LEOPARD IN HAZARGHANJI CHILTAN NATIONAL PARK AND OTHER POTENTIAL AREAS OF THE PROVINCE TSE-252609862983 | 21,750,000 |

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. **Eligibility of Bidders:** Eligibility Criteria for bidders may be seen in the Bidding Documents **Bidding Procedure:** Single Stage One Envelope Bidding Procedure (TSE-252609872893, TSE- 252609870923, TSE-252609863053, TSE-252609863023, TSE-252609862993, TSE-252609862983) **Tender Documents:** The Bidding document can be downloaded from www.bppra.gob.pk (free of cost) and the same can also be obtained from the office of the under-signed upon payment of prescribed tender fee. **Last Date and Time of Bid Submission** 13 October, 2025 at 10:00 AM and will be opened on same day at 11:00AM **Address:** Chief Conservator of Forest, North Balochistan Quetta. **Phone no:** 3333392263 **Email:** dfobarkhan@gmail.com

PROJECT COORDINATOR
CONSERVATION OF LEOPARD IN
HAZARGHANJI CHILTAN
NATIONAL PARK

PRQ No.1581/27-9-2025



BARKHAN: Provincial Minister for PHE Sardar Abdul Rehman Khetran talking to delegation from different walk of life.

NA Speaker pays tribute to security forces for eliminating 17 terrorists in Karak

ISLAMABAD (APP): National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq on Saturday paid tribute to the security forces and police for successfully eliminating 17 'Fitna-Al-Hindustan' terrorists in Karak, operating under Indian patronage.

In a statement, the Speaker said the successful operation against extremist elements was a commendable achievement, highlighting the professional skill and courage of the security

forces in averting a major national tragedy.

The Parliament, government, and security institutions remain firmly committed to the complete eradication of terrorism," the Speaker affirmed.

Sardar Ayaz Sadiq said the entire nation takes pride in its brave sons who continue to safeguard Pakistan with valor and sacrifice. He also prayed for the swift recovery of the personnel injured in the operation.

Wani hails PM for forcefully raising issues of Kashmir and Palestine at UNGA

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prominent Kashmiri rights activist and Vice Chairman of Jammu and Kashmir National Front, Altaf Hussain Wani, has hailed Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif for forcefully raising the issues of Kashmir and Palestine during his landmark speech at the United Nations General Assembly.

"Salute to you, Prime Minister Sharif, for raising two just causes—Kashmir and Palestine—before the world body. Your thundering demand for self-determination, accountability for war crimes, and an end to occupation echoed from

Srinagar to Gaza," Wani wrote on his X handle, says a press release received here from Geneva. Applauding Pakistan's bold diplomatic posture, he remarked: "Diplomacy with spine—Pakistan stands taller."

He expressed heartfelt gratitude to the people and government of Pakistan for their unwavering support to the Kashmir cause and fearless advocacy of the Kashmiris' inalienable right to self-determination.

"Be it Kashmir or Palestine, Pakistan has consistently championed these just causes at every international forum," he said.



ISLAMABAD: CEO Pakistan Textile Council (PTC Shafqaat, giving a presentation to the newly inducted Civil Servants of Commerce & Trade Group, during their visit of PTC.

Sardar Yasir Ilyas describes tourism as "new engine of Pakistan's economy"

ISLAMABAD (INP): On World Tourism Day, Prime Minister's Coordinator for Tourism Sardar Yasir Ilyas has described tourism as "the new engine of Pakistan's economy."

Speaking on the occasion, he underlined that the tourism sector has the potential to generate unprecedented growth, jobs, and international recognition.

"Green investment in tourism is not just the need of the hour but it is also a guarantee for the future," he said, emphasizing sustainability as the foundation for long-

term progress.

According to projections, highlighted by the Coordinator, Pakistan's tourism revenue could soar to \$30 billion by 2033, a milestone that, if realized, would reposition the country's economy and elevate its standing in the global tourism market.

Sardar Ilyas declared that placing Pakistan firmly on the global tourism map is a "national mission" and stressed that women and youth must be at the center of this transformation, serving as the true

architects of a modern tourism economy.

"Kashmir, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and the northern areas are natural treasures—untapped wonders that can command the world's attention," he noted.

He also highlighted the employment potential of the sector, predicting millions of new jobs as tourism expands. "Tourism is not just about economic growth—it is also about culture, heritage, and peace," he remarked, framing tourism as a bridge to global understanding and harmony.

He further emphasized the need for close collaboration between the private sector and the government, calling it the only way to lay the foundation for a "new tourism-driven Pakistan."

Eco-tourism and sustainable models, he said, will be at the heart of this transformation.

Sardar Ilyas said Pakistan has the full capacity to emerge as one of the world's next great tourism destinations, provided the country pursues this vision with unity, determination, and innovation.

Pakistan PM's address to UNGA further boosts Kashmiris' morale: APHC

ISLAMABAD (INP): The All Parties Hurriyat Conference in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir has appreciated the address of Pakistan Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif to the United Nations General Assembly and said that it has further boosted the morale of Kashmiris who have been suffering from Indian occupation for the past several decades.

Shahbaz Sharif in his address to the General Assembly yesterday expressed solidarity with the people of Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir and said, "Pakistan stands with its Kashmiri brothers, Indian occupation will end and Kashmiris will one day achieve their right to self-determination."

APHC spokesperson Advocate Abdul Rashid Minhas in a statement issued in Srinagar said the Prime Minister of Pakistan has once again invited India for talks to resolve all disputes, including Kashmir, proving that Pakistan believes in resolving problems and disputes through dialogue and not through war.

He said due to India's unrealistic approach and stubbornness regarding the resolution of the Kashmir dispute, not only the Kashmiri people are suffering but the peace of the entire region is also at stake.

The spokesperson said Pakistan is not only an important party to the Kashmir dispute but also an advocate for the right of self-determination of the Kashmiris as recognized by the United Nations and it is vigorously highlighting this right at the global level.

He said the Kashmiri people are extremely grateful to Pakistan for its full support in their struggle for the right to self-determination, adding India should also stop suppressing the freedom struggle of Kashmiris by force and give a positive response to Pakistan's offer to resume the dialogue process.

The spokesperson condemned the curfew, restrictions and continuous internet shutdown in Leh and Kargil areas of Ladakh region and demanded the immediate release of all arrested persons, including renowned environmental activist Sonam Wangchuck.



ISLAMABAD: A worker is busy repairing a street light at Khanna Pul area in the Federal Capital.

Meeting reviews electric buses project in Rawalpindi

ISLAMABAD (APP): A high-level meeting on the electric buses project was held here on Saturday, bringing together parliamentarians, Pakistan Muslim League-N leaders, and district officials to discuss practical measures for providing the residents of Rawalpindi with modern and eco-friendly transport facilities.

The participants included MNAs Tahira Aurangzeb, Malik Abrar Ahmed and Engineer Qamarul Islam; Punjab's parliamentary secretaries Farah Naz Akbar, Ziaullah Shah, Malik Iftikhar and Shazia Rizwan; Chairman of the Chief Minister's Inspection Team Raja Muhammad Hanif Advocate, former mayor Sardar Naseem Ahmed Khan, former MNA Haji Pervez, MPAs Chaudhry Naeem Ijaz, Malik Mansoor Afzal, Shaikat Bhatti, Chaudhry Imran Ilyas, Zaibun Nisa Awan, Tahseen Fawad, Tahira Mushtaq, Asma Naz Abbasi, and Riffat Abbasi; as well as PML-N leaders Pirzada Rahat Qadoosi, Farooq Khattak, and others.

They said the project was in line with the vision of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz, under which the provincial government was working round the clock to ensure modern and quality transport services for the people.

It was further

emphasised that the provincial government's focus on public welfare projects reflected its commitment to ease citizens' lives, with initiatives like the electric bus service also bringing international-standard facilities to the city.

According to sources, practical work on the project would begin in the coming weeks, enabling citizens soon to travel in modern, comfortable, and eco-friendly electric buses.



ISLAMABAD: A vendor arranging and displaying children's plastic toys on the footpath to attract customers in the Federal Capital.



ISLAMABAD: Traffic police issue chalan ticket to motorcyclist for helmet violation in capital city.

Over 550 stray dogs captured in Islamabad in 3 months, says CDA

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Capital Development Authority (CDA) has reported that more than 550 stray dogs were captured across Islamabad between July and September this year as part of intensified operations to address rising public complaints.

According to CDA records, teams carried out drives in sectors G-14, D-12, F-6, F-7, I-9, I-10, G-10, and F-11, as well as in Saidpur, Margalla Town, Bhara Kahu, the Red Zone, and other rural areas.

Officials told APP on Saturday that the captured dogs were transported to the CDA's Stray Dog Center in Taramri, where they are treated under the Trap-Neuter-Vaccinate-Return (TNVR) method — a humane process that involves sterilization and vaccination

before relocation to secure sites.

A CDA spokesperson said the civic body is prioritizing swift response to complaints, supported by a 24/7 helpline (1334) and the Deputy Commissioner's online portal. "The Stray Dog Center is fully functional and handling both existing and new complaints effectively," the official added.

Chairman CDA and Chief Commissioner Islamabad Muhammad Ali Randhawa emphasized that the campaign is designed to "protect citizens while managing stray animals in a humane manner."

The CDA said operations would continue across urban and rural areas of the capital to reduce public health risks and maintain safety.

Shahzad Roy urges nationwide awareness on HPV vaccine

ISLAMABAD (APP): Renowned singer and social activist Shahzad Roy on Saturday underscored the importance of the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine, calling it the only vaccine that can prevent cancer.

Talking to a private news channel, he said misconceptions persist because many people have not heard of the vaccine before. He emphasized that it is safe, as extensive global research has been conducted

on it. He noted that conspiracy theories often emerge when a country is the pioneer of a vaccine drive, but in Pakistan's case, people should be reassured, as it is the 150th nation to launch the HPV vaccination campaign.

He stressed that raising awareness about the vaccine is a collective responsibility of the government, media, civil society, religious leaders, and parents to ensure a healthier future.

ICT Police held 12 outlaws, recover drugs & weapons

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad: Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police arrested 12 accused involved in different criminal activities during separate actions conducted by police station teams of Golra, Sumbal, Shams Colony, Koral, and Humak.

An official told APP on Saturday that police teams recovered two Kalashnikovs and three pistols of different calibers along with ammunition from their possession. Cases have been registered against the arrested accused and further investigations are underway.

Suspect killed, policeman injured in exchange of fire in Swabi

ISLAMABAD (APP): A suspect was killed and a police constable injured during an exchange of fire in Swabi district on Saturday.

According to private news, police said that the suspect was attempting to snatch a motorcycle at gunpoint when a patrol team reached the spot.

The suspect opened fire, injuring Constable Sardar Hussain, while police returned fire, killing the accused on the spot. Police recovered weapons and narcotics from the suspect, identified as Farooq, a resident of Batakara.

PRCS, Norwegian Red Cross to enhance global humanitarian action

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Chairperson of the Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS), Farzana Naek held a productive meeting with the President of the Norwegian Red Cross, Siri Hatlen, to strengthen humanitarian cooperation and explore avenues for enhanced support to the people of Pakistan most affected by climate change. The meeting was held at the Norwegian Red Cross office during PRCS chairperson's visit to Oslo, Norway. According to a press release issued by PRCS here Friday, Farzana Naek emphasized that her visit was part of her ongoing advocacy for communities across Pakistan whose lives and livelihoods continue to be devastated by climate-induced disasters.

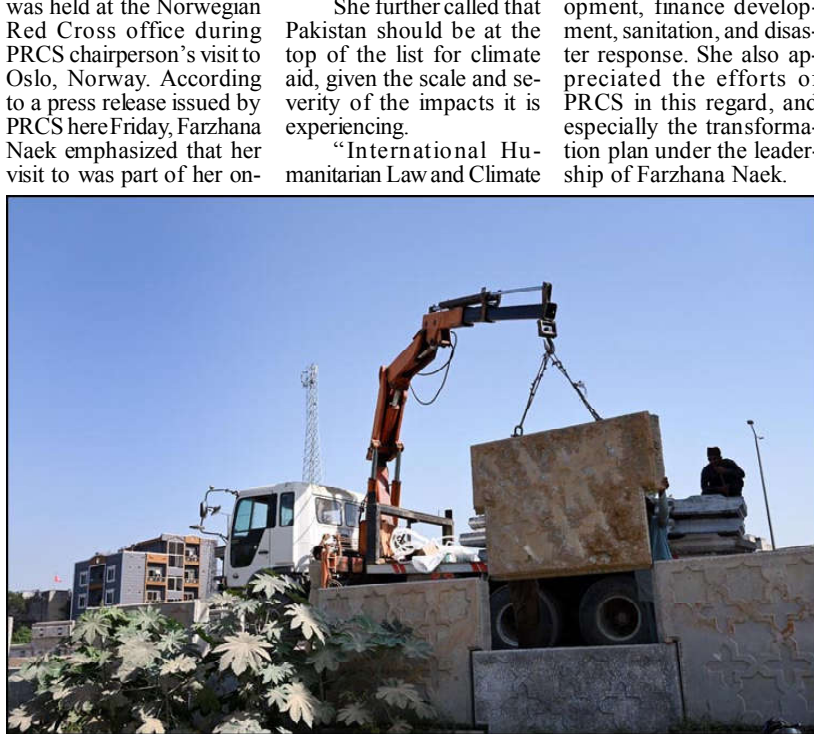
She underscored that her primary objective was to mobilize greater international aid and grants, particularly in the area of health, to ensure long-term relief and rehabilitation of the flood-affected population in different regions of Pakistan.

She further called that Pakistan should be at the top of the list for climate aid, given the scale and severity of the impacts it is experiencing.

"International Humanitarian Law and Climate

Justice remain a top priority for PRCS, with a focus on protecting the most vulnerable communities," she said.

Ms Siri Hatlen said that the Norwegian Red Cross deeply values more than 20 years of strong cooperation and partnership with the PRCS. She appreciated jointly accomplished work in health, clean water, national society development, finance development, sanitation, and disaster response. She also appreciated the efforts of PRCS in this regard, and especially the transformation plan under the leadership of Farzana Naek.



ISLAMABAD: Workers using a crane to lift and install heavy concrete blocks for roadside construction at 10th Avenue Flyover in the Federal Capital.

Security tightened as DIG Tariq inspects checkpoints across I'abad

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Muhammad Jawad Tariq inspected the security arrangements at various checkpoints across the federal capital.

An official told APP on Saturday that during the visit, DIG Tariq met with police officers deployed at checkpoints and commended their dedicated service. Senior police officers were also present on the occasion.

DIG Tariq said that strict security measures had been taken to ensure the protection of citizens, with particular focus on VIP movement routes and high-security zones. He emphasized that Islamabad Police were fully utilizing all available resources to maintain law and order.

He reaffirmed that no negligence would be tolerated in security duties and warned that strict action would be taken under a zero-tolerance policy against any elements attempting to disturb the peace of the city.

NORI organizes first World Radiotherapy Awareness Day event

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Nuclear Medicine, Oncology and Radiotherapy Institute (NORI), a leading cancer hospital of the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC), organized the first World Radiotherapy Awareness Day event in Pakistan on Saturday.

Dr. Shakeel Abbas Rofi, Member (Science), PAEC, was the chief guest. He paid tribute to PAEC's 20 Atomic Energy Cancer Hospitals, especially NORI, for their crucial role in serving cancer patients.

He termed the IAEA "Anchor Centre" status for

NORI a remarkable achievement and urged the hospital to extend its expertise to other cancer centers nationwide.

He also highlighted the urgent need for around 200 Linear Accelerators (LINACs) in Pakistan, stressing that with each machine costing about Rs. 650 million, indigenous development has become essential.

Earlier, Dr. Humera Mahmood, Director and Chief Oncologist, NORI, welcomed participants and underlined the vital role of radiotherapy as the most important non-surgical cancer treatment.

The objective is to

Two killed in firing in Mardan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Two brothers were killed and another injured in a firing incident over a minor dispute in Katlang area of Mardan district on Saturday. According to private news, Police said the incident occurred in Kahoe Barmol village, where a quarrel over cattle entering fields led to an exchange of fire. As a result, 24-year-old Saleem ur Rehman and 22-year-old Ghani ur Rehman were killed, while their younger brother, 20-year-old Ikram ur Rehman, sustained injuries.

World Tourism Day 2025: PTDC MD calls for sustainable transformation of Pakistan's tourism industry

ISLAMABAD (APP): Managing Director of Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC), Aftab ur Rehman Rana Saturday said that Pakistan must align its tourism policies with the principles of sustainability to fully unlock its immense potential while protecting its natural and cultural assets for future generations.

He shared these views in his message on the occasion of World Tourism Day 2025, celebrated globally on September 27.

World Tourism Day is observed every year with seminars, conferences, exhibitions, and cultural activities across the globe.

The objective is to

highlight the significance of tourism as a driver of economic growth, cultural exchange, and international cooperation.

This year's theme, "Tourism and Sustainable Transformation," underscores the urgent need to balance tourism development with environmental preservation and social responsibility.

In an interview with APP, Aftab ur Rehman Rana noted that Pakistan, with its rich landscape ranging from towering mountains and lush valleys to deserts and coastal belts, is uniquely positioned to attract domestic and international tourists.

"Our breathtaking

natural scenery, combined with a diverse cultural heritage and centuries-old history, are valuable assets.

If developed wisely, these resources can bring unprecedented growth to the tourism sector and contribute meaningfully to our national economy," he said.

He stressed that in the face of climate change, environmental degradation, and economic challenges, sustainable development is no longer optional but necessary.

"Tourism must not only serve as an engine of economic growth but also as a tool for safeguarding our environment and protecting our cultural legacy.



ISLAMABAD: A worker busy offloading cabbage sacks from a delivery truck at the Fruit and Vegetable Market in the Federal Capital.

Sunday September 28, 2025

Oval Office meeting

Compared to the coldness of the Biden administration towards Pakistan, bilateral relations under Donald Trump's watch have warmed up considerably.

Early on Friday, the prime minister and the army chief met the American leader in the White House to mainly discuss, as a PM House readout describes, security, counterterrorism and investment issues. Mr Trump had earlier in the week met Shehbaz Sharif in New York, during a meeting with leaders of Muslim states on the sidelines of the UNGA to discuss the Gaza war. In June, the army chief had an unprecedented lunch with the American president. This is the first time a Pakistani prime minister has had a dedicated bilateral interaction with a US president in six years; the last interaction was between Imran Khan and Mr Trump in 2019.

Apart from the photos of beaming leaders and mutual appreciation — Mr Trump referred to Mr Sharif as a “great leader”, while the PM called the US leader “courageous” — the details of what was discussed are sketchy. As per the Pakistani side, tensions in the Middle East and South Asia, along with investment opportunities in Pakistan, were mentioned. The PM lauded Mr Trump's efforts to end the war in Gaza, calling him a “man of peace”.

The US leader may be many things, but a peacemaker he is not, having attacked Iran in June, while if he really wanted to end the Gaza genocide, he could halt all American weapons and funds transfers to the Israeli regime. It is, therefore, hoped that behind closed doors, Mr Sharif convinced the president of the need to immediately end the Gaza slaughter, as well as finding a just solution to the Kashmir dispute.

Should this be seen as a great reset in Pakistan-US ties, or simply a temporary phase of positivity? Historically, the relationship has been a transactional one, with the US supporting Pakistan and providing it arms and aid at key junctures — the Cold War, the Afghan Jihad, the ‘war on terror’ — only to turn ambivalent, or even hostile, once its geopolitical aims were achieved.

The Biden era was a clear example of American indifference towards Pakistan. Moreover, the incumbent US president is known to change positions overnight, so to formulate future policy on the basis of a few interactions would be unwise. Besides, the foreign policy priorities of Islamabad and Washington diverge considerably in several areas, including the Palestine question, ties with Iran and the relationship with China.

Can Pakistan balance relations with the US while maintaining its principled stand on these issues, particularly its ties with China? The lesson of history is that while better ties with the US should be pursued, Pakistan should be prepared for abrupt changes in American policy.

Ishrat Husain

For decades, Pakistan has suffered from de-industrialisation, clinging to a dated model of picking winners through tariff protections and subsidies. This strategy has not only failed to deliver growth; it has also entrenched inefficiencies and rent-seeking behaviour. If media reports that the proposed industrial policy seeks to revive sick industries through government support and shield select sectors are correct, the move risks perpetuating economic stagnation. The policy must be redefined with a clear statement of its goals, rationale and key components.

Pakistan must redefine its industrial policy with the aim to build a globally competitive industrial base. The rationale is simple. Previous policies distorted markets and encouraged rent-seeking, with minimal social returns. Had we maintained the export-to-GDP ratio at 16 per cent as in 1999, the total merchandise exports would have reached \$56 billion in 2022 — 75pc higher than the \$32bn actually realised,

with no need for external borrowing, while allowing more imports. Recapturing this lost market share and becoming more competitive is the challenge.

Industrialisation must be central to our growth strategy — not just to boost exports, but to also drive innovation, create jobs and develop a skilled workforce. This transition must be supported by robust social safety nets to protect those displaced by change. Government, the private sector and academia must work together as industrial policy has to be consistent and linked with agriculture, labour, education, trade, the exchange rate and fiscal and monetary policies. The government's role should shift from interventionist to enabling. It must foster competition, ensure a level playing field and resolve systemic bottlenecks. Protectionism must cede to productivity. The main ingredients of a forward-looking industrial policy should be:

Access to finance: The government must limit its own borrowing to free up access to bank credit and capital markets for the pri-

vate sector, enabling greater investment in productive activities. The Exim Bank should extend pre- and post-shipment credit as well as insurance to support new exportable products and markets. In parallel, bankruptcy and foreclosure laws need to be streamlined to ensure efficient financial discipline and risk management. Innovation: Rapid technological change lies at the core of today's competitive landscape, where innovation and productivity growth are closely intertwined. In Pakistan, however, R&D spending has fallen from 0.6pc of GDP in the early 2000s to just 0.28pc today. Greater support for scientific R&D across the public and private sectors is critical to reshaping production structures and processes in line with shifting demand, consumer preferences and technological advances. A comprehensive R&D strategy should prioritise stronger academia-industry linkages, patent development, adoption of green technologies and clean energy, steps to address climate change risks and integration of emerging technologies such as AI, robot-

ics, and data analytics. Establishing an ‘Innovation Development Challenge Fund’ could serve as a powerful instrument to drive this agenda.

Global standards and compliance: Global standards on environmental sustainability, governance, human rights and social responsibility are becoming the norm in advanced markets. To remain competitive, Pakistan must ensure compliance with the EU's Digital Product Passport, Eco Design Regulations and product traceability requirements.

Supporting institutions: SEZs, EPZs, technology parks and incubation centres can provide land on lease to foster clusters that promote the exchange of knowledge and skill and provide shared services, leading to agglomeration economies. These clusters would also house quality testing labs, standards compliance metrics and extension services for SME suppliers and vendors. Joint ventures between Pakistani and foreign companies to develop niche products for the global value chain could further accelerate technology

cal upgrades, capability building and discovery of new markets. Also, foreign investors prefer arbitration for dispute resolution and contract enforcement, ensuring smoother business operations. Deregulation, tariffs & taxation: Around two-thirds of taxes in Pakistan are collected from the manufacturing sector, which contributes only 13pc to GDP. The maze of laws, regulations and NOCs required has hindered the entry of new businesses, stifling competition. Simplifying the regulatory framework and reducing the tax burden on manufacturing would help firms to scale up and encourage new businesses to invest. Removing taxes on inter-corporate dividends would also boost investment. Neutralising the anti-export bias by lowering import duties on intermediate and final consumer goods would be beneficial too. High import duties act as a tax on exports, making domestic markets more profitable at the expense of international competitiveness.

Human capital formation & skilled labour force: A major constraint on pro-

ductivity growth is the shortage of skilled workers. Technical and vocational training institutes should be scaled up and operated primarily by the private sector, while universities must focus on producing STEM graduates with market-relevant skills. Science and math should be introduced early in the school curriculum and be compulsory at the middle and secondary levels. In manufacturing, value addition depends on research, design, engineering, marketing and networking, while the digital economy needs a large pool of ICT professionals to sustain growth.

Energy pricing: Our persistent energy crisis and high end-user costs have undermined industrial growth and export diversification. To address this, private firms, selected through a transparent, competitive process, should be brought into electricity and gas distribution at the retail level. Large consumers should be allowed to contract directly with power and gas producers, with transmission companies charging fair wheeling fees for use of their network.

OPINION

Industrial policy redefined

Daily Independent

Quetta

MAGA vs MIGA

Rafia Zakaria

“Eleven years ago on this day, the Make in India initiative was launched with a vision to add momentum to India's growth and tap into our nation's entrepreneurial potential. It is gladdening to see how #11YearsOfMakeInIndia has contributed to furthering economic strength and laying the foundation for Aatmanirbharta. It has encouraged innovation and job creation across sectors,” tweeted Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi this past Thursday.

The nationalist grandstanding was not anything unusual for the Indian PM; it is just what he has been peddling to Indian voters for 11 years. What makes it worthy of notice at this point — when the world is teetering on the brink of the new order — is that Modi's brand of Indian nationalism is unwittingly clashing with the ultranationalism of American President Donald Trump. Just as Modi has been preaching a new greatness for India so too is the American president selling the same kind of special sauce to his voter base.

On the face of it, none of this would have been a problem. After all, the two sets of ultranationalists, Trump's MAGA (Make America Great Again) base and Modi's BJP MIGA (Make India Great Again) base are separated by thousands of miles. If anything, during Trump's first term and the visits each leader paid the other, it seemed to be a recipe for bromance. Thousands of non-resident Indians gathered in Texas cheered on Trump and Modi. Arguably, the vast majority of these NRIs were eager supporters of Modi's Hindu nationalism, which preached that Hindus were special, resurgent and the only ‘true’ Indians. In simple terms, many Indians — those who support Modi at home and abroad — formed the MIGA base and believed that India was about to be the next superpower.

Clearly, Operation Sindoore was part of this MIGA projection of power. Last May, India calculated that it could attack alleged terrorist bases inside Pakistan and create a spectacle of dominance that would advertise its

power both to the MIGA base at home and regional countries. Much has been written about the obvious blunders it made, but the important thing vis-à-vis US-India ties is what happened afterwards. President Donald Trump, eager to burnish his credentials as peacemaker, took credit for the ceasefire. PM Modi, who presents himself to his MIGA base as a demigod, could not allow this. This was the beginning of the end as far as the US-India relationship was concerned.

Then came the tariffs. Once again, warring narratives on either side revealed the constraints of both leaders. Trump — long in love with the subject of tariffs — saw in them a means of bringing India to the negotiating table. His lingering annoyance over Modi's refusal to give him credit for bringing about an India-Pakistan ceasefire likely increased his urgency to impose them. In Trump's eyes, India could not have it both ways — protect its market by refusing to allow Americans to sell agricultural products and also present itself as a superpower.

At Modi's end, Hindu nationalism was the focus. The refusal to allow in dairy products is due in large part to the centralisation of the Hindu identity as Indian identity. The sanctification of cows and cow-related products as part of the Hindu nationalist ethos meant that the market could never be opened to American products that could contain beef byproducts. To Trump and MAGA, this sort of thing was anathema. Just as Hindu supremacy preaches the resurgence of Hindus and their creation of a global network, so too does Christian ultra-nationalism say that these sorts of reservations have to be bulldozed in its own bid for dominance.

Domestically, the BJP tried to spin the tariffs as a magic MIGA moment in which Indians could build India and buy Indian. Shrill Modi waxed lyrical about how this was a moment in which India could become self-sufficient. Then they started to predict the imminent collapse of the US, now that it was no longer interested in being friends with them. Irate Indian commenta-

tors, steeped in the swoon of nationalism for over a decade, declared that they did not need trade with the US and were better off without it.

It is these same delusions that kept a large section of Indians from seeing what was about to happen with the H-1B skilled worker visas. When the \$100,000 per applicant fee was announced recently, they were stunned. Few saw how ultra-nationalist Hindutva has led even tech workers to believe that they were indispensable to Americans who they perceived as too unskilled to do the jobs they were doing in the US. Some American publications highlighted the spread of Hindutva in the US, which was not seen as a welcome sign. Add to this the allegations that Indian companies were misusing the programme to bring in underpaid workers and the writing was on the wall. To MAGA ultra-nationalist commentators, like the recently deceased Charlie Kirk and Trump strategist Steve Bannon, Indians had to go so that Americans could take back the jobs that were meant for them.

Just as Hindutva preaches Hindu entitlement, so too does nativist white Christian nationalism preach its own brand of entitlement.

Indians hold over 70 per cent of H-1B visas. The new fee applies to new applicants but even those in possession of the visa are likely to face trouble with renewals as companies realise that the administration does not want them to have foreign workers on their payroll if they want to stay on its good side. The advent of AI and the increasing availability of local US workers means that it is unlikely that these policies will be reversed in the near future.

However loudly the MIGA base may shout about America's decline, in the clash between Hindutva supremacy and its ‘Make India Great Again’ slogan and the Christian nationalists’ ‘Make America Great Again’ dominance the latter has prevailed. Modi and Trump may make up and even strike a trade deal but the architecture through which the Hindutva-fuelled Indian middle class pursued the American dream has collapsed.

Not prepared

Khurram Zia Khan

Karachi, Pakistan's most populous urban centre, is, unfortunately, also turning out to be the country's most unfortunate city. Its administrative responsibilities are divided between the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation and the six local cantonment boards. A jurisdictional and administrative tug of war between the KMC and the cantonment boards has contributed significantly to the city's decline.

On normal days, the public is, by and large, able to manage its affairs, but when the rain comes, all hell breaks loose across the city due to waterlogging, as we saw recently. Major arteries witness hours-long traffic jams, and it becomes a Herculean task for commuters to reach their destinations.

Previously, the rains hardly defined Karachi. However, the city has now begun to experience more intense rainfall. It witnessed one of its wettest Augusts in 2020 with 484mm of rain in one day — the most since 1931. The situation merits a joint strategy put together by all relevant components of the local administration to end unplanned development in the city, remove encroachments and illegal constructions that block storm-water drains and the natural flow of water, take stern action against all lawbreakers in this regard, and prepare the city well for future spells of torrential rain.

The recent statement by Mayor Murtaza Wahab that Karachi's drains are designed to handle only 40mm of rain certainly does not absolve him of his responsibility to rectify matters. If a problem is identified, it is imperative

that the authorities resolve it, instead of beating about the bush.

However, while citizens rightly blame government agencies for Karachi's abysmal state of affairs, the city's business community also deserves flak. After the recent monsoon rains, multiple trade bodies claimed that they had suffered losses to the tune of Rs14-15 billion. They, like everyone else in the city, knew well that Karachi could witness heavy rainfall, and they should have taken anticipatory action to protect their warehouses and other storage areas. Unfortunately, no one acted with foresight and left their fate to the elements.

If nothing else, the business community should at least take ownership of the areas where they operate their trade, repair roads on a self-help basis and renovate their godowns along modern lines, so that the goods stored there are protected from rainwater. Its demand that the government freeze tax collection due to rain-related losses is absurd. The national exchequer should not suffer losses on account of the business community's unreasonable demands.

The more logical thing to do is to push the provincial and federal government to ensure that out of the total tax collected from the city, at least 20 to 30 per cent is invested back in Karachi's development.

Instead of whining, the business community must work together to persuade the government to pass a law to this effect — Article 158, which gives the first right of use to the province which produces gas, comes to mind in this context.

Karachi's business community must draw lessons in ownership

from the business community of Sialkot, where reportedly not a single worker lost his/her job during the Covid pandemic. It should also work with the government against those who are running factories and business houses without maintaining proper safety protocols. The recent accident in a fire-cracker warehouse operating in the basement of a building on M.A. Jinnah Road could have been avoided had timely action been taken against this illegal business unit.

The ‘kuch nahin hota (nothing will happen)’ attitude of our nation is to our detriment; it has not allowed us to focus on preparedness, and the resulting loss of life, limb and property suffered on account of a natural or manmade calamity supports this view. In the aftermath of a disaster, life goes back to normal until another tragedy strikes.

Karachi's business community has strong links with all major political parties in the country. It should use its leverage to pressure the government into working towards the improvement of the city.

Returning to the weather, it must be reiterated that climate change is a reality. Going by the rainfall patterns of the last 10 years, more intense rainfall will be expected in the coming years.

As the current monsoon season concludes, the city administration and institutions, including the business community, health practitioners and other stakeholders, must work together to put in place a proper master plan for Karachi, remove all illegal settlements and encroachments, and enhance the city's capacity to handle 500mm of rain.

Muna Khan

I went looking for the comment that got the American late-night TV host Jimmy Kimmel suspended a fortnight ago, apparently for inappropriate comments made following conservative activist Charlie Kirk's death. By then he had gone from suspension, to reinstatement to returning on TV, to a standing ovation no less. But let me recap how I came to my opinion on this matter.

I saw the news of Kimmel's suspension and the mass hysteria around it before reading what actually got him suspended because everything was packaged in hysterical language. The commentary comes as fast as the news event. President Donald Trump was welcoming his suspension while everyone on the other side was condemning it as the death knell for free speech.

My eyes now roll back to my head whenever I hear anyone in the West defend free speech. I didn't really care about the suspension of a man who earns \$16 million a year but hasn't said anything about the genocide in Palestine. However, the issue piqued my interest when Kimmel was reinstated five days later and social media was ablaze with congratulations to the public for their campaigning that got him reinstated.

That's when I went looking to understand what made Americans angry enough to petition, be outraged and cry about Kimmel but not about people talking about babies dying of hunger in Gaza.

Kimmel's inappropriate comments were in the form of the monologue he delivered on Sept 15 following Kirk's murder where he said the “MAGA gang” was “desperately trying to characterise this kid who murdered Charlie Kirk as anything other than

Punching back

one of them”. He said they were trying “to score political points from [the murder.]” He criticised as “complete bull****” Vice President J.D. Vance's claim that “most of the lunatics in American politics today are proud members of the far left”.

As a side note, Vance was only riffing off what Trump had said the night of Kirk's murder when he blasted “the radical left” for comparing “wonderful Americans like Charlie to Nazis and the world's worst mass murderers and criminals”.

In his monologue, Kimmel ridiculed Trump's response to a reporter's question asking how he was doing following Kirk's murder to which the president replied “very good” and then quickly switched to talking about building a new ballroom at the White House. Kimmel said “this is not how an adult grieves the murder of someone he calls a friend. This is how a four-year-old mourns a goldfish.”

The backlash to Kimmel prompted the federal TV regulator (Amreekan Pemra) to threaten to revoke ABC's broadcast licence. Last week, Trump suggested that those who oppose him in the media should have their licences revoked.

Kimmel returned to his talk show last Tuesday and explained that his intent was never to make light of Kirk's murder — and he choked up as he talked about the incident and how we can learn about forgiveness from Kirk's widow. He thanked people from across the political spectrum — which includes his vocal critics — for supporting him and speaking out against the censorship Trump was trying to enforce.

“Our leader celebrates Americans losing their livelihoods because he can't take a joke,” Kimmel said.

Social media users described this monologue as an “evacuation of Trump”. Incoming eye roll.

So to recap, it is un-American to take folks off air for ‘a bad joke’ and we must fear a government that wants to regulate what is said on air. However, it is American to silence voices on Palestine, on air, in jobs, on campuses etc. This hypocrisy is obvious to all of us but still bears repeating for anyone who thinks otherwise. I don't expect any change in the media's reporting on Palestine because big money controls the media.

Why should we care about Kimmel, especially when I myself said I didn't and don't? Because there are lessons here for us about solidarity. That requires getting behind people that cause us discomfort — the vloggers, the activists, the families of the disappeared, whoever you don't like — because their freedom is not at stake here; all of ours is.

Pakistan dropped six places on the World Press Freedom Index this year ranking 158 out of 180 countries, according to Reporters Without Borders in May.

What can we do to improve our lot, without endangering our lives?

Here's what was at stake for Disney, parent company of ABC which airs Kimmel's show — money. When people got behind Kimmel and threatened not to work with Disney, cancelled subscriptions and built pressure, Disney had to rethink its kowtowing to Trump. Let's see how Trump now responds. I am sure journalist unions here can consider putting their differences aside for the sake of the bigger issue, which is the right to do their job freely. There is power in organising and banding together, even with people with whom we don't agree.



DERA ISLAMIL KHAN: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi addressing as Chief Guest to annual awards ceremony of the Al-Abbas Science School & College.

Governor KP stresses education as key to national progress

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Saturday said that education is the foundation of a nation's progress and prosperity and that institutions spreading knowledge in far-flung areas deserve the highest appreciation.

He expressed these views while addressing the annual prize distribution ceremony of Al-Abbas School & College in Tehsil Paharpur where a large number of students, teachers, parents, and local dignitaries were present.

The governor praised Al-Abbas School & College for its performance, describing it as a positive model for the promotion of

quality education in southern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

He said the provincial government stood ready to extend full cooperation to such institutions, particularly those serving the community at the private level.

Governor Kundi distributed prizes among students who achieved outstanding academic results and congratulated their parents and teachers for their role in nurturing talent. Students presented national songs, speeches, and tableaux, which were warmly applauded by the audience. The principal and management of Al-Abbas School & College thanked the governor for gracing the occasion and termed his visit an honor for the institution.



LAHORE: Girls engaged in crochet and karhai knitting during the Croatian Workshop on Ancient Croatian Art in Pakistan, organized by The Knowledge of Art Academy.

Agriculture minister reviews recovery campaign, relief operation for flood affectees

MULTAN (APP): A meeting was held under the chairmanship of Minister for Agriculture & Livestock Punjab Ashiq Hussain Kirmani, to review the recovery campaign of the second phase of Chief Minister Punjab Kisan Card and the relief operations for flood-affected people.

The meeting was attended by Secretary Agriculture Punjab Ifkhar Ali Sahoo, President Bank of Punjab Zafar Masud, Additional Secretary Agriculture Task Force Punjab Muhammad Shabbir Ahmad Khan, Director General Agriculture Extension Ch. Abdul Hameed, Nofal Dawood, Hafiz Abdul Rahman, Rana Mehmod Akhtar and Directors of

Agriculture Extension also joined via video link. The meeting conducted a detailed review of the recovery campaign of the second phase of Chief Minister Punjab Kisan Card and the relief operations for flood-affected people. Ashiq Kirmani, while addressing the meeting, said that the Punjab Chief Minister has announced a historic package for flood relief and the field formations of the Agriculture department have played a highly commendable role in rehabilitation and relief measures for flood victims. He further stated that the Chief Minister Punjab Kisan Card has now become the identity of farmers and it is the largest microfinance program in the history of the country.

Punjab govt stands firmly with flood affectees: Rana Mashhood

LAHORE (INP): Chairman of the Prime Minister's Youth Program, Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan, has said that the Punjab government stood firmly with the people during the recent floods and immediately established relief camps to provide clothing, shelter, medical aid, and other essential facilities to affected families.

He said that 2,000 families have already received rations, while another 2,000 will soon be provided relief.

He was addressing a special ceremony at UC 100 Sherakot on Saturday, organized in collaboration

with ACT International and Kaar-e-Khair Foundation to support flood-affected families. Social leaders including ACT International's Provincial Program Head Zulqarnain Ansari, Shoaib Hassan, Banish Rasheed, Muhammad Akbar, Javed Sarwar Bhatti, Yameen Mughal, Yasir Nambard, Imran Shah, S. Qurban, Sarfraz Bhatti, Ghulam Abbas Akbar Bhatti, Nisar Akbar Bhatti, Sunny Prince, and Ramzan Bhambar were present.

Rana Mashhood announced that the provincial government would also distribute crockery among 700 flood-hit households to

help them resume normal life quickly. He stressed that public service is the government's foremost priority and assured that relief distribution will continue based on verified lists so that no affected family is left out.

He also termed the recent defense and economic agreement between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia as historic, saying it would open new avenues of development and prosperity for the people.

He added that Pakistan's leadership was taking solid steps to create fresh opportunities for business and employment.

Passenger dies of heart attack in Faisalabad bound flight

FAISALABAD (INP): A passenger breathed his last while travelling in a private airline from Dubai to Faisalabad.

According to details, passenger Zulfiqar Ali's health deteriorated during the flight.

After taking notice of the passenger's condition, the captain of Flydubai flight FZ-391 immediately contacted the air traffic controller (ATC) of Jinnah International Airport (JIAP) in Karachi and sought permission for an emergency medical landing.

During the landing, Zulfiqar Ali breathed his last. Airport sources said that doctors immediately shifted the dead body of Zulfiqar Ali to a hospital.

PPP will give a surprise in next election: Governor

Independent Report

LAHORE: Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan said that a big rally of the PPP in Lahore is no less than a surprise for other parties. Bilawal Bhutto Zardari will become the Prime Minister of the country with a public mandate. He expressed these views while addressing party workers and the Mughal community in Gujarat.

Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan said that no other party has the leadership that the Pakistan Peoples Party has. He said that the PPP is the only political party whose leader Bilawal Bhutto Zardari won Pakistan's war on a diplomatic level. The Governor Punjab said that Bilawal Bhutto will become

the Prime Minister of the country with a public mandate in the upcoming elections. He said that the way the party workers welcomed me on my arrival in Gujarat is indescribable. The Governor Punjab said that such a big rally of the PPP held in Lahore yesterday has disturbed other parties. He said that the PPP has been restored in Lahore. The Punjab Governor said that the PPP will give a surprise in the next election. He said that I will go from street to street in the entire Punjab as a party leader. The Punjab Governor said that if there is any trouble with any PPP worker, I will leave my entire busy schedule and reach the worker. He further said that the PPP will soon hold a big rally in Gujarat as well.



LAHORE: Punjab Minister for Health Khawaja Salman Rafique receiving shield during convocation of CPSP. Federal Minister for Law Azam Nazir Tarar and Provincial Minister Khawaja Imran Nazir are also present.

World Tourism Day: Pakistan's hidden heritage awaits a digital awakening

PESHAWAR (APP): As the golden morning sun bathed the ancient stones of Takht Bhair in Mardan, and the cool mountain breeze whispered through the valleys of Gilgit-Baltistan, Pakistan quietly stood as a keeper of past civilizations' stories carved in stone, buried in soil, and painted in time.

On World Tourism Day 2025, Pakistan has not only celebrated its ancient heritage and mountains wealth but issued a call to illuminate it for the world digitally.

This year's global theme, "Tourism and Sustainable Transformation," struck a poignant chord in Pakistan, where the crossroads of history meet the challenges of modern outreach.

Despite being home to six UNESCO World Heritage sites and five of the world's tallest peaks in-

cluding K2, much of Pakistan's rich cultural and natural legacy remains underexplored and underrepresented in the digital world.

In connection of the world tourism day in Peshawar, school children, archaeologists, travelers, and civil society members came together for seminars, awareness walks, and award ceremonies, organized by Govt, tourism department, civil society and KP Culture and Tourism Authority (KPC&TA).

The events recognized the efforts of journalists, tourism advocates, and heritage conservators those who have kept the stories of Pakistan's past alive against all odds.

One such voice was Bakhtzada Khan, Assistant Director of Archaeology and Museums, who drew attention to the Soan Valley and Sangaro Cave,

where discoveries of human remains and tools date back nearly two million years.

"These sites are more than historical markers but they are proof that this land has always been a cradle of human civilization," he shared passionately.

At the heart of the celebrations stood the Peshawar Museum, where over 30,000 artifacts silently narrate the story of the Gandhara civilization, a unique fusion of Greek, Persian, and Buddhist cultures that once flourished in present-day KP.

Among the visitors was Laiba Khan, a bright-eyed student from Peshawar who wandered through the halls with wonder on world tourism day. "Seeing Lord Buddha's statues and the swords of tribal freedom fighters was powerful. I wish the world could see this hidden treasures," she said. "We need docu-

mentaries, videos, and museum tours online so more people can learn about our history."

Her words echoed a common sentiment that Pakistan's heritage treasures, while abundant, remain digitally invisible to the world. Former Ambassador Manzoorul Haq echoed Laiba's vision, stressing that the future of tourism lies in digital media as the world was earning a lot of this sector.

"From the peaks of K2 to the ruins of Moenjodaro, Pakistan is a canvas for adventure and history," he said. "But we must hire digital experts, collaborate with vloggers, and promote short-form content to attract global tourists and investors."

He emphasized that tourism is intrinsically linked to peace, economic stability, and cultural diplomacy, and that digital

storytelling could serve as a powerful tool to achieve all three.

Pakistan's natural beauty and ancient past offer the kind of immersive experiences that modern travelers seek trekking along the Indus River, meditating near the Buddhist monasteries of Swat, or wandering the majestic halls of Shahi Qila in Lahore.

But as tourism becomes increasingly digitally driven, Pakistan must adopt an innovative approach by creating virtual museum tours and promoting 360-degree documentaries, said Abu Zafar, President Mountains Tours Pakistan while talking to APP.

He said encouraging academic collaborations abroad, integrating tourism into school curriculums and making history accessible via mobile apps and social media platforms.



LAHORE: Chairman Anti-Money Laundering and Counter Financing Terror Authority Mushtaq Ahmed Sukhera presides over the high level meeting at Punjab Home Department.

Punjab CM says: 1100 electric buses plied in different cities to facilitate commuters

55th staff course delegation of Pakistan Navy War College meets Punjab CM

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif met participants of the 55th Staff Course of Pakistan Navy War College, here on Saturday.

The delegation, led by Rear Admiral Sohail Ahmed Azmi, comprised officers from Pakistan's three armed forces as well as representatives of the armed forces of 15 friendly countries.

The CM, welcoming the delegation, expressed her appreciation for the participation of Palestinian officers and reiterated Punjab's solidarity with the people of Palestine.

Briefing the delegates, CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif highlighted her government's major devel-

opment and welfare initiatives. She announced that the world's largest 1,000-bed government cancer hospital in Lahore would be completed within ten months. She noted that during her visit to China, the Punjab government had ordered a co-ablation machine, which has now enabled cancer treatment in Punjab without surgery, chemotherapy, or radiotherapy.

She informed the delegation that the first Institute of Cardiology for Sargodha Division was nearing completion, while 2,500 health centers across Punjab had been upgraded into fully functional hospitals. She added that citizens were receiving treatment

through field hospitals and mobile clinics, while Punjab had successfully conducted Pakistan's largest-ever rescue and relief operation, during which 2.5 million people were rescued and provided shelter and food.

The CM said that 20,000 kilometers of roads had been constructed and repaired across Punjab under the Punjab Development Programme and Lahore Development Plan. She announced that anti-smog guns would be deployed to combat environmental hazards, while wildlife rangers had been established in the province for the first time. She added that urban beautification and restoration of tourism sites were also underway.



GUJRAT: Punjab Governor Sardar Saleem Haider Khan is addressing to the Party workers and Mughal Community.

Transparency Int'l for probe into Sindh govt's Rs15b solar project

KARACHI (INP): Transparency International (TI) has written a letter to Sindh Chief Minister (CM) Syed Murad Ali Shah in which it has pointed out that the kit for the Rs15 billion solar project was purchased at a price higher than the market rate, says in media reports. The TI has also said that the kit was purchased without the approval of the provincial cabinet.

The Sindh cabinet, the TI has said, had approved awarding the contract to the NRTC. "But practically, the contract was awarded to other companies as well," read the letter. It has said that in view of the facts stated above, the chief minister is requested to order an investigation into the scam.

Rawalpindi Police officers rewarded for outstanding performance

RAWALPINDI (INP): On the directives of City Police Officer (CPO) Rawalpindi Syed Khalid Hamdani, officers demonstrating outstanding performance were encouraged and rewarded here on Saturday.

Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Investigation Raza Tanveer Supra presented commendation letters to Superintendent of Police (SP) Rawal Saad Arshad, Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) New Town Anam Sher, Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) City Azhar Hassan Shah and DSP Cantt Khalid Mahmood. He also handed over appreciation certificates to station house officers, including Ratta Amral's Jawad Abbas, Chakdala's Sikandar Nawaz, New Town's Muhammad Luqman Pasha.

Over 6,400 assistive devices distributed under CM's welfare initiative: Minister

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Minister for Social Welfare and Bait-ul-Mal Sohail Shaukat Butt has said that the Punjab government is carrying forward Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif's vision of empowering persons with disabilities through the province's largest-ever assistive devices distribution programme.

In a statement on Saturday, he said that 6,408 devices have so far been dis-

tributed under the Rs 1 billion initiative, which covers more than 17 categories of assistive equipment.

These include assistant-controlled wheelchairs, active-use wheelchairs, pediatric wheelchairs, white canes, tricycles, walking frames, mobile toilet chairs, and digital hearing aids. The programme, he noted, is enabling beneficiaries to live with greater independence and self-confidence.

PML-N led govt leading Pakistan towards matchless progress: Mehrin Sajid

MULTAN (APP): Prime Minister's Coordinator for Inter-Provincial Coordination Syeda Mehrin Sajid on Saturday said that the Pakistan Muslim League-N (PMLN) government has set the country on a new course of development, stability and public prosperity that will be written in golden words of history.

Speaking at a reception held in her honor, she said Pakistan stands at a critical crossroads where internal stability and restoring international confidence are the need of the hour.

She added that the PML-N leadership, together with the courageous sacrifices and sound strategy of the Pakistan Army, has not only made the country a strong defense power but also strengthened its global standing.

She further stated that the vision of PML-N leader Nawaz Sharif, the tireless efforts of Prime Minister (PM) Shahbaz Sharif and the public-friendly initiatives of Punjab Chief Minister (CM) Maryam Nawaz have ushered Pakistan into a new era of growth and prosperity.



HYDERABAD: Local artists performing drama on the stage during theater festival 2025 organized by Art council of Pakistan at Sindh museum.

Meeting reviews anti-money laundering, counter-terror financing measures

LAHORE (APP): The Punjab Home Department convened a meeting to review progress on Anti-Money Laundering (AML) and Counter Financing of Terrorism (CFT) measures, here on Saturday.

The meeting was chaired by Chairman AML/CFT and former Inspector General of Police Mushtaq Sukhera, and attended by Director General AML/CFT Ahsan Sadiq, as well as secretaries and senior officials from Home, Auqaf, Cooperatives, Board of Revenue, School Education, Health, Police, Child Protection Bureau, Social Welfare, and Pros-

ecution departments.

Chairman Mushtaq Sukhera and DG Ahsan Sadiq also met Secretary Home Punjab Dr. Ahmad Javed Qazi and briefed him on the steps undertaken across the province to curb money laundering and terror financing.

The meeting reviewed Punjab's performance on the FATF action plan and related institutional reforms. Chairman Mushtaq Sukhera said Punjab had played an effective and decisive role in enabling Pakistan's removal from the FATF Grey List. He noted that strict enforcement of international-standard laws

and improvements in the legal and institutional framework had strengthened the system. The monitoring mechanisms of Auqaf, Trusts, and Cooperatives Departments also came under review. It was informed that the Punjab Cabinet had approved the Auqaf, Trust and Cooperative Societies Management Act 2025, which will serve as a model for other provinces. Briefings highlighted that Punjab's measures against human trafficking played a decisive role in Pakistan's removal from the U.S. State Department's "Trafficking in Persons Tier 2 Watch List."

Pakistan, Bangladesh explore new avenues for trade and investment cooperation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Commerce Ishaan Afzal Khan on Saturday concluded a visit to Bangladesh, holding a series of high-level engagements with chambers, businesses and financial institutions to deepen bilateral trade and investment cooperation.

During a networking session jointly organized by the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) and the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI), he met DCCI President Taskeen Ahmed and board members, said a news release.

The discussions focused on unlocking opportunities in pharmaceuticals, automotive and minerals, with both sides stressing the need for a comprehensive business environment and follow-up on initiatives launched during the visit of

Pakistan's Commerce Minister.

At a dinner hosted by Chargé d'Affaires Muhammad Wasif at the Pakistan High Commission in Dhaka, Ishaan Afzal interacted with senior representatives of the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association, Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association, and other trade bodies. Talks centered on fostering mutual cooperation in trade and investment and encouraging stronger private-sector linkages.

He also visited the National Bank of Pakistan's Dhaka branch, where he discussed banking sector collaboration and operational support for businesses with Country Director Mohammad Quamruzzaman and Deputy General Manager

Jawad Raza Naqvi.

During a visit to Incepta Pharmaceuticals Ltd.'s Dhamrai facility, Ishaan Afzal reviewed potential areas of collaboration between Bangladeshi and Pakistani pharmaceutical companies.

Concluding his trip, Ishaan attended the certificate distribution ceremony of the Made in Pakistan Exhibition. He commended the exhibitors and the Pakistan Association of Exhibition Industry for showcasing Pakistani products, thanked the Bangladeshi government for its support, and invited reciprocal participation in Pakistan's upcoming Food and Agriculture Exhibition in Karachi.

The visit reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to building stronger economic partnerships with Bangladesh, anchored in trade, investment and sectoral collaboration.



XIAN: Ambassador of Pakistan to China H.E. Mr. Khalil Hashmi witnessed an MoU signing ceremony between a Pakistani company, Cyclon Technology Pvt. Ltd and Chinese company, Shaanxi Water Development and Construction group aiming for joint development and implementation of water conservancy related infrastructure and construction projects in Pakistan. Yet another step in strengthening our cooperation with China including Shaanxi province.

Pakistan's trade with Central Asia, Afghan & Azerbaijan hits \$2.41bn in FY25

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan's bilateral trade with Central Asian states, along with Afghanistan and Azerbaijan, surged to \$2.41 billion in FY25, showing a sharp increase from \$1.92 billion in the previous fiscal year.

Pakistan's exports to these countries surged to \$1.77 billion, while imports were recorded at \$641 million. This represents a clear recovery from FY24, when exports were recorded at \$1.34 billion and imports reached \$581 million, said a documents available with Wealth Pakistan.

Afghanistan continues to dominate as Pakistan's largest trading partner in the region, with exports rising to \$1.39 billion and imports reaching \$612.5 million.

Kazakhstan has also emerged as a significant partner, with exports from Pakistan increasing to \$250.8 million while Uzbekistan

followed with \$91.4 million in exports and \$20.3 million in imports in FY25.

Other partners, including Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Azerbaijan, maintained smaller yet consistent shares in bilateral trade.

The regional trade context highlights enormous untapped potential. Central Asian countries managed a massive \$318.01 billion in global trade during FY24, yet Pakistan's share in this remains under \$0.5 billion. The Pakistan-Central Asia transit trade stood at \$410 million in FY25, signalling growing reliance on Pakistan's corridors for regional connectivity.

Experts underline that while the current trade growth is encouraging, Pakistan's real opportunity lies in establishing direct connectivity and strategic trade routes with the Central Asian bloc.



PESHAWAR: Workers busy in making carpets on his workplace at Khyber bazaar.

Iraq resumes Kurdish oil exports after two-year halt: state media

ARBIL, Iraq (AFP/APP): Iraq resumed on Saturday crude exports from the autonomous Kurdistan region, state media said, after a more than two-year halt over legal and technical disputes.

Control over lucrative oil exports has been a major point of contention between Baghdad and Arbil, the capital of the Kurdistan region, with a key pipeline to Turkey shut since 2023.

The official INA press agency announced the "resumption of oil exports from the fields of Iraq's Kurdistan Region", ending the long-standing hiatus in the energy-rich region.

The director of Iraq's State Oil Marketing Organisation (SOMO) Ali Nizar confirmed to AFP

that oil exports from Kurdistan via the Iraq-Turkey pipeline had started.

SOMO will receive 190,000 barrels per day for export and another 50,000 bpd for domestic consumption, Nizar said.

Oil exports were previously independently sold by the Kurdish authorities, without the approval or oversight of the federal authorities in Baghdad, through the port of Ceyhan in Turkey.

But the region's official oil exports have been frozen since March 2023 when the arbitration tribunal of the International Chamber of Commerce in Paris ruled oil exports by the regional government were illegal and said Baghdad had the exclusive right to market all Iraqi oil.



NEW YORK: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting regarding Pakistan's bilateral trade with Malaysia.

Port Qasim's global recognition 'matter of national pride': Junaid

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Muhammad Junaid Anwar Chaudhry has hailed the World Bank's recognition of Port Qasim as the ninth most improved port worldwide, calling the achievement a testament to government's sustained reforms and modernization efforts.

In its latest Container Port Performance Index (CPII) 2024, prepared in collaboration with S&P Global Market Intelligence, the World Bank listed Port Qasim among the Top 20 improving ports globally, with a 35.2-point leap in performance between 2020 and 2024, said a press release here on Saturday.

In a statement on Saturday, Junaid Anwar Chaudhry described the achievement as a "matter of national pride," crediting reforms and modernization efforts at the port for earn-

ing Pakistan this global recognition.

"The inclusion of Muhammad Bin Qasim Port among the world's top 20 improving ports is a reflection of our continuous efforts to modernize port operations, adopt global best practices, and enhance efficiency," Junaid Chaudhry said. "We remain committed to strengthening maritime sector and making it a vital contributor to national and regional trade."

Junaid Chaudhry emphasized that the recognition underscored government's determination to transform its maritime facilities into competitive regional hubs. He pointed to ongoing policy measures, regulatory reforms, and investment in modern technology as key enablers of the port's progress. The minister also lauded the contribution of private operators, particu-

larly DP World's Qasim International Container Terminal (QICT), whose management, he said, had ensured that operations at Port Qasim were maintained at international standards. He further announced that the Ministry of Maritime Affairs had cleared a long-awaited dredging project for the port channel to accommodate larger vessels, enhancing trade handling capacity.

Chairman PQA, Rear Admiral Moazzam Ilyas (Retd), echoed the minister's views, attributing the success to the dedication and teamwork of the port's workforce.

"This acknowledgment by the World Bank is a testament to the commitment of the entire PQA team," Ilyas said. "We will continue to invest in innovation, digitalization, and infrastructure to further elevate our global standing."

Envoy Hashmi launches "Ambassador's Kitchen" in Xi'an, China

BEIJING (APP): Pakistan Ambassador to China, Khalil Hashmi inaugurated the "Ambassador's Kitchen" on the sidelines of the Euro-Asia Economic Forum 2025 in Xi'an, China.

The initiative is designed to showcase Pakistan's culinary heritage, promote cultural exchange, and strengthen ties with Shaanxi province.

Speaking on the occasion, the Ambassador emphasized the growing linkages between Pakistan and Shaanxi, recalling the impact of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's visit in June 2024 in strengthening

Pakistan's cooperation with Shaanxi province.

He highlighted the kitchen as a platform to experience Pakistan's hospitality and cultural richness, while also presenting signature products such as mangoes, basmati rice, and pink salt.

The ambassador underlined food as a bridge for cultural diplomacy, drawing parallels between the ancient Silk Road and today's exchanges, and noted that the initiative complements Pakistan's broader economic engagement with China, particularly in agriculture, food processing, and trade.



DHAKA: Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Commerce Ishaan Afzal Khan, visiting stalls at the 'Made in Pakistan' Exhibition in Dhaka and appreciating Pakistani exhibitors for showcasing their products.

FBR urged to resolve problems of jewelers regarding tax

PESHAWAR (APP): President Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI), Fazal Moqem Khan has urged Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) to look into the problems of jewelry sector and said that jewelers are fully committed to pay taxes.

He was speaking while chairing a meeting of SCCI Standing Committee on Jeweler Association here on Saturday. Meeting was attended by SCCI Senior Vice President Abdul Jail Jan, Vice president Shehryar Israr Khan, Chairman SCCI Standing Committee on Jewelers Aziz ullah Khan, Chairman All Pakistan Jewelers Association Amin Hussain Babar, President Saraf Association Andar Sher Bazar Haji Sher Farzand, traders and jewel-

ers. The meeting thoroughly discussed the matters pertaining to FBR and decided that authorities should be informed about concerns of jewelers related to tax.

Chairman of the Standing Committee Azizullah Khan said that jeweler community has an enormous contribution in economic growth of the country through paying various taxes. He said that reservations of jewelers should be removed regarding implementation of Point of Sale and DNB and other tax-related issues.

SCCI President also urged government, FBR and other authorities to resolve genuine concerns of the jewelers and take concrete measures for relief and facilities to taxpayers.

Provision of new gas connections starts in Lahore

LAHORE (APP): The Sui Northern Gas Company (SNGC) has resumed issuing new RLNG gas connections for gas consumers in Lahore. According to SNGC sources, the company has started the process of receiving applications regularly and citizens can now submit their applications online or in offices. Sources further say that the fee for normal connection is Rs23,500 while Rs25,000 has been fixed for urgent connection. Gas connections will be given on a first-come, first-served basis, however, priority will be given to applicants with urgent fee.

They said that the survey process for new RLNG connections has also been started, however, old applications have not been disposed of. The spokesperson said that the number of old pending applications is more than 3 million.

PM for exploring trade potential between Pakistan, Malaysia

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday said that there was immense potential for trade between Pakistan and Malaysia, and they were taking concrete steps to capitalize on it.

Chairing a meeting via video link from New York on the promotion of bilateral trade between Pakistan and Malaysia, the prime minister said that Pakistan and Malaysia enjoyed longstanding fraternal relations that spanned over decades.

Malaysia had always stood by Pakistan in times of difficulty, and they held this support in high regard, he added.

The prime minister directed the relevant institutions to formulate a practical and robust plan for the export of Pakistani beef to Malaysia, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

The meeting held a detailed review of trade relations between Pakistan and Malaysia.

The prime minister was given a comprehensive briefing on Pakistan's export potential in the Malaysian market. He directed that a solid action plan should be developed and presented, focusing on enhancing trade between Pakistan and Malaysia, particularly the export of Pakistani beef to Malaysia.



LARKANA: A vendor displaying and arranging old footwear to attract customers at his roadside setup.

Pak-China TVET cooperation enters new phase with high level Beijing Seminar

BEIJING (APP): The China-Pakistan TVET-Industrial Center of Excellence (CPTICE) successfully

convened the Pakistan-China International TVET-Industrial Cooperation and Exchange Seminar in Beijing. The event brought together senior officials from Pakistan and representatives from 11 Chinese vocational institutions across nine provinces and autonomous regions to deepen bilateral cooperation in technical and vocational education. Federal Minister of State for Education and Professional Training, Ms. Wajihah Qamar was officially appointed as the focal person for industry linkage of CPTICE.

In her address, the minister emphasized the strategic importance of TVET cooperation for Pakistan's development and youth empowerment. She also reviewed the progress of 12 key projects initiated during the Prime Minister's visit to China, urging accelerated

implementation in areas such as electric vehicles, agriculture, and infrastructure.

During the seminar, five MoUs were signed between CPTICE and leading Chinese institutions in fields including water resources, electric power, intelligent manufacturing, and urban construction. These agreements were witnessed by Minister of State Wajihah Qamar, marking a significant expansion of CPTICE's collaborative capacity.

In a ceremony presided over by the Minister, all 11 Chinese institutions were presented with membership plaques of the Pakistan-China International Industrial-Academic Integration Alliance (CPIA). Additionally, appointment letters were issued to the first batch of 8 Chinese experts specializing in strategic sectors such as pharmaceutical engineering, digital construction, automotive, and agricultural engineering.



MULTAN: Vendor displaying clothes to attract customer at BC chowk.

Newly inducted 31st STP batch visits PTC

ISLAMABAD (APP): Delivering a detailed presentation, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of PTC, Muhammad H. Shafqaat, underlined the vital contribution of the textile and apparel sector to the national economy and exports.

He highlighted major challenges such as high costs of doing business and policy uncertainty, while also shedding light on opportunities and risks linked to the EU Green Deal on the future of Pakistan's trade with the European Union, the country's largest trading partner.

He emphasized the need for regionally competitive energy, tax, wage and interest rate policies to remain competitive with competitors of Pakistan like Bangladesh, Vietnam China and India, especially in the wake of reciprocal tariffs imposed by the United States.

The session provided the newly inducted civil servants with an in-depth understanding of Pakistan's largest export sector and its significance for the national economy, said a news release here on Saturday.

Officers were briefed on the structure of the textile and apparel value chain, its share in the overall exports share of Pakistan and GDP and the challenges faced by the industry along the policy support required to enhance exports of Pakistani goods.

They were also shared with the newly inducted Civil Servants.



LAHORE: Chairman Punjab Board of Investment Muhammad Muntha Ashraf presides over the 2nd meeting of Project and Business Development Committee.

Gaza death toll since dawn rises to 72 as Israel attacks north to south

Palestinians expelled from Gaza City 'have no place to go'; UN says current aid flows into Gaza are 'a drop in the ocean'

Monitoring Desk

GAZA STRIP: At least 72 Palestinians have been killed in relentless Israeli strikes throughout the besieged Gaza Strip since dawn, medical sources have told.

Israeli army fire killed at least 42 people in Gaza City as it attempts to capture and occupy the territory's largest urban centre. Israel's onslaught on Gaza has killed at least 65,549 people and wounded 167,518 since October 2023. Palestinians are being forced to evacuate Gaza City but they have no place to go.

Behind me, many people have been pitching their tents on the shore, close to the coastal road. It's a highway, it's not a

place to live. But there's no other option. In the past hour, we've been approached by a pregnant woman asking

people to bring her drinkable water.

She said for more than a week, they've been unable to find any.

Hamas says it has not received Trump peace plan as Israel expands Gaza City assault

Monitoring Desk

GAZA CITY: Hamas has not received United States President Donald Trump's Gaza ceasefire plan, the Palestinian group has said as Israeli forces expand their assault on Gaza City, Reuters reports.

The comments came after Israeli newspaper Haaretz cited sources saying Hamas had agreed in principle to release all the Israeli hostages it holds in return for hundreds of Palestinian prisoners and the gradual withdrawal of Israeli troops under Trump's plan. Also included in the proposal were the end of Hamas rule in Gaza, and Israel agreeing not to annex the territory and drive out Palestinians living there, Haaretz reported.



Anwar with and East Timor's President Jose Ramos-Horta at the Presidential Palace in Dili.

Fearing US invasion, Venezuela to hold emergency drills

CARACAS (AFP/APP): Venezuela, on high alert over a US military deployment off its coast that has stirred invasion fears, will hold disaster preparedness drills on Saturday as President Nicolas Maduro mulls invoking emergency powers.

Maduro called for the drills on Thursday, hours after several earth tremors rattled a population already unnerved by deadly US strikes on alleged Venezuelan narco boats.

US President Donald Trump has deployed eight warships and a nuclear-powered submarine to the southern Caribbean as part of a stated plan to combat drug trafficking.

US forces have destroyed at least three suspected drug boats in the Caribbean in recent weeks,

killing over a dozen people in a move decried as "extrajudicial execution" by UN experts.

Now, US military officials are drawing up options to target drug traffickers inside Venezuela's borders, according to a report by NBC citing four sources familiar with the discussions.

The strikes could happen "in the next several weeks," although Trump has not yet approved them, the report said.

Maduro, whom Trump accuses of leading a narco cartel, suspects Washington of pursuing regime change.

Thousands of Venezuelans have joined a civilian militia in response to Maduro's call for bolstering the cash-strapped country's defenses.

King Charles III to visit Vatican in October

LONDON (AFP/APP): King Charles III, head of the Church of England, and Queen Camilla will make a state visit to meet Pope Leo XIV for the first time at the Vatican next month, Buckingham Palace said Saturday.

"Their Majesties The King and Queen will undertake a State Visit to the Holy See in late October 2025," a statement said of the trip, which will come around six months after the royal couple met Leo's predecessor, Pope Francis, shortly before his death.

Francis died on April 21 after 12 years as head of the world's 1.4 billion Catholics, and Leo was elected in a conclave of cardinals on May 8.

Leo, 70, who has a history of missionary work in Peru, is the first pope from the United States.

Guinea Supreme Court confirms vote to change constitution

CONAKRY (AFP/APP): Guinea's Supreme Court on Friday confirmed the result of a referendum to approve a new constitution in the junta-ruled country, saying it was backed by an overwhelming majority of voters.

The final tallies — 89.38 percent in favour and 10.62 percent against — confirmed the provisional vote results announced on Tuesday evening.

Opposition parties had called on voters to boycott last Sunday's referendum, accusing General Mamady Doumbouya of using it to stay in power.

Earlier on Friday, they had filed a request to the court to annul the result. The request was rejected. The court's confirmation paves the way for elections to be held in December. The signs suggest that Doumbouya will run for the presidency.



People line up to cast their votes at Beau Vallon Secondary School in Beau Vallon, Seychelles.



Protesters hold placards and Palestinian flags as they march through the city centre during civil society and faith-based organisations' mass rally for Gaza, in Cape Town.

Faced with Russian threat, NATO flexes military muscle in North Sea

NORTH SEA (AFP/APP): NATO flexed its muscles in the North Sea this week in a display of military might, as Russia allegedly tested the alliance's defences on its eastern flank.

F-18 fighter jets lined up on the world's largest aircraft carrier, flanked by 20 ships and with some 10,000 military personnel from 13 countries.

US destroyers and French and Danish frigates escorted the giant USS Gerald R. Ford on the high seas as part of NATO's Neptune Strike 25-3 exercise.

F-35 and F-18 jets flew overhead in a diamond formation behind an E-2 Hawkeye, in a demonstration of their capabilities and to test their coordination at a time of high tension with Moscow. One day before the exercise, a Russian reconnaissance aircraft flew three times over the German frigate Hamburg at "very low altitude" in the Baltic Sea on September 21, according to the German defence ministry.

"We consider this behaviour unprofessional and uncooperative," said a ministry spokesperson.

The NATO exercise began the same day that, a few hundred kilometres away, "three or four large drones" flew over Copenhagen Airport, disrupting air traffic. These "hybrid attacks" could increase, warned Denmark's Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen.

"We reassure our allies, and with our adversaries or others... we establish a strategic deterrent as a group, as a team," said US Rear Admiral Paul Lanzilotta, commander of Carrier Strike Group Twelve, in the vast hangar of the carrier.

Russia says seized three villages in east Ukraine

MOSCOW (AFP/APP): Russia on Saturday claimed to have captured three villages in eastern Ukraine, as its forces slowly grind through Ukrainian defences in costly battles.

Russian forces are slowly but steadily gaining ground in fierce metre-for-metre skirmishes for largely devastated areas in eastern Ukraine, with few inhabitants or intact buildings left. Moscow has captured about 0.8 percent of Ukraine's total land area since the beginning of the year, according to Russia's Ministry of Defence.

The villages of Derylovo and Maiske were seized in the Donetsk region, Moscow's army said in a statement, while the settlement of Stepove was taken in the Dnipropetrovsk region.

Ukraine said an overnight Russian barrage killed one person and wounded 12 in the southeastern Kherson region, and damaged railways in the neighboring Odesa region.

Russia said an oil pumping station in the Chuvashia republic suspended operation after a Ukrainian drone strike deep behind the front line.

Kyiv has been targeting Russian refineries for months, calling the attacks fair retribution for Moscow's own barrages and an attempt to cut off energy revenues that fund Russia's army.

Two women die trying to cross Channel from France

LILLE (AFP/APP): Two women died overnight while trying to cross the Channel to Britain, French authorities said Saturday, adding that some 60 others had been rescued.

The incident occurred south of the beaches of Neufchâtel-Hardelot, when about 100 people were trying to get to the UK on a makeshift boat.

About 60 people "are currently being taken care of", Isabelle Fradin-Thirode, an official in nearby Montreuil-sur-Mer, said. A couple and their child suffering from moderate hypothermia were rushed to a hospital in Boulogne, she said.



Dozens of people participate in an anti-Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) rally outside of the Brooklyn Metropolitan Detention Center.

US to revoke Colombian president's visa over 'incendiary actions'

WASHINGTON (AFP/APP): The US State Department said Friday it would revoke the visa of Colombia's leftist President Gustavo Petro for his "incendiary actions" during a pro-Palestinian street protest in New York.

"Earlier today, Colombian president @petrogustavo stood on a NYC street and urged US soldiers to disobey orders and incite violence," the State Department said in a post on X.

"We will revoke Petro's visa due to his reckless and incendiary actions," it said.

On his social media account, Petro shared

video of himself speaking Spanish to a large crowd through a megaphone Friday, with his translator then relaying his comments calling on "nations of the world" to contribute soldiers for an army "larger than that of the United States."

"That is why, from here in New York, I ask all soldiers in the United States Army not to point their rifles at humanity. Disobey Trump's order! Obey the order of humanity!" Petro said.

A source from the president's office confirmed to AFP that Petro was traveling to Bogota on Friday night.

New drone sightings over Denmark's biggest military base

COPENHAGEN (AFP/APP): Unidentified drones were observed during the night over Denmark's biggest military base, police said Saturday, the latest in a slew of sightings that Danish officials have called a "hybrid attack".

The mystery drone observations have prompted the closure of several airports across the Scandinavian country since Monday, when the first drones appeared.

"I can confirm that we had an incident around 8:15 pm (1815 GMT Friday) that lasted for some hours. One to two drones were observed outside and over the airbase," duty officer Simon Skelsjaer told AFP, referring to the Karup military base.

He said police could not comment on where the drones came from, adding: "We didn't take them down."

Police were cooperating with the military in their investigation, he said.

The Karup base shares its runways with the Midtjylland civilian airport, which was briefly closed though no flights were affected as no commercial flights were scheduled at that hour, Skelsjaer said. Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen said Thursday that "over recent days, Denmark has been the victim of hybrid attacks," referring to unconventional warfare.

18 dead, dozens missing in Nigeria mine collapse

Monitoring Desk

GUSAU: Rescuers in Nigeria are searching for dozens of people missing after a boulder crashed onto an illegal mine during heavy rains, killing at least 18 people, local sources told AFP on Saturday.

The rock came crashing down on Thursday on the mine in the northern Zamfara state outside the Kaudari village in the Maru district, they said.

"We have managed to pull out 18 dead bodies from the pit and five other survivors who sustained various degrees of injuries," Sani Lawwali, a miner who works in unauthorized pits, said from Kaudari.

A dozen other miners were still trapped inside and their fate remained unknown, said Lawwali, who took part in the rescue effort. "The process is slow

and laborious as we use our bare hands to chisel the end of the boulder to make holes for limited access into the pit," he said.

Rescuers have asked for a bulldozer being used at a nearby road construction site to be brought in to help, but had not yet received a response from the company using it, Lawwali added. Abubakar Nabube, a local community leader, confirmed the death toll of 18. He said that 15 of those killed came from the nearby Maikwanugga and Damaga villages.

"If no help comes from emergency agencies soon, none of those trapped would come out alive," he said. Zayyanu Ibrahim, a resident of Kaudari village said the collapse occurred at one of several newly dug sites in the recently established mining site.

Trump asks Supreme Court to uphold restrictions he wants to impose on birthright citizenship

Monitoring Desk

WASHINGTON: President Donald Trump's administration is asking the Supreme Court to uphold his birthright citizenship order declaring that children born to parents who are in the United States illegally or temporarily are not American citizens.

The appeal, shared with The Associated Press on Saturday, sets in motion a process at the high court that could lead to a definitive ruling from the justices by early summer on whether the citizenship restrictions are constitutional.

Lower-court judges have so far blocked them from taking effect anywhere. The Republican administration is not asking the court to let the restrictions take effect before it rules. The Justice Department's petition has been shared with lawyers for parties challenging the order, but is not yet docketed at the Supreme Court.

Any decision on whether to take up the case probably is months away and arguments probably would not take place until the late winter or early spring.

"The lower court's decisions invalidated a policy of prime importance to the president and his administration in a manner that undermines our border security," Solicitor General D. John Sauer wrote. "Those decisions confer, without lawful justification, the privilege of American citizenship on hundreds of thousands of unqualified people." Cody Woofsy, an American Civil Liberties Union lawyer who represents children who would be affected by Trump's restrictions, said the administration's plan is plainly unconstitutional. "This executive order is illegal, full stop, and no amount of maneuvering from the administration is going to change that."

US generals from across world asked to gather for rare meeting

Monitoring Desk

WASHINGTON: US Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth has summoned senior US military officers from across the world to a meeting in Quantico, Virginia next week, five officials told Reuters, a rare gathering of US military leadership in one location.

It was not clear why Hegseth has ordered the generals and admirals to meet in one place on such short notice, and two of the officials said this has created uncertainty among the expected attendees.

Senior military officials in some cases command thousands of troops. Most have detailed schedules weeks in advance, which have now been upended.

"People are scrambling to change their plans and see if they have to attend," one US official said, speaking on the condition of anonymity.

It was unclear how many officials will actually attend the event, but it is rare to have so many senior officials in the same

room at the same time.

Asked for comment, Pentagon spokesman Sean Parnell said only: "The Secretary of War will be addressing his senior military leaders early next week."

Trump has ordered the department to rename itself the Department of War, a change that will require action by Congress.

Parnell's office did not respond to questions about the number of officers, purpose of the meeting or why Hegseth called so abruptly. However, at the White House, US Vice President J.D. Vance claimed that such a meeting was "not unusual at all."

The US has troops around the world, including in distant locations like South Korea, Japan and across the Middle East, which are commanded by two, three and four-star generals and admirals.

"It's probably more mundane than people think... (but) the lack of clarity isn't helping," the official said.

Goals, guns and narcotics: Hitmen plague Ecuador's beautiful game

QUITO (AFP/APP): In Ecuador, football is a deadly sport, with players competing in the shadow of match-fixing mafias and under threat of an assassin's bullet. Midfielder Jonathan Gonzalez, 31, was relaxing at his home near the Colombian border this month when a hitman approached on a motorcycle and shot him in the head.

"Speedy," as he was known to teammates, had played for the Club 22 de Julio, a second division side from Esmeraldas, and was one of three Ecuadoran pros killed in the last month alone.

He was "a good kid who died because of betting," club employee Oswaldo Batallas told AFP.

Gonzalez's death shocked the club and Ecuador, but it was not a total surprise. Just days before, fellow second division pros Maicol Valencia and Leandro Yopez were gunned down at a hotel on the coast.

Valencia died at the

scene, Yopez made it to the hospital, but did not survive. Both played for Exapromo Costa. Days before his own death, Gonzalez had received chilling warnings of what was to come. His car was shot up, and his mother received threats.

Then a mafia linked to online betting allegedly pressured him to lose a match—which ended in a 1-1 draw.

Police are still investigating the deaths of all three men.

Dollarised, beautiful and welcoming to visitors, Ecuador has long been a popular getaway home for mafiosos.

But since the country has become a major transit hub for Colombian cocaine, it has attracted narcos and gangsters in droves.

Competition between local groups affiliated with Mexico's Sinaloa Cartel, Italy's Andrageta, Albania's mafia and host of others has turned Latin America's safest country into one of its most deadly.

Ahsan seeks 10,000 PhD scholarships for Pakistani students, ASEAN-level trade access under CPEC 2.0

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal has proposed 10,000 joint PhD scholarships in artificial intelligence, engineering and emerging sciences at China's top universities under CPEC Phase-II, citing the need to equip Pakistan's youth for knowledge-driven growth.

Briefing media after the 14th meeting of the Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) of CPEC, televised from Beijing on Saturday, he said "We have proposed that in the next 10 years, 10,000 Pakistani students be trained in China's top 50 universities in artificial intelligence, emerging sciences, engineering and new technologies, so that Pakistan can build a strong technology and innovation-based economy."

Ahsan stressed that equipping youth with advanced research skills would enable them to pioneer the transformation of Pakistan into a \$3 trillion economy by 2047. "The next two decades belong to the youth of Pakistan, and we are committed to invest in their education and skills so they can lead the country's economic transformation," he remarked.

He said the proposed "knowledge corridor" with China would help establish top-quality human resources to build the economy of the future.

In parallel, the minister said Pakistan also planned to expand cooperation with China in vocational and technical education, drawing on China's experience to train the country's workforce in modern and advanced technologies for

employment opportunities. Calling exports the "engine of growth," Iqbal said Pakistan's weak performance in the sector needed urgent improvement. "Out of China's \$2 trillion imports, Pakistan's share is only \$3 billion. We hope to expand this by seeking the same tariff treatment for Pakistani products that ASEAN countries enjoy," he added.

Both sides also discussed setting up joint labs in artificial intelligence and quantum computing, launching a CPEC Future Skills program in IT, robotics, fintech, and biotechnology.

The minister said the second phase of the landmark initiative would be closely aligned with Pakistan's "5Es Framework" under the Uraan Pakistan roadmap, which aims to make the country a \$1 trillion economy by 2035.



QUETTA: Provincial Secretary Health, Mujeeb-ur-Rehman Panezai, Provincial Coordinator of the MNCH Program Dr. Gul Sabeen Azam, Chairpersons IDSP Dr. Qurat-ul-Ain Bakhtawari and representatives of UNICEF in a group photo with graduates 33rd batch of the Community Midwifery Skills Development Course.

Balochistan expands community midwife services to grassroots level

QUETTA (APP): In a major step toward improving maternal and child healthcare, Balochistan's Secretary of Health, Mujeeb-ur-Rehman Panezai, announced the expansion of Community Midwife (CMW) services to the grassroots level across the province.

The initiative aims to deliver essential health services directly to people's doorsteps, particularly in remote and underserved areas. Panezai made the announcement while addressing the graduation ceremony of the 33rd batch of the Community Midwifery Skills Development Course at the Institute for Development Studies and Practices (IDSP) campus. The course was a joint ef-

fort by the Health Department's Comprehensive Mother, Newborn, and Child Health (MNCH) Program, UNICEF Quetta, and IDSP.

The Secretary assured the newly graduated midwives of their prompt deployment and emphasized the government's commitment to enhancing the reach and effectiveness of the MNCH Program. He underscored the importance of strengthening primary healthcare infrastructure, especially in Balochistan's vast and often inaccessible regions.

Dr. Gul Sabeen Azam, Provincial Coordinator of the MNCH Program, praised the vital role of CMWs, calling them the "backbone" of maternal and

child health services.

She highlighted that the intensive training course was designed to empower midwives with the skills needed to promote social awareness and drive Behaviour Change Communication (BCC) within their communities.

"Community Midwives not only provide healthcare but also instill confidence and awareness among women," Dr. Gul Sabeen Azam added.

She emphasized that expanding midwifery services at the community level would be a milestone in reducing maternal and infant mortality rates and building a healthier society. She also congratulated the graduates for their dedication and perseverance.



QUETTA: A delegation of Balochistan Grand Employees Alliance led by its Organizer Professor Abdul Quddus Kakar meeting with Provincial Minister for Food Haji Noor Muhammad Dummer.

DG ISPR visits Jamia Urwatul Wusqa, holds interactive session with students, scholars

LAHORE (APP): Director General Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), Lieutenant General Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry, visited Jamia Urwatul Wusqa and held an interactive session with students and religious scholars.

During the session, the seminary head, Syed Jawad Naqvi, emphasized that awakening national con-

sciousness is essential for the education and upbringing of the new generation.

The students lauded the Pakistan Armed Forces for their historic victory in Operation Bunyan-um-Marsoos. They also appreciated the Army's efforts, stating that the session helped dispel confusion and concerns arising from propaganda on social media.

Peace impossible without stopping genocide in Palestine, recognizing Hamas: Naeem

Independent Report
KARACHI: Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Pakistan Ameer Engr Hafiz Naeem ur Rehman has said that establishing durable peace would be impossible until and unless genocide in Palestine is not stopped and democratically elected Hamas is not recognised.

The JI supreme leader expressed these views at a seminar organized by the Islamic Lawyers Movement at Jinnah Auditorium, City Court, entitled 'Farewell Sermon: Muhammad (PBUH), the Pioneer of Human Rights'.

Further talking about the global political landscape, he criticized the United States for its hypocrisy — claiming to champion human rights and democracy while using atomic

bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki and waging wars in Vietnam, Afghanistan, and Iraq. He pointed out that in 2006, Hamas had won democratic elections, yet the US and Israel did not allow it to function. Similarly, when the Islamic Salvation Front in Algeria had secured 80 percent of the vote, they were prevented from forming a government. Hafiz Naeem said journalists and human rights workers were being targeted in Israeli airstrikes, and the world must understand that lasting peace cannot be achieved by sidelining Hamas or continuing the genocide of Palestinians.

He said Israel is behaving like a drunk and destructive elephant — it must be stopped.

Tribal councils vow to stand with security forces against terrorism

PESHAWAR (APP): In grand jirgas held separately in Mohmand and Orakzai districts on Saturday, local tribes decided to offer their full cooperation to security forces in the fight against terrorists.

The Mishti tribe of Orakzai was particularly vocal, declaring they would not tolerate the atrocities of terrorists and asserting that peace can only be restored through public unity and cooperation with state institutions.

The Orakzai jirga unanimously agreed to eliminate terrorism and extortion, committing to joint measures to establish order and vowing to take strict action against terrorists hiding in the mountains.

They firmly announced their support for the state and institutions to maintain peace, viewing this collective determination as a guarantee for a peaceful future.

Similarly, in Mohmand, tribes declared they would wipe out terrorists from mountains and stand shoulder-to-shoulder with forces.

This unified resolve among tribes, elders, and civil and military leadership is a joint declaration that terrorism and extortion will be completely eradicated, framing this combined effort as a crucial "war for peace and prosperity."



BEIJING: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Professor Ahsan Iqbal, addressing the management and students during his visit to Beijing Institute of Technology.

At UN General Assembly, Pakistan pushes back against India's terrorism accusations

UNITED NATIONS (APP): A Pakistani diplomat Friday hit back after an Indian delegate accused Pakistan of being a sponsor and promoter of terrorist acts, asserting that India practices state-sponsored terrorism as policy at home and abroad.

"Its (India's) hypocrisy is well exposed; It cannot hide anymore its aiding, abetting, and financing of terrorism in Pakistan, its covert terrorist networks across the region, and its reign of terror in occupied Kashmir," Saima Saleem, a counsellor at the Pakistan Mission to the United Nations, said while exercising her right of reply in the UN General Assembly.

Ms. Saleem was reacting to the statement made by India's delegate, Ms. Petal Gahlot, in response to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's sharp speech earlier in the day in which he made a pointed reference to the brief military conflict with India in May when Pakistan's valiant armed forces repelled an "unprovoked aggression" with

"stunning professionalism", shooting down seven Indian aircraft.

In her response, the Indian delegate accused Pakistan of "glorifying terrorism" and shielding terrorist outfits like the Resistance Front (TRF), which India claimed carried out the Pahalgaon attack, although the group denied any involvement.

Rebutting the Indian allegations about terrorism, Ms. Saleem said, "Through its proxies like TTP (Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan), BLA (Balochistan Liberation Army) and (its) Majed Brigade, Indian-sponsored terrorism has not just claimed lives of thousands of innocent civilians in Pakistan, it has turned places of worship, learning, and livelihood into sites of carnage."

She referred to Pakistan's sacrifices in the global fight against terrorism, saying, "This forum certainly needs no sermons from an aggressor, occupier, and perpetrator of state-sponsored terrorism."

Pakistan, she added, not only condemned but

also called for credible, impartial, and independent investigations into the Pahalgaon incident. "If India had nothing to hide, it should have agreed to such investigations." Before, during, and after the conflict, Ms. Saleem said, Pakistan maintained a principled and calibrated approach, avoiding harm to civilians and civilian infrastructure. "When its adventurism collapsed in defeat, it resorted to excuses, but the truth could not be concealed. The bubble of hubris has been burst, the myth of military might shattered, and the irrefutable evidence of Indian losses has been provided by the international community."

India's holding in abeyance of the 1960 Indus Waters Treaty has unmasked it as a blatant violator of international law, the Pakistani diplomat said, adding that by weaponizing water, it has demonstrated that it is a state that threatens regional peace, denies millions right to water and breaches the sanctity of a humanitarian treaty.



QUETTA: Chief Justice Balochistan High Court Justice Rozi Khan Bareach, offering Fateha on the sad demise of father of former Chairman Senate and MPA Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani.

Engr Amir Muqam terms PTI rally completely flopped

PESHAWAR (APP): Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs and President of Pakistan Muslim League (N) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Engineer Amir Muqam here Saturday declared PTI's rally a completely flopped.

He said after the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, even PTI's own workers boycotted the rally. In a statement here, he said just like their humiliating failure in the movement for the founder's release, they have also failed to hold a successful rally in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Amir Muqam said, it was said earlier that PTI will now only give dates, but will no longer be able to run a movement. Like India's "Operation Sindoor," PTI's "Operation

Fasaad (Chaos)" has also turned to ashes. Engr Amir Muqam said PTI leaders are more focused on their struggle for power rather than the release of their founder. "Those who forgot the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa during the floods have now wasted billions on a failed rally. Just like their government, PTI's rallies will also remain unsuccessful."

He said the public, through their unity, has buried the mindset of chaos and anti-state sentiment. He said all conspiracies of the enemies of Pakistan and the youth have failed due to the successes of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, both domestically and internationally.



QUETTA: Vice Chancellor Loralai Professor Dr. Ehsanullah Kakar and Social Innovation Academy signing MoU.

Balochistan Information Commission committed to implement right to information law effectively

QUETTA (APP): On the occasion of International Day for Universal Access to Information, Information Commissioner Balochistan, Abdul Shakoor has said that the Right to Information is a fundamental right of citizens and a cornerstone of transparent governance.

In his message, he said that Balochistan has already legislated its own Right to Information Act, which aims to empower citizens, ensure account-

ability of public bodies, and promote openness in governance. He emphasized that the Balochistan Information Commission is committed to implementing this law effectively despite various challenges.

"Access to information is not just a legal right, it is the bridge between people and the state. Transparency builds trust, and trust strengthens democracy," Shakoor added.



ZHOB: Balochistan Governor Jaffar Khan Mandokhel addressing the party joining gathering at Youth Action Committee Killi Apozai.

IMF calls for zero inflow into Pakistan's power sector circular debt during current fiscal year

ISLAMABAD (INP): The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has called for zero inflow into Pakistan's power sector circular debt during the current fiscal year.

According to sources, the government assured the visiting IMF delegation during a briefing that no increase would be allowed in the stock of circular debt this year.

The discussions covered a wide range of issues, including the levy on captive power plants, tariff rebasing and the overall debt management plan. Officials shared with the Fund that Pakistan's strategy aimed at eliminating the power sector's circular debt entirely within three to six years.

The IMF was informed that the government's \$1.2 trillion deal with banks has already reduced circular debt, bringing it down to about \$400 billion. Furthermore, from 2026 onwards, annual tariff rebasing will be undertaken from 1 January to ensure regular adjustments.

Sources said the IMF delegation was also briefed on the government's comprehensive roadmap to stabilise the sector. This included measures to address inefficiencies and prevent any future accumulation of debt. The government highlighted that critical steps such as tariff restructuring and controlled subsidies were part of the strategy to strengthen financial sustainability.



NEW YORK: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar met with Foreign Minister of Morocco, Nasser Bourita, on the sidelines of 80th UNGA session, in New York.

China expresses solidarity with Pakistan in face of devastating monsoon floods

Pledges 100 mln Yuan in additional flood relief for Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (INP): China has pledged an additional 100 million yuan (Rs 3.94 billion) worth of flood-relief supplies to Pakistan after already providing \$2 million in emergency aid, underscoring Beijing's solidarity with its "iron brother" in the face of devastating monsoon floods.

"In addition to the first \$2 million of emergency assistance, China will offer additional flood relief supplies worth 100 million yuan RMB, to further support Pakistan's efforts in disaster relief and reconstruction," the Chinese Embassy in Islamabad said Friday in a statement on X (Twitter), according to a report carried by Gwadar Pro on Saturday.

The announcement comes as floods since late June have killed over 1,000 people, injured 1,060, displaced more than 2 million, and destroyed farmland and infrastructure, according to the NDMA.

Earlier this month, the embassy said in another post: "Sincerely hope all the communities affected by the recent devastating floods recover soon."

The Chinese side joins hands with our Pakistani iron brothers and sisters to overcome the challenges and try our best to help the affected families rebuild their homes."

At a regular press briefing in Beijing on September 10, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lin Jian reiterated Beijing's commitment, saying: "Chinese leaders have extended sympathies to Pakistani leaders over the devastating floods."



QUETTA: MPA Malik Naeem Khan Bazai, Secretary Education Asfand Yar Kakar inspecting the classrooms during their visit to Govt Boys High School Kuchlak.

Young doctors nation's valuable asset: Azam

LAHORE (APP): Federal Minister for Law and Justice Senator Azam Nazeer Tarrar has said that young doctors are a valuable asset to the nation and represent the bright future of Pakistan.

He noted that medical professionals face new challenges every day, but through their dedication and hard work, they not only save lives but also serve the country with commitment.

He expressed these views while addressing the 58th Convocation of the College of Physicians and Surgeons Pakistan (CPSP) at a local hotel on Saturday.

Senator Tarrar praised the services of CPSP, stating that its standards match those of international institutions. He said that CPSP graduates are bringing pride to Pakistan worldwide, and their contributions to medicine are a testament to the institution's success.

Highlighting

Pakistan's historic achievements, the minister recalled May 10 as a significant day when the country demonstrated unity and resilience against a larger adversary, earning global respect. He added that the honor of serving the Haramain Sharifain had further elevated the nation's pride.

Emphasizing the need for development and prosperity after achievements in defense, Senator Tarrar said every citizen must play a role in building the country, with the medical sector having a central part to play. He announced that under the directives of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, the Jinnah Medical Institute is being established in Islamabad as a milestone for the healthcare sector. Additionally, the federal government, in consultation with provinces, is launching a Rs. 100 billion project to eliminate hepatitis, which will enhance healthcare facilities and save millions of lives.