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## Moscow Format backs united, peaceful Afghanistan

Delegates at the Moscow forum echoed Russia's call for stronger regional unity, urging swift and coordinated action to confront the growing menace of terrorism

#### **MM Report**

MOSCOW: Representatives attending the Moscow meeting Afghanistan reaffirmed their collective commitment to a "free, united and peaceful" Afghanistan, as regional powers renewed diplomatic efforts to stabilize the countries of th try and address its deepening humanitarian crisis.

According to the Russian Foreign Ministry, dele- long-term development. gates agreed on the urgent lateral and multilateral co- ing that Afghan soil is not aster management. operation against terrorism, used against any neighborgional threat. The partici- voiced

PM receives

warm welcome

in Malaysia

PUTRAJAYA: Prime

**News Desk** 

to 7, 2025.



support for

The discussions placed on agriculture, healthcare, construction and sustain need to strengthen both bi- strong emphasis on ensur- poverty reduction and dis-

vant parties to honor their said the meeting also Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi cooperation to prevent incommitments toward the sought to expand economic took part in the meeting for stability from spilling across country's recovery and and humanitarian engage- the first time in an official borders.

capacity, marking a rare instance of engagement between the Taliban adminisand regional stakeholders.

Russian officials said the conference concluded with a joint understanding to interrorist networks, prevent the misuse of Afghan territory, and ensure that those responsible for the country's ongoing turmoil uphold ment, with particular focus their pledges to support reable development.

Analysts observed that Delegations from Pak- while the Moscow Format describing it as a shared re- ing state, while participants istan, Afghanistan, India, has yet to yield a break-Iran, Kazakhstan, China, through on political recognipants condemned the es- Afghanistan's integration Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajik- tion of the Taliban governtablishment of any foreign into regional connectivity istan and Uzbekistan at- ment, the latest round military structures in projects aimed at boosting tended the session, while signaled a continued will-Afghanistan as "unaccept- trade, infrastructure and en- Belarus joined as a guest ingness among regional able" and called on all rele- ergy cooperation. Officials participant. Afghan Foreign states to pursue pragmatic

## Pakistan joins US contract for AIM-120C-8 missiles

#### By Asghar Ali Mubarak

Minister Muhammad She-ISLAMABAD: In a signifihbaz Sharif was person-ally welcomed and bid farewell by Malaysian Prime Minister Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim during sion in a contract to acquire his official visit to advanced AIM-120C-8 air-Malaysia from October 5 to-air missiles. The move is expected to boost the Pak-The unprecedented hospitality was hailed as a istan Air Force's (PAF) capabilities, particularly its fleet of milestone in Pakistan-F-16 "Falcon" fighters, amid Malaysia relations, under-

bond between the two na-The visit, marked by a to enhance the PAF's operadeal could pave the way for continue to shape regional series of high-level meet- tional readiness. It includes larger agreements approved perceptions. Both countries ings, aimed to bolster cooperation in key areas
such as trade, energy,
Saling in leadings in light agreements approved perceptions. Both confided in added, is read, and in leadings in larger agreements approved perceptions. Both confided in added, is read, failed to project any image of victory — and never tered on the growing secusity threat posed by miliagriculture, and cultural Drive program between exchanges. Prime Minister Sharif's arrival was met with a ceremonial guard of honor

scoring the deepening boring India.

and a convoy accompa-

grand, featured a red car-

pet and a heartfelt hand-

shake, further cementing

the goodwill between the

Zardari asks Nagvi to ease

Punjab-Sindh tensions

partnership.

two leaders.

nied by a helicopter, symthe 2019 engagements. bolizing the importance Malaysia placed on this The farewell, equally limited to administrative work power in South Asia.



ongoing tensions with neigh- and initial training, it signals The missile acquisition equip Pakistan with more 2019 Balakot airstrikes and forms part of a broader effort advanced technology. The subsequent aerial clashes

2006 and 2007. The devel- is critical, coinciding with re- controversial claims of mediopment is particularly note- newed regional friction and ating a potential nuclear esworthy given the PAF's pre- the continuing need for cred- calation between India and vious use of AIM-120C-5 ible deterrence. The AIM- Pakistan through tariffs have AMRAAM missiles during 120C-8 missiles are ex- since become a source of pected to give the PAF a online humor, especially in Defence analysts note sharper strategic edge in any Pakistan, where his muddled that while the immediate ef- future confrontation, helping remarks were jokingly inter-

announcement Washington's willingness to comes as memories of the

The timing of the upgrade Trump's earlier and often fects of the contract may be to maintain a balance of preted as a "7-0" victory for

## Kremlin cautions US over Tomahawk missiles to Ukraine

### **News Desk**

By our correspondent MOSCOW: warned on Tuesday that the KARACHI: President possible supply of US-made Tomahawk cruise missiles to Asif Ali Zardari has stepped in to defuse the Ukraine could escalate the growing tensions between | conflict into a "new and danthe governments of Sindh | gerous phase," and Punjab, instructing Washington Federal Interior Minister whether such transfers were Mohsin Naqvi to play an being considered.

active role in restoring po-According to Reuters, the litical harmony between Kremlin's statement came a day after U.S. President the two provinces. According to sources, Donald Trump said he any are made," he told re- issue was particularly seri-Mohsin Naqvi met President Zardari at Bilawal Ukraine intended to do with House in Karachi, where the Tomahawk missiles bethe two held detailed dis- fore making a final decision. cussions on the evolving Trump added that while he to Kyiv only once the stage of escalation," he said. situation and the need to did not wish to see the war weapons had already been He added that using such stabilize relations be- escalate, he had "somewhat shipped. President Vladimir weapons against Russia tween provincial adminis- made up" his mind on the Putin had earlier warned that would be impossible without

trations. The president directed the interior minister to "actively work to reduce politwas awaiting clearer stateical friction" and to ensure ments from Washington. greater coordination at the federal level. for more definitive remarks, if

During the meeting, Naqvi briefed the president on the overall law and order situation across the country and updated him on inter-provincial communication channels. Sources said the two also By S.M. Inam discussed the lingering unease that has persisted since the caretaker gov-



"We believe we should wait Moscow and Washington."

wanted to understand what porters, recalling that during ous because the missiles Joe Biden's presidency, were capable of carrying nu-Washington would an- clear warheads. "This would nounce new arms deliveries mark a truly dangerous f the United States supplied direct U.S. involvement. "If Kremlin spokesperson long-range Tomahawks ca- Ukraine were to use Toma-Dmitry Peskov said Moscow pable of striking deep inside hawk missiles against Russ-Russian territory, it would ian targets, it would mean "destroy relations between the war had entered an entirely new and qualitatively Peskov stressed that the different phase," he warned.

### Hamas calls for full Israeli withdrawal in Cairo talks

#### **News Desk**

CAIRO: The Cairo talks aimed at securing a By our correspondent lasting Gaza ceasefire entered a critical phase on Tuesday, as Hamas formally laid out its key de-Donald Trump.

for a comprehensive and recognition as a great honor. permanent ceasefire, the complete withdrawal of Israeli forces from all areas centers of learning in the of Gaza, unrestricted delivery of humanitarian aid, the return of displaced families to their homes,



and the immediate launch of Gaza's reconstruction under a Palestinian national technocratic author-

ity.
The group also insisted on a fair prisoner-exchange deal.

Hamas spokesperson Fawzi Barhoum said the movement's delegation was working "to remove all obstacles to reach an agreement that truly reflects the aspirations of the people of Gaza.'

Barhoum accused Isaeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of "trying to derail and sabotage the current phase of negotiations just as he deliberately undermined previous

Despite "brutal military aggression, unlimited support and full American participation in the genoci-

met separately with over the resurgence of gion. Egyptian and Qatari cross-border militancy and Di mediators under tight se- the risk it posed to re- noted that the gathering cials said, reflected the

According to Al-Moni-Trump's ceasefire pro-

## PM receives honorary PhD in leadership from Malaysia's IIU

KUALA LUMPUR: Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif has said he has always served mands under the US- the public with sincerity and backed peace framework steadfastness, reaffirming proposed by President his commitment to the people of Pakistan. Speaking at According to a report a ceremony where he was by Al Jazeera, Hamas awarded an honorary PhD presented a detailed list of conditions during the negotiations in Egypt, calling for a semantic property of the company of th Prime Minister described the ter. "By upholding our values between

> "Being associated with tions can reclaim their lost Muslim world is a privilege,"

and wisdom, and I hope acagrows even stronger."

ng the office of Prime Minis- and the enduring friendship thousands of students.

and Islamic principles, na- Malaysia.

The ceremony was atone of the most respected stature in the world," he said. tended by the Queen of Pa-"Both Pakistan and Malaysia hang, Tengku Azizah Amiare blessed with a young nah Maimunah Iskandariah, he said.

"This university represents a hub of knowledge them to serve humanity."

"This university represents a hub of knowledge them to serve humanity."

"This university represents a hub of knowledge them to serve humanity."

Minister's leadership, she Shahbaz Sharif high- noted, "From leading Punjab demic collaboration between lighted the pressing chalto guiding the nation, Shah-Pakistan and the university lenges facing the Muslim baz Sharif has demonstrated world today, including con- that true leadership is de-

Reflecting on his four flicts, poverty, and internal fined not by power but by decades of public service, divisions, and expressed his purpose. Initiatives such as Shahbaz Sharif said he had hopes for the continued the Punjab Education Endedicated his life to the peogrowth of the International dowment Fund have opened ple of Punjab before assum- Islamic University Malaysia doors of higher education for

## Moscow meeting flags terror groups in Afghanistan

#### News Desk

MOSCOW: Representatives from Pakistan, Russia, China, and Iran acknowledged the continued presence of banned terrorist organizations operating within Afghanistan during a recent four-nation meeting held in Moscow, officials confirmed.

Pakistan's dal war on Gaza," he added, "Israel has Afghanistan, Muhammad

rity threat posed by mili- its neighbors. The latest round of in- tant groups, including the

> According to Sadig, the consensus direct consequences for through platforms such as nomic support.



Diplomatic observers

The meeting concluded other regional forums, direct talks began on Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan with an understanding to concerns persist that Monday in the Red Sea (TTP) and the Balochistan strengthen coordination Afghanistan could once resort city of Sharm el- Liberation Army (BLA). He mechanisms and develop again become a safe Sheikh, where delegations said all four countries joint strategies to counter haven for armed groups from Hamas and Israel shared "deep concern" terrorism across the re- operating beyond its bor-

The discussions, offigional peace and stability. underscored a widening shared view that the Taltor, discussions focused participants agreed on the Afghanistan's neighbors decisive steps to curb the on "creating conditions on urgent need to rid that militant activity re- activities of foreign and the ground for the release Afghanistan of terrorism mains one of the primary domestic militant organiof detainees and prison- and external interference, obstacles to peace and re- zations if the country is to ers," in line with President | stressing that an unstable construction. Despite mul- regain regional trust and Afghanistan would have tiple rounds of dialogue attract much-needed eco-

### Bilateral ties boost Saudi work visas for Pakistanis

RIYADH: Pakistan's relations with Saudi Arabia have entered a new phase, marked by expanding cooperation not only in defence but also in economic and labor sectors. The two countries' recent defence agreement has further strengthened mutual confidence, paving the way for a surge in employment opportunities for ported by Arab News, the 37,000 per month in 2024. the Kingdom.

has now set an ambitious of 2025. target to double its labor exports to Saudi Arabia — July, 242,337 Pakistanis serves. In August alone, Saudi Arabia could reach a move expected to signif- left for employment in the remittances from Saudi record levels by mid-2026, icantly boost remittances Kingdom — an average of Arabia reached \$736.7 providing a crucial buffer



Pakistani workers across number of skilled Pak- Saudi Arabia continues to ence between the two istani workers travelling to be the largest destination long-time allies. According to govern- Saudi Arabia rose sharply for Pakistani expatriate 
Economists believe ment officials, Pakistan in the first seven months workers and a major con- that if the current trend

Officials said the government is working closely with Saudi authorities to ensure the recruitment of trained and certified workers in key sectors such as construction, health care, information technology, and logistics.

The growing demand for Pakistani professionals and laborers is being seen as a sign of deepening economic interdepend-

tributor to the country's continues, Pakistan's re-Between January and foreign exchange re- mittance inflows from and strengthen the na- nearly 40,000 per month million, forming part of a for the country's struggling tional economy. As re- — compared to around total inflow of \$3.1 billion balance of payments.

### PSE slides as 167,000-point level fails to hold

administrative measures. | mark KSE-100 index losing market.

1,578 points to close at 166,173.

ernment in Punjab, as well | tinued its downward trajec- intraday high of 168,518 and proved unsustainable. as the impact of recent tory on the second day of the a low of 165,997, reflecting

key 167,000-point threshold, vestors in the market.

Analysts noted that the growing interest of retail in-vestments.

Sabzwari also announced households. KARACHI: The Pakistan

During the session, the which had briefly offered

Stock Exchange (PSX) conindex fluctuated between an some stability, once again Karachi, he noted that stu
"Battle of the Bulls" competitive descriptions of the past five years, the PSX dents could now participate tion, held in celebration of had outperformed regional Pakistan Stock Exchange in the exchange with as little Global Investor Day, empha- peers, demonstrating repolitical statements and trading week, with the bench- persistent volatility in the Chief Executive Farukh as 5,000 rupees through sizing the importance of rais- silience amid challenging Sabzwari highlighted the Shariah-compliant sukuk in- ing awareness about the economic conditions.

stock market among ordinary

### Pakistan, India dispute aircraft losses from May clash

India's air chief, Amar Preet Singh, claimed at a recent lecture that Indian forces downed multiple Pakistani aircraft, including five fighters and a surveillance plane, during May operations

**News Desk** 

NEW DEHLI: Pakistan and India continued to offer sharply divergent accounts of last month's aerial clashes, following a fresh round of public statements from senior military officials.

India's air chief, Air Chief Marshal Amar Preet Singh, told a recent military lecture that Indian forces had shot down several Pakistani aircraft during the May opera- presented a contrasting ver- highlighted the effectivetion, claiming the tally inlarger surveillance-type aircraft. His remarks, the clear- Army, Lieutenant General est official Indian admission Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry, ment. to date, reinforced New said Islamabad had downed



sion. In an interview and ness spokesman for the Pakistan

But the Pakistani military lost a single aircraft. He

The dispute over num- memory.

dian statements empha- urged caution, noting that istani aircraft, while Pak- crecy and national interest. istani officials described port its version.

service, during the engage- ments between the nuclear- pected

sized the role of long-range claims and counterclaims in S-400 surface-to-air sys- such conflicts are often intems in intercepting Pak- fluenced by operational se-

**MetroMorning** 

For observers, the immebattlefield successes by diate effect has been a their own fighters and air de-surge in political and media fences. Independent verifi- attention in both capitals. cation of losses on either Opposition parties and comside has been limited, with mentators in Pakistan cited each country citing intelli- the army's statements as gence and imagery to sup- evidence of a successful defence, while in India the air The exchanges follow chief's remarks were framed Pakistan's months of heightened ten- as confirmation of operacluded five fighter jets and a subsequent briefings, the weaponry, including Chi- sion that saw one of the tional effectiveness. The difnese-origin platforms now in most serious air engage- fering accounts are exarmed neighbors in recent diplomatic efforts to de-es-International calate tensions and fuel do-Delhi's narrative of a significant tactical success.

Seven Indian fighter jets and bers has evolved into a pubmedia organizations and mestic debates about milicant tactical success.

Indian fighter jets and bers has evolved into a pubmedia organizations and mestic debates about milicant tactical success.

### IMF warns of economic risks amid rising regional tensions

#### By our correspondent

ISLAMABAD: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has identified rising regional tensions as a potential threat to Pakistan's econofficials According to sources, the IMF cautioned that escalating instability could affect external economic stability, maintain global uncertainty, and potentially push up commodity prices.

During the second halfyear economic review talks with Pakistan, the IMF noted that around PKR 200 billion in tax revenue had been short-collected in the first quarter of the current financial year. To address the shortfall, the Fund proposed additional tax measures, including higher levies on fertiliser and excise duties on pesticides. The Pakistani government, citing the devastation caused by recent floods, requested a one-year deferment on implementing these measures.

## Sindh govt pushes ahead with electric vehicle plan

#### By Ahsan Mughal

KARACHI: The Sindh government, led by Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon, has taken a major step towards sustainable transport by engaging with a delegation from an electric vehicle (EV) company. The meeting focused on intro-ducing EV models, exploring local assembly plans, and developing a province-wide charging infrastructure.

During the discussions, the delegation gave a detailed presentation on their prospects for local producgovernment's commitment affordable transport for citi- cleaner

Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari



promote innovative and envi- ment. ronmentally responsible mobility solutions. "We are de- bracing EV technology termined to introduce electric

nificantly cut carbon emisand and the Sindh government to dinated planning and invest- further these plans.

would not only reduce pollu-EV models and outlined taxi services as soon as pos- tion but also create jobs, atsible to enhance urban mo- tract investment, and foster tion and a robust charging bility and reduce environ- industrial innovation. Sindh's network. The initiative aims mental pollution," he said. commitment to sustainable to launch an electric taxi He added that EVs would development is reflected in service soon, in line with the help conserve fuel and sig- its ongoing projects, including the planned governmentto modern, eco-friendly, and sions, contributing to a run e-taxi service by Decemgreener ber 2025 and collaborations province. The meeting also with Chinese firms to expand Minister Memon reaf- discussed potential public- EV charging networks. A firmed the vision of Pakistan private partnerships to ex- provincial delegation is also pand electric transport and expected to visit Chery related sectors through coor- headquarters in May 2025 to

Memon noted that em-

#### Rana says CM Maryam hit back at Bilawal's remarks

Shehbaz Sharif's special answered remarks by Bi-

Rana Sanaullah de-scribed the Pakistan Peoples Party and the Pakistan Muslim League N (PML N) as frequent collaborators on many issues, while acknowledging that the two parties had long-standing disagreements as well as moments of joint struggle.

Rana Sanaullah said that, although the parties comments implied the Pun-

#### By our correspondent

ISLAMABAD: Senior minister and Prime Minister aide for political affairs, Sen-ator Rana Sanaullah, said Maryam Nawaz had already lawal Bhutto that she found

were political rivals, they were not enemies, and he criticised language used by the PPP chairman during a recent press conference. He suggested that Bilawal's jab government was failing, and said those remarks had upset Maryam Nawaz.

### Polio drive discussed at Sukkur task force meeting

sioner Sukkur Division, juddin and Rashid Ali Abid Saleem Qureshi, (DMP PPHI), Dr. Agha presided over a key meet- Samiullah (Rotary Internaing of the Divisional Task tional), and representation, held in the confer- Force Sukkur, Police, ence hall of the Commis- SEF, and the Education sioner's Office.

**Deputy Commissioners** of Khairpur Mirs, Fayyaz ing, Commissioner Hussain; Ghotki, Manzoor Qureshi said the perform-Ahmed; and Sukkur, Nadir ance of the ongoing polio Shehzad, participated via campaign in Sukkur Divivirtual link, alongside offi- sion would be closely cers from various line de- monitored.

partments. Those present in person included Dr. Commis- Jameel (AC WHO), Sira-Department.

## Azma warns rhetoric hinders ceasefire hopes

for while, she said, oppo- told reporters. nents continued to use in-

Addressing the gather-Commissioner leaders of the Pakistan Peoples Party.

UAN 111 786 800

LAHORE: Puniab Infor- standard, "On one hand

not the private fief of any constant agitation, when a of personal assaults.

landlord and criticized what little answer comes back she described as a double they sit and cry," she added. Bukhari also dismissed mation Minister Azma they talk about a ceasefire, lectures on democracy from Force on polio eradica- tives from the District Task Bukhari questioned how a and on the other they break her critics, saying they had

ceasefire could be hoped into gunfire every hour," she not borne the burden of democratic leadership She accused some polit- themselves. She asked cendiary language. Her re- ical figures of grandstand- rhetorically whether her marks came as a brisk ing, saying many left their party should greet attacks rebuttal to comments from homes after quick prepara- on its leaders with garlands, tions, positioned themselves and praised the "forbear-behind microphones and ance" of her leadership for Bukhari said Sindh was provoked unrest. "After this remaining silent in the face

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### Landi Kotal youths energize community through sports

### By Sudhir Ahmad Afridi

grounds to watch sports change. competitions, cheer their

example, is practically nonfunctional; unemployment is Landi Kotal: The youth of widespread, and many Landi Kotal brim with en- areas lack essential facilities. ergy, enthusiasm, and pas- Despite these challenges. sion. Every day, thousands the youth rarely raise a colgather on high school lective voice demanding

This raises a pressing teams, and promote a posi- question: if thousands can tive lifestyle. Sports here gather to play or watch play a crucial role—not only sports, why not mobilise improving physical health peacefully and effectively for but also steering young peo- their rights? By organising ple away from drugs and themselves, engaging with negative activities, while fos- government authorities, and



trast emerges when it comes ments in their communities. to basic civic issues. These overwhelmed and under-

Landi Kotal Hospital, for strengthen critical thinking.

tering resilience and disci- using social media constructively, young people could Yet, a concerning con- push for tangible improve-

The issue, perhaps, lies same young people remain in priorities. Much of the largely silent on matters youth's energy is channelled such as water, electricity, solely into sports, when it employment, healthcare, ed- could equally fuel social deucation, and law and order. velopment, education advo-While playgrounds flourish, cacy, and community betterthe town's hospitals remain ment. Sports are not just recreation—they build character, foster leadership, and

### **METRO MATTERS**

### Sindh health officials allegedly face graft allegations

#### **MM Report**

KARACHI: Reports reignited debate over corruption within the Sindh Health Department, following Pakistan People's Party (PPP) leader Sharmila Faruqooi's recent challenge to Punjab Information Minister Azma Bukhari of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) for a public debate on governance records.

The controversy intensified after the report, a sarcastic remark questioning the integrity of such a debate, alleging decades of graft in Sindh's health sector. The report allegedly named several senior figures, including Provincial Health Minister Azra Pechuho and her husband, accusing them of running a network that siphons off billions of rupees meant for healthcare It also claimed that officials demanded kickbacks ranging from 115,000 to 1.8 million

rupees for job postings and engaged in supply scams that compromised patient care. The revelations come shortly after Farugooi criticized Punjab's leadership, urging a comparative analysis of governance, particularly in health and flood relief. Bukhari responded by calling on the PPP to stop levelling accusations, escalating the political sparring between the two parties. According to the exposé, funds meant for medicines, hospitals, and low-income patients are allegedly diverted into the pockets of ministers, bureaucrats, and contractor

Amjad Siraj Memon, accusing them of running a "business empire" built on corruption and misuse of public resources. As the war of words between PPP and PML-N intensified, calls for transparency and accountability in Sindh's health sector grown louder. Experts argued that such entrenched corruption undermined both public trust and the delivery of basic healthcare. The exchange between the two parties reflected a broader inter-provincial rivalry, with

doctors. It specifically allegedly named Health Secretary Rehan Baloch and Professor

each side defending its governance recorded while attacking the others. The Sindh Health Department has yet to issue an official response to the allegations, leaving open the question of whether the proposed debate would address these issues

substantively or simply became another round of political point-scoring

### Karachi to build new route amid bridge repair woes

#### By Aziz Khatri

KARACHI: The Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC) decided to construct an alternative road to ease the traffic burden and address recurring repair issues at the Natha

The bridge's deteriorating condition, compounded by repeated incidents of iron theft, had necessitated frequent maintenance, causing significant inconvenience to commuters. Taking note of the situation, Mayor Karachi, Barrister Murtaza Wahab, directed the KMC Engineering Department to initiate construction of an alternative route to ensure smooth traffic flow and provide long-term relief for residents.

The decision was made during a meeting chaired by the Mayor and attended by Municipal Commissioner S. M. Afzal Zaidi (PAS) and senior officials from the Engineering Department. The Mayor emphasized the need for a permanent and sustainable solution rather than temporary fixes.

He instructed the teams to complete a detailed survey within a week and commence construction immediately after its submission. Work on the survey and route planning

Mayor Wahab said, "It is our utmost responsibility to address public grievances and resolve civic issues without delay. The residents deserve visible and lasting solutions. The Natha Khan corridor is a crucial link connecting the city to the airport and major motorways — this project must be executed and completed on a fast-track basis.

#### Karachi sees record polio vaccine refusals

#### **By Ahsan Mughal**

KARACHI: Karachi Commissioner Syed Hasan Naqvi has said the city records the highest number of parents refusing polio vaccination for their children, highlighting a major challenge in public health efforts.

The remarks came during a door-to-door campaign aimed at persuading parents to administer polio drops. Commissioner Naqvi met residents at the Clifton Cantonment office and stressed that some households are uncooperative, often refusing to open doors for vaccination teams

The Commissioner's comments echo recent announcements by Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, who warned that strict measures would be taken against parents refusing polio immunisation. Proposed actions include deactivating mobile phone SIMs and suspending national identity cards and passports, effectively restricting access to communication and travel facilities.

Health officials said such steps are intended to protect children and prevent polio outbreaks in Pakistan's largest city, where dense population and high refusal rates pose a continuing public health risk.

### SSDP joins forces with Women **Empowered Pakistan**

### By Moin Ullah Shah

KARACHI: In a significant move to advance women's empowerment, welfare for vulnerable groups, and broader social development, the Be-Sehara Development Program (SSDP) and Women Empowered Pakistan signed a Memorandum of Understanding

(MoU) át a local hotel in Karachi. The event was attended by SSDP Chairman Ghulam Sarwar Khedro, members Suhail Akbar Shah, Fazil Shah, Ghulam Mustafa Abdu, alongside social activists, business leaders, and representatives of women's organizations.

Addressing the gathering, Chairman Khedro highlighted SSDP's long-standing commitment to supporting underprivileged and marginalized communities through training, skill development, and employment initiatives. He emphasized that Pakistan's social and economic progress is not possible without active participation of women, making their economic and professional empowerment a national priority.

He added that through the partnership with Women Empowered Pakistan, plans are underway to promote women-made products and handicrafts nationally and internationally. These initiatives, he said, would create new employment opportunities for women while boosting the national economy. Representatives of Women Empowered Pakistan said their organization aims to provide better livelihoods and equal opportunities for women, children, and vulnerable groups.

They added that they would collaborate with SSDP on new projects focusing on women's advancement and self-reliance. The MoU, according to organizers, will strengthen coordination and cooperation between the two institutions, with positive impacts expected not only for women but for society at large.

### Karachi hospital saves patient after nine days on ECMO

### By our correspondent

KARACHI: For the first time in Pakistan, a patient at the National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases (NICVD) in Karachi has fully recovered after spending nine days on ECMO (Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation) support.

According to a statement from NICVD, the achievement marks a historic milestone in the country's medical history. The patient, a young man from Karachi, had suffered heart and lung failure following cardiac surgery. To save his life, the hospital's expert team simultaneously used both VA-ECMO and VV-ECMO techniques, providing continuous support until his organs recovered.

The complex cardiac surgery was led by Dr Ali Raza Mangi, with the NICVD's dedicated ECMO team overseeing the patient's care throughout the nine-day period. The treatment was provided entirely free of charge.

Hospital officials hailed the recovery as a testament to Pakistan's growing capabilities in advanced cardiac care, highlighting the skill, coordination, and resilience of local medical teams in handling some of the most critical and high-risk cases.

### Staff training begins at all Karachi traffic centers

### By Aziz Khatri

KARACHI: A city-wide training session is currently underway at the Dr Muhammad Ali Shah Auditorium, CPO, aimed at equipping staff from Karachi's traffic facilitation centers with the skills to operate the newly introduced fee-free e-ticketing system, known as TRACS (Traffic Regulation and Citation System).

During the session, officers are being briefed on their roles and responsibilities under the modern system. The 11 traffic facilitation centers across Karachi will be staffed by these trained offi-

cers, designated as 'guides', who will serve as the public face of TRACS, offering assistance and guidance to residents.

Citizens seeking clarification or help regarding traffic fines received at home can now visit their nearest facilitation center to resolve issues efficiently.

The Karachi Police described the initiative as a significant step towards transparency and convenience for the public, highlighting its role in improving citizen access to services while modernizing traffic management in the city.

#### **EDITOR: Ehtasham Anwar**

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### India's talks of war

n recent weeks, the rhetoric emerging from New Delhi has grown increasingly belligerent, casting long shadows over an already fragile regional equilibrium. India's talk of war is not just a diplomatic gambit; it is a test of patience, prudence, and resolve. Yet, for Pakistan, the true challenge lies not merely in responding to threats with matching bravado but in navigating a path that safeguards its people, institutions, and international standing while maintaining the moral compass that history demands. The temptation to respond with incendiary declarations, grandstanding speeches, or militaristic posturing is ever-present. However, in moments such as these, the worth of a nation is measured not by the volume of its threats, but by the depth of its restraint and the clarity of its pur-

Pakistan's narrative across the years has been one of endurance and resilience. From the trials of partition to the challenges of natural disasters and the pressures of geopolitics, our citizens have repeatedly demonstrated an ability to rise above division, to put aside internal differences, and to meet danger with unity and courage. This solidarity, quietly forged in the crucible of adversity, is a national treasure that must not be squandered on rhetoric alone. It is the human spirit that the willingness of neighbors to protect each other, and the resolve of ordinary citizens to preserve normalcy in extraordinary circumstances that define our true

There is no question about the professionalism and preparedness of our armed forces. Their dedication, discipline, and readiness to defend the nation are among the most visible proofs of national resolve. Equally undeniable is the steadfastness of our citizens, whose daily lives continue against a backdrop of uncertainty, often at personal risk These assets — the courage of soldiers and civilians alike — are not to be displayed as props in a theatre of posturing. They are responsibilities to be stewarded, exercised with wisdom and guided by a framework of law, strategy, and ethical conduct. Military strength, however impressive, is not a substitute for political clarity, prudent decision-making, or moral authority.

Force should always be a last resort, not a first response, and any action undertaken must serve a purpose beyond mere retaliation; it must aim to restore stability, protect life, and open pathways to lasting peace.

True patriotism, in this context, is a concept too often misunderstood. It is not the reckless readiness to fight at every provocation, nor is it the public display of anger or defiance. Rather, it is a commitment to safeguard life, to defend homes and communities, and to ensure that the next generation inherits a nation that is intact and capable of

Patriotism is the courage to resist the seductive simplicity of triumphalist rhetoric, to insist on strategic foresight over emotional gratification, and to pursue dialogue even when the other side shows

It is in these quieter, less visible acts of responsibility that a nation truly proves its mettle. For Pakistanis, the current situation should serve as a sober reminder of shared obligations.

Our duty is not to indulge in public performances of anger, but to insist on governance that prioritizes the safety, dignity, and future of all citizens. Leaders at every level — political, military, and civil are bound by the same contract: to act decisively but wisely, to temper courage with caution, and to place national interests above sectional, partisan, or personal ambitions. In a region as volatile as South Asia, where a single miscalculation can trigger consequences that reverberate for decades. prudence is not weakness; it is survival.

Pakistan's engagement must also extend beyond its borders. Diplomacy, international mediation, and regional dialogue are not signs of capitulation; they are instruments of security and foresight. In an era where global opinion can influence outcomes as decisively as weapons, maintaining credible communication channels, keeping diplomatic avenues open, and presenting a coherent, principled stance on the world stage are

The nation's strength is magnified when restraint is combined with assertive diplomacy, when readiness to defend is paired with readiness to negotiate, and when a commitment to international

norms and law underscores our national strategy. At the same time, the message to potential aggressors must be unambiguous. Pakistan will defend its sovereignty and the territorial integrity of its

Any attempt to threaten or destabilize the nation will be met with a response that is proportionate lawful, and strategic. The world must understand that Pakistan's response is guided by principle, not by impulse, and that its objective is not escalation for its own sake but the protection of its people and

the deterrence of unnecessary conflict. Pakistan's history offers lessons: courage, resilience, and solidarity have always been its pillars. Today, as tensions rise, these qualities remain as essential as ever. To protect sovereignty is to protect the people; to protect the people is to protect

the future. Every citizen has a stake in ensuring that our response is measured, our leadership sound, and our strategy grounded in foresight rather than rhetoric. In the theatre of international politics, the wisest displays of strength are often those that are unseen, exercised in strategy rooms and deliberation halls, guided by the twin principles of resolve and responsibility.

As India talks of war, Pakistan must indeed be prepared — but preparation is not equivalent to provocation. Strength must be exercised with care, courage with calculation, and patriotism with con-

science The nation's real power lies not in the noise of threats or the drama of mobilization but in the steadfast protection of its people, the resilience of its institutions, and the moral authority it sustains in the eyes of the world. In this precarious moment, that is the measure of a country truly ready to meet history: calm yet resolute, strong yet judicious united in defence yet wise enough to seek peace.

## Diplomacy must move beyond

By Uzma Ehtasham



meticulously

lookers, both domestic and international, visit signify substantive diplomatic progress, or is it simply another pageant of flags and citizens back home. Without that translation,

tions, cultural affinities, and overlapping eco- countable governance or policy coherence. nomic interests. Trade, labor mobility, and oranda of understanding and agreements parliamentary oversight, and clear policy

rime Minister She- are insufficient. Their worth will be judged by hbaz Sharif's recent results: do they open new markets for Paktwo-day state visit istani exports, make remittance flows easier to Malaysia unfolded with for workers abroad, or create joint projects all the trappings of cere-that strengthen climate resilience? Without monial grandeur: red car- implementation, ceremonial signatures risk pets, honor guards, and becoming little more than symbolic geschoreo- tures, raising questions about whether graphed protocol. On- pomp has replaced purpose.

The visit also comes at a critical juncture might have been struck by the fanfare, the in global affairs. Rising geopolitical tensions, carefully staged handshakes, and the aura accelerating climate threats, and persistent of political warmth that accompanied each economic fragility mean that Pakistan's exphotograph. But beneath the optics, the ternal engagements must be strategic, more pressing question remains: does the sober, and results-oriented. Warm words of mutual appreciation, shared selfies, and declarations of friendship are welcome, but formalities? State visits, for all their pomp, Pakistan needs partnerships that transfer are valuable only when they translate into tangible value—technology, finance, and tangible outcomes that improve the lives of capacity—to address the pressing challenges at home. If Malaysia, alongside other applause abroad risks being hollow, and like-minded partners, can contribute to rephotographs at Kuala Lumpur airport will newable energy infrastructure, vocational fade faster than the policies they are meant training, and stable investment flows, the benefits will be widely felt, durable, and There is little doubt that Pakistan's focus transformative. Yet diplomacy abroad can-global inequalities widen, and the pressures speeches in foreign capitals are matched by on Malaysia is a sensible strategic choice. not be divorced from politics at home. Cere-The two nations share historical connec- monial success cannot substitute for ac-

The apparent unity between civilian leadcollaborative diplomacy within the broader ership and the military in projecting Pak-Muslim world provide a solid foundation for istan's strategic relevance should not obdeepening bilateral engagement. The mem-scure the necessity for transparency, oritize civilian protection.

leverage is fleeting.

goodwill are concrete advantages: prefermarkets, educational and professional exand defence cooperation oriented towards that enriches symbolic capital but neglects strategic utility fails to serve its primary purpose: the betterment of the nation's people. There is also a moral dimension that cannot be ignored. As climate shocks intensify, on vulnerable populations mount, Pakistan's diplomatic posture must foreground human security. Trade deals and defence pacts are critical, but so too are commitments to hustruction, and regional frameworks that pri-

If Pakistan uses its growing diplomatic uzma@metro-morning.com

signed during ministerial meetings carry the frameworks governing foreign commit- voice to champion these causes, it will earn promise of cooperation, but promises alone ments. Diplomacy based solely on personal not only international respect but also dorapport or episodic meetings risks unravel- mestic legitimacy, fostering a sense that the ing in the absence of institutionalized state is responsive, principled, and attuned processes. The people of Pakistan have a to the human stakes behind each agreeright to know not only what agreements are ment. Ultimately, the success of any state signed but also how they will be imple- visit should be measured against tangible, mented, financed, and monitored. The quantifiable outcomes. Jobs created, in-Prime Minister's high-profile engagements vestments mobilized, students exchanged, and the narrative of international recogni- emissions reduced—these are the metrics tion—whether for Pakistan's role in Gaza or that give statecraft meaning for ordinary for broader regional stability—do confer stapeople. Flags lining Kuala Lumpur's avtus. Yet status, however flattering, without enues may be remembered in newsreels, but only those initiatives that tangibly im-What Pakistan must secure from such prove lives will endure in collective memory.

Hospitals built, power projects launched, ential access to Malaysian and regional training programs initiated, and livelihoods strengthened are the real dividends of diplochanges, debt-for-climate arrangements, macy. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's Malaysia trip has undoubtedly opened a training, disaster response, and interoper- door. The responsibility now is to walk ability rather than confrontation. Diplomacy through it with clarity, accountability, and determination to ensure that Pakistan's engagement serves citizens rather than merely ceremonial optics. Diplomacy is at its most effective when it connects international goodwill to domestic gains, when lofty concrete initiatives in local towns, factories, and classrooms

The writer is a public health professional, journalist, and possesses expertmanitarian diplomacy, post-conflict recon- ise in health communication, having keen interest in national and international affairs, can be reached at

## Cautious optimism demands principled action

By S.M. Inam



tative sense of hope. siege, and repeated mili-

imposed from above—brokered by distant munities once again at the mercy of force. The challenge today is to ensure that optimism does not slip into complacency, and sight—to adhere to their commitments. Negotiations in Cairo, involving Har leeting optics of diplomacy.

yet significant, shift. Reports from within people whose lives it will reshape.

fully, emphasizing that no settlement should from guaranteed. proceed without the explicit consent of

as international recognition.

A landmark development has been scending on Gaza to entrust Gaza's administration to a tech- to enforce agreements when necessary. has, for the first time nocratic interim Palestinian committee. The in months, inspired a ten- gesture has been welcomed by nine nations, including Jordan, the UAE, Indonesia, tary escalations, even the ernments have portrayed the move as conworld fatigued by violence. Yet hope, in this discussion are complex: halting military opdemand not only political will but careful copowers—that unravel quickly, leaving com- ordination and verification. The outcome will hinge on the capacity of all parties—particularly those historically resistant to over-

Negotiations in Cairo, involving Hamas, uine political foundations rather than the Israeli officials, and a Qatari delegation, represent the most consequential progress to has cautiously begun to take root. Recent developments suggest a modest, date. According to reports, Hamas has agreed under international supervision to stituency is willing to engage with the frame- and Egyptian authorities, signaling a willingwork proposed by former U.S. President ness to engage in good-faith implementaseem, is essential: durable peace cannot be of State Marco Rubio and former President

This imbalance highlights a structural Palestinians themselves. This approach, pri- challenge. Without a coordinated, principled affected by conflict. oritizing dialogue and respect for self-deter- stance from Muslim-majority states, the

Hamas's readiness to negotiate and entertain transitional governance arrangements demonstrates a pragmatic willing-After years of conflict, Pakistan, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and ness to compromise. What remains meaningful, rights-based resolution exists, Egypt. Acting as intermediaries, these gov- uncertain, however, is the response of other but it will remain open only if the internaactors whose intransigence could easily untional community—led by states capable of smallest gestures toward structive, aligning it with broader regional ef-stability are being closely watched by a forts to halt hostilities. The proposals under ultimate test will not be the signing of mem-clarity, and principle. Agreements imposed oranda but the capacity of all parties—and without local buy-in will almost certainly falcontext, must be tempered by realism. His- erations, releasing hostages, and agreeing their international interlocutors—to hold tory is replete with examples of agreements on operational mechanisms for a ceasefire each other accountable. Muslim-majority countries have a critical responsibility here: to speak with unity, to act collectively where must be nurtured, not squandered. Hamas's possible, and, when required, to leverage political or economic influence to ensure that agreements are more than symbolic. With-out such cohesion, the cycle of conflict is potential turning points. Yet, as history likely to persist, undermining the hope that

There is also a moral imperative embed- forcement weak. ded in this moment. Gaza's civilians, who Palestine indicate that a meaningful con- surrender certain weapons to Palestinian have borne the brunt of years of warfare, siege, and deprivation, must be placed at the center of any diplomatic calculus. Donald Trump. Unlike previous initiatives tion. Yet, Israel's position—reinforced by Human security—the protection of life, dig-that largely sidelined local voices, this ap- U.S. support—remains conditional, framing nity, and livelihoods—cannot be a peripheral proach hints at solutions anchored in Pales- concessions as prerequisites for compliance concern. Trade agreements, defence pacts, tinian agency, not merely external imposi- rather than reciprocal commitments. State- and security arrangements are important, tion. That distinction, subtle though it may ments from figures including U.S. Secretary but they cannot replace the fundamental dictated from afar; it must resonate with the Trump underline this asymmetry: expecta- aid, and infrastructure reconstruction. Diplo- accountable diplomacy can the cycle of contions of Israeli withdrawal, prisoner ex- matic success must be measured not in flict be broken, and the region move closer Pakistan, alongside other Muslim-major- changes, and the transfer of administrative headlines or press briefings, but in the to a settlement that is not only durable but ity countries, has sought to mediate care- control all depend on conditions that are far restoration of essential services, the return just. The cautious calm should not be mis-

mination, offers a glimmer of promise in an leverage required to secure a durable and for constructive engagement, but it is frag- it can be achieved through courage, coherotherwise intractable conflict. Diplomacy in just settlement remains weak. Diplomatic ile. Real progress will require more than ne- ence, and unflinching commitment to Gaza has often been reduced to state- engagement risks being reduced to cere- gotiation tables and press releases; it will human dignity. ments, summits, and photo opportunities; monial gestures unless the international demand political courage, coherence today, the emphasis on Palestinian agency community—particularly governments with among international partners, and an unwa- ficer and a senior analyst on national and is a reminder that the legitimacy of any out- historical influence over the actors in ques- vering commitment to prioritizing the aspira- international affairs, can be reached at come rests on local endorsement as much tion—assumes an assertive role in ensuring tions and protections of Palestinians them- inam@metro-morning.com

compliance. Advocacy alone is insufficient; selves. Every decision, every concession, mediation must be coupled with accounta- and every agreement must be evaluated the fragile calm de- Hamas's announcement that it is prepared bility, monitoring, and the political courage against the tangible impact it has on those living under occupation, siege, or the constant threat of renewed violence.

Ultimately, the promise of peace in Gaza is contingent, not assured. The window for ter; only those rooted in consent, accountability, and justice can endure.

The cautious optimism now emerging gestures, the willingness of neighboring states to mediate, and the tentative signals teaches, fragility can quickly yield to violence if diplomacy is half-hearted or en-

The task for Pakistan, alongside other regional partners, is to ensure that the dialogue in Cairo and beyond translates into concrete protections, sustained governance structures, and pathways to normalcy for ordinary Palestinians.

In Gaza, as elsewhere, hope must be married to action, words to enforcement, and promises to measurable outcomes. need for civilian protection, humanitarian Only through principled, coordinated, and of families to safe homes, and the resump- taken for resolution; it is, instead, an opportion of education and healthcare for those tunity—a narrow, precious window—for the international community and regional actors The tentative calm offers an opportunity to prove that peace is more than aspiration:

The writer is a former government of-

### Tyson and the lesson of unconditional love

By Atiq Raja



tense, where people wear ever could. masks to conceal fear.

unshakable, and deeply spiritual, speaking in

veiled in layers of pre-recognize honesty faster than any intellect

Where we shield ourselves with emotional of authenticity. They offer purr, a bird's fearless perch on your shoulunburdened by calculation, social expecta- but expressions of connection, untainted by tion, or self-interest. Their love is instinctive, ego or calculation. They demonstrate that love, at its most profound, is simple: a matter reaches the most profound parts of our hu-sider Tyson, a stray dog whose story has left tional walls, evaluating, analyzing, and some- ment our eyes met, there was an unspoken times manipulating relationships. Animals, understanding. I never formally adopted however, love differently. They love purely, Tyson, and he had no formal claim to my guage, contracts, or promises. without expectation. A dog, a cat, a bird—they household. And yet, over time, it became

respond to the energy we radiate, the sincer- clear that we had adopted each other--not and presence. Animals interpret our emoity we embody. They feel our essence, not through ownership or possession, but through tions—our kindness, fear, sadness, joy—in n a world where human our curated appearances. In their eyes, the mutual trust. Tyson's presence is a quiet mir- ways humans sometimes fail to perceive. interaction is often truth of a human heart is laid bare; their hearts acle. I travel frequently, sometimes away for They respond not to words but to energy, inreturn, there he is, tail wagging, eyes gleam-sion; it is recognition. His devotion is silent yet ambition, or insecurity, an- masks, animals move through life with au- ing, waiting as though he had known all along resolute. He does not need my assurance or imals remain a rare mirror thenticity. A dog's wagging tail, a cat's gentle when I would arrive. There is no message, no my accolades; he needs only that my preshint, no intermediary. Just the certainty of cona window into existence der-these gestures are not performances nection, of recognition. He sits by the gate, content in the simple fact that we are reunited. He spends hours nearby, not demanding attention, not seeking reward—simply existing a language that requires no words yet of presence, attention, and recognition. Con- in the shared space of belonging. Even my manity. Humans tend to complicate love. We an indelible mark on my understanding of riosity, are captivated by Tyson. They speak attach conditions to affection, weigh it against love. He arrived one day near my home: un- to him, touch him, and in return, his calm yond the domestic sphere: love does not status, or measure it with a ledger of past kempt, wary, and hungry, carrying the visible presence communicates everything a thougrievances. We protect ourselves with emo-scars of life on the street. Yet from the mo-sand words could not: "I know you are my people." In Tyson's company, one begins to of AR Trainings and Consultancy, with deunderstand that love does not require lan-

It demands only sincerity, attentiveness.

weeks or months. During those absences, he tention, and consistency. There is a profound disappears without a trace. But the instant I lesson in Tyson's loyalty: love is not possesence matches the energy he has learned to trust. And he responds in kind, offering devotion that is unbreakable by betrayal, unshaken by circumstance. In his gaze, there is no judgment, no demand, no hidden agenda. There is only recognition of connection, of the bond children, who see life in the candid light of cu-formed beyond utility or social expectation. The lessons animals impart extend far beneed perfection—it needs presence.

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### Kashmir's tale of two realities

**By Syed Shamim Akhtar** 



Delhi to adhere to both international law and United Nations resolutions. In a statement from the Foreign Office, the spokesperson commonplace. emphasized that instead of levelling unfounded accusations, India should acknowl-Jammu and Kashmir, and refrain from inter-

fering in Pakistan's internal affairs.

surrounding Azad markedly different from the methods emunderscore a familiar but administers. The contrast between Azad tional law remains an es- residents, where elected representatives exagain rejected India's repeated attempts to Kashmir, however, the reality is far more manipulate this narrative, calling on New troubling. Civil liberties are tightly curtailed, political dissent is met with repression, and the use of force against civilians has become

occurred in Srinagar, where Indian authori- appears to follow the same pattern: projectedge its responsibilities under the UN Charties seized the home of the late Kashmiri ing an image of Pakistan as destabilizing voices of ordinary citizens are systematically ter, respect the rights of the people of Azad leader Syed Ali Geelani. Geelani, who while ignoring its own role in perpetuating vi-Pakistan reaffirmed its commitment to Kashmiri struggle for autonomy. His widow, straint. The government's swift response to reached at news@metro-morning.com

protecting the dignity, political and civil rights, now in her eighties, was still residing in the and social and economic development of property when it was taken, exemplifying a ne ongoing tensions Azad Kashmir's residents—an approach continuing pattern of intimidation and harassment directed at those connected to brute force, Pakistan's approach demon-Jammu and Kashmir ployed by Indian authorities in the region it Kashmir's political history. Such actions are strates that addressing grievances through emblematic of a broader strategy of represurgent truth: the narrative Kashmir and Indian-administered Kashmir sion, including forced disappearances, curbs of the region continues to could not be starker. Pakistan highlights the on free expression, and systematic violations be contested, and interna- democratic participation of Azad Kashmir's of human rights targeting ordinary citizens.

India's persistent efforts to malign Paksential reference point for ercise political agency within the framework istan on the international stage have been a lence in its administered territories. The use justice and accountability. Pakistan has once of lawful governance. In India-administered recurring feature of its foreign policy approach. From attacks like Pulwama and Pathankot to more sensational claims reminiscent of Mumbai-style false-flag operations, India has sought to divert global attention from its own transgressions in Kashmir. A recent and deeply troubling example Its recent rhetoric concerning Azad Kashmir passed away under house arrest in Septem- olence and repression. Yet, Pakistan has

protests in Azad Kashmir, with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif directing a joint action committee to engage demonstrators and address their concerns, illustrates a commitment to peaceful resolution and participatory governance.

Unlike India, which often responds with dialogue and institutional mechanisms is both possible and effective. The hypocrisy in India's position is glaring. While accusing Pakistan of interference, India continues to enforce a regime of state-sponsored vioof coercion, curtailment of civil liberties, and targeted suppression of political activists has become a defining characteristic of governance in the Valley. The house seizure of Geelani's widow, arbitrary detentions, and the frequent use of security forces to quell dissent reflect a system in which the exercise of basic rights is not tolerated, and the

silenced. The writer has diverse in knowledge ber 2021, was a prominent voice in the consistently acted with responsibility and re- and has a good omen in politics, can be

Metro Morning and its policy not necessarily consensus with any writer's thoughts



# MetroMorning

Wednesday, October 8, 2025



## Chinese investors seek joint projects with Sindh govt

The visiting delegation signaled readiness to co-finance key urban renewal and infrastructure projects, pledging major investment in Karachi's transport, housing, and civic development

By Sajjad Shah

KARACHI: Provincial Minister for Local Government, Housing, and Town Planning, Syed Nasir Hussain Shah, met a delegation of Chinese investors in Karachi to explore potential investment opportunities across Sindh.

The visiting delegation expressed strong interest in focus on improving infra- ing for the progress and and urban facilities in people. The Chinese team, and expand the Karachi- Sindh's Karachi and other parts of led by Hao Juejio, voiced its Rohri train service, in line agenda



Azhar Elahi, and Muhammad Danish, who held detailed discussions on mutual interests and future collaborations. Supporters and political analysts have praised the meeting as a sign of growing confidence among foreign investors in Sindh's economic potential, crediting jointly funding a range of de-government's commitment fare and the province's it to the strategic direction of velopment projects, with a to supporting investors work- growth," Minister Shah said. the PPP leadership. A key point of discussion

engagement is structure, transport, housing, prosperity of Sindh and its was the proposal to revive viewed as a major boost to worker's jacket and particiamid increasing the province. Welcoming the intent to collaborate on di- with ongoing extensions of competition for provincial ininvestors, Minister Shah verse initiatives aimed at im- the China-Pakistan Eco- vestment in Pakistan. As and cheers. The program is highlighted the rapid pace of proving the quality of life nomic Corridor (CPEC) into Sindh continues to position expected to modernize development under the vi- through better infrastructure regional transport networks. itself as a key hub for foreign waste collection and mansion of Pakistan People's and modern urban planning. The initiative is seen as an investment, the partnership Party (PPP) Chairman Bi- "Sindh is fertile ground for in- important step towards with Chinese investors lawal Bhutto Zardari and the vestment across various greater connectivity and eco- marks a significant milestone guidance of Chief Minister sectors, and we welcome nomic integration within Pak- in the province's journey to-Sindh Syed Murad Ali Shah. every opportunity that con- istan. The meeting was also wards sustainable growth CM Murad reaffirmed the tributes to our people's wel- attended by senior officials, and prosperity

### Punjab launches massive solid waste program

By Faizan Khan

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif inaugurated what she described as the world's including Secretary Local largest solid waste manage-Waseem ment program, aimed at Shamshad, Ali Mandviwala, serving the province's 150 million residents.

By ISPR

The launch event included the provision of 700 state-of-the-art vehicles and machinery to districts across Punjab to support the initiative. During the ceremony, Maryam Nawaz also unveiled the Clean Punjab Book and launched its accompanying website.

logical capability and strate-In a symbolic gesture, gic discipline. she donned a sanitation Bloomberg, General Sharif development | pated in the event alongside the workers, who greeted her with enthusiastic slogans agement across Punjab, improve urban cleanliness, and create more opportunities for sanitation workers, according to officials involved in the project.

#### Trump expected to attend ASEAN **Summit**

**News Desk** 

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump is eportedly set to participate in the upcoming ASEAN summit in Malaysia, scheduled to take place from 26 to 28 October.

According to US news outlet Politico, the White House has requested that rump be given the honour of presiding over a ceremony marking a peace agreement between Thailand and Cambodia. Reports indicate that the White House also sought to exclude Chinese officials from the event.

Officials reportedly told She announced that the Malaysian hosts that the Maryam said she felt es- Suthra Punjab initiative now | full credit for the peace accounter, was an Afghan na- roes" and said their efforts pecially proud visiting flood- had a force of 150,000 work- cord should go to Presitional who had obtained fake Pakistani citizenship docu- province's towns and vil- workers had "worked tire- the-art machinery deployed the agreement between

> If confirmed, Trump's presence would mark a significant moment in his ongoing diplomatic engagements in Southeast Asia, highlighting the US administration's focus on regional influence and leadership in peace initia-

### Kim Jong Un affirms solidarity

**News Desk** 

PYONGYANG: North Korean leader Kim Jong Un reaffirmed his country's unwavering support with Moscow in its efforts to safeguard national de-

Kim hailed the "eternal

stration of Pakistan's techno-

defence policy was rooted in parency in military reporting. the pursuit of reliability, costlocal, Eastern, or Western," formance" in operational

ndian aircraft had been de-



discipline. tion—matching the number procurement strategy, noting In an interview with cited by the US President in that the country sources denever "manipulated or con- he said, underscoring Islamcealed figures," and that its abad's commitment to trans-

India failed to down a

single jet in 'Operation

The army spokesman ment. efficiency, and technological dismissed suggestions of a Analysts said his remarks effectiveness. "We are pre- regional arms race, saying appeared aimed at reinforcpared to acquire technology Pakistan was not engaged in ing confidence in Pakistan's from all sources—whether a military competition with defence readiness while India. "Our defence budget is countering Indian claims surhe said, adding that recent far smaller than India's, and rounding the recent escala-Chinese defence platforms we do not have unlimited re-tion. The statement, they had shown "exceptional per-sources," he remarked. added, underscored Islam-"What we focus on is readi- abad's broader message-He confirmed that seven tion, not numerical parity."

stroyed during the confronta- lighted Pakistan's balanced rity doctrine.

Afghan refugees in Quetta

his address last week. fence equipment from both stressed that Pakistan had "These are verifiable facts," China and Western nations, driven by practical needs rather than political align-

> Analysts said his remarks ness, precision, and innova- that strategic restraint, coupled with credible capability. General Sharif also high- remains central to its secu-

### Wanted suspect 'Adam' killed in **Peshawar**

By our correspondent

PESHAWAR: Peshawar By Faizan Khan police killed a wanted suspect, identified as Adam, along with three of his associates during an encounter in Wah Cantt's Kohistan Colony.

cases involving terrorism, when I speak about Punjab," murder, and extortion. He she told a crowd in Lahore was notorious for posting on Tuesday. "If I don't talk threatening audio and video about Punjab, then who messages on social media. Police noted that Adam had previously fired at an engine oil warehouse in Pashtakhra, filming the attack and sharing it online.

lice warned that operations against such high-profile criminals would continue.

#### **US vetran warns** Tomahawk brigns world war

**MM Report** 

WASHINGTON: In a startling interview that has rippled through international diplomatic circles, retired US Colonel Douglas Macgregor has warned of the potential for a third world war if Ukraine uses American-supplied Tomahawk missiles against Russian targets.

Macgregor, a former senior adviser to the Trump administration's defence secretary, said such a move could draw the United States into direct conflict with Russia within hours.

His warning comes amid rising tensions, as Ukraine continues to press Western allies for more advanced weaponry to counter Russ- them unfit for leadership ian advances.

## CM Maryam says critics envy Punjab's progress

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif said that those who criticize her for talking about Punjab's development are Authorities said Adam "jealous" of the province's had been wanted in 13 progress. "It angers them

aring it online. jab (Clean Punjab) program. jab and made our cities champions of change left be-Officials confirmed that Wearing the program's shine. My head is held high hind piles of garbage." Adam, who was killed during bright uniform, she praised with pride. the Kohistan Colony en- sanitation workers as "he-

enforcement in Peshawar to is an honor for me to take reality," she added. "When small towns and villages in the negotiations. target organized crime and part in this program. If I can Shehbaz Sharif's govern- where sanitation services terrorism networks, and po- wear a police uniform, why ment ended, Punjab's sani- had long been neglected.



The chief minister was not this one? These workers tation system had collapsed. speaking at a ceremony to are part of my team — part During the era of Gogi and inaugurate a new sanitation of my family. They have Pinky, there was destruction fleet under the Suthra Pun- cleaned every corner of Pun- everywhere. The so-called

### Fazl demands KP chief minister quit over PTI turmoil

By our correspondent

ISLAMABAD: Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) Maulana Fazlur Rehman has demanded the immediate resignation of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur, accusing him of mismanagement and the "ruination" of the province. His remarks followed

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) decision to appoint Mahmood Khan Achakzai and Allama Raja Nasir in the National Assembly and Senate, respectively. Speaking to reporters, Rehman ex- Pakhtunkhwa. pressed disbelief at PTI's



outsiders as opposition lead- pointments, saying the deciers, which shows they do not sions were aimed at trust their own people," he strengthening the opposi-Abbas as opposition leaders said, claiming Gandapur's tion's stance against the govgovernance had brought ernment. devastation to Khyber

choices, suggesting the party ments have reignited ten- PTI's governance and leadeither lacks confidence in its sions between the two par- ership, particularly in KP, own members or considers ties, with PTI already facing where Gandapur has faced

"They have appointed within PTI confirmed the ap-

Rehman's demand for Gandapur's resignation has The JUI-F leader's com- added fuel to the debate over maneuvers. Sources dling of provincial affairs.

# with Russia

for Russia, saying Pyongyang would stand "shoulder to shoulder" velopment and security.

friendship" and "alliancebased ties" between the two nations, emphasizing that relations between Pyongyang and Moscow had scrutiny over its recent politi- growing criticism for his han- reached "unprecedented

# told to return home within three days

By Ghulam Hussain Baloch

QUETTA: Authorities in Balochistan have directed Afghan refugees living in the Sariab subdivision of Quetta to leave Pakistan and return to Afghanistan within three days, describing the move as part of an ongoing campaign to ensure the voluntary repatriation of undocumented migrants.

shops, businesses, and ment federal directives. other activities within the those who failed to comply.

The administration urged

authorities had intensified ef- authorities and respective According to official no- forts to track and verify the deputy commissioners. ments.

The operation underlined the continuing efforts by law the continuing the have been told to close their forcement agencies to imple-

> cials warned, legal action five Afghan refugee camps one of the largest in the would be taken against in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa as country. part of a broader policy shift. The Ministry of Kashmir Af- UNHCR, the majority of those willing to return volunfairs, Gilgit-Baltistan and Afghan refugees in Pakistan tarily to contact the desig-SAFRON (States and Froncurrently reside in Khyber nated focal person so that tier Regions) issued a notifi- Pakhtunkhwa, though signiftheir repatriation process cation ordering that the land icant populations remain in could be formally docu- of the closed camps be Balochistan mented. Sources said local handed back to provincial provinces.

Upper Dir. The Panian camp in Haripur, established over The federal government four decades ago, had given deadline. After the had earlier announced, on housed more than 100,000 three-day grace period, offi- 26 September, the closure of Afghan refugees, making it

According

### Karachi housing society linked to weed farming

By our correspondent

KARACHI: Karachi authorities uncovered a seation inside a private residential society near North Nazimabad.

The Sindh Excise and Narcotics Control Department carried out the raid, arresting a suspect identified as Muhammad Salman Sardar.
Officials said he had

cannabis at his home and distributing it in various particularly near educational institutions.

During the operation, authorities seized 45 cannabis plants, 42 grams of prepared weed, and 30 grams of seeds. The total weight of the

confiscated plants was estimated at around 10 to 12 kilograms, with an international market value approaching PKR 60 mil-

Deputy Director Zahoor Elahi Mazari said the suspect admitted to adopting this method after observing the high-profile Armaghan case.

tered against him, and further investigations are underway to trace the distribution network.

### Militant attack on Mastung bank sparks security concerns

**MM Report** 

cret weed cultivation oper- Bank branch in Mastung's eration. central market on Tuesday has once again thrust a rise in militant attacks Balochistan's fragile secu- across Balochistan, where rity situation into the spot- groups such as the Baloch light. Militants, reportedly Liberation Army (BLA) have linked to separatist groups, intensified strikes on secuescaped with 1.56 million rity installations and ecorupees (around \$5,600) nomic targets, including after a brief exchange with those linked to the Chinasecurity forces, who claimed Pakistan Economic Corridor been secretly growing the attackers abandoned (CPEC). The province, rich their weapons as they fled.

> showed police and paramil- tinues to struggle with instaitary personnel cordoning bility amid long-standing deoff the area while market ac- mands

resident, echoing frustration among community mem-MASTUNG: A brazen bers who question the effecarmed robbery at an Allied tiveness of the security op-

The robbery comes amid in resources yet scarred by Footage from the scene decades of insurgency, con-



tivity continued nearby, autonomy and control over Local officials described the local wealth. incident as a failed attempt by militants to spread fear, the Mastung robbery rethough the successful theft flects a shift in militant tac-

Security experts believe

of cash has drawn criticism tics, with insurgents increasthat the response was more ingly targeting financial symbolic than effective. institutions to fund their op-They took the money erations amid reported and ran; that's not a defeat shortages of external fifor them," said one local nancing.

### Israel frees ex-senator Mushtaq Ahmed from Samood Flotilla

**News Desk** 

AMMAN, JORDAN: Israeli authorities released former Jamaat-e-Islami senator Mushtaq Ahmed, who had been detained after joining the Samood Flotilla - a humanitarian mission bound for Gaza. The flotilla had attempted to deliver aid to Palestinians living under blockade when it was interthe Mediterranean.

Pakistan's Deputy Prime the Pakistani embassy in Minister and Foreign Minis- Amman. Dar added that the extended his gratitude to their release. Many of them international calls for unreter, Ishaq Dar, confirmed embassy stood ready to fa- what he described as were international volun- stricted humanitarian acthe news in a post on X, cilitate the former senator's "friendly nations" that had teers, aid workers, and ac- cess to the besieged terrisaying he was "pleased to return to Pakistan "in accor- assisted Pakistan's Ministry tivists who had joined the tory.



ing Ahmed's release. While tion to the humanitarian cri-Dar did not name the coun- sis in Gaza. tries involved, diplomatic sources suggested that re- underscored the heightened gional partners and interna- sensitivities surrounding tional humanitarian organi- maritime aid missions to coordinated efforts to en- described as attempts to sure the safe passage of breach its security perimeflotilla participants.

The episode once again

quietly Gaza, which Israel has long ter. For Islamabad, the safe According to Jordan's of- return of Mushtaq Ahmed ficial news agency, a total of also marked a small diplo-Samood Flotilla had arrived efforts to highlight the plight The foreign minister also safely in Jordan following of Palestinians and support

A case has been regis-

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of Foreign Affairs in secur- convoy to draw global atten-