



President directs steps to ensure food security amid floods



Digital Pakistan Initiative empowering youth, entrepreneurs



Gohar Ijaz warns govt of rupee's devaluation

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Wednesday 10 September 2025 Rabi ul Awwal 16, 1447 A.H VOI No: 05 Issue No. 247 Pages 4 Rs.20

PM directs FBR to reprimand tax evaders, facilitate taxpayers

ARIF MEHMOOD KHAN

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday directed the Federal Board of Revenue to utilise its own workforce and engage private sector to identify tax-evading individuals and companies.

The prime minister, chairing a meeting to review reforms in FBR, asked the organisation to provide a business-friendly environment and all possible facilities to taxpayers.

Calling the regular taxpayers the backbone of the national economy, he instructed the FBR to swiftly complete the Income Tax and Sales Taxpayers' Directory to honor taxpayers. Honoring taxpayers and reprimanding tax evaders will help expand the tax net, the prime minister said and directed hiring pro-

fessional services to identify tax evaders and recover revenue. He also called for launching a public awareness campaign on the government's measures against tax evasion. The prime minister also instructed the FBR to select top international auditors for third-party reviews of mis-declaration and under-invoicing in customs clearance, also emphasising a continuous third-party reviews to identify system flaws and further improve it. During the briefing, the prime minister was apprised of the measures being taken to identify tax evaders, complete the Taxpayers' Directory, and actions taken through super auditors to increase revenue. It was informed that work on completing the Taxpayers' Directory to honor income.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting regarding matters of FBR.

Funeral prayers of Major Adnan Aslam Shaheed offered at Chaklala: ISPR



SAMRA ATHAR

RAWALPINDI: Funeral prayers of Major Adnan Aslam Shaheed (age: 31 years, resident of Rawalpindi) who embraced martyrdom while undergoing treatment at Combined Military Hospital were held at Chaklala, Rawalpindi.

The officer gallantly fought the Indian proxy Fitna at Khawarji during their cowardly attack in Bannu on 2 September 2025.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Defence Minister, Information Minister, Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir NI (M), HJ, (COAS), serving Military and Civil Officers and relatives of Shaheed attended the funeral.

Major Adnan Aslam embraced shahadat with unflinching bravery.

Senior Hamas leaders killed in Israeli attack in Qatar

PEAK POINT

DOHA: Israel's military said it conducted a strike targeting senior Hamas leaders on Tuesday, as Qatar condemned an attack on buildings housing members of the Palestinian movement in the capital.

Qatar said Israeli strikes targeted the homes of several members of Hamas's political bureau residing in the Gulf country, where the group's senior leadership is based.

"The IDF (Israeli military) and ISA (security agency) conducted a precise strike targeting the senior leadership of the Hamas terrorist organisation," the Israeli military said, without specifying where the strike took place.

An Israeli military official told AFP that the military had carried out air strikes. "The name of the operation in Doha is



Summit of Fire. These were air strikes," a military official said.

Some Israeli media outlets reported that United States President Donald Trump had allowed the attack.

However, the Israeli prime minister's office said, "Today's action against the top terrorist chieftains of Hamas was a wholly independent Israeli operation. Israel initiated it, Israel conduct-

ed it, and Israel takes full responsibility."

White House Deputy Press Secretary Anna Kelly told Al Jazeera that there was no comment from the US administration at this time on the Israeli strikes.

"The US president is likely to be the first to comment on his Truth Social platform. Additionally, we have a press briefing coming up in three and a

half hours, and that is when the White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt will have the opportunity to answer a lot of questions," she said, adding that "whether the US commander in chief greenlighted this attack on Qatar — where the US has a military base — or not, is something for speculation at the moment."

"We were informed in advance," a White House official told AFP on condition of anonymity about the strike on Qatar, a key ally that's home to a large US military base. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said he ordered the strikes following a deadly shooting in Jerusalem a day earlier, claimed by the Palestinian group. "Yesterday, following the deadly attacks in Jerusalem and Gaza, Prime Minister Netanyahu instructed all security agencies to prepare for the possibility of targeting Hamas leaders.

Bahraini Interior Minister begins three-day official visit to Pakistan

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Bahraini Interior Minister Lt Gen Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa arrived in Islamabad Tuesday for a three-day official visit at the invitation of his Pakistani counterpart, Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi Minister of State for Interior Talal Chaudhry received the Bahraini dignity upon his arrival in the federal capital. A smartly turned-out contingent of Islamabad Police presented a salute to the visiting minister. Soon after, Lt. Gen. Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa visited the Pakistan.

Karachi experiences day-long showers as 3 dead in rain-related incidents

PEAK POINT

KARACHI: Karachi experienced showers throughout Tuesday as the Met Office warned that "torrential rains" could cause urban flooding and waterlogging in the city's low-lying areas.

Meanwhile, three people lost their lives in rain-related incidents, which included two teenagers, who lost their lives due to electrocution during the downpour.

The Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) said that a deep depression system that was to cause rain in the city had weakened into a depression that was now lying over central Sindh. It would continue to move nearly west/ south-west-ward and gradually



further weaken into a well-marked low pressure area during next 12 hours, the PMD added.

"Due to this system strong monsoon currents are continually penetrating in the province. Under its influence, widespread rain-wind/ thundershower with strong gusty winds along with scattered heavy to very heavy/ isolated excep-

tional heavy falls are expected in ... Karachi division till tomorrow with occasional gaps." A view of a road in the Saddar area of Karachi following rain in the city on Tuesday. — DawnNewsTV The Met Office warned that "torrential rains" could cause urban flooding and water logging in low-lying areas of Karachi. A day earlier,

Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) focal person Anjum Nazeer Zaigham said that "heavy to very heavy" rain was expected in the city today in four to six spells from the morning till night. Three dead in rain-related incidents Three people lost their lives in rain-related incidents, which included 2 teenagers who lost their lives due to electrocution during the downpour. Police surgeon Dr Summayia Syed told Dawn.com that two teenagers whose cause of death was electrocution were brought from Sohrab Goth and Khawaja Ajmer Nagri, respectively, at Abbasi Shaheed Hospital for legal formalities. Sohrab Goth police SHO Mumtaz Marwat told Dawn.

Lahore ATC jails senior PTI leaders for 10 years in May 9 riots case



PEAK POINT

LAHORE: An Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) on Tuesday sentenced PTI leaders Yasmin Rashid and Ejaz Chaudhry to 10 years in prison each over the May 9 riots case, while acquitting Shah Mahmood Qureshi. ATC Judge Manzoor Ali Gul conducted the hearing at Kot Lakhpat Jail in Lahore, related to the case of burning the car of a Supreme Court judge at Rahat Bakery Chowk on May 9, 2023. Similarly, PTI leaders Mian Mehmood-ur-Rasheed and Umar Sarfraz Cheema were also awarded 10 years' imprisonment each. The court also awarded a five-year sentence to PTI leader Khadija Shah in the same case. However, Rubina Jameel and Afshan Tariq were acquitted. The development adds to the mounting legal woes faced by the Imran Khan-founded PTI, which has seen scores of leaders getting prison sentences over the May 9 riots while several others, including the former prime minister, remain behind bars in a plethora of cases.



SPORTS



'We're ready to take on challenges,' says Agha as Asia Cup 2025 trophy unveiled



PEAK POINT
DUBAI: The Asia Cup 2025 trophy was officially unveiled on Tuesday in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) with captains of all the eight teams sharing excitement ahead of the tournament set to begin today.

The trophy was unveiled by Asian Cricket Council (ACC) President Mohsin Naqvi, as media and officials gathered for the high-profile launch.

event was the handshake and exchange of greetings between the captains of Pakistan and India, which quickly became the center of attention.

During the press conference, captains from all teams addressed questions from the media, with their body language and smiles reflecting the excitement and intensity ahead of the much-anticipated tournament.

Pakistan captain Salman Agha expressed full confidence in his side, stating: "As a team, we

are fully prepared and excited for the Asia Cup. It's a big test for us, but we will take on the challenge with complete confidence."

He acknowledged that the team is aware of its weak areas but emphasized that they are working on every aspect of their game.

"Challenges will come, but we aim to enjoy the game together as a team. We've performed well collectively and will continue to do so moving forward," he added.

Indian skipper Suryakumar Yadav said his team is equally

excited, noting that in this format, "any team can deliver an extraordinary performance." He also highlighted the significance of returning to T20 cricket after a break.

Afghanistan captain Rashid Khan stressed the importance of the tournament for his team, promising hard work and full commitment. "We've been unlucky in some previous tournaments, but we'll give our 100% and aim for positive results," he stated.

PCB reschedules Third Round of Hanif Mohammad Trophy due to heavy rain forecast

PEAK POINT
ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) on Monday announced that the third round of the Hanif Mohammad



Trophy has been pushed back by a day because of expected heavy rains in host cities.

Originally slated to begin on Wednesday, September 10, the matches will now commence on Thursday, September 11, in Bahawalpur, Karachi, Multan, and Rahim Yar Khan.

"In view of the weather forecast, the six fixtures of the third round of the ongoing Hanif Mohammad Trophy have been rescheduled to start on Thursday, 11 September instead of Wednesday, 10 September," the PCB confirmed in a statement.

Usman Shinwari announces retirement from international cricket

PEAK POINT
LAHORE: Left-arm fast bowler Usman Khan Shinwari has announced his retirement from international cricket, having represented Pakistan in a one-off Test, 17 ODIs and 16 T20Is from December 2013 to December 2019. Usman became Pakistan's T20I cap 58, ODI cap 216 and Test cap 240 – all against Sri Lanka, in December 2013, October 2017 and December 2019, respectively.

Asia Cup 2025: Afghanistan defeat Hong Kong by 94 runs



PEAK POINT
SHARJAH: Afghanistan grabbed a thumping 94-run victory over Hong Kong courtesy of Sediqullah Atal and Azmatullah Omarzai's half-centuries and disciplined bowling performance in the opening match of the ACC Men's T20 Asia Cup 2025 at the Zayed Cricket Stadium on Tuesday.

Chasing a daunt-

ing 189-run target, jointly led Hong Kong could only accumulate 94/9 in their set of 20 overs despite top-order batter Babar Hayat's anchoring knock.

Babar waged a lone battle for Hong Kong in the run chase with a cautious 39 off 43 deliveries. Besides him, only skipper Yasim Murtaza could reach double figures, scoring a 26-ball 16.

Gulbadin Naib had a contrasting start to their innings as

they lost Rahmanullah Gurbaz (eight) and Ibrahim Zadran (one) inside three overs with just 26 runs on the board.

Following the back-to-back blows, experienced all-rounder Mohammad Nabi joined Atal for a recovering 51-run partnership for the third wicket.

Nabi, who was the core aggressor of the crucial stand, fell victim to Kinchit Shah on the first delivery of the 11th over after scoring 33 off 26 deliveries with the help of three fours and a six.

Atal was then involved in a brief 18-run partnership for the fourth wicket with Gulbadin Naib (five) as Shah struck again in his next over to reduce Afghanistan to 95/4 in 13 overs.



PESHAWAR: Players, participating wheelchair tennis training camp in a group photo with Chief guest here on Tuesday.

Jhelum and Sialkot trials reaffirm Punjab's rich cricketing culture

PEAK POINT
ISLAMABAD: The Prime Minister Youth Program (PMYP) cricket trials, spearheaded by Lahore Qalandars, continued their successful journey with back-to-back stops in Sialkot and Jhelum, attracting thousands of enthusiastic young boys and girls eager to showcase their cricketing talent.

The trials, designed to provide aspiring cricketers with a pathway to professional opportunities, were met with overwhelming response. Both venues witnessed a sea of energetic youth, determined to prove their skills and seize the chance of a lifetime.

Adding prominence to the Jhelum trials, Federal Minister Bilal Kiyani personally hosted the proceedings, while the presence of US Chargé d'Affaires Natalie A. Baker on day one added

international recognition and highlighted the global significance of the initiative. Their presence not only boosted the morale of the young cricketers but also reinforced the importance of investing in youth development program a resounding success. He also extended special thanks to the youth of Sialkot and Jhelum for their remarkable turnout.

"The passion and energy we witnessed in Sialkot and Jhelum were beyond expectations. I would especially like to thank the youth of these cities, who turned out in such large numbers and made these trials truly memorable. This platform is proof that dreams can come true if talent is given the right opportunity," said Atif Rana.



Pakistan's Saad Habib Malik poses with trophies after winning the 4th National Amateur Golf Championship of Pakistan in Karachi.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environment Coordination Dr. Musadik Malik Meets Ireland First Ambassador to Pakistan, Ms. Mary O'Neill.

Pakistan, Ireland explore climate cooperation as Musadik Malik meets first Irish Ambassador

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination Dr. Musadik Malik on Tuesday met Ireland's first ambassador to Pakistan, Mary O'Neill, to discuss ways the two countries can work together on climate change and sustainable development. The meeting comes after Ireland opened its first embassy in Islamabad last year, a move seen as strengthening bilateral ties. Both sides focused on the

pressing environmental challenges facing Pakistan and Ireland, including the need for innovative solutions in renewable energy, climate financing, and community-driven green initiatives. Highlighting the broader global context, Dr. Malik said climate action has suffered from shrinking international cooperation. "The world is gradually moving from multilateralism towards bilateralism and, in some instances, unilateralism. This has reduced support for climate-related initiatives, making self-reliance

increasingly necessary," he said. He added that for developing nations like Pakistan, which are already facing severe climate impacts, building such self-reliance remains a major challenge. Dr. Malik also unveiled the Ministry's upcoming two-pronged strategy. The first priority, he said, is to strengthen "traditional competence" by enhancing Pakistan's ability to secure climate funds and design projects that deliver tangible benefits, particularly for rural and marginalized communities.

Gilani meets Secretary General of Inter-Parliamentary Speakers'

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani met Secretary General of the Inter-Parliamentary Speakers' Conference, Ek Nath Dhakal, at his residence in Islamabad. The meeting focused on the future direction of the Conference, with Chairman Senate stressing the importance of enhancing its effectiveness and ensuring that the upcoming session in



November delivers meaningful outcomes for the people and the region. The Chairman highlighted pressing regional concerns such as the climate crisis and poverty alleviation, while underscoring that the November Conference is dedicated to advancing multilateral cooperation among parliamentary institutions. He emphasized that inter-parliamentary collaboration is vital for promoting

dialogue, shaping inclusive policies, and addressing shared challenges. The Secretary General of the ISC expressed his commitment to work in close coordination with the Senate of Pakistan to make the November Conference a success. The meeting underscored the resolve of parliamentary leaders in the region to work collectively for sustainable development and shared prosperity.

Opinion & Editorial

Women in the Shadow of Disaster: Gender Inequality in Flood Relief



Sidra Sadozal
Resident Editor
Daily Peak Point

Over 33 million people were impacted when Pakistan was hit by the devastating floods in 2022. Whole communities were uprooted, livelihoods were destroyed, and villages vanished under the sea. However, one group was disproportionately burdened by this shared tragedy—women. From Sindh to Balochistan, women and girls had to contend with centuries of gender inequality that made them more vulnerable

during relief and recovery efforts, in addition to the rising waters. The Disaster's Invisible Victims. Although disasters are frequently referred to as "great equalizers," in practice, they exacerbate preexisting disparities. Women were less likely to be prioritized in the distribution of aid, have access to transportation for evacuation, and control the financial resources needed for reconstruction in Pakistan's flood-affected areas. Due to social norms that limit women's freedom of movement, many of them were stranded at home when floodwaters rose and were unable to quickly seek shelter.

The lack of gender-sensitive planning made it even more difficult for displaced families to survive in makeshift camps. Women were compelled to suffer humiliation in silence, there were few sanitary facilities, and there was no privacy. Many teenage girls stopped going to school altogether, according to reports from flood camps, and women with disabilities were left without any assistance. Safety and Health: A Crisis Inside a Crisis. A secondary health catastrophe was brought on by the floods, especially for women. Maternal healthcare became almost impossible to access

as clinics were destroyed or submerged. Pregnant women frequently gave birth without trained attendants in dangerous circumstances. Nearly 650,000 pregnant women were directly impacted by the floods, according to UN estimates, and many of them experienced potentially fatal complications as a result of inadequate medical care. Furthermore, the risks of gender-based violence (GBV) were higher for women and girls. They were subjected to abuse, exploitation, and harassment in overcrowded camps without adequate lighting or safe areas. Many found it impossible to pursue justice in settings where their

voices were silenced by weak law enforcement and cultural taboos. The Disparity in Relief Distribution by Gender. Historically, Pakistan has not taken into account the unique needs of women when distributing flood relief. Food staples and tents were frequently given priority in aid packages, while necessities like sanitary pads, infant formula, and women's clothing were frequently overlooked. Women who were widowed or separated during the disaster were completely excluded from receiving aid because men were frequently listed as the "heads of households." The lack of

women in decision-making positions within disaster management organizations is a more fundamental structural issue that is reflected in this failure. Plans and policies do not take into account the lived realities of women when they are not represented at the table. The Ethical and Legal Obligations. Article 25 of the Pakistani Constitution ensures equality before the law, and Article 38 requires the government to give all citizens social and economic protection. Pakistan has endorsed the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030), which emphasizes the sig-

nificance of gender-sensitive disaster management, and is a signatory to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). However, there is still a huge disconnect between theory and reality. The state breaches both international and constitutional commitments by ignoring the needs of women in disaster response. Narratives of Resilience. Women in flood-affected areas have proven remarkably resilient in spite of systemic neglect. Many took on the role of frontline responders, setting up communal kitchens, providing

temporary education for kids, and helping other women who had been displaced. Women-led civil society organizations were instrumental in supplying safe spaces, psychosocial support, and sanitary kits. These tales highlight an important lesson: women are not only disaster victims but also agents of resilience and healing. However, recognition, resources, and representation are necessary for them to be able to lead. Moving Ahead with Gender-Responsive Disaster Management. Relief and recovery efforts must be reorganized using a gender perspective if Pakistan is to safeguard women in Pakistan is to adequately safeguard its citizens during emergencies.

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of the event of future calamities. This comprises: Making sure women are represented on all levels of disaster management committees is known as inclusive planning. Safe Shelters: Creating relief camps with distinct, safe areas for women and girls, complete with restrooms and childcare. Health Services: As part of emergency relief, ensuring psychological support, reproductive health services, and maternal healthcare.

Delivering relief packages that are tailored to the needs of women in a gender-sensitive manner is known as targeted aid. Legal Protection: Improving systems to stop and address gender-based violence in disaster situations. Creating temporary schools to keep girls from permanently leaving school is known as education continuity. Conclusion: Gender Equity Is Necessary for Justice

Disasters happen in societies that are shaped by inequality, not in a vacuum. The floods in Pakistan revealed a harsh reality: although the land was submerged, the ingrained gender disparities that hinder women's survival were also revealed. The right to safety, dignity, and relief is a basic human right, not a privilege. Disaster management needs to adopt gender equity as a pillar of humanitarian response and move past a one-size-fits-all approach if

The cycle of vulnerability and marginalization will recur with each monsoon if women are still left in the shadows of disasters. However, Pakistan can transform its disaster response into a social justice initiative as well as a recovery effort if their needs and voices are prioritized in policy and practice.

Pakistan, Kazakhstan vow to deepen bilateral ties, tap vast potential



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Kazakhstan on Tuesday, recognizing vast potential and opportunities, vowed to strengthen their strategic partnership, aiming to elevate bilateral relations to new heights across multiple domains.

In their opening remarks ahead of delegation-level talks, Deputy

Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Ishaq Dar and his Kazakh counterpart Murat Nurtleu unanimously reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening the time-tested and deep-rooted bilateral ties in trade, economy, and other key areas. In his remarks, Deputy Prime Minister Dar said that there existed a great scope for both countries to take relations to a higher level. He said that Pakistan

was a proponent of peace, stability, development, and prosperity within the region and beyond, particularly the Central Asian states. Reiterating Pakistan's desire for a strong partnership with Kazakhstan, the deputy prime minister said that mutual respect, trust, and goodwill would form the basis for common aspirations for peace and prosperity as both countries enjoyed common views on most regional and international matters. Ishaq Dar said that he looked forward to the visit of Kazakh President Kassym-Jomart Kemeluly Tokayev in upcoming November and that one of the key objectives of their delegation-level talks was to finalize the detailed program of the visit. Kazakhstan Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Murat Nurtleu, in his remarks, expressed his country's readiness to expand mutual engagements and bring both nations closer. "Our partnership.

Digital Pakistan Initiative empowering youth, entrepreneurs

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Minister for National Food Security and Research, Rana Tanveer Hussain on Tuesday said that Digital Pakistan Initiative was empowering youth, entrepreneurs and industry in order to revolutionize the manufacturing sector of the country. Addressing the International Summit on Redefining Digital Manufacturing the minister commending Octave Technology Solutions (OTS) for organizing a timely and impactful event.

The event brought together national and international experts, industry leaders, and practitioners under one roof, said a press release. The minister emphasized that manufacturing has historically been the backbone of national economies, yet in today's interconnected world, competitiveness no longer rests on production capacity alone.

He stated that nations must embrace digital technologies, automation, and advanced engineering solutions in order to keep pace with global innovation.

He observed that cutting-edge tools such as 3D scanning, reverse engineering, additive manufacturing, and precision metrology are

redefining industries worldwide, and Pakistan must adapt swiftly if it is to secure its place in the global supply chain.

Rana Tanveer Hussain underlined that the Government of Pakistan has placed industrial modernization and digital transformation at the heart of its economic strategy.

He noted that the establishment of the Pakistan Digital Authority (PDA) under the Digital Nation Pakistan Act 2025 is a major milestone, providing an apex platform to lead the national digital transformation, frame the National Digital Masterplan, enforce governance standards, and enable Industry 4.0 adoption. He further highlighted that through the Special Technology Zones Authority (STZA), high-tech hubs such as Islamabad Technopolis are being developed to promote research, digital manufacturing, and global partnerships. He added that the Engineering Development Board (EDB) is working rigorously to upgrade the industrial sector, particularly in automotive, machinery, and engineering value chains, while the National Aerospace Science & Technology Park (NASTP), inaugurated in 2023, is positioning Pakistan as a center for aerospace.



ISLAMABAD: "Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research, Rana Tanveer Hussain, addressing the International Summit on Redefining Digital Manufacturing.

Innovation key to sustainable development: Ahsan Iqbal

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Tuesday said innovation was essential for achieving sustainable development, describing knowledge and research as the driving forces behind transformation in any society.

Addressing the inaugural session of the 30th International Summit titled "Redefining Digital Manufacturing: Concept-to-Product," he said Pakistan

has the potential to become a global leader in technology, citing the country's successful development of nuclear capabilities and the JF-17 fighter jet despite limited resources.

"A country that could develop nuclear weapons and fighter aircraft in the face of adversity can also lead in industrial production and innovation," he said.

Ahsan Iqbal stressed that politics was not a social media game, lamenting that political discourse in Pakistan has been reduced to viral trends and sensational-

ism. "Unfortunately, we turned politics into a game of social media. But social media cannot decide the fate of a nation—it is only a tool for entertainment," he added.

Commenting on Pakistan's development journey, he recalled the launch of Vision 2010 in 1998 by the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) government, which he said had anticipated many of the current challenges. However, he regretted that a political shift two years later disrupted the momentum.

In 2013, he said the PML-

N government introduced Vision 2025, formulated through nationwide consultations with over 1,000 experts aimed at positioning Pakistan among the top 20 global economies by 2025.

He highlighted that by 2017, Pakistan's global brand was the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

However, he said, a subsequent political experiment derailed progress. "A nuclear-armed country's steering wheel was handed to someone who lacked the experience to even run a union council. When you give the

President directs steps to ensure food security amid floods



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari on Tuesday directed the Ministry of National Food Security to take urgent measures to safeguard food security in the country in the wake of the recent flood devastation.

The president, in a meeting with Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research Rana Tanveer Hussain at Aiwan-e-Sadr, stressed the need to protect farmers, ensure uninterrupted availability of

essential commodities, and promote modern, climate-resilient agricultural practices.

He expressed confidence that the ministry would continue to take effective measures to enhance productivity, improve storage and distribution systems, and build long-term resilience in the agriculture sector.

Former Federal Minister and Parliamentary Leader of the Pakistan Peoples Party in Senate Sherry Rehman also attended the meeting.

Pakistan, Kazakhstan eye maritime cooperation, regional connectivity

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: A Kazakh delegation led by Transport Minister Nurlan Sauranbayev held talks with Ministry of Maritime Affairs on Tuesday to strengthen cooperation in seaports and regional connectivity.

The delegation, received by Federal Secretary Syed Zafar Ali Shah, discussed opportunities for collaboration on Pakistani ports and multimodal transport corridors linking Central Asia with the Arabian Sea through road, rail and sea routes, said a press release.

Shah underlined the strategic position of Pakistan's ports, offering access to South Asia, Central Asia, Gulf countries, and beyond.

He said Kazakhstan could



benefit from container handling, logistics, off-dock terminals, free trade zones, and other port facilities under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), noting that Pakistan's tariffs were regionally competitive.

Officials from Karachi Port Trust (KPT) and Port Qasim Authority (PQA) highlighted spare capacity to handle Central Asian cargo, while stressing that a dedicated multipurpose terminal at Gwadar was crucial for long-term trade growth.

SAPM Haroon meets President MCCL, discusses industrial policy

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Industries and Production Haroon Akhtar Khan on Tuesday held a meeting with the President of the Mirpur Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) and discussed the country's new industrial policy. During the meeting, they also discussed opportunities for joint ventures with China, investment in the textile sector, as well as in solar systems and battery manufacturing capacity, said a news release.

The SAPM said that under the vision of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Pakistan is moving on the path of progress. He



highlighted that the recent visit to China proved to be extremely productive and will open the doors for new joint ventures.

"Due to the tireless efforts of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, investment from China is continuously flowing into Pakistan", he added.

Haroon emphasized that value addition is essential to enhance Pakistan's exports.

keys of a complex vehicle to an untrained driver, you end up with a crash."

The minister said on April 1, 2022, for the first time in Pakistan's history, the Ministry of Finance refused to release the final quarter of the development budget, saying it had "not a single rupee. That day, Pakistan internally defaulted," he said. This year, Ahsan Iqbal said, the government would establish National Center for Nanotechnology, National Center for Quantum Computing and National Center for Neo-

Manufacturing to prepare Pakistan's industries for the next industrial revolution. Besides, he said, the government was establishing a Quantum Valley in Islamabad, envisioned as "Pakistan's Future Silicon Valley, which would serve as a collaborative hub for entrepreneurs, academia, and venture capitalists to foster innovation and technological advancement. "Innovation through R&D is essential if we are to keep progressing," he said, adding that industry-academia linkages must be strengthened.