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CM Murad says Sindh gov't prepared to tackle floods

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Monday 15 September 2025

Rabi ul Awwal 21, 1447

A.H VOI No: 05

Issue No. 251 Pages 4 Rs.20

Ishaq Dar lands in Doha to attend Arab ministers' meeting on Israel's Qatar attack

PEAK POINT
DOHA: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar arrived in Doha on Sunday to attend a ministerial meeting ahead of an emergency summit of Arab and Muslim leaders on Israel's attack on Qatar.
Israel targeted Hamas leaders on Tuesday in strikes on the Qatari capital, killing five Hamas members and a Qatari security officer. The attack drew widespread international condemnation, including from Gulf monarchies allied with the United States, Israel's main backer. Dar will "lead Pakistan's delegation to the ministerial meeting ahead of the Emergency Arab-Islamic Summit", a statement by the Foreign Office (FO) said.
Upon arrival, the deputy PM was received

by Pakistan's Ambassador to Qatar Muhammad Aamer, Pakistan's envoy to the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), and senior officials of the Qatari government.
The Arab-Islamic summit — held under the umbrella of the 57-member OIC — is expected to draw heads of state and governments, along with senior officials, from across the Muslim world. PM Shehbaz Sharif is also set to attend the high-level moot. "The summit, sponsored by Pakistan, has been convened in the wake of Israel's airstrikes on Doha and the escalating developments, in Palestine — following Israeli attempts to occupy Gaza, expand settlement activities in the occupied West Bank and forcibly displace the Palestinians," an FO statement said yesterday.



DOHA: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, delivers statement at the Ministerial meeting ahead of the Emergency Arab-Islamic Summit.

Taliban claim an agreement is reached with US envoys on a prisoner swap as they seek better ties

PEAK POINT
KABUL: The Taliban said Saturday they reached agreement with US envoys on an exchange of prisoners as part of an effort to normalize relations between the United States and Afghanistan. They gave no details of a detainee swap and the White House did not comment on the meeting in Kabul or the results described in a Taliban statement. The Taliban released photographs from their talks, showing their foreign minister, Amir Khan Muttaqi, with President Donald Trump's special envoy for hostage response, Adam Boehler. On the issue of prisoners, Boehler "confirmed that the two sides would undertake an exchange of detainees," the Taliban statement said. No information was provided on how many people are being held in each country, who they are or why they were imprisoned.
The meeting came after the Taliban, in March, released US citizen George Glezmann, who was abducted while traveling through Afghanistan as a tourist. He was the third detainee freed by the Taliban since Trump took office.
The talks also came after the Taliban sharply criticized Trump's new travel ban that bars Afghans from entering the United States.



Choose either Pakistan or Fitnaul Khwarrij: PM Shehbaz's message to Afghan Gov't widely hailed

PEAK POINT
PESHAWAR: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif's unequivocal message to the Afghan interim government to choose between peaceful relations with Pakistan or continued support for the India's proxy terrorist outfit Fitnaul Khwarrij has received widespread support across security, academic and political circles in Pakistan.
The prime minister during talks after chairing a high-level security meeting yesterday at Bannu, drew a red line for Kabul, making it clear that harboring terrorists particularly those associated with the banned Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and Fitnaul Khwarrij would not be tolerated. "The



Afghan government must make a choice either to live peacefully with Pakistan or continue support for terrorism. The era of ambiguity is over, and terrorists would be dealt with full might," PM Shehbaz Sharif declared firmly. Syed Akhtar Ali Shah, former Inspector General of Police and ex-Home Secretary of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, praised the

Prime Minister's bold statement as both timely and clear in the wake of increase of terror incidents in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.
He said the PM's statement underlined a necessary shift in policy that prioritizes national security above all. He said the Prime Minister's bold statement came on an important time when terrorists attacks mostly planned

in Afghanistan have increased in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Talking to APP, he claimed that the nexus between Indian proxies TTP and Fitnaul Khwarrij elements using Afghan soil for subversive activities against Pakistan become intolerable and should be dealt with full might.
Citing the terms and conditions of the Doha Qatar agreement, Akhtar Ali Shah reiterated that the interim Afghan government is obligated not to allow its territory to be used for attacks on neighboring countries.
He said that arrest of Indian spy and serving Navy Commander Kulboshan Yadev had testified New Delhi direct involvement in fanning terrorism in Pakistan.

Voice of the masses suppressed: Salman Akram

PEAK POINT
GUJRAT: PTI general-secretary Salman Akram Raja has said the voice of the masses has been suppressed to establish fascism, adding PTI founder is in jail for the rights of people.
Talking to the media during his visit to flood-affected areas in Gujrat, Salman Akram Raja said that the founder of PTI is in jail for the rights of his people. "In this difficult time, we stand with the people who are reeling from floods. The system of fascism was established by suppressing.

Rubio says Qatar strike 'not going to change' US-Israel ties

PEAK POINT
WASHINGTON: The United States is "not happy" about Israeli strikes targeting Hamas in Qatar, but the attack will not change Washington's allied status with Israel, Secretary of State Marco Rubio said Saturday as he departed for the region.
Tuesday's air strikes — the first by Israel against US ally Qatar — have rocked the region and put huge strain on diplomatic efforts to bring about a truce in war-ravaged Gaza.
"What's happened has happened. Obviously, we were not happy about it, the president was not happy about it," Rubio told reporters shortly before departing Washington for discussions with officials in Israel.



"It's not going to change the nature of our relationship with the Israelis, but we are going to have to talk about it — primarily, what impact does this have" on the truce efforts, Rubio added.
"We need to move forward and figure out what comes next, because at the end of the day, when all is said and done, there is still a group called Hamas, which is an evil group."
Israel targeted Hamas leaders gathering in Qatar to discuss a new ceasefire proposal put forward by US President Donald Trump's administration.
Trump has called Israel's attack unfortunate, chided Prime Minister

Benjamin Netanyahu, and said the United States found out about the attack too late to stop it.
In addressing Rubio's visit, the State Department this week said only that the top US diplomat would discuss "operational goals and objectives" with Israel and show "the US commitment to Israeli security."
Rubio also confirmed he would take part in the inauguration of a new tunnel in Jerusalem's Old City for visitors approaching the Temple Mount, the holiest site for Jews, which is also sacred for Muslims as the Al-Aqsa compound. "The city of David is separate. I intend to go to that," Rubio said. The secretary of state's Israel trip is timed to occur barely a week before France leads.

Envoy Sadiq to convey Pak stern message to Kabul about TTP

PEAK POINT
ISLAMABAD: Special Representative of Pakistan on Afghanistan as Special Assistant to Prime Minister, with status of Minister of State, Ambassador Muhammad Sadiq Khan will visit Kabul early next week with a stern Pakistan's message for Afghanistan regarding facilitation of Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) by Kabul regime and provision of safe havens for them on Afghan soil. The diplomatic sources told The News/Jang here Saturday evening that Muhammad Sadiq, who has been visiting Kabul frequently in recent months as part of shuttle diplomacy to impress upon the Taliban administration not to assist TTP since this outlawed group is causing bloodshed in Pakistan. It is acquiring huge money, training of terrorism and weapons from India. Pakistan has been providing strong evidence to Taliban interim government on this count. The sources said that Taliban government has been assuring Pakistan that TTP would not be allowed to carry out such nefarious activities.





SPORTS



India defeat Pakistan by seven wickets in Asia Cup match

Pakistanis find solace in '6-0' after Asia Cup loss against India



PEAK POINT

DUBAI: India thumped Pakistan by seven wickets as the Men in Blue easily chased a 128-run target in the Asia Cup 2025 clash at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium on Sunday.

Chasing a modest 128-run target, India comfortably knocked the winning runs for the loss of three wickets and 25 balls to spare.

India got off to a blazing start to the pursuit despite Shubman Gill's dismissal in the second over as Abhishek set the tone with a blistering 31 off a mere 13 deliveries,

studded with four fours and two sixes before falling victim to Saim Ayub in the fourth over.

With the scoreboard reading 41/2 in 3.4 overs, Tilak Varma joined captain Suryakumar Yadav in the middle and the duo retained the momentum in India's favour by putting together 56 runs for the third wicket until Saim struck again, dismissing the left-handed batter in the 13th over.

Varma struck two fours and a six on his way to a run-a-ball 31.

His dismissal, however, did not hinder India's progress as Suryakumar guided them comfortably over the line with an unbeaten 47 off 37 deliveries, featuring five fours and a six – his highest individual score against Pakistan in T20Is. Saim remained the solitary wicket-taker for Pakistan, making three scalps for 35 runs in his four overs. Kuldeep Yadav was declared "Player of the Match" as he played vital role in India's victory by shattering Pakistan's middle order. Pakistan captain Salman Ali Agha's decision to bat first backfired as they could only accumulate 127/9 in their allotted 20 overs despite Sahibzada Farhan's gutsy knock.

Asia Cup: Pakistan, India captains avoid handshake

Pakistan skipper Salman Ali Agha and India's Suryakumar Yadav skipped the traditional handshake during the toss of Sunday's high-voltage Asia Cup 2025 clash at Dubai International Cricket Stadium.

After winning the toss, Salman Ali Agha elected to bat first and walked straight past India's team, while Suryakumar Yadav mirrored the gesture.

Both leaders appeared to ignore each other during the ceremonial proceedings.

Matches between the neighbours always attract global attention, but this time, the occasion carries a different sentiment.

The fallout from the May conflict — including disputes over downed aircraft, ceasefire breaches and political rhetoric — continues to overshadow sporting ties, amplifying the significance of this encounter.

Social media was abuzz with Indians calling for a boycott of Sunday's Asia Cup game with Pakistan, as people from the neighbouring nation called on their government to cancel the match with the Green Shirts.

PFF President meets LaLiga officials



JAVED KHAN

MADRID: With the support of the Prime Minister's Youth Programme (PMYP) and the Government of Pakistan, the Pakistan Football Federation (PFF) President Syed Mohsen Gilani held an important meeting in Spain with Mr. Juan Florit Zapata, Head of LaLiga Football Development.

The discussions, also attended by H.E. Mr. Zahoor Ahmed, Ambassador of Pakistan to Spain and Andorra.

The meeting focused on strengthening ties and exploring avenues of mutual growth, with particular attention to youth football, the development of a new league under the PFF, women's football and structured mentorship programs for coaches.

LaLiga officials expressed immense interest in Pakistan's football ecosystem and highlighted the potential for impactful partnerships to help nurture talent and strengthen the game in the country.

Sharing his views, PFF President Syed Mohsen Gilani expressed optimism about the future, stating that the collaboration with LaLiga would be a step forward in elevating football standards in Pakistan.

Huzaifa shines in defeat as Pakistan fall 3-1 to Paraguay in Davis Cup tie



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's Davis Cup hopes were dimmed as Paraguay sealed a 3-1 victory in their World Group II tie, but young Huzaifa Abdul Rehman emerged as a bright spot, showing grit and resilience against a

higher-ranked opponent. The tie opened with a thriller as Huzaifa pushed Paraguay's Alex Santino Nunez to three sets, according to information received here from Asunción, the capital of Paraguay. Despite

losing the opener 6-1, the 22-year-old Pakistani roared back to level the contest 7-5 before going down 6-4 in the decider. Huzaifa shines in defeat as Pakistan fall 3-1 to Paraguay in Davis Cup tie "I felt I was right there in the match. If I had con-

verted a couple of break points in the third set, the result could have been different," Huzaifa told APP after the match. "But this is the level I want to play at — tough matches where every point counts."

Muzammi Murtaza, however, found the going tough against Paraguay's top-ranked Daniel Valjejo, suffering a 6-0, 6-2 defeat that left Pakistan trailing 0-2. The experienced doubles pair of Aisam-ul-Haq Qureshi and Aqeel Khan briefly raised hopes by taking the first set 6-3 against Valjejo and Martin Antonio Vergara. Yet the Paraguayans stormed back to win 3-6, 6-1, 6-3, clinching the tie for their side.



Pakistan captain Salman Ali Agha and India's Suryakumar Yadav avoided shaking hands during the toss ahead of the ACC Men's Asia Cup 2025 clash at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium.

Asia Cup 2025: Sri Lanka beat Bangladesh by 6 wickets in Abu Dhabi

PEAK POINT

ABU DHABI: Sri Lanka started their Asia Cup 2025 campaign with a six-wicket victory over Bangladesh in match five of the tournament at Sheikh Zayed Stadium, Abu Dhabi on Saturday night.

The Charith Asalanka-led side chased down their target with four balls to spare, after electing to bowl first earlier in the evening.

Bangladesh, who had come into the contest on the back of an opening win over Hong Kong, struggled to impose themselves with the bat against a disciplined Sri Lankan bowling attack. Litton Das's men set a modest total that never quite tested their opponents.

Winning the toss proved crucial for Sri Lanka, who opted to field first under lights. Their seamers extracted early movement, while Wanindu Hasaranga provided

control in the middle overs. Bangladesh's batting lineup, which had impressed against Hong Kong, failed to replicate the same fluency, with wickets falling at regular intervals.

Despite contributions

sure. Pathum Nissanka anchored the innings, while Kusal Mendis added vital runs at the top. Captain Charith Asalanka steadied the chase in the middle overs before Dasun Shanaka and Kamindu Mendis closed out



from Tanzid Hasan and Litton Das, the innings could not gather significant momentum, leaving Bangladesh defending a below-par score at a venue where first-innings totals have averaged above 160 this tournament.

In reply, Sri Lanka's batting order displayed compo-

the contest. The winning runs came in the final over, sealing a six-wicket triumph with four balls remaining. The result not only handed Sri Lanka their first win of the tournament but also reaffirmed their ability to bounce back after a difficult July series loss to Bangladesh.



KASUR: Provincial Minister for Sports Faisal Ayub Khokhar giving a Trophy to winner of the Kabaddi match.



COMSTECH launches 3rd OIC Youth Forum in Dhaka to harness Biotechnology for Global Food Security

PEAK POINT
ISLAMABAD: With the world grappling with climate change, rising populations, and mounting food insecurity, the Coordinator General of OIC-COM-STECH, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Iqbal Choudhary, on Saturday opened the 3rd OIC Youth Forum on Agricultural Biotechnology at North South University (NSU), Dhaka. The landmark two-day event brings together policymakers, scientists, and youth leaders



from across the Muslim world to explore biotechnology as a game-changing solution for sustainable agriculture and global food security. The opening ceremony was attended by distinguished dignitaries, including Chief Guest Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed, Advisor to the Ministry of Finance and Technology, Ambassador Khusrav Noziri, Assistant Director-General, Mr. M.A. Kashem, Member, IOFS, and Prof. Abdul Board of Trustees, NSU; Mr. Aziz Al Vice-Chancellor, NSU, Chairman, who chaired the ses-

sion. In his keynote address, Prof. Choudhary recalled that the Youth Forum was envisioned as a platform for young scientists across OIC member states to connect, innovate, and collaborate. He highlighted the success of earlier editions in Islamabad and Kazakhstan, and emphasized that the Dhaka forum focuses on agricultural biotechnology and genome editing technologies—key tools in combating food insecurity and climate change.

Fresh monsoon alert issued for Punjab

PEAK POINT
RAWALPINDI: The Punjab Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) has issued an alert for the 11th spell of monsoon rains, warning of heavy showers in the upper catchment areas of rivers between September 16 and 19. According to the authority, the forecast raises the risk of flash floods in local streams and low-lying areas along riverbanks. Commissioners and deputy commissioners across the province have been directed to



remain on high alert and ensure that precautionary arrangements are in place. The PDMA has urged citizens to avoid recreational activities near rivers and water bodies during the forecast period, cautioning that heavy rainfall could trigger dangerous water flows. Authorities said rescue and emergency teams had been instructed to stay vigilant in order to respond quickly to any situation.

Senate warns of social media scams and PECA misuse

NADEEM TANOLI
ISLAMABAD: The Senate Standing Committee on Information and Broadcasting issued a stark warning on the dangers of unchecked social media, revealing how platforms in Pakistan are being exploited for financial scams, hate speech, and political harassment. Lawmakers also raised concerns about the misuse of the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act (PECA), even as the government announced new regulatory bodies to curb abuses. Under Agenda Item 5, the committee reaffirmed

PECA as the legal backbone for online regulation. The Minister for Information confirmed the creation of two new oversight bodies: a Social Media Protection Authority to oversee compliance and safeguard users, and a Social Media Companies Council to manage engagement with tech firms. The National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency (NCCIA) will remain the primary enforcement agency. The NCCIA reported that financial fraud is now the leading cybercrime, with 611 cases traced to social media and messaging apps.

A particularly alarming scam involves WhatsApp account hijacking, where criminals impersonate officials, extract one-time passcodes (OTPs), seize accounts, and then use them to solicit money from entire contact lists. Senator Irfan Siddiqui revealed they had personally been targeted, saying his name has been misused for over two years, while Senator Pervaiz Rashid cited fake appeals exploiting relief funds and the Benazir Income Support Program. Officials admitted that in account recovery often takes 12 hours, giving

criminals a critical window to exploit victims. Harassment and hate speech were also spotlighted. Journalist Tayyab Baloch testified that after questioning a political figure, his personal number was spread online with violent threats urging attacks against him. Senator Rashid said his WhatsApp was flooded with abuse and threats after one of his speeches, incidents officials said fall under PECA's Section 20. The NCCIA also reported 174 hate speech cases, most sectarian in nature, with spikes dur-

ing Muharram. Lawmakers cited the viral hate vlog of a state TV anchor who demeaned Sindh people as an example of inflammatory content that can ignite public outrage. In response, Pakistani authorities are pressing social media giants for stronger safeguards. Officials confirmed direct talks with WhatsApp's global law enforcement team, demanding visible branding on OTP messages to reduce fraud and faster recovery times—cutting delays from 12 hours to one hour. While progress remains slow, officials said

dialogue continues. The discussions highlighted social media's double-edged nature. While vital for communication and political expression, it is also a breeding ground for fraud, propaganda, and harassment. Lawmakers agreed that the creation of new regulatory authorities under PECA reflects the government's intent, but questions remain over whether these institutions can balance global corporate resistance with local misuse of cybercrime laws.

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Our invisible backbone

Dr Sharmila Faruqi
Shabana's day begins long before sunrise in Thatta. By four in the morning she is walking to fetch water. She cooks for her children, cleans for her in-laws, tends to her husband and then stitches clothes to earn a few rupees. By the time she collapses into bed at night, she has worked harder than most salaried employees. Yet her labour is invisible. It earns no pension, no recognition, no applause. Her daughter Ayesha once dreamed of being a teacher. Today, at only fourteen, she has left school to care for her siblings. Her childhood is slipping away, consumed by unpaid work. This is not just their story. It is the story of millions of women and girls across Pakistan. Caregiving responsibilities remain one of the biggest barriers to women's participation in the labour force. They trap women in what is often called 'time poverty', limiting their well-being, curbing education and cutting off personal development. In Pakistan, women and girls live what we call the 'double shift'. Even when employed full-time, they spend more than four hours a day on unpaid care work compared to just one for men. Yet none of this appears in GDP. For girls, the burden is even heavier. At home, the numbers speak for themselves. Twenty-six million children in Pakistan are out of school, most of them girls. Many are kept at home to care for siblings or do household chores. Gender norms dictate that care is a woman's responsibility. This expectation robs girls of their education, their health and their futures. In Pakistan, 18 per cent of girls are married before the age of 18—one out of every five. Every child bride represents another dream extinguished.

The climate crisis multiplies these burdens. When floods swept across Pakistan in 2022, schools and homes were washed away, leaving girls the first to drop out of school. When drought grips villages, girls walk further each year to fetch water, risking their safety and education. Every disaster increases unpaid care. Unless we build climate-resilient homes, schools and service delivery, we cannot build a resilient Pakistan. This September in Kathmandu, at the Asia-Pacific Forum on Care, I carried these voices from Pakistan. The message was clear: care is not a favour women perform; it is the backbone of our families, our communities, our economy. To build stronger societies, we must build care systems. Yet amidst all this, Pakistan has made progress. In 2023, parliament passed the Maternity and Paternity Leave Act, finally recognising that caregiving is a shared responsibility. In 2025, I introduced the Child Marriage Restraint Act in Islamabad, which was passed into law, strengthening Pakistan's commitment to protecting girls from early marriage. Every father who takes paternity leave brings Pakistan a step closer to equality. Every girl kept safe from child marriage moves us closer to justice. But laws are only the beginning. Pakistan must now invest where it matters. We need clean drinking water so girls are not burdened with hours of fetching. We need affordable energy so households are not dependent on women's unpaid labour. We need safe transport, childcare centres and early learning facilities so mothers can work and children can thrive. We need daycare in every workplace so adolescent girls are not pulled out of school to provide care.

These are not luxuries. They are infrastructure as essential as roads, power plants and schools. This requires not only government commitment but also bold public-private partnerships that can scale affordable childcare, eldercare and workplace facilities, ensuring care becomes a shared societal priority rather than an individual burden. Around the Asia-Pacific, countries are increasingly turning to such partnerships to expand access to quality care. Pakistan must do the same. Our own history proves we can. In 1994, Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto launched the Lady Health Workers Programme, transforming housewives into frontline health ambassadors. It delivered services to millions and shifted social norms by showing that women could step outside the home with dignity and respect. The Benazir Income Support Programme recognised women as central to household resilience. The next step is clear: align BISP with care delivery, so caregivers themselves are supported, recognized and rewarded. The Kathmandu Forum gave us a framework: Recognise. Reduce. Redistribute. Reward. Recognise unpaid care in surveys and budgets. Reduce it by investing in infrastructure and services. Redistribute it more fairly between women and men. Reward it by professionalising care work and ensuring caregivers are paid with dignity. Imagine Shabana no longer carrying water at dawn because her village has clean water. Imagine Ayesha back in school, preparing to become a teacher. Imagine a Pakistan where no girl is forced into marriage because her only perceived value is unpaid care. Courtesy The News

Pak-US-China triangle

Muhammad Amir Rana
LAST week, the US announced a historic \$500 million investment in Pakistan's critical minerals sector. The development came in parallel with the emergency assistance Washington extended to Pakistan on account of the devastating floods—a gesture that surprised many at a time when the US has been scaling back its humanitarian commitments elsewhere. The aid package revived memories of previous moments of warm Pak-US ties — from the Afghan Soviet war years to the post-9/11 era when Islamabad became a central partner in the US-led campaign against terrorism. The recent moves suggest that the relationship, often tested by cycles of mistrust, will remain on track at least for the foreseeable future. Yet, the larger question is whether Pakistan can shape these ties into something more sustainable. Economic convergence is one track, but the real test lies in whether Islamabad and Washington can forge overlapping geopolitical objectives that endure. History shows us that such alignments take decades to nurture and are even harder to sustain. Few countries understand this better than Pakistan, which has seen repeated crests and troughs in its bilateral engagement with the US. Today, India is beginning to face similar challenges in balancing its own expectations with Washington's strategic calculus. For Pakistan, internal strength is the most decisive factor in maintaining equilibrium with significant powers. An optimist may argue that such priorities are finally receiving attention in Islamabad, though the evidence remains thin. What is worth noting, however, is that despite its weak economy, battered global image, fragile security and dismal social indicators, Pakistan has managed to navigate a turbulent international order with surprising resilience. Much of this owes not to Islamabad's own ingenuity but to external shocks: the wars in Ukraine and Gaza, and the shifting uncertainties of American politics. Courtesy Dawn

Palestinian state?

Benjamin Netanyahu is the architect of the genocide in Gaza and continues to sow chaos across the Middle East, we must 'appreciate' his 'honesty' regarding one issue: consistent opposition to a Palestinian state. Recently, he reiterated his resolve to prevent the implementation of the two-state solution when he said that he intended to "fulfil our promise that there will be no Palestinian state". He was speaking at an event to sign off on the so-called EI settlement near occupied Jerusalem. Yet the vast majority of the international community rightly believes that there should indeed be a Palestinian state. A resolution at the UN General Assembly on Friday calling for the 'revival' of the two-state solution was endorsed by 142 countries. Despite the global majority's support for a Palestinian state, Israeli extremists are doing all they can to prevent this goal. For example, Israel's finance minister has said that "there is nothing to recognise and no one to recognise". This is a regurgitation of the genocidal Zionist myth that Palestine, at the time of the Nakba, was a "land without a people".

Pakistan, China will continue to expand collaboration in defence production, aviation: President Zardari



PEAK POINT

CHINA: President Asif Ali Zardari reaffirmed on Sunday that Pakistan and China would continue to expand collaboration in defence production and aviation, further deepening their all-weather strategic cooperative partnership, according to a statement issued by the President's Secretariat.

Zardari, who is on a 10-day trip to China, asserted this during a visit to the Aviation Industry Corporation of China (AVIC) — the country's aerospace and defence conglomerate engaged in the design and production

of a wide range of military and civilian aircraft, including J-10C fighter jets that Pakistan employed during an escalation with India in May. The use of these aircraft is said to have played a crucial role in shooting down India's fighter jets, including Rafales, during the four-day escalation that ended with a ceasefire on May 10.

The statement by the President's Secretariat today said: "On the 128th day since the ceasefire with India, President Asif Ali Zardari, constitutionally the supreme commander of the armed forces of Pakistan, visited the Aviation Industry Corporation of

China". According to the statement, the president toured the sprawling complex in its entirety and met the AVIC's engineers and scientists, "listening to their insights on innovation, production and future technologies".

He was briefed on the AVIC's "advanced capabilities, including the J-10 fighter jet, the co-production of the JF-17 Thunder with Pakistan, as well as progress in the J-20 stealth 5th-generation fighter aircraft, unmanned aerial vehicles, fully automated units, and integrated command-and-control systems for modern multi-domain operations".

The statement quoted the president as saying that "J-10 and JF-17 have greatly strengthened the Pakistan Air Force, a fact clearly demonstrated during May 2025's Maraka-e-Haq and Operation Bunyanum Marsoos". He hailed the AVIC as "a symbol of China's technological advancement and of the enduring strategic partnership between Pakistan and China".

Commerce minister reaches Iran on three-day visit to boost economic ties

PEAK POINT

TEHRAN: Federal Commerce Minister Jam Kamal Khan reached Tehran on Sunday for a three-day official visit to boost economic relations between Pakistan and Iran, according to a press release from the commerce ministry.

Pakistan and Iran share close ties and have signed multiple agreements across sectors such as energy and trade.

According to the press release, Khan is expected to lead the Pakistan-Iran Joint Economic Commission and Business Forum during his visit. "He was received at Imam Khomeini International Airport by Mr Amin Tarfa'a, adviser to Iran's Ministry of Roads and Urban Development," the press release read. "During the visit, [Khan] will lead the 22nd Session of the Pakistan-Iran Joint Economic Commission and co-



chair the Pakistan-Iran Joint Business Forum. He is also scheduled to hold meetings with key Iranian ministers and senior officials to strengthen bilateral trade and investment cooperation." Khan's visit aims to give fresh momentum to economic and commercial ties between the two nations through the Joint Economic Commission and the Business Forum, the commerce ministry stated. In August, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian visited Pakistan, where 12 agreements and memorandums of understanding (MoUs) were signed.

Govt committed to rehabilitate flood affected people: Aurangzeb

PEAK POINT

KAMALYA: Finance Minister and Senator Mohammad Aurangzeb said on Sunday that a climate and agricultural emergency has been declared by the prime minister and expressed commitment to rehabilitate flood-affected people.

Speaking to the media during a visit to Kamalia, the minister stated that damage assessment surveys were currently underway, with a special committee formed to evaluate the losses suffered by farmers.

"The most critical issue at this moment is providing immediate relief to the affected people," Aurangzeb emphasized.

He said that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, in coordination with the federal cabinet, had declared the emergency. "Whatever actions are necessary under this emergency will be taken without delay," he added.

The finance minister praised the performance of armed forces, Rescue 1122, and the district administrations for their swift and

effective response during the floods.

He noted that in Toba Tek Singh, Kamalia, and Pirmahal, the loss of life was minimal, thanks to the timely action by authorities.

Aurangzeb stressed that the government was moving from emergency relief to the rehabilitation phase. "This is not the time for politics — we have worked beyond political lines for the welfare of flood victims," he said. The minister stated that both the prime minister and Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz have been personally visiting flood-affected areas to oversee rescue and rehabilitation efforts. Aurangzeb confirmed that floods have severely damaged basic infrastructure — roads, bridges, homes — and agricultural lands. He revealed that the prime minister has directed the formulation of a practical, long-term plan to address such disasters, stating that a comprehensive action plan must be ready within the next 300 days. He also noted that floodwaters have started receding in several areas.

United States delivers flood relief assistance to Pakistan

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The United States stands with the people of Pakistan, whose lives have been uprooted by widespread, catastrophic flooding. The U.S. Department of State is delivering food, shelter, and other forms of lifesaving disaster relief to impacted communities. In addition, the U.S. military delivered essential supplies to the Pakistan Army, which arrived at Nur Khan Air Base. U.S. Mission to Pakistan Chargé d'Affaires Natalie A. Baker was on site as the first C-17 and C-130 aircrafts arrived and unloaded this equipment. She extended her deepest condolences to the people of Pakistan.

She said the United States is profoundly saddened by the loss of life and destruction of homes and livelihoods. "In response to a request from the Government of Pakistan, the Department of State and the U.S. military approved foreign assistance funding and critical supplies and equipment to augment national response efforts in the most affected areas," Baker said.

Hundreds of villages in Multan, Rahim Yar Khan, Rajanpur, and Vehari flooded

PEAK POINT

LAHORE: The flood situation in Punjab remains critical with hundreds more villages in Multan, Shujabad, Rahim Yar Khan, Ahmedpur Sharqia, Rajanpur, and Vehari submerged.

According to the Federal Flood Commission, there is a very high-level flood in the Chenab River at the Panjnad Barrage, while a similar situation is expected at Guddu Barrage in the next 24 to 48 hours.

Meanwhile, flood-related deaths in Punjab have exceeded 100, nearly 5,000 villages and over 4.5 million people have been affected, and standing crops on millions of acres have been destroyed. A boat carrying around 40 people capsized in the Jalpur



Khakhi area of Shujabad. Rescue 1122 officials reported that all individuals were rescued.

Multan is facing a flood crisis due to the Chenab River, with dozens of settlements in Head Muhammad Wala and Sher Shah still under water. In Shujabad and Jalalpur Pirwala, thousands of people have been displaced. In Chachran, hundreds of homes have been washed away, thousands of acres of crops destroyed, and connecting roads submerged.

CM Murad says Sindh govt prepared to tackle floods

PEAK POINT

SUKKUR: Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah has stated that the Sindh government is fully prepared to handle floods, with protecting all barrages being a top priority.

Speaking to the media in Sukkur, the chief minister said that PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari had inspected the Guddu and Sukkur barrages.

He also expressed gratitude to the Prime Minister for implementing agricultural and climate emergencies following the federal cabinet meeting.

He emphasized that assistance for flood victims should



be provided as soon as possible through the Benazir Income Support Programme.

Due to climate change, floods occur every few years, and he urged the Prime Minister to immediately appeal to the United Nations for relief. Murad Ali Shah noted that the water inflow at Guddu Barrage exceeded 6 lac cusecs.



Mal Fatyana Bridge, Toba Tek Singh: Conversing with the local media about the ongoing relief and rescue efforts in the area and government efforts to deal with the aftermath of the floods that have ravaged different parts of the country.

Pakistan's future intrinsically linked to strength of democracy, says NA Speaker

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: On the occasion of the International Day of Democracy, National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq paid tribute to Pakistan's unwavering democratic resolve, parliamentary continuity, and sustained public participation.

He stated that democracy is the embodiment of people's power, collective wisdom, and the key to national development and prosperity. He emphasized that this day serves as a reminder of the sacrifices made by political workers, leaders, and journal-

ists who struggled tirelessly for the restoration and preservation of democracy.

Speaker remarked that Pakistan was founded as a result of a democratic struggle, and the Constitution of Pakistan ensures every citizen's right to equality, religious freedom, freedom of expression, and participatory politics. He highlighted that Islam also teaches consultation, mutual consensus, and public participation, values upon which democratic governance and public representation are firmly established.

Referring to Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah's historic speech of 11 August, Speaker NA reiterated that every citizen has the right to religious freedom and

Sadiq asserted that Parliament is the supreme forum reflecting the will of the people. Through legislation, public representation, and parliamentary oversight, Parliament transforms public aspirations into reality. He stated that parliamentary supremacy, full adherence to the Constitution, institutional harmony, and public welfare are essential pillars of democratic stability.

Referring to Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah's historic speech of 11 August, Speaker NA reiterated that every citizen has the right to religious freedom and

empowers citizens, ensures accountability of institutions, and offers collective insight for national progress. He called on all political parties to set aside their differences and adopt a unified national strategy in the interest of the country.

Stressing the importance of youth engagement in the democratic process, Speaker highlighted several initiatives of the National Assembly including the Parliamentary Studies Program, National Assembly Youth Internship Programs, and the Young Parliamentarians Forum.

Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq also noted that Pakistan's Parliament has enacted significant legislation on critical issues such as women's rights, financial transparency, and environmental protection. Through platforms such as the Women's Parliamentary Caucus.

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