

Founded By: (Late) Rehmat Khan

Email: editor.peakpoint@gmail.com Website: www.peakpoint.pk

Executive Group Editor Arif Mehmood Khan



PM Shehbaz urges task force, seeks Israel's UN suspension at Doha summit

PEAK POINT

DOHA: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday urged Arab and Islamic leaders to establish a joint task force aimed at countering Israeli aggression and expansionist ambitions, as an emergency summit in Doha debated a draft resolution responding to Israel's strike on Hamas negotiators in Qatar. The high-level gathering, held under the umbrella of the 57-member Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), brought together leaders and representatives from around 50 states, including Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Jordan's King Abdullah II, Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sissi, and Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani. PM Shehbaz

warned that Israel's actions threatened to destabilise the entire Middle East, describing the attack on Doha as a targeted strike by an "aggressor who violates international law seriously". He called it a "flagrant violation of the sovereignty of Qatar" and expressed solidarity with the Gulf state.

In his speech, the prime minister said Israel's attack was a deliberate attempt to derail peace efforts in the Middle East. "The Israeli attack on Qatar is not apart from the other attacks, it is hegemonic ambition on part of Israel to control the whole region," he declared. He insisted that the role of mediators must be respected as "sacred" since they were "the hope of peace". PM Shehbaz said Pakistan demanded urgent measures to stop what he termed "war crimes" in Gaza.



Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif meets the Crown Prince of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia H.E. Muhammad Bin Salman Al Saud on the sidelines of the emergency Arab-Islamic Summit in Qatar, Doha.

Dar, Turkish FM strongly condemn Israeli strikes on Qatar

PEAK POINT



DOHA: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Senator Ishaq Dar met with Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan in Doha on Monday.

The two leaders strongly condemned Israel's unprovoked and unjustified strikes on Qatar and other nations in the region, amidst the ongoing aggression in Palestine. They reaffirmed unwavering support for the Palestinian cause, underlined the importance of the OIC and the Arab League in mobilizing collective action of the Muslim Ummah, and welcomed the convening of the Arab-Islamic Summit. Meanwhile, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has left for a day-long official visit to Qatar to participate in the Emergency.

Floodwaters from Punjab start playing havoc in Sindh

PEAK POINT

LAHORE: The floodwaters, advancing from South Punjab, have now started causing destruction in Sindh as hundreds of villages in the riverine (Kacha) areas have been submerged.

Due to the continuous rise in the water level of the Indus River, pressure on protective embankments is increasing while several more villages have been submerged.

At Kotri Barrage, a low-level flood situation persists, while the Moria Loop Bund and Barro Patan near Naudero are under severe pressure from the water. The water has started entering the fields, causing significant damage to crops.

In Ghotki, the rising water levels of the Indus River have submerged several villages. In Ubauro, Union Council Band,



and Qadirpur, dozens of riverine (Kacha) areas are now underwater. People have begun moving their livestock and belongings to safer locations. The floodwaters have struck the Ronti protective embankment, submerging cotton and sugarcane crops.

Despite a decrease in water levels in Punjab's rivers, the devastation caused by floods continues in the southern

regions.

In Jalalpur Khakhi area of Shujaabad, a 45-year-old man drowned while trying to rescue his livestock. Police handed over the body to the heirs after completing legal formalities.

Due to floods in the Sutlej River, 47 villages in Chishtiana have been submerged. Villages Raju Shah, Bonga Jhed, Mazid Shah, Bilawal, and Miran Shah have been severely affected. Crops of sugarcane, rice, maize, and sesame on 48,183 acres have been flooded. At Chachran, a moderate-level flood has submerged dozens of settlements and standing crops on hundreds of acres. In Uch Sharif, 25 villages are underwater, and road link has been cut off. Chak Kahl, Budani, Sarwarabad, Ismailpur, Jhangra Sharqi, and Khairpur Daha have been severely affected. In 36 villages of Uch Sharif, houses have been destroyed, and thousands of acres of agricultural land have also been submerged. People trapped in the flood are facing a shortage of food, while private boat owners are charging up to Rs40,000 for transporting goods. Residents of Uch Sharif have demanded that Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz visit the affected areas.

Imran Khan to be sentenced in Toshakhana-II case soon, predicts Aleema Khan

PEAK POINT

RAWALPINDI: Aleema Khan, sister of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder and former prime minister Imran Khan, has claimed that authorities are preparing to hand down another conviction to her brother in the Toshakhana-II case.

Speaking to the media outside Adiala Jail, Aleema Khan said she deliberately avoided engaging with mainstream media, alleging that "planted individuals" are being sent in front of cameras to create chaos and misbehave. She warned that such tactics could provoke PTI workers, leading.

Security forces kill 31 terrorists in Lakki Marwat, Bannu operations: ISPR

PEAK POINT

RAWALPINDI: Security forces killed 31 terrorists in two separate intelligence-based operations (IBOs) in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Lakki Marwat and Bannu districts, the military's media wing said on Monday.

"On 13-14 September, 31 khwarij belonging to Indian proxy Fitna al Khwarji were killed in two separate engagements in [the] Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province," the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said in a press release.

The state uses the term Fitna al Khwarji to refer to terrorists belonging to the banned Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP). It has also designated Balochistan-based groups as Fitna-al-



Hindustan to highlight India's alleged role in terrorism and destabilisation across Pakistan.

The ISPR said an IBO was conducted in Lakki Marwat on the "reported presence of khwarij".

"During the conduct of [the] operation, own troops effectively engaged the khwarij location, and after an intense fire exchange, 14 Indian-sponsored khwarij were sent to hell," it added.

The ISPR added that another IBO was carried out in Bannu, where 17 more terrorists were killed in a gun battle.

"Sanitisation operations are being conducted to eliminate any other Indian sponsored khwarij found in the area, as the security forces of Pakistan are determined to wipe out the menace of

Indian sponsored terrorism from the country," the ISPR stated.

On Saturday, the ISPR said the military had killed 45 terrorists between September 10 and 13 and 19 soldiers were martyred during these operations in KP. Following those developments, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif vowed to continue responding to terrorism in the country with "full force".

He said terrorists and their facilitators responsible for attacks in Pakistan were operating from the Afghan soil with the backing of India.

"The Afghan interim government has been clearly told to choose between supporting the khwarij or stand with Pakistan," he added.

Imaan Mazari files harassment complaint against IHC chief justice

PEAK POINT



ISLAMABAD: Lawyer Imaan Mazari has filed a formal harassment complaint against Islamabad High Court Chief Justice Sarfraz Dogar.

The complaint has been submitted to the court's internal harassment inquiry committee, headed by Justice Saman Rafiq Imtiaz.

According to the reports, the complaint was received by the court associate of Justice Saman, who leads the IHC's Women Harassment Inquiry Committee.

Mazari has requested an official investigation under the Protection Against Harassment of Women at the Workplace Act, alleging that Chief Justice Dogar made gender-based and threatening remarks towards her during a recent courtroom exchange.



SPORTS



Handshake row: PCB files complaint to ICC, demands removal of match referee Pycroft

PCB conducts one-day workshop for regional coaches in Karachi



JAVED KHAN

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Cricket Board conducted a day-long workshop for coaches from six regions at the Hanif Mohammad High-Performance Centre in Karachi on Monday, 15 September. The participants of the workshop included coaches from Dera Murad Jamali, FATA, Karachi, Larkana, Multan and Rawalpindi Regions. Another set of regional coaches will undergo similar day-long workshop on Saturday, 20 September at the Inzamam-ul-Haq High-Performance Centre in Multan.

PEAK POINT
DUBAI: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) on Monday formally lodged a complaint with the International Cricket Council (ICC) and the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC), seeking the removal of match referee Andy Pycroft from officiating duties in the ongoing Asia Cup 2025.
The complaint follows Sunday's Pakistan-India clash, where the customary handshake between captains was skipped at the toss. According to reports, the omission was directed by Pycroft, prompting the PCB to raise objections over his conduct.

"The PCB has lodged a complaint with the ICC regarding the match referee's violation of the ICC Code of Conduct and MCC laws. The match referee took action against the spirit of cricket. We have demanded the immediate removal of Andy Pycroft from the Asia Cup," PCB chief Naqvi wrote in a post on X.
In its complaint, the PCB chief termed the directive a breach of the spirit of cricket and contrary to the MCC's laws.
The controversy emerged after Indian skipper Suryakumar Yadav, who struck the winning runs, celebrated with teammate Shivam

Dube before heading straight to the dressing room.
While the Indian players congratulated each other at the dugout, they refrained from acknowledging or shaking hands with the Pakistani team.
Pakistan's players lined up expecting the customary handshake, only to see the Indian team retreat and close the dressing room doors.
Head coach Mike Hesson confirmed that the team had never waiting for the gesture that never came.
In protest, Pakistan captain Salman Ali Agha refused to attend

the post-match presentation ceremony, breaking from broadcast norms where captains usually share their thoughts.
PCB Chairman Mohsin Naqvi, who also serves as the President of the Asian Cricket Council (ACC), earlier took to the social media platform and condemned the incident, describing it as a blatant snub.
"Utterly disappointing to witness the lack of sportsmanship today. Dragging politics into the game goes against the very spirit of sports. Let's hope future victories are celebrated by all teams with grace," Naqvi wrote.

SAFF U-17 Championship 2025 held in Sri Lanka

PEAK POINT
ISLAMABAD: Pakistan U-17 team arrives in Sri Lanka to participate in SAFF U-17 Championship. SAFF U-17 Championship will be played in Sri Lanka from September 15 to 27. Group B includes teams from Pakistan, India, Bhutan and Maldives. Pakistan will play its first match against Bhutan on September 16. The match will start at 7 pm Pakistani time.

Asia Cup 2025: UAE dominate Oman, boost qualification chances



favourites next in a key match, next on Wednesday with the winner likely to move into the Super Four stage of the eight-tournament event.
Oman were never in the chase and lost five wickets for 50 runs with captain and opener Jatinder Singh scoring 20 as they slumped to a second straight defeat.
Defending champions India, who won the previous edition played in a 50-overs format, lead the table in Group A with two wins in two matches are nearly through to the next stage.
Along with regional bragging rights, the competition will serve as a build-up towards the T20 World Cup in February-March in India and Sri Lanka.

PEAK POINT
DUBAI: Skipper Muhammad Waseem and Alishan Sharafu powered the United Arab Emirates to a dominant 42-run triumph over Oman in the Asia Cup with their brisk half-centuries on Monday.
Waseem, who hit 69, and Sharafu, who made 51, put on 88 runs for the opening wicket to guide hosts to a challenging

The batters had set the home bowlers up for victory. Waseem and Sharafu soon took the attack to the first win in this edition of the regional tournament played in the T20 format.
Medium-pace bowler Junaid reached fifty with the charge and Siddique stood over 51 but Waseem kept the captain was in the final run out in the final UAE play Pakistan, who went down to tournament



ISLAMABAD: A large number of participants take part in the 5 KM Race Series organized by Islamabad Running Club at Jinnah Sports Complex.

U14 basketball squad shortlisted for Samaranch Cup in China

PEAK POINT
ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Basketball Federation (PBBF) has taken a significant step in promoting basketball at the grassroots level by shortlisting the national Under 14 boys' basketball squad for the upcoming 2025 Samaranch Cup Asian Basketball Masters Invitational Tournament in China.
The two-day trials, held at the Pakistan Sports Complex saw participation from more than 50 young players from across the country. After rigorous evaluation, 16 players were shortlisted for the national training camp, said a press release.
A four-member selection committee, chaired by Khalid Bashir, and comprising General PBBF, and comprising Riaz Malik (former international player and national coach), Col. (R) Shujaat Ali Rana, and Imran Afzal, supervised the trials.
Senior PBBF administrators including PBBF President Brig. Muhammad Iftikhar Mansoor, Senior Vice President Intiaz Rafi Butt, President Federal Basketball Association Ejaz



Rafi Butt, General Secretary of Pakistan basketball. Karachi Division Basketball Association M. Yaqoob Qadry, and Secretary General Islamabad Olympic Association Rizwan ul Haq Razi were present at the event. The trials were coordinated by PBBF Associate Secretary Ouj E Zahoor.
Parents turned out in large numbers to cheer on their children, creating an encouraging and enthusiastic atmosphere. Officials described the overwhelming response as a positive sign of the sport's growing popularity in Pakistan.
"This is a milestone for International participation at such a young age will boost the players' confidence and experience, and help raise the overall standard of the game in the country," said Khalid Bashir, who also expressed gratitude to DG Pakistan Sports Board.



PESHAWAR: Players, participants of All Pakistan National Junior Squash Championship pose a group photo with the chief guest here on Monday.

Hanif stresses adopting gender responsive protocols in railways stations, trains

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Railways, Muhammad Hanif Abbasi on Monday chaired a high-level meeting and stressed adopting gender responsive protocols in railways stations and trains for safety of passengers especially women. During the meeting, it was decided that an awareness campaign will launch for safety of passengers, especially women and awareness posters will be displayed inside railway stations and trains to make it suc-

cessful. Hanif Abbasi said that regular announcements and awareness messages will be broadcast at stations while staff will be provided with gender sensitization and special training. He appreciated that steps will be taken to provide a safe and peaceful environment to female passengers. The minister said that seats will be reserved for people with special abilities in the upcoming refurbished trains and wheelchairs will be provided at major stations in this regard.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Railways, Muhammad Hanif Abbasi, announces inclusive reforms ensuring safety and dignity for women and persons with special abilities.

Foreign Medical Graduates Protest PMDC's licensing rules, cite inconsistent enforcement and confusion over exam eligibility

NADEEM TANOLI

ISLAMABAD: Foreign medical graduates in Pakistan have raised serious concerns against the Pakistan Medical and Dental Council (PMDC), accusing it of unfair, inconsistent, and discriminatory practices in issuing licenses. Doctors who studied abroad say they are facing delays, new hurdles, and retroactive policies that have left their careers in uncertainty. The main dispute centers on the PMDC's newly introduced policy requiring foreign graduates to pass the National Recognition Examination

(NRE) before receiving a permanent registration certificate. Graduates who applied in June and July claim they are now being forced to follow this requirement even though it was announced after their applications were submitted. They argue that changing rules retroactively is unjust and violates basic principles of fairness. Further frustration has emerged over the inconsistent application of these rules. Some doctors who graduated and applied at the same time as their peers have been granted licenses without being asked to take the NRE, while others have been

denied. Graduates point to provisional certificates that explicitly mention the NRE requirement, but argue that its sudden and selective enforcement has caused chaos. Adding to these grievances are administrative delays. Under the PMDC Act, permanent registration should be issued within 14 days of application. However, many foreign-trained doctors report waiting for months without any progress, only to be told that the NRE is now mandatory. Leaders representing foreign graduates, including Dr. Tahir Khan Sikandri and Dr. Rafi Shero, have voiced these

complaints publicly at the National Press Club. They condemned policies that restrict exam attempts, reject valid international medical experience, and impose inconsistent passing standards compared to Pakistani graduates. They also criticized PMDC for failing to conduct the NRE regularly, depriving candidates of fair chances to qualify. In response, the PMDC has clarified in Press Release that passing the NRE is mandatory under the law for all foreign-trained doctors and emphasized that patient safety is its top priority. The Council further stated that its

actions are consistent with global standards, where almost every country requires foreign graduates to pass a licensing exam before independent practice. However, students remain confused about the Council's interpretation of eligibility. One graduate pointed out that the notification allows only students from colleges recognized by both the ECFMG and PMDC to appear in the exam. "Our college is recognized by the ECFMG but not yet by PMDC. Does this mean we can sit in the exam or not? If yes, then PMDC must issue a clear notification guarantee-

ing our right to sit in the November exam and in future attempts," the student questioned. The foreign medical graduates are demanding immediate action from the authorities. They insist that applications submitted before the new rule came into effect should be processed under the old regulations. They also call for a transparent and timely licensing process, ensuring that all foreign-trained doctors are treated equally and given a fair opportunity to serve in Pakistan's healthcare system.

Opinion & Editorial

Operation Sindoor: the war on civilians

Amir Jahangir

Modern warfare is no longer confined to battlefields alone; it increasingly trespasses into the daily lives of civilians. The deliberate targeting of non-combatants marks one of the gravest breaches of international law, undermining both humanitarian principles and the global rules-based order.

In May 2025, India's Operation Sindoor inflicted precisely such a violation. By striking homes, mosques, marketplaces and essential services, the operation resulted in the deaths of at least 40 civilians in Pakistan and Azad Jammu & Kashmir. These deaths were not incidental or collateral but rather the foreseeable outcome of strikes on spaces where no military objective was present.

The consequences of such actions extend far beyond the immediate loss of life. They erode the credibility of the global rules-based order, normalise impunity and set a dangerous precedent in which humanitarian protections are seen as optional rather than obligatory. In an era when conflicts extend across land, air, cyber and information domains, the erosion of humanitarian principles threatens to redraw the boundaries of acceptable wartime conduct in profoundly destructive ways.

From a legal perspective, the case against Operation Sindoor is clear. Article 2(4) of the UN Charter prohibits the use of force against another state's sovereignty, while Article 51 permits self-defence

only in the case of an armed attack. By invoking Article 51 to justify its strikes, India misused international law. Terrorism, however grave, does not constitute an armed attack justifying interstate military aggression unless state involvement can be credibly established. In the case of the Pahalgam incident, no credible evidence was presented linking Pakistan to the events. Instead, a tragedy on Indian soil was used as a pretext for cross-border strikes, violating the letter and spirit of international law. The Geneva Conventions offer even clearer prohibitions. Articles 15, 27 and 32-34, as well as Common Article 3, explicitly protect civilians from being targeted, tortured, or collectively punished. Operation Sindoor's strikes on civilian neighbourhoods and religious sites fell squarely within the ambit of prohibited conduct. The international community cannot afford to treat such violations as routine features of conflict. Doing so would render the protections enshrined in humanitarian law meaningless, reducing them to aspirational ideals rather than enforceable obligations.

The moral stakes are equally stark. When civilians—women fetching water, children at play and families in prayer—become deliberate targets, war ceases to be fought between armies and instead becomes a campaign against humanity itself. The normalisation of this practice has grave implications for global security. It sets in motion a cycle of

retaliation, radicalisation and perpetual instability, while also undermining the credibility of states that claim to uphold human rights.

The wider geopolitical context also demands scrutiny. Operation Sindoor does not stand alone; it is part of a broader pattern of policies that marginalise and dehumanise Muslim populations in South Asia. The parallels with other theatres of conflict, particularly Israel's operations in Palestine, are difficult to ignore. In both cases, civilians are dehumanised by being labelled as 'terrorists' or 'collateral damage', a rhetorical sleight of hand that masks systematic violations of humanitarian law. The erosion of norms in one conflict invariably spills over into others, weakening the global architecture of accountability.

The lessons for Pakistan are urgent. First, there is a need for systematic legal preparedness. Attribution and documentation are the building blocks of accountability. Without evidence, photographs, testimonies and forensic records, claims of civilian targeting risk being dismissed as political rhetoric. Legal audits, structured dossiers and independent investigations must form the backbone of Pakistan's case at international forums. Institutions such as the International Court of Justice and the International Criminal Court may not guarantee swift justice, but they do provide platforms to establish a legal record that can influence global opinion and policy.

Courtesy The News

Reimagining schools

Neda Mujli

IMAGINE if a cross-section of school leaders answered a simple question: how do you envision your school in 2035? Not too long into the future but far enough to consider how the process of teaching and learning would change. None of us had fathomed how fast and furiously AI would change the world; fewer still can appreciate its impact.

For AI to transform education in Pakistan, we would have to equip not only students but also our teachers to revisit their thinking around what the students should be taught. Is it answers that we are teaching or thinking processes that can empower students to use AI to get the maximum benefit from their learning?

If AI can condense textbook knowledge into simply worded summaries, generate visuals for quick retention and provide answers to conceptual questions, one would think AI would have done the work of school teachers. While it is tempting to buy this simplistic solution to the education crisis in Pakistan, the truth is the tool itself is preceded by a deep understanding of what is actually required.

It involves an understanding of student learning outcomes, as well as expertise in framing prompts that will yield valid and credible results. There is a critical thinking model in place that enables students to use AI to their advantage and not everyone can have a grip on it without knowing how to ask questions.

Asking questions has long been anathema to teachers within our education system. Redesigning schools would mean we would have to include interrogation and investigation skills, allowing freedom of dissent and self-expression before our students can venture into the brave new world of technology-powered education. Teachers will have some difficult choices. They would have to be willing to choose mentorship over lecturing, projects involving real-world problems over content memorisation, technical competencies over lightweight note-taking, etc.

Courtesy Dawn



Arif Mehmood Khan
 Group Editor: 0333-5366814
 Samra Athar Kakakhel
 Resident Editor
 Nadim Tanoli
 Joint Editor: Mob-0301-777874
 Email: editor.peakpoint@gmail.com
 www.peakpoint.pk

Fiscal failure

PAKISTAN'S debt dynamics continue to paint a difficult fiscal picture. The latest State Bank debt bulletin shows that the government had added Rs9.3tr in new debt during the last fiscal year, with the total public debt stock surging to a record Rs80.5tr at the end of June. It means that the government had added a staggering Rs25.4bn every single day. This relentless rise not only breaches the limits set by the Fiscal Responsibility and Debt Limitation Act, but also undermines the budget as interest payments consume most of the latter. The SBP data underlines that public debt has increased both in absolute terms and relative to the size of the economy, a combination that would require more borrowings for making debt payments. The resurgent debt-to-GDP ratio increasing to 70.2pc from 67.8pc in one year should be of concern to policymakers due to multiple reasons. One, the rise in debt underscores the reversal of a trend that saw the ratio dropping significantly to 67.8pc in FY24 from 75.2pc the previous year, in spite of stringent fiscal consolidation under the IMF funding programme. Two, it points to a widening gap between tax and other resources and growing expenditures as reflected in the fiscal deficit despite austerity measures.

Pakistan, Poland vow to deepen bilateral ties



PEAK POINT

Ministry.

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Poland on Monday reaffirmed their resolve to strengthen bilateral relations with a particular focus on expanding trade, investment, and exploring new avenues of cooperation between the two countries.

The understanding was reached during a call on meeting of Polish Ambassador to Pakistan Maciej Pisarski with Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, said a press release issued by the Finance

Ministry. During the meeting, both sides discussed matters of mutual interest with a focus on strengthening bilateral relations, expanding trade and investment ties, and identifying new avenues for collaborations and exchanges between the two countries. On the occasion, Ambassador Pisarski extended his heartfelt condolences on the loss of lives and damage to properties and infrastructure caused by the ongoing floods. He congratulated the minister on achieving macroeconomic

stability and reviving the economy and informed that the government of Poland was working on sending a high-level delegation led by senior political leadership to Pakistan in the near future to further advance bilateral engagement. The Ambassador stated that Poland was keen to enhance bilateral relations and expand trade and investment with Pakistan. He noted that bilateral trade, currently standing at over US\$1 billion and in favour of Pakistan, could be further expanded to achieve a more balanced trajectory. He also highlighted Poland's existing investment of over US\$100 million in Pakistan's oil and gas exploration sector and expressed his country's intent to reinvest locally generated incomes and resources to expand this investment. Ambassador Pisarski expressed Poland's desire to work closely with relevant government ministries to identify new potential areas for engagement and mutual collaboration.

22nd meeting of JEC between Pakistan Iran inaugurated at Tehran

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Jam Kamal Khan, Federal Minister for Commerce and Ms. Farzaneh Sadegh on Monday formally inaugurated the 22nd meeting of the Joint Economic Commission (JEC) between Pakistan and Iran at Tehran.

Jam Kamal Khan and Ms. Farzaneh Sadegh, Minister of Roads and Urban Development Islamic Republic of Iran formally inaugurated the 22nd meeting of the Joint Economic Commission between Pakistan and Iran today at Tehran, said a release issued here.

During his inaugural remarks, Kamal said, Pakistan attaches high value to its relations with Iran.

Trade and Investment is the core of our trade policy. Private sector and Chambers of com-



merce should play active role to enhance the trade volume.

Our government is fully committed to support and facilitate the private sector to do business with Iran. The mutual cooperation in Services sector, Agriculture and Animal husbandry, scientific research and food security can bring benefits to the region, he added.

Regional connectivity through roads, rail, Maritime and air can prove a game changer and serve as a gateway to the Central Asia, South Asia and Middle East as well.

President Zardari visits memorial of first National Congress of CPC in Shanghai

PEAK POINT

SHANGHAI: President Asif Ali Zardari on Monday visited the Memorial of the First National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC) in Shanghai. He was accompanied by First Lady, Bibi Aseefa Bhutto Zardari and Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party, Mr Bilawal Bhutto Zardari.

Located in Shanghai's historic French Concession, the Memorial preserves the site where the CPC held its founding congress in July 1921. The president toured the original shikumen-style building and the adjoining exhibition hall showcasing historical relics and documents.

Some 104 years ago, the Party's first Congress was held here, attended by 13 leaders including Chairman Mao Zedong. It was here that the Party was founded, which first achieved independence, lifted China out of poverty and backwardness, and has today transformed it into a major military, technological, and economic power.

"It is an honour to visit this historical site where the Communist Party of China was founded. I convey the respect of the people of Pakistan for China's journey to becoming a major global power. This friendship, nurtured by the visionary leadership of President Xi Jinping, has grown rapidly and remains an all-weather partnership. Our historic ties will continue to strengthen and flourish, President Zardari remarked in the visitors' book.

The president appreciated the preservation of the site and noted that it offered insight into the early struggles that shaped modern China. The Memorial is recognised as a national cultural heritage site and is one of Shanghai's leading historical landmarks. Senator Saleem Mandviwalla, Sharjeel Memon, Minister for Information & Transport, Govt. of Sindh, Syed Nasir Shah, Minister for P&D and Energy, Govt. of Sindh, China's Ambassador to Pakistan Mr Jiang Zaidong, and Pakistan's Ambassador to China Mr Khalid Hashmi were also present on the occasion.

NDMA dispatches fresh 100 tons aid to Gaza

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Monday dispatched its 22nd aid consignment to Gaza carrying 100 tons of supplies from Lahore under National Disaster Management Authority's (NDMA) supervision in partnership with Alkhidmat Foundation.

With this shipment, Pakistan has delivered a total of 2,127 tons of aid to Gaza. The consignment includes ration bags containing flour, rice, cooking oil, pulses, ready-to-eat meals, and canned fruit.

Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif attended the dispatch ceremony as chief guest, joined by government representatives and senior NDMA officials. Addressing the gathering, she expressed solidarity with the people of Gaza, stating that "the hearts of the Pakistani people beat with the Palestinians," and that the suffering of innocent Muslims in Gaza "pains every sensitive soul." She described the relief goods as a message of love from Pakistan.

Governor Kundi to distribute cash aid among 1,700 TDP families in Bajaur

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi, reviewed the ongoing humanitarian efforts of the Red Crescent in merged districts and announced to visit Bajaur soon to distribute relief packages.

He said this during a meeting with Chairman Red Crescent KP (Merged Districts), Imran Wazir Advocate at Governor House, Islamabad on Monday.

The Chairman Imran Wazir Advocate briefed the Governor on relief activities in Bajaur, informing that water tanks have been installed at several TDP camps, while 20 washrooms including separate facilities for women have been constructed at the Bajaur Stadium for the affect-



ed families.

It was decided that Governor Kundi will soon visit Bajaur, where, with the support of the Red Crescent and donor agencies, cash assistance of Rs. 50,000 per household will be distributed among 1,700 IDP families. The Governor will also inaugurate two mobile health units and indicated plans to visit the Red Crescent's camp office in Landi Kotal. Meanwhile, Governor Kundi also visited the headquarters of the Pakistan Boy.

Maqbool Ahmed Gondal takes oath as 22nd Auditor General of Pakistan

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Maqbool Ahmed Gondal on Monday sworn in as the 22nd Auditor General of Pakistan in an oath-taking ceremony held today at the Supreme Court of Pakistan. The Honorable Chief Justice of Pakistan, Mr. Justice Yahya Afridi, administered the oath of office.

The oath-taking ceremony was attended by Honorable Judges of the Supreme Court, Advisor to the Prime Minister, senior government officials, officers from the Pakistan Audit and Accounts Service (PA&AS), and distinguished guests. Maqbool Ahmed Gondal is the 22nd Auditor General of Pakistan appointed under the



Constitution of Pakistan, 1973 for a fixed tenure of 4 years. Mr. Gondal has an illustrious career spanning over three decades of leadership experience in Financial Management, Governance, Assurance, Audits and Public Procurement. As Controller General of Accounts, he is credited with leading initiatives that include the digitization of Public Financial Management.



SHANGHAI, CHINA: President of Pakistan Asif Ali Zardari, accompanied by First Lady Bibi Aseefa Bhutto Zardari, Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, Sindh Minister for Information & Transport Sharjeel Inam Memon and Sindh Minister for Energy Syed Nasir Hussain Shah, at the Memorial of the First National Congress of the CPC.

UNFPA, SDPI train researchers on data storytelling, visualization to strengthen evidence-based policymaking

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) under the "Data for Development" (D4D) initiative, launched a five-day intensive training workshop on Data Visualization & Storytelling with Microsoft Power BI, implemented by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), aimed at building the capacity of researchers, policymakers, and government officials to effectively use data for evidence-based policymaking. In his keynote address, Dr. Naeem-Ul Zafar, Chief

Statistician and Head of the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS), emphasized the importance of ensuring quality and governance in data standards. "Data communication is missing in our policy discourse. We need to make data speak visually and compellingly to influence public minds, whether it is about reducing out-of-school children or tracking fiscal priorities," he said. He further underscored the need to harness social entrepreneurship, governance, and technology to transform data into



policies. Addressing the session, Laura Sheridan, International Program Coordinator UNFPA, expressed gratitude to the Afghan Commissionerate, PBS, SDPI, Embassy of Netherlands and all partners.

support better policies and behavioral change," she said, lauding the "Netherlands Embassy for its continued support. Speaking at the session, Muquaddar Shah, Program Analyst UNFPA, highlighted UNFPA's longstanding work in Pakistan, including its support to the national census and the ongoing D4D project, which connects federal and provincial bureaus of statistics. "Data is the backbone of every program. Unless refined, analyzed, and translated into actionable formats, policymakers cannot be convinced

to intervene. This project is about ensuring data informs decisions at the ground level," he noted, acknowledging the support of the Netherlands government for making the initiative possible. In his welcome remarks, Dr. Sajid Amin Javed, Deputy Executive Director SDPI, stressed the magnitude of data being generated globally and its potential impact when linked with storytelling. "Modern policy planning is all about data which is central to evidence-based planning, decision making and effective governance.