



Finance Minister advances Pakistan-China Financial Cooperation



Khawaja Asif urges construction of small dams



CM Maryam reviews flood relief efforts in Jhang

Founded By:
(Late) Rehmat Khan

ABC CERTIFIED

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

Executive Group Editor
Arif Mehmood Khan



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Powerful earthquake kills over 800 in Afghanistan as rescue efforts ongoing

ARIF MEHMOOD KHAN

KABUL: More than 800 people were killed and more than 1,500 injured in an earthquake that struck eastern Afghanistan, authorities said on Monday, as helicopters ferried the wounded to safety from rubble being combed in the hunt for survivors.

The disaster will further stretch the resources of the South Asian nation already grappling with humanitarian crises, from a sharp drop in aid to a huge pushback of its citizens from neighbouring countries.

The quake of magnitude 6 injured more than 1,500, the Taliban-run Afghan interior ministry said in a statement that put the death toll at 622. Earlier state-run broadcaster Radio Television Afghanistan (RTA) put the

toll at about 500.

In Kabul, the capital, health authorities said rescuers were racing to reach remote hamlets dotting an area with a long history of earthquakes and floods.

"Figures from just a few clinics show over 400 injured and dozens of fatalities," ministry spokesperson Sharafat Zaman said in a statement that warned of higher casualties.

Taliban-led health authorities in Kabul, however, said they were still confirming the official toll figure as they worked to reach remote areas. The US Geological Survey (USGS) recorded the earthquake at a magnitude of 6.2, with its epicenter located near Jalalabad in Nangarhar province as it took place at a depth of eight kilometers.



Afghan men search for their belongings amidst the rubble of a collapsed house after a deadly magnitude-6 earthquake that struck Afghanistan around midnight, in Dara Mazar, in Kunar province, Afghanistan.

Crew of 5 dead as army helicopter crashes in GB's Chilas due to 'technical fault': ISPR

PEAK POINT



CHILAS: A crew of five died on Monday after an army helicopter crashed in Diamer District's Chilas town in Gilgit-Baltistan after developing a

"technical fault", the military's media wing said in a statement. "On 1 Sep 25, at around 1000 hours, an MI-17 helicopter crash landed near Hudor village, approximately 12 kilometers away from Thakdas Cantonment," the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said in the statement. "The helicopter was on routine training flying when it developed a technical fault and crashed." It added that all crew members on board were martyred as a result of the crash. The crew members were identified as Major Atif, who was the pilot in command, Major Faisal, the co-pilot, flight engineer Naib Subedar Maqbool, and crew chiefs Havaladar Jahangir and Naik Amir.

SCO summit: PM Shehbaz says world no longer accepts terrorism as political tool

PEAK POINT

TIANJIN: Highlighting the heavy price the country is paying due to state-sponsored terrorism, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said Pakistan has irrefutable evidence of foreign involvement in recent terrorist attacks in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan, including the Jaffer Express attack.

PM Shehbaz landed in China's Tianjin on Saturday to attend the SCO summit. During his six-day official visit, the prime minister will meet President Xi and Premier Li Qiang, according to the Foreign Office (FO).

Speaking at the 25th Summit of the Council of Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in Tianjin on Monday, the premier said: "We have irrefutable evidence of some foreign nations being involved in



acts of terrorism on our soil. Those responsible for these heinous crimes and their facilitators must be held accountable."

He further warned that terrorism in any form must be condemned, including state-sponsored terrorism. "Those who have long used terrorism for advancing their political interests must realise that the world no longer buys this fictitious narrative," PM

asserted.

Highlighting Pakistan's fight against terrorism, he said: "We [Pakistan] have sacrificed over 90,000 lives, including children, mothers, engineers, scientists, citizens, and officers — not just for Pakistan, but for the peace and security of the entire region." Reaffirming Pakistan's commitment to regional peace and cooperation, PM Shehbaz

said the SCO reflects Islamabad's enduring resolve to strengthen regional connectivity and collaboration.

Calling for the upholding of bilateral and international agreements, PM said: "We [Pakistan] expect SCO member countries to follow all bilateral treaties. Uninterrupted access to due share of water, as per existing treaties, is essential to strengthening the objectives of the SCO."

He further said: "Pakistan believes in multilateralism, dialogue, and diplomacy, not unilateralism or confrontation... There is nothing more sacred than sovereignty and territorial integrity for any nation." PM Shehbaz also called for a comprehensive dialogue to resolve longstanding issues in South Asia. "Stability in Afghanistan remains in the interest of the entire region.

Over 1,500 Kg explosives seized from vehicle in SW

PEAK POINT

PESHAWAR: Security forces successfully thwarted a major terrorist plan in the Tehsil Tiarza area of South Waziristan during a timely operation. According to official sources on Monday, the action was carried out based on intelligence reports. During the operation, a suspicious vehicle was intercepted, and more than 1,500 kilograms of explosive material were recovered. The Bomb Disposal Squad (BDS) immediately defused the circuits installed in the vehicle, declaring the area safe. Authorities said the foiled attempt prevented a massive terrorist attack.

India warns Pakistan of Sutlej flood threat as Punjab battles deluge

SAMRA ATHAR

ISLAMABAD: India has alerted Pakistan about a high flood risk in the Sutlej River.

According to the Ministry of Water Resources, the Indian High Commission in Pakistan informed authorities about rising flood levels in the river.

The ministry stated that severe flooding is expected at Harike Downstream and Ferozepur Downstream from 8am today. Alerts have been issued to relevant institutions and provincial governments.

Meanwhile, the raging waters of the Sutlej continue to wreak havoc in Burewala, where a massive flood wave of 190,000 cusecs is passing through, causing widespread



destruction. Several protective embankments have collapsed, allowing floodwaters to reach Sahuka. Thousands of acres of crops, including cotton, rice, maize, and sesame, have been completely washed away.

The devastating flood has ruined farmlands, leaving farmers in deep crisis as their livelihoods face severe losses.

NDMA FORECASTS MORE RAINS

The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) has warned that a fresh spell of heavy rainfall, expected from Monday to Wednesday, is likely to intensify the

already critical flood situation across northeastern, central, and southern Punjab.

According to an alert issued by the National Emergencies Operation Center (NEOC), multiple districts in Punjab, including Rawalpindi, Islamabad, are expected to be impacted by the upcoming downpours.

Murree, Rawalpindi, Jhelum, Attock, Mandi Bahauddin, Gujrat, Gujranwala and Hafizabad face a risk of flooding from intense downpours.

Flood conditions could also worsen in Chiniot, Lahore, Sialkot, Narawal, Sheikhupura, Faisalabad, Sardogha, Bhakkar, Layyah and Mianwali, Dera Ghazi Khan, Sahiwal, Multan.

Catastrophic rains, floods to trigger food shortages in Pakistan, warns UN

AYESHA REHAN

ISLAMABAD: The ongoing torrential rains and surging floods have inundated large swaths of farmlands and destroyed ready-to-reap crops across Pakistan, triggering fears of a food crisis and inflation, the UN and growers warned on Monday. The raging floods struck the northeastern Punjab, the country's largest province and food basket, last week, submerging hundreds of villages, schools and health centres, washing away livestock and destroying crops, aside from killing around 50 people and triggering evacuations. The surging floods have so far affected more than 2 million people, in addition to the evacuation of more than 700,000 people, according to official statistics. The water is flowing further south to fall into the mighty Indus River and is feared to wreak havoc on Sindh in the coming days. "This isn't normal — yet it's becoming the new normal. Monsoons, driven by climate change, now bring fear and devastation to communities across Pakistan," Mo Yahya, the UN resident and humanitarian coordinator, said in a post on X.



SPORTS



Afghanistan beat UAE by 38 runs in Sharjah tri-series clash



ARIF MEHMOOD KHAN
SHARJAH: Afghanistan registered their first victory of the T20I tri-series with a 38-run win over the United Arab Emirates (UAE) at the Sharjah Cricket Stadium on Monday night.

The result left the hosts still in search of a breakthrough after two defeats, while Afghanistan bounced back strongly from their opening loss against Pakistan.

The evening began with a sombre note as both teams observed a one-minute silence to honour the victims of the devastating 6.0-magnitude earthquake that struck Afghanistan at midnight. The

tremor, centred in Kunar province, claimed around 800 lives and injured 2,500 others. Players stood shoulder to shoulder as the Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB) and Emirates Cricket Board (ECB) paid tribute to those affected. The ACB released a statement describing its "deepest sorrow over the loss of lives and casualties caused by the severe earthquake," while the ECB echoed sentiments of solidarity on social media, calling the tribute a mark of respect for the victims.

Afghanistan vs UAE
UAE captain Muhammad Waseem chose to field first after

winning the toss, but the UAE. Afghanistan's batters seized the opportunity to set a commanding total. Rahmanullah Gurbaz and Ibrahim Zadran provided a brisk start before captain Rashid Khan and Mohammad Nabi added vital runs down the order to lift Afghanistan's score.

In reply, UAE's chase faltered despite resistance from their middle order. Afghan bowlers, led by Fazalhaq Farooqi and Mujeeb Ur Rahman, maintained pressure throughout, restricting the hosts and sealing a 38-run victory. The win marked Afghanistan's 10th triumph in 13 T20I meetings with

Sisters Win Gold at Rawalpindi District Swimming Competition

JAVED KHAN
RAWALPINDI: Two sisters, Khirad Aamir (U/10) and Ahlam Aamir (U/7), from Future World School, won Gold Medals in their respective categories at the Rawalpindi District Swimming Competition 2025. Their remarkable performance is a proud moment for their family, school, and community, and serves as an inspiration for young students to excel in both academics and sports.



KP Jujitsu Association Congratulates Newly Elected Cabinet of KP Badminton Association

PEAK POINT
PESHAWAR: President of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Jujitsu Association, Tahseenullah, and Secretary General, Naeem Jan, have expressed their happiness and satisfaction over the election of the new cabinet of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Badminton Association and extended their heartfelt congratulations to the newly elected office bearers. They congratulated the newly elected Chairman, Sajjad Mohmand, President, Bilal Khan, and General Secretary, Mian Sadaqat Shah, while expressing their best wishes for their future endeavors. On this occasion, Tahseenullah and Naeem Jan stated that badminton is a popular and important sport.



Khawaja Nafay, Shoaib Malik, Saeed Ajmal to feature in Canada Super 60



PEAK POINT
VANCOUVER: Pakistan's emerging batter Khawaja Nafay, veteran all-rounder Shoaib Malik, and former spinner Saeed Ajmal are set to participate in the inaugural Canada Super 60, over-a-side cricket scheduled from October 8 to 13 at BC Place Stadium in Vancouver.

first large-scale international cricket competition to be staged indoors, under lights, at a premier venue on Canada's West Coast. Malik, 42, brings vast experience, with 13,571 runs in 557 matches at a strike rate of 127.24, including 83 fifties. He is currently the fifth-highest run-scorer in T20 history. Nafay, one of Pakistan's brightest young batting talents, has already showcased his skills in franchise leagues such as the Bangladesh Premier League (214 runs in 8 matches, SR 135.44) and the Pakistan Super League (234 runs in 12 matches, SR 130.00). Recently, he impressed with a 61-run knock for Pakistan Shaheens in the Top End T20 Series. Ajmal, regarded among Pakistan's most successful T20 bowlers, claimed 85 wickets in 64 internationals at a miserly economy of 6.36. He also represented franchises in the PSL, BPL, and the Big Bash League. The tournament's six franchises – Whiterock Warriors, Toronto Sixers, Brampton Blitz, Montreal Tigers, Vancouver Kings, and Mississauga Masters – feature international names including Quinton de Kock, Shakib Al Hasan, Alex Hales, Moeen Ali, Imran Tahir, Sikandar Raza, Dawid Malan, and Jason Roy. With world-class line-ups and Pakistan's stars in action, the Canada Super 60 promises to bring a new chapter of cricket excitement to North America.



PESHAWAR: On the occasion of Umar Khetab Memorial Tennis Championship, chief guest distributes prizes among players here on Monday.

Pakistani students shine in Kazakhstan, win silver and bronze

PEAK POINT
VEHARI: Pakistan's young students have brought honor to the nation by winning silver and bronze medals at the International Young Naturalists Tournament – Science Innovation Competition held in Almaty, Kazakhstan, where students from 35 countries showcased their talent and creativity. Team Pakistan White, captained by Ashar Hassan, reached the final and secured silver medal, while Team Pakistan Green, led by Amna Abid, won bronze medal, finishing third overall in the international standings.

Among the standout achievers was Areeba Touqeer, a brilliant member of Team Pakistan Green and daughter of Deputy Commissioner Vehari, Ms. Imrana Touqeer. Areeba's remarkable performance, intellectual depth, and dedication to science drew special praise, making her a source of pride not only for

her family but for the entire country. Her success is seen as a reflection of the values of leadership, discipline, and service instilled by her mother, who herself is recognized for her devotion to public service. Team Pakistan White included Ameen Adnan, Hajra Virk, fostering scientific education and innovation among Pakistani youth. Their journey was guided by dedicated mentors Afrah Ali and Nehat Ali, whose training and encouragement played a vital role in their success. To honor the victorious students, Deputy Commissioner



Alisha Shehzad, Maheen Shehzad, and Laje Hafsa, while Team Pakistan Green featured Areeba Touqeer, Tasmiya Abid, Dua Adil, Noor Fatima, and Amaan Hassan. Both teams competed under the banner of the Pakistan Young Innovative Minds Society (PYIMS), an organization dedicated to



DUBAI: Record prize money revealed for ICC Women's Cricket World Cup at \$13.88m.

Opinion & Editorial

Climate Refugees: The Next Global Humanitarian Crisis



Sidra sadozai
Resident Editor
Daily Peak Point

The world was astounded by the extent of the damage caused when Pakistan was hit by intense rains in 2022. Over 33 million people were impacted, millions had to flee their homes, and a third of the nation was under water. Entire villages, livestock, and crops were submerged under water, causing a crisis from which Pakistan is still reeling. One thing is more evident than ever today as another flood emergency breaks out, displacing families and causing rivers to overflow: climate change is a humanitarian time bomb as well as an environmental problem.

The phrase "climate refugee" is no longer a far-flung idea. For millions of people in Pakistan and elsewhere, it is a daily reality. This new category of displaced people includes families escaping rising waters in Punjab or Sindh, farmers leaving dry lands in Balochistan because of drought, and communities uprooted by

glacial lake outbursts in Gilgit-Baltistan. Despite not having traveled across international borders, climate-related disasters have completely changed their lives.

Pakistan: The epicenter of climate vulnerability

Despite making up less than 1% of the world's greenhouse gas emissions, Pakistan is routinely ranked in the top ten nations most at risk from climate change. Geographically, it is confronted with a lethal combination of intense heat waves, unpredictable monsoons, and melting glaciers. Its social problems include widespread poverty, inadequate governance, and inadequate infrastructure, all of which contribute to the excruciatingly slow recovery from disasters.

More than 8 million people were displaced by the 2022 floods, and many of them are still residing in temporary shelters. Thousands of families have once again been forced to evacuate due to the ongoing flooding in Punjab caused by India's abrupt release of water into the Sutlej River. A sobering trend emerges from these frequent displacements: people are being forced into poverty and migration cycles from which they might never fully

emerge. Climate displacement will become the norm rather than the exception in the ensuing decades.

The Invisible Refugees

Climate refugees are in a legal limbo, in contrast to political refugees who escape persecution and conflict. Those displaced by climate disasters are not considered refugees under international law, including the 1951 Refugee Convention. Millions are left without access to humanitarian assistance, legal protection, or means of rebuilding their lives.

Displaced families frequently cram themselves into makeshift camps or urban slums in Pakistan. They don't have access to clean water, healthcare, or education. Due to their increased vulnerability to exploitation and malnourishment, women and children are disproportionately impacted. These "invisible refugees" run the risk of becoming a permanent underclass if urgent policy and international recognition are not implemented.

An Imminent World Crisis

Although the floods in Pakistan have made headlines, climate displacement is a world-wide phenomenon.

Whole island nations in the Pacific are in danger of being engulfed by rising sea levels. Millions of people are fleeing sub-Saharan Africa due to severe droughts.

Communities are being uprooted at previously unheard-of rates by hurricanes and wildfires in North and South America. More people are already displaced annually by climate-related disasters than by armed conflicts, according to the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre. According to World Bank estimates, if nothing is done, over 200 million people may become climate migrants by 2050.

This is a security issue as well as a humanitarian one. Resource wars, instability in the region, and geopolitical tensions can result from mass displacement. Migration brought on by climate change may exacerbate rivalries already present in South Asia, where water disputes are a hot spot.

The Global North's Duty

The climate refugee crisis has a painful irony: the people who suffer the most are the ones who contribute the least to climate change. Richer countries have a moral obligation to assist weaker nations like

Pakistan, whose industrial development has contributed to global warming. International climate finance is still dreadfully insufficient, though.

Although the much-discussed "Loss and Damage Fund" that was announced at COP27 is a positive step, it is still far from being operational. Few dollars have reached the victims of climate disasters despite billions being pledged. In the meantime, persistent underfunding affects humanitarian organizations. Fragile states and their citizens will continue to bear the burden unless the global North fulfills its financial and technological obligations.

What Pakistan Needs to Do

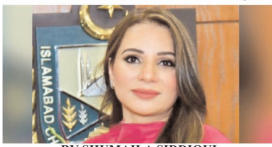
Pakistan cannot afford to wait, even though international assistance is essential. Climate adaptation must be given top priority as a matter of national security. It is essential to make investments in early warning systems, sustainable agriculture, and resilient infrastructure. Safe housing and social services for displaced families are essential components of urban planning that must take climate migration into consideration. Legal acknowledgment of displacement brought on by climate for the displaced.

change is equally significant. To categorize, safeguard, and rehabilitate climate refugees, Pakistan requires international frameworks. This could involve social protection systems, livelihood initiatives, and special housing plans. Pakistan can also advocate for international reforms that recognize climate refugees under international law by setting an example.

We Cannot Ignore This Humanitarian Crisis The floods in Pakistan are a global warning, not just a local tragedy. The displacement caused by climate change is not limited to a single nation because it transcends national boundaries. What starts with families escaping the rising waters of the Indus might soon reverberate in cities ranging from Manila to Miami.

The faces of a crisis that we can no longer ignore are climate refugees. They serve as a reminder that the loss of homes, histories, and futures is what climate change is all about, not a bunch of digits or far-off forecasts. The next global humanitarian crisis will be about water, not war, unless the world takes decisive action to reduce emissions, finance adaptation, and provide legal protection for the displaced.

From Turkey to Kashmir—Tourism, Economy, and Culture



BY SHUMAILA SIDDIQUI

My recent journey took me once again to Turkey—my seventh visit to this remarkable country. Each time, Turkey reveals a new dimension of its rich history and culture. From the Byzantine era to the grandeur of the Ottoman Caliphate, and finally to the modern Republic, this land has always been a focal point of world attention. Istanbul, once Constantinople, remains the finest symbol of the meeting of East and West. Today, Turkey faces economic challenges; inflation has affected ordinary citizens. Yet what impressed me most was their resilience

and their unwavering commitment to their industries—especially textiles and fashion. Despite hardships, they continue to sustain and even expand these sectors with remarkable energy. Accompanying the Istanbul Chamber of Commerce delegation, I had the opportunity to attend the Istanbul Fashion Connect Expo. It was a world-class event, hosting delegations from across the globe. Five-star hospitality, excellent transportation, and the confident, innovative presentation of their products reflected the vision of Turkish entrepreneurs. They are branding their textiles, fashion, and cultural heritage on an international stage—an approach that we in Pakistan could also adopt with determination and foresight. This experience made me reflect on the untapped potential of Pakistan, particularly Azad Kashmir. For decades, Kashmir has been viewed only through the lens of political conflict and occupation. In doing so, we have neglected to showcase the other face of Kashmir—its

rich culture, language, traditional cuisine, handicrafts, clothing, and jewelry. These treasures have remained hidden from the world. The valleys, lakes, and mountains of Kashmir are breathtaking in their natural beauty. But beyond that, its culture has a distinct identity. Kashmiri attire could gain wide appeal in Turkey, the Gulf, and Central Asia due to its unique style. Similarly, Kashmiri cuisine and handicrafts, if introduced on a global platform, could create a new cultural footprint. This would not only promote tourism but also inject fresh life into the local economy. Our greatest failure has been the inability to project the positive side of Kashmir. We have highlighted conflict and suffering while overlooking its beauty, heritage, and cultural wealth. The time has come to introduce Kashmir to the world with a fresh, constructive, and positive perspective. As the Qur'an reminds us: "And if you count the blessings of Allah, never will you be able to number them. Indeed, Allah is Forgiving and Merciful." (Surah An-Nahl: 18) Kashmir is one of those blessings—a divine gift—that deserves to be shared with the world in its full grace. Turkey provides us with an example. Despite economic struggles, it has preserved its cultural legacy and strengthened its textile industry, presenting both with confidence to the world. We, too, can follow this path. Kashmir is not just a political dispute; it is a cultural and economic asset. By showcasing its positive identity globally, Pakistan's image will improve, and new opportunities for livelihood and progress will open for the people of Kashmir. The choice lies with us: do we continue to view Kashmir solely through the prism of conflict, or do we present it to the world as a land of beauty, culture, and opportunity? The demand of the moment is clear—we must choose the latter. Shumaila Siddiqui

Alhaj Shahid Shinwari's Remarkable Services in Business and Sports

(A Role Model for the Youth of Ex-FATA and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa)



BY: ABDUL GHAFFAR – CRICKET COMMENTATOR, SPORTS JOURNALIST ISLAMABAD

Alhaj Shahid Shinwari is a personality who has set new standards of dedication and service both in the fields of business and sports. His tireless efforts to address the concerns of the business community and promote economic activities have left a lasting mark. The Business Expo held in 2015, where renowned traders from across the province participated,

stands as a testimony to his successful vision, opening new horizons for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's economy. On his strong recommendation, the border was opened 24/7, which not only boosted Pakistan-Afghanistan trade but also created thousands of employment opportunities. The trader community has always remained grateful to him for this remarkable initiative. Similarly, the upgradation of Imran Khan Cricket Stadium Peshawar was also one of his major achievements, made possible through his valuable suggestions and continuous efforts. In sports, Shahid Shinwari's services are equally unforgettable. He was a founding member of the FATA Olympic Association, serving as General Secretary from 2011 to 2016 and as President from 2016 to 2019. Under his leadership, young athletes from the former FATA found opportuni-

ties to showcase and polish their talents through various competitions. More importantly, many of them secured jobs in the Pakistan Army, Air Force, WAPDA, and other institutions, creating new paths for livelihood and success. The provincial government recognized his potential by appointing him as Vice Chairman of the Sports Management Committee. He also played a pivotal role in drafting the provincial sports policy. Through his efforts, youth festivals and sporting events were organized across tribal districts in collaboration with national and international institutions, bringing positive change to countless young lives. Shahid Shinwari also represented Pakistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa internationally with pride. He attended the USA Select Summit 2023 as part of the Pakistani business

delegation, joined the National Games of Argentina as a special invitee, and delivered a lecture on former FATA and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa at the World Sports Conference under the International Olympic Committee in the Netherlands. He also toured several countries including the USA, Sweden, Japan, India, and Sri Lanka as team manager and leader, further strengthening Pakistan's sporting image abroad. The life and services of Alhaj Shahid Shinwari prove that with sincerity of purpose and a spirit of service, even limited resources cannot stop one from achieving greatness. His journey has paved new avenues for the youth of Ex-FATA and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, sending a powerful and positive message to the world—one that every resident of the region can proudly cherish.

Bahrain Defence Chief Meets Pakistan Air Chief to enhance military cooperation



SIDRA SADOZAI
ISLAMABAD: Lieutenant General Thiab Saqer Abdulla Al Nuaimi, Chief of Staff, Bahrain Defence Force, called on Air Chief Marshal Zaher Ahmed Baber Sidhu, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force during his visit to Air Headquarters, Islamabad. The meeting focused on key areas of mutual interest and exploring avenues of enhanced cooperation between the two countries. Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to sustained military-to-military engagement, emphasizing joint training and collective growth as a unified

team. Upon his arrival, a smartly turned-out contingent of Pakistan Air Force presented Guard of Honour to Lieutenant General Thiab Saqer Abdulla Al Nuaimi. The Air Chief extended a gracious welcome to the distinguished guests, highlighting that Pakistan and Bahrain enjoy deep-rooted religious and historic bonds, which are reflected in the exemplary military to military relationships between the two countries. During the meeting, Chief of the Air Staff reiterated his resolve to further expand the bilateral military cooperation, particularly in the domains of joint training

and knowledge-sharing initiatives. He further emphasized that Pakistan deeply values its strong diplomatic and defence ties with Bahrain, which are firmly anchored in shared commitment of both the countries on regional peace, security and stability. The visiting dignitary lauded the professionalism of PAF personnel and commended the remarkable strides made by Pakistan Air Force, particularly in indigenization and technological advancement. Underscoring the significance of knowledge-sharing in Multi Domain operations to augment the operational readiness of Bahrain Air Force, he conveyed his earnest desire to gain deeper insight into PAF's complete methodology of Multi Domain warfare, with the aim of learning from its rich operational experience. The visiting dignitary also expressed interest in initiating joint training programs for Bahraini pilots and engineers at all levels. Chief of Staff, Bahrain Defence Force was highly appreciative of PAF's indigenization efforts and particularly commended the role of Nation.

Geelani's spirit echoes in Kashmir's struggle, says NA Speaker

ARSHAD MALIK

ISLAMABAD: National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq on Monday paid glowing tribute to the late Kashmiri leader Syed Ali Geelani, stating that the sacrifices and resilience of the Kashmiri people are a powerful reflection of Geelani's enduring legacy and lifelong struggle for self-determination and justice.



resolve," he said, lauding the veteran leader's steadfast commitment to the Kashmir cause.

Sardar Ayaz Sadiq affirmed that Syed Ali Geelani devoted his entire life to the noble pursuit of freedom for the Kashmiri people. "His name will remain eternally etched in the annals of the Kashmiri freedom movement," he stated, noting that years of imprisonment and house arrest failed to weaken Geelani's spirit.

Highlighting Geelani's enduring influence, the Speaker remarked, "His struggle will continue to inspire generations. In a heartfelt message on the fourth death anniversary of Syed Ali Geelani, the speaker called him a symbol of unwavering resistance and a guiding light for the Kashmiri freedom.

The Speaker emphasized that the sacrifices and resilience of the Kashmiri people are a living testament to Geelani's lifelong struggle for self-determination and justice. "Indian atrocities could never shake Geelani's

Finance Minister advances Pakistan-China Financial Cooperation

JAVID KHAN

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb on Monday held important meetings in Beijing with Dr Pan Gongsheng, Governor of the People's Bank of China (PBOC), and Liao Lin, Chairman of the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC).

During his meeting with the Governor of the People's Bank of China, the Finance Minister expressed deep appreciation for China's longstanding political, diplomatic and economic support to Pakistan, said a press release issued by the Ministry of Finance.

He briefed the Governor on Pakistan's recent economic performance, the government's reform agenda, and the positive outlook reflected in improved international credit ratings. The Minister acknowledged the crucial role of the PBOC in supporting Pakistan through multilateral engagements and in strengthening financial cooperation between the two countries. He underscored the importance of deepening financial integration and expanding cooperation in areas of mutual interest. In his meeting with the Chairman of ICBC Mr Liao Lin, the Finance Minister con-

veyed Pakistan's gratitude for ICBC's continued support in development financing, commercial facilities, and the refinancing of existing obligations. He emphasized that ICBC's strong presence in Pakistan reflects the deepening financial and economic partnership between the two countries. The Minister further discussed prospects for enhanced cooperation in investment, trade financing, and Pakistan's forthcoming initiatives in financial diversification. The Finance Minister underlined that Pakistan's economic reform programme is designed to deliver long-term stability, resilience, and sustainable growth. He emphasized that partnerships with Chinese financial institutions are not only vital for meeting immediate financing needs but are also integral to Pakistan's broader strategy of diversification, financial innovation, and regional integration. He highlighted that new initiatives, such as accessing the Chinese onshore markets, will help open fresh avenues for investment, strengthen market confidence, and align Pakistan's financial system more closely with regional dynamics. Both sides agreed that the Pakistan-China economic partnership has entered a new phase, with opportunities to deepen cooperation across banking, investment,

Khawaja Asif urges construction of small dams

HUMA REHAN

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Defence Khawaja Muhammad Asif on Monday emphasized the urgent need to construct small dams across the country to tackle looming water scarcity and mitigate flood devastation.

Speaking in the National Assembly, he said, "Small dams should be built nationwide instead of waiting decades for mega projects," warning that water would become an extremely scarce commodity in the future.

Calling for political consensus, the minister stressed that natural resources like rivers and dams should not be turned into partisan disputes. "We cannot afford to let every year's floods become another tragedy.

This is a national issue that requires unity and urgent action," he remarked.

He said while climate change was triggered globally by human actions, Pakistan's devastation had been aggravated by encroachments on riverbeds, unregulated housing schemes, and construction on natural waterways. Recalling that the country had faced its third or fourth.

CM Maryam reviews flood relief efforts in Jhang

PEAK POINT

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz visited flood-hit areas of Jhang on Monday, reaching Trimmu Barrage to review the situation on the ground.

At the SCADA control room, Commissioner Faisalabad Raja Jahangir Anwar and Deputy Commissioner Ali Akbar briefed her on the ongoing flood conditions. Officials reported that Trimmu Barrage had recorded the largest flood discharge in history, but timely preventive measures safeguarded Multan and several other regions from severe damage. In Jhang, authorities evacuated nearly 298,000 residents ahead of the flood, while about 119,000 livestock were shifted to safer locations. Livestock feed is being



provided, and 102 veterinary workers are visiting villages to ensure treatment and care for the animals. The district administration has also set up 21 relief camps, currently sheltering around 750 displaced individuals. Overall, 181 villages in Jhang have been affected by the floods. CM Maryam Nawaz directed officials to expand rescue operations so that no affected person is left behind. She urged the use of modern tools such as drones and thermal imaging cameras to locate stranded victims.

Pakistan, China explore stronger capital, financial sector ties

MOHSIN ALI

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb during a meeting with Hongta Securities Chairman Jing Feng in Beijing discussed strengthening capital market cooperation and enhancing financial sector linkages between Pakistan and China. The Finance Minister emphasized that Pakistan was working to diversify its financial options and deepen engagement with leading global and Chinese institutional investors, according to press release issued by finance ministry here Monday. The minister also highlighted Pakistan's recent economic performance and reaf-



firmed the government's commitment to continuing structural reforms aimed at achieving sustainable and inclusive economic growth. "Pakistan is firmly committed to its reform agenda and greatly values its partnership with Chinese investors. Together, we can unlock new opportunities that will strengthen our economies and deepen our financial cooperation," Senator Aurangzeb said.



BEIJING: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, holding a meeting today in Beijing with Mr. Liao Lin, Chairman of the industrial and Commercial Bank of CHINA (ICBC).

BISP and BBSHRRDB join hands to train 3,000 beneficiaries under Benazir Hunarmand Programme

AVESHA REHAN

ISLAMABAD: The Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) and the Benazir Bhutto Shaheed Human Resource Research and Development Board (BBSHRRDB) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Monday at BISP Headquarters under the Benazir Hunarmand Programme.

Under the agreement, BBSHRRDB will initially train 3,000 BISP beneficiaries in various trades, with a strong focus on employability

and sustainable livelihoods.

The ceremony was attended by Chairperson BISP, Senator Rubina Khalid, and Secretary BISP, Mr. Amer Ali Ahmad. The MoU was signed by Ms. Romna Gul, Director General (CI) BISP, and Mr. Munwar Ali Mithani, Secretary Board, BBSHRRDB.

Speaking on the occasion, Senator Rubina Khalid emphasized the importance of the partnership and recalled the words of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir

Bhutto: "Skill is your asset." Senator Rubina Khalid stated that while we are making



lives easier, the greater need is to work on improving lives. Secretary BISP, Mr. Amer Ali Ahmad, termed the MoU a milestone for empowering BISP beneficiaries and stressed that skill training and employment opportunities are vital for securing sustainable livelihoods and contributing to Pakistan's socio-economic development. Mr. Munwar Ali Mithani, Secretary Board, BBSHRRDB, reaffirmed the Board's commitment to equipping BISP beneficiaries with market-driven skills.