

## PBM Launches Major Reforms For Cancer, Rare Diseases Treatment

ISLAMABAD (News Desk): Pakistan Bait-ul-Maal has announced the roll out of key initiatives including NAI-ZINDGI drug rehabilitation center, Pakistan Cancer Awareness Program (P-CAP), and national registries for cancer and cochlear implant patients. A full digitization of operations is also underway, aimed at improving service delivery and advancing PBM’s vision of a better Pakistan with “Zero Hunger, Zero Poverty.” Director General Professor Dr. Zeeshan Danish shared these developments while addressing the landmark seminar “Compassion in Action: Supporting Vulnerable Populations with Cancer & Rare Diseases” at a local hotel, reaffirming PBM’s institutional commitment to uplift marginalized communities under the strategic leadership of Senator Shaheen Khalid Butt. Professor Dr. Zeeshan Danish highlighted PBM’s unwavering commitment to supporting marginalized populations, particularly those battling cancer and rare diseases, through life-saving interventions and sustainable programs. He explained the various service areas of PBM to the audience and narrated the vision of Future PBM. He assured the commitments of higher management for efficient service delivery, restructuring of existing services and policies, capacity building, launch of new projects. The seminar under the chairmanship of Senator Shaheen Khalid Butt and co-chaired by Dr. Tariq Fazal Chaudhry, brought together parliamentarians, health experts, and donors including Roche Pakistan.

## DIG Sukkur Range Organizes Free Eye Camp For Police Personnel & Families

SUKKUR (News Desk): DIG Sukkur Range, Captain (R) Faisal Abdullah Chachar, has been working tirelessly not only to curb crime but also to ensure the welfare of police personnel and their families. In a significant development, the DIG Sukkur Range on Wednesday successfully negotiated with several major hospitals, including Ziauddin



Hospital, Hira Medical Centre, Sukkur Blood Bank, Pakistan Red Crescent Society Hospital, Indus Hospital Rahim Yar Khan, and Mehran Medical Centre, to provide discounted or free OPD services to police personnel and their families. As part of this initiative, a free eye camp was organized at the Range Office Sukkur in collaboration with Ziauddin Hospital. The camp was led by Dr. Arbaz Waleed, Chief Operating Officer of Ziauddin Hospital, and Assistant Professor Dr. Syed Shujaat Ali Shah, Consultant Ophthalmologist. The eye camp provided comprehensive eye check-ups to police personnel and their families. DIG Sukkur Range, Captain (R) Faisal Abdullah Chachar, personally visited the camp, reviewed the facilities, and even got his eyes checked. The DIG emphasized the importance of medical fitness for police personnel, particularly those in specialized roles such as drivers and personnel deployed at highways or high-rise buildings, where perfect vision is crucial. The DIG Sukkur Range expressed gratitude to the administration of Ziauddin Hospital for initiating free OPD services and organizing the eye camp. Dr. Arbaz Waleed, COO of Ziauddin Hospital,

## Thirty-five Palestinians Seeking Aid Killed By Israeli Gunfire Across Gaza

GAZA (News Desk): Thirty five Palestinian civilians were killed and dozens injured by Israeli gunfire near aid centres in several areas across the Gaza Strip, according to medical sources. In another context, the Palestinian Journalists' Syndicate said the number of journalists killed in Gaza has risen to 232 since Israel launched its military campaign on 7 October 2023. It called on the international community to take immediate action to protect journalists and hold those responsible for these crimes accountable.

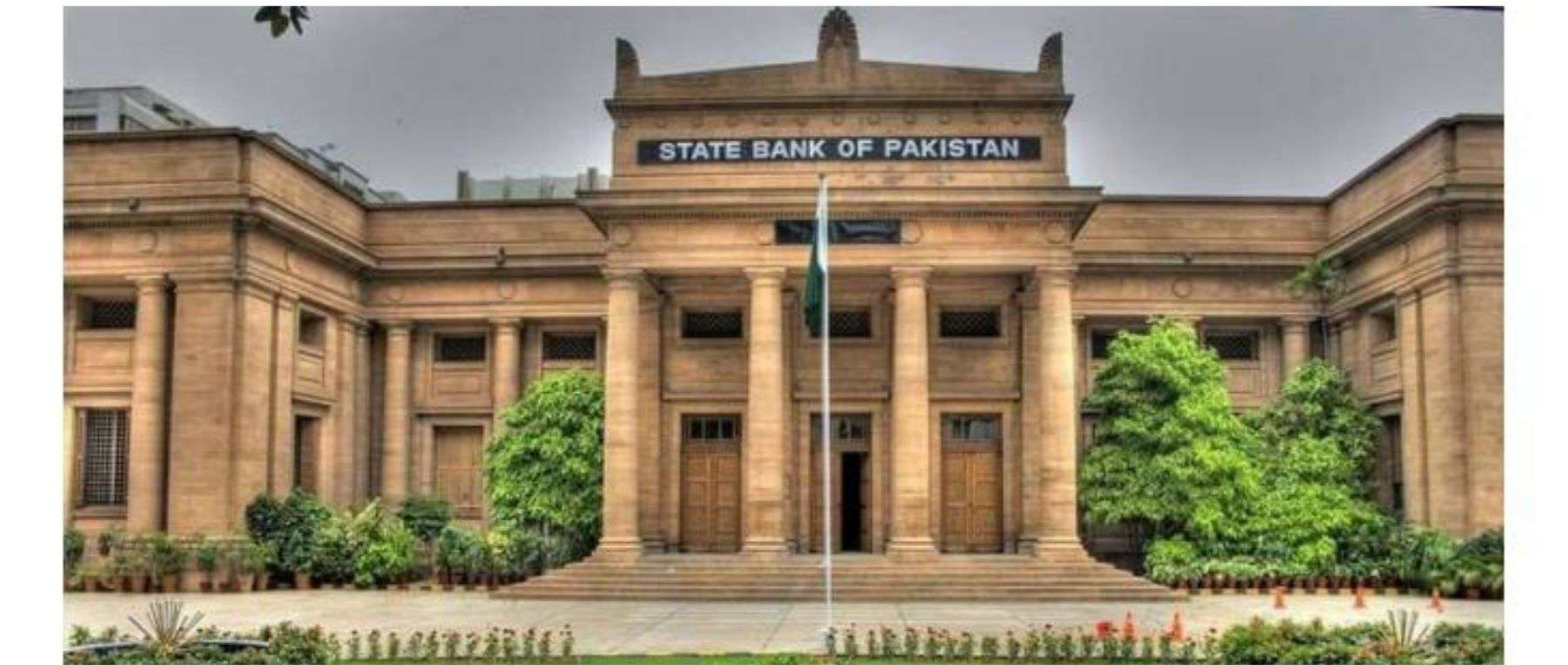


## PSX Surges Past 139,000 Mark, Dollar Declines In Interbank Market



KARACHI (News Desk): Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) on Thursday witnessed a strong bullish trend as the benchmark KSE-100 index soared past the 139,000 mark once again. Simultaneously, the Pakistani rupee strengthened slightly against the US Dollar in the interbank market. On the fourth business day of the week, the trading session opened on a highly positive note with the KSE-100 index recording a gain of 1,456 points. As a result, the index climbed to 139,869 points during early trading. The previous day, the index had closed at 138,383 points at the end of the trading session. Adding to the positive sentiment, the exchange rate of the U.S. dollar also saw a slight decline. According to the Exchange Companies Association of Pakistan (ECAP), the interbank rate for the dollar dropped by 10 paisas, bringing it down to Rs. 282.85 from Rs. 283. The market analysts attributed the rally to improved investor confidence driven by economic optimism, stable monetary indicators, and favorable developments in currency exchange.

## SBP Governor Confident To Settle \$25.9 Billion External Debt Repayments Comfortably In FY26



KARACHI (News Desk): Pakistan, with its rising forex reserves and promising outlook, is financially in a comfortable position to manage external debt repayments of \$25.9 billion during fiscal year 2025-26, said Governor State Bank of Pakistan, Jameel Ahmed. Addressing a press conference on Wednesday held here for announcement of monetary policy decisions, Jameel Ahmed informed that State Bank FX reserves which closed at \$14.5 billion with an increase of \$5 billion in the outgone year are projected to rise to \$15.5 billion by end of December 2025 and a target has been set to increase the reserves to \$17.5 billion by end of the fiscal year 25-26. Potential inflows from Euro Bond and other resources may further inflate the reserves, he added. The central bank has to settle external debts amounting to \$26 billion—comprising \$22 billion of principal and \$4 billion interest—during the FY25-26 through roll overs of \$16 billion and repayment of \$10 billion, he informed, adding that our foreign exchange reserves are sufficiently more than volume of repayable external debt and we will not face any difficulty in repayment. The total public debt in FY25 remained at around \$100 billion, a level being successfully maintained from June 2022 and no debt burden has been added during the past three years while maintaining a balance in repayments and new debt and changing the composition of acquired loans, SBP Governor said. Among the external debt, the share of long-term and low-cost multilateral loans, received from World Bank, Asian Development Bank and other development partners, was 43% in FY22, and it has been raised to 50% in FY25, he stated, adding that change in composition of debt will result into lower interest rate, extended repayment periods and improved repayment capacity. Revival of the national economy reflected by increasing forex reserves, current account surplus, declining inflation and upgraded global ratings has enhanced Pakistan’s credibility and our bonds are trading at premium in the international financial market, the SBP governor explained, maintaining that it would further enhance debt management capacity and new loans could be borrowed at lower rates. The SBP Governor stated that economic growth has started picking up in FY24 with a 2.7% increase and this year we are projecting GDP growth in the range of 3.25 to 4.25 percent and workers remittances are expected to surge above \$40 billion, while current account will range between a fair balance at 0% to a deficit of 1% owing to surging imports.

## Revised School Timings After Summer Vacation From From August 15

MULTAN (News Desk): The Punjab government has issued a notification announcing revised school timings for all public educational institutions across the province, as schools are set to reopen on August 15 following the summer vacation. According to the official notification issued by the School Education Department, single-



shift schools will operate from 7:30 AM to 1:00 PM from Monday to Thursday, while on Fridays, these schools will close earlier at 11:30 AM. For double-shift schools, the morning shift will run from 7:30 AM to 1:00 PM, Monday through Thursday, and end at 11:30 AM on Fridays. The evening shift for double-shift schools will begin at 2:00 PM and continue until 6:00 PM from Monday to Thursday, while on Fridays, the shift will run from 2:30 PM to 5:30 PM. The revised schedule aims to ensure a smooth academic transition after the summer break while accommodating weather-related concerns and logistical needs across Punjab.

## Partly Cloudy, Humid Weather Forecast For Lahore

LAHORE (News Desk): Partly cloudy and humid weather with trace rain was recorded in the city on Wednesday, while the MET office predicted similar conditions with chances of scattered rain over the next 24 hours. Trace rain was observed in areas including Johar Town, Iqbal Town, Jail Road, Airport, and nearby localities. The maximum temperature in Lahore was recorded at 36°C. In anticipation of the expected rainfall, MD WASA Lahore Ghufuran Ahmed has directed all concerned officers and field teams to take preemptive measures to ensure effective drainage. He emphasized the need for timely fuel supply to generators at disposal stations, regular cleaning and monitoring of pump impellers, and clearing of all sewer lines and drains to prevent blockages. He instructed field teams to remain active and respond promptly to any complaints of standing water. The MD warned that any negligence in drainage operations would not be tolerated. He reaffirmed WASA Lahore's commitment, under the directives of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, to providing swift relief and resolving public concerns efficiently.

## SIUT Team Successful Deceased Organ Transplant

PESHAWAR (News Desk): A team of transplant surgeons at the Sindh Institute of Urology and Transplantation (SIUT) successfully performed a deceased organ donation transplantation of two kidneys. According to the institute’s sources, the surgery was conducted in the early hours of the morning by a team of urologists and anesthesiologists. A spokesperson for SIUT shared that Sultan Zafar, a 23-year-old student of dental surgery, suffered a fatal accident resulting in severe head injuries, leading to the donation, says a press release. Subsequently he was brought to SIUT for deceased organ donation transplantation.