

Japan Witnesses First Total Lunar Eclipse in Three Years

Tokyo (News Desk) – A total lunar eclipse was observed across Japan early Monday for the first time in about three years, captivating people with a rare celestial display. The partial eclipse began around 1:30 a.m., followed by a total eclipse that turned the full moon into a dark red "blood moon" from about 2:30 a.m. to 4:00 a.m., particularly visible in western Japan. In front of Hiroshima's Atomic Bomb Dome, crowds gathered to capture the spectacle with cameras and smartphones, with cheers breaking out as the moon appeared through the clouds. “It was cloudy but I managed to capture some nice photos, so it was all worth it,” said a man from nearby Higashihiroshima, despite having to work later in the morning. A total lunar eclipse occurs when the Earth comes directly between the Sun and the Moon, blocking sunlight from reaching the lunar surface. The National Astronomical Observatory of Japan stated that the next such eclipse visible in Japan will occur on March 3, 2026.

China and Pakistan Unveil 2025–2029 Action Plan to Strengthen Strategic Partnership

Beijing (News Desk) China and Pakistan, on occasion of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's visit to China, released the Action Plan on Building a Closer China-Pakistan Community with a Shared Future in the New Era (2025-2029). This has further elevated the China-Pakistan all-weather strategic cooperative partnership to a new height and brought unprecedented opportunities for the development of both countries and the entire region. These views were expressed here Sunday by Prof. Cheng Xizhong, Senior Research Fellow at the Charhar Institute, a non-governmental Chinese think-tank on diplomacy and international studies based in Beijing. The all-weather strategic cooperative partnership between China and Pakistan is widely acclaimed as a model in international relations. This profound friendship, forged through historical evolution and nurtured by the mutual affinity between the two peoples, has grown even deeper and more enduring despite the test of time. Against the backdrop of a volatile world fraught with frequent regional conflicts, building a China-Pakistan community with a shared future is not only a strategic choice for both countries, but also a powerful response to the timeless theme of our era: peace and development, he said in a statement here. He said that from an economic perspective, the Action Plan is of extraordinary significance as it aims to further strengthen economic and trade ties. The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has achieved substantial outcomes, and in the days to come, both sides will continue to make efforts in areas such as trade, investment and industrial cooperation. In terms of trade, the two parties will expand cooperation fields and promote trade diversification, which is expected to further increase the bilateral trade volume. In terms of investment, greater investment will be made in infrastructure, energy, manufacturing and other sectors, helping Pakistan enhance its own development capacity. In terms of industrial cooperation, through complementary advantages and joint construction of industrial parks, the two sides will drive Pakistan's industrial upgrading and enhance its position in the global industrial chain. Such in-depth integrated economic cooperation will not only enable the peoples of the two countries to share the dividends of development but also make the economies of China .

Flood Emergency Declared as Embankments Collapse in Jalalpur Pirwala, Thousands Displaced

Multan (News Desk) – A severe flood crisis has hit Jalalpur Pirwala after breaches in local embankments caused devastating inundation, submerging multiple settlements as the Chenab River surged to dangerous levels. Floodwaters entered homes, forcing residents to take shelter on rooftops, while authorities declared an emergency and ordered the immediate evacuation of the city and nearby villages. The inflow at Head Panjnad reached 609,669 cusecs, while Head Trimmu recorded 543,000 cusecs, raising alarms across flood-prone areas. Officials confirmed breaches in the Shah Rasool and Bet Wahi embankments, allowing waters to reach Bahadurpur. The district administration deployed five drones and 50 rescue boats to evacuate stranded residents while reinforcing vulnerable embankments. In Jhang, the second wave of Chenab flooding affected more than 300 villages, destroying crops on 281,000 acres, while in Muzaffargarh's Azmatpur, another breach displaced over 7,000 people. High-level flooding in the Sutlej River has also reached near Bahawalpur's Northern Bypass, inundating nearby villages. Rescue and relief operations have been intensified across southern Punjab, with authorities warning of further rainfall and possible escalation in flood intensity.



Sindh Government Issues Updated Water Flow Data at Barrages Amid Flood Monitoring

Sukkur (News Desk) – The Provincial Rain and Flood Emergency Monitoring Cell released the latest figures on water inflow and outflow at key barrages across Sindh on Monday. According to the report, inflow and outflow at Panjnad Barrage currently stand at 564,604 cusecs after a decrease of 45,065 cusecs. At Trimmu Barrage, both inflow and outflow are recorded at 543,579 cusecs. Guddu Barrage reported an inflow of 401,626 cusecs and an outflow of 380,896 cusecs, while Sukkur Barrage recorded an inflow of 340,766 cusecs and an outflow of 311,666 cusecs. At Kotri Barrage, inflow was reported at 236,116 cusecs, with outflow at 231,763 cusecs. The Sindh government stated that all relevant institutions remain on high alert, with continuous monitoring of the flood situation to guide relief operations and ensure public safety.

Saudi Arabia Sends 50 Aid Trucks to Syria with 670 Tons of Relief Supplies

Damascus (News Desk) – Saudi Arabia has dispatched 50 aid trucks to Syria as part of its ongoing humanitarian land bridge, delivering more than 670 tons of medical, food, and shelter supplies to support the Syrian people. The convoy was launched in Damascus by Dr. Abdullah Al-Rabeeah, Advisor at the Royal Court and General Supervisor of the King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Center (KSrelief). According to KSrelief, the shipment included dialysis machines, medical equipment, food parcels, shelter materials, heavy machinery, debris removal equipment, and ambulances. This latest consignment builds on a relief campaign that began in 2025, which has so far transported 800 trucks through the land bridge and 18 aircraft via the Saudi air bridge, totaling 13,561 tons of aid. Saudi officials emphasized that the initiative underscores the Kingdom's commitment to supporting the Syrian people by ensuring access to essential healthcare, housing, and food security.

Ambassador Rizwan Sheikh Highlights Pakistan–U.S. Partnership, Defence Day Spirit in Chicago Events

Washington (News Desk) – Pakistani Ambassador to the United States, Rizwan Saeed Sheikh, underscored the significance of Pakistan's Defence Day and the enduring spirit of ‘Operation Bunyan-ul-Marsoos,’ symbolizing the resilience of the nation and the valor of its armed forces, during a luncheon hosted by Consul General Tariq Karim in Chicago. The event was attended by community leaders and U.S. officials, including Congressman Jonathan Jackson and Chicago City Treasurer Melissa Conyears-Ervin. The Ambassador highlighted Pakistan's strengths—its strategic geographic location, human and natural resources, demographic dividend, and growing tech ecosystem—while emphasizing the strong potential of Pakistan–U.S. relations in trade, investment, and economic cooperation. He praised the Pakistani-American community's role as a bridge between both nations and urged them to invest in Pakistan's future and promote a positive image of the country. Commending the services of Consul General Tariq Karim, he acknowledged the consulate's efforts to expand trade and people-to-people ties with the U.S. Midwest. At a separate business roundtable hosted by the Pakistani-American Chicago Chamber of Commerce (PACCC), Ambassador Sheikh stressed Pakistan's commitment to strengthening trade and investment relations with the U.S., noting America as Pakistan's largest export market. He highlighted the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) as a single-window platform for investors, offering policy continuity and attractive incentives. Inviting U.S. businesses to explore opportunities in IT, agriculture, energy, healthcare, mining, and infrastructure .

Heavy Rains Disrupt Drainage in Dera Ismail Khan, Authorities Launch Immediate Cleanup Operation

Dera Ismail Khan (News Desk) – Heavy rains in Dera Ismail Khan on Sunday disrupted the drainage system after plastic bottles and garbage blocked a manhole near the General Post Office (GPO), causing rainwater to accumulate in Topanwala Bazaar and adjoining areas; however, the system was later restored after immediate action by the authorities. According to officials, the Water and Sanitation Services Company (WSSC) Dera and the Public Health Engineering Department promptly launched an operation and cleared the manhole, restoring the water flow. WSSC Chairman Naimat Ullah Khan Advocate, Manager Operations Abdul Rehman Sadazai, Chief Minister's Focal Person Nawaz Khan, and officials of the Public Health Engineering Department reached the spot and personally supervised the cleanliness operation. Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister's Focal Person Nawaz Khan said that on the special directives of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur, several underground sewerage projects have been launched in Dera Ismail Khan to provide long-term relief to the citizens from waterlogging and drainage problems. He explained that an extra sewerage line is being laid near Mehmood Eye Hospital, which will connect to Commissioner Bazaar, while another additional line is being installed in the Islamia School area. He further said that tenders for the underground sewerage of the four main bazaars of the city have already been completed and practical work will begin shortly, adding that work on a comprehensive master drainage plan has started and is being carried out step by step, with all projects expected to be completed within four to five months. He emphasized that these initiatives will not only resolve the recurring problem of water accumulation during heavy rains but also improve sanitation, protect public health, and provide a clean and healthy environment to the people of Dera Ismail Khan. WSSC Chairman Naimat Ullah Khan Advocate appreciated the timely response of the field staff and said that immediate restoration of the drainage system was made possible due to effective teamwork and coordination. He urged citizens to refrain from throwing plastic bottles, shopping bags, and other waste into drains and manholes, stressing that public cooperation is crucial for maintaining a smooth sewerage system during the monsoon season. Officials further said that cleaning and inspection of other manholes across the city are also being carried out to prevent such situations in the future and appealed to the people to extend.

Rescue 1122 Deploys 38 More Boats for Jalalpur Pirwala Evacuation Amid Flood Threat

Multan (News Desk) – Rescue 1122 has dispatched 38 additional boats to Jalalpur Pirwala as local authorities announced evacuation of parts of the city that could come under floodwater. According to a Rescue spokesperson, 25 boats are currently operational in Jalalpur, 29 in Multan city, and 10 in Shujabad. The spokesperson said the operation would continue under the directives of Commissioner Multan despite risks, as saving lives remained the top priority, adding that Rescue cannot leave people alone in this difficult time. Citizens of some other parts in Muzaffargarh, Alipur, and Jatoi have also been urged to evacuate immediately.