

Passenger van hijacked
F.P. Report

ZHOB: A passenger van traveling from Duki to Quetta was hijacked by unidentified armed individuals near Zhob on Tuesday. The armed men intercepted the vehicle, forced the passengers to disembark, and took control of the van, identified by its registration number LDS-356. Local authorities have initiated an investigation into the incident, seeking leads on the identity and motives of the perpetrators.



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KP budget on 13th
F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The annual budget for the fiscal year 2025–26 will be presented in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly on June 13 (Friday) at 3:00 P.m. According to a press release issued by the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly Secretariat on Tuesday, the announcement has been made under Rule 33, sub-rule (1) of the KP Rules of Business, 1985.

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PESHAWAR: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif addressing a Jirga.

CM asks Centre to release KP dues

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Ali Amin Khan Gandapur, while addressing a jirga in Peshawar, extended felicitations to the entire nation for a befitting response to Indian aggression and said that founding chairman PTI Imran Khan, despite being unjustly imprisoned, united the entire nation against Indian hostilities-proving himself a true leader.

Expressing his gratitude to Imran Khan and his supporters, Ali Amin Gandapur said their unwavering stand was instrumental in defending Pakistan. "We have demonstrated national unity above political differences for the sake of the country's sovereignty and integrity," he said.

The Chief Minister also

called on the federal government to avoid imposing taxes on the erstwhile FATA and PATA regions, arguing that the local population is not financially capable of bearing such burdens. "These areas have been severely affected by the war on terror and require significant investment," he emphasized.

Highlighting the sacrifices of people from merged districts, the chief minister urged the federal government to fulfill all promises made to them. He demanded immediate release of compensation funds for displaced persons from these regions and called for an end to drone strikes in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, citing civilian casualties.

He also demanded for the immediate inclusion of the merged districts' share

in the National Finance Commission (NFC) award. "We are not asking for another province's share—we're demanding our rightful due," he said.

The Chief Minister further urged the federal government to release all pending dues owed to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, including net hydel profits and the province's full share in the tobacco cess. "These are the rightful entitlements of our people," he asserted.

In his address, the Chief Minister urged the reinstatement of the traditional jirga system to sustainably resolve disputes in the merged districts. He also demanded Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's inclusion in peace talks with neighboring Afghanistan, warning that excluding the province would render the negotiations incomplete.

Attacks in Bannu, Bajaur repulsed

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Inspector General (IG) of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Zulfiqar Hameed here Tuesday said that the police have thwarted terrorists attacks in Bannu and Bajaur tribal districts.

He said police not only foiled the attacks of Fitna al Khwarij but are also continuing to pursue the terrorists in order to dismantle their network. In a statement, he said that late at night, the police stations in Loi Mamund in Bajaur and Miryan Bannu came under attack by Fitna-e-Khawarij terrorists. The police fought back courageously and forced the attackers to retreat. IGP has announced commendation certificates and rewards for the brave personnel who stood their ground against the terrorists.

Earthquake shakes Karachi areas

F.P. Report

KARACHI: Karachi's Malir and Korangi districts were hit by series of earthquakes over the past two days with a total of 11 tremors felt in both districts and other areas over a span of 48 hours.

Affected areas included Quaidabad, Malir, Landhi, Sherpao, and surrounding localities where terrified citizens rushed out of their homes. According to the National Seismic Monitoring Center, the first tremor was felt at 9:57 AM on Tuesday, with the epicenter in the northeast of Malir. The earthquake had a magnitude of 2.8 and occurred at a depth of 40 kilometers. In the late hours, calls to prayer were heard from various mosques and in most areas citizens spent the night under the open sky out of fear.

Meanwhile, speaking from Washington D.C. as part of Pakistan's high-level diplomatic delegation led by Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, Senator Sherry Rehman stated that Pakistan's principled and responsible position is gaining traction across key international forums. "Right now, Pakistan's narrative is being accepted everywhere and in every meeting. A new space is emerging for it—one that Pakistan's strategic maturity has unlocked—particularly in the context of engagement with India. That door is opening even wider now," she said.

Senator Rehman shared that Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and the delegation have held multiple meetings in New York. "In each one—whether it was with China, Russia, the United States, members of the E10—Chairman Bilawal adopted a multidimensional approach. He spoke about Pakistan's strategic restraint, addressed every concern, including those around the Indus Waters Treaty, and managed to satisfy interlocutors."

She emphasized that Chairman Bilawal raised Kashmir as the core issue—the reason for persistent instability—and stated unequivocally that if we truly desire lasting peace, which is our ultimate goal, then the resolution of the Kashmir issue according to UN Security Council resolutions is essential. "Chairman Bilawal not only

the serious implications such conduct holds in a nuclearized region like South Asia.

He highlighted that highest number of terrorists' attacks had been taking place in Pakistan and the country itself was the biggest victim of terrorism. He underscored that Pakistan was fully committed to eliminating terrorism, including the one funded and supported from India. He stressed that Pakistan's role and sacrifices to combat terrorism were well recognized and there was a need to depoliticize the issue of terrorism.

Bilawal underscored the imperative of a peaceful resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute in accordance with relevant UN Security Council resolutions for durable peace and stability in South Asia. He urged France to play a role in ensuring a sustained ceasefire, revival of the Indus Waters Treaty, and initiation of a comprehensive dialogue between Pakistan and India.

The Permanent Representative of France expressed his country's support for regional peace and stability and need for bilateral dialogue between India and Pakistan. He reiterated the importance of restraint, dialogue, and adherence to international obligations. Members of the parliamentary delegation namely, Hina Rabbani Khar, Sherry Rehman, Dr Musadik Malik, Khurram Dastgir Khan, Jalil Abbas Jilani, Tehmina Janjua, Bushra Anjum Butt and Syed

Faisal Subzwari were also present on the occasion.

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War against terrorism

KP people rendered immense sacrifices: PM

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday affirmed the immense sacrifices rendered by the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) in the fight against terrorism, and said the federal government would stand by the province until the complete eradication of the menace.

Addressing a representative jirga, the prime minister said that KP has received Rs700 billion since 2010 under the National Finance Commission (NFC) Award as its one percent share allocated for anti-terrorism efforts. These funds were released to strengthen the provincial police force, develop the Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD), and enhance the capacity of law enforcement agencies, he added.

"The decision to allocate one percent of the NFC Award for KP, agreed by all provinces, was just and appropriate decision, as KP has remained the frontline province in the war against terrorism," he said. Highlighting the province's unwavering commitment and support to Pakistan, the prime minister said that KP's people had voted in favour of the country during the referendum and had stood by the armed forces through all challenges.

"The sacrifices of KP's people who laid down their lives and sustained injuries for the defence of Pakistan are deeply revered and will be remembered in golden words," he added. Referring to the tragic Army Public School (APS) attack on December 16, 2014, the prime minister

ter paid tribute to the students and teachers who lost their lives in the brutal incident.

Speaking on recent security developments, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said Pakistan had given a strong response to last month's unprovoked Indian aggression under the leadership of Chief of Army Staff Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir. He reiterated that Pakistan's decisive retaliation had frustrated India's nefarious plans, adding that "India will never forget this decisive response of Pakistan."

The prime minister further shared that during recent visits to Türkiye, Iran, Azerbaijan, and Tajikistan, leaders of these countries expressed joy over Pakistan's "historic victory" against India. He said that the Indian Prime Minister Modi was left "frustrated and in a state of panic" after the defeat.

Reaffirming Pakistan's rights under the Indus Waters Treaty of 1960, the prime minister asserted that India cannot deprive Pakistan of its rightful share of water and suspend the treaty unilaterally. He emphasized the need to expand existing water storage capacity and accelerate work on major dam projects, including Diamer Bhasha and Dasu dams.

Calling for national unity in the face of external threats, PM Shehbaz Sharif appreciated the people of KP for offering special prayers for the country's success against India. The jirga was attended by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi, Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur, Chief of Army Staff Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, federal

and provincial ministers, senators, parliamentarians, the Corps Commander Peshawar, Chief Secretary KP, and the Inspector General of Police. The participants offered Fateha for the martyrs of Pakistan, paying tribute to both civilian and military personnel who have laid down their lives for the nation.

Shehbaz directs removing impediments for early completion of Diamer Bhasha Dam: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, calling the country's self-reliance linked with affordable electricity and agriculture, directed the authorities concerned to ensure early completion of Diamer Bhasha Dam by removing all impediments.

The prime minister, chairing a meeting on the construction of Diamer Bhasha Dam and the other matters of water resources, said that building new dams was crucial to enhance water storage capacity, ensure water supply for agriculture, and prevent floods.

He said that the country's self-dependence was linked with affordable electricity and agriculture, which required increased water storage and efficient water usage. The prime minister directed prioritizing the completion of projects like Diamer Bhasha Dam to establish an effective system for energy production and abundant water storage. The meeting was attended by federal ministers Ahsan Iqbal, Engineer Amir Muqam, Azam Nazeer Tarar, and Moeen Wattoo, Adviser to Prime Minister Rana Sanaullah, Chief Minister of Gilgit-Baltistan Gulbar Khan, and relevant senior government officials.

Gaza officials say Israeli forces killed 27 heading to aid site

GAZA STRIP (AP): Palestinian health officials and witnesses say Israeli forces fired on people as they headed toward an aid distribution site on Tuesday, killing at least 27, in the third such incident in three days. The army said it fired "near a few individual suspects" who left the designated route, approached its forces and ignored warning shots.

The near-daily shootings have come after an Israeli and US-backed foundation established aid distribution points inside Israeli military zones, a system it says is designed to circumvent Hamas. The United Nations has rejected the new system, saying it doesn't address Gaza's mounting hunger crisis and allows Israel to use aid as a weapon. The Israeli military said it was looking into reports of casualties on Tuesday.

It previously said it fired warning shots at suspects who approached its forces early Sunday and Monday, when health officials and witnesses said 34 people were killed. The military denies opening fire on civilians or blocking them from reaching the aid sites. The Gaza Humanitarian Foundation, which operates the sites, says there has been no violence in or around them. On Tuesday, it acknowledged that the Israeli military was investigating whether civilians were wounded "after moving beyond the designated safe corridor and into a closed military zone," in an area that was "well beyond our secure distribution site."

The shootings all occurred at the Flag Roundabout, around a kilometer (1,000 yards) from one of the GHF's distribution sites in the now mostly uninhabited southern city of Rafah. The

entire area is an Israeli military zone where journalists have no access outside of army-approved embeds. At least 27 people were killed early Tuesday, according to Zaher Al-Waheidi, the head of the Gaza Health Ministry's records department.

Hisham Mhanna, a spokesperson for the International Committee of the Red Cross, said its field hospital in Rafah received 184 wounded people, 19 of whom were declared dead on arrival and eight more who later died of their wounds. The 27 dead were transferred to Nasser Hospital in the city of Khan Younis. Yasser Abu Lubda, a 50-year-old displaced Palestinian from Rafah, said the shooting started around 4 a.m. in the city's Flag Roundabout area, around one kilometer (1,000 yards) away from the aid distribution hub.

He said he saw several people killed or wounded. Neima Al-Aaraj, a woman from Khan Younis, gave a similar account. "There were many martyrs and wounded," she said, saying the shooting by Israeli forces was "indiscriminate." She said she managed to reach the hub but returned empty-handed. "There was no aid there," she said. "After the martyrs and wounded, I won't return," she said.

"Either way we will die," Rasha Al-Nahal, another witness, said "there was gunfire from all directions." She said she counted more than a dozen dead and several wounded along the road. She said she also found no aid when she arrived at the distribution hub, and that Israeli forces "fired at us as we were returning." 3 Israeli soldiers killed in northern Gaza

The Israeli military meanwhile said Tuesday that three of its soldiers were killed in the Gaza Strip, in what appeared to be the deadliest attack on Israel's forces since it ended a ceasefire with Hamas in March. The military said the three soldiers, all in their early 20s, fell during combat in northern Gaza on Monday, without providing details.

Israeli media reported that they were killed in an explosion in the Jabaliya area. Israel ended the ceasefire in March after Hamas refused to change the agreement to release more hostages sooner. Israeli strikes have killed thousands of Palestinians since then, according to Gaza's Health Ministry. Hamas-led militants killed some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and took 251 people hostage in the Oct. 7, 2023, attack into Israel that ignited the war.

They are still holding 58 hostages, a third of them believed to be alive, after most of the rest were released in ceasefire agreements or other deals. Israel's military campaign has killed over 54,000 Palestinians, mostly women and children, according to the Gaza Health Ministry, which does not say how many of the dead were civilians or combatants.

The ministry is led by medical professionals but reports to the Hamas-run government. Its toll is seen as generally reliable by UN agencies and independent experts, though Israel has challenged its numbers. Israel says it has killed around 20,000 militants, without providing evidence. Around 860 Israeli soldiers have been killed since the Oct. 7 attack, including more than 400 during the fighting inside Gaza.

Bilawal urges global community to act against Indian aggression

F.P. Report

NEW YORK: The Permanent Representative/Ambassador of France to the United Nations, Ambassador Jerome Bonnafont, met with the high-level parliamentary delegation of Pakistan, led by former Foreign Minister of Pakistan Mr. Bilawal Bhutto Zardari.

The delegation briefed the French Ambassador regarding the alarming security developments in South Asia following India's recent military aggression and unilateral actions. Bilawal Bhutto apprised him of the grave consequences arising from India's baseless attribution of the Pahalgalan attack to Pakistan without any credible investigation or evidence. He condemned India's unilateral military strikes against civilians leading to deaths and injuries and damage to civilian infrastructure in Pakistan, the arbitrary holding in abeyance of the Indus Water Treaty, and India's persistent belligerence — actions that violate international law and threaten the fragile strategic balance in the region.

The head of the Pakistan parliamentary delegation emphasized Pakistan's responsible and restrained conduct in the face of Indian provocations, adding that Pakistan's response was guided by the principles of international law and the UN Charter. He warned against India's attempt to impose a so-called "new normal" of arbitrary strikes, noting

the serious implications such conduct holds in a nuclearized region like South Asia.

He highlighted that highest number of terrorists' attacks had been taking place in Pakistan and the country itself was the biggest victim of terrorism. He underscored that Pakistan was fully committed to eliminating terrorism, including the one funded and supported from India. He stressed that Pakistan's role and sacrifices to combat terrorism were well recognized and there was a need to depoliticize the issue of terrorism.

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advanced this point," Senator Rehman noted, "he underlined it boldly."

Senator Rehman stressed that Chairman Bilawal emphasized multilateralism and the international legal frameworks and military codes that are being flagrantly violated in Modi's India. "With no regard for rules or norms, India continues to set dangerous precedents. For them, war has become a permanent theatre. If peace is genuinely desired, then India must also change its posture and engage in dialogue with Pakistan."

Senator Rehman underscored that even on the issue of terrorism—India's constant refrain—Chairman Bilawal made it clear that Pakistan has made immense sacrifices and has transformed. "Since the martyrdom of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto, Pakistan has become a frontline state in the fight against terrorism. Our military has a generation that has witnessed urban warfare, the loss of friends and brothers. We stand firmly today having given everything in this fight against terrorism."

Senator Rehman noted that Chairman Bilawal also called out India's politics of propaganda, misinformation, and constant vilification of Pakistan, calling it unsustainable and dangerous. "It only escalates tensions and ignores the reality that both countries are nuclear powers," she said. "What direction does India want to push this region in?"

She added that Chairman Bilawal raised critical questions about the internal and external posture of Modi's India. "Why has this 'new India,' built on identity politics, created enemies both inside and outside its borders—especially targeting minorities, particularly Muslims, at home, while promoting hostility abroad? This is becoming a militarized state that thrives on perpetual conflict."

Senator Rehman confirmed that the delegation also highlighted how unarmed civilians have been targeted, and even critical motor infrastructure attacked—actions unheard of anywhere else. "Particularly with the Indus Waters Treaty, India has opened up a new and illegal front of war," she said. Concluding her remarks, Senator Rehman called for urgent international attention. "The international community must take note, raise its voice, and stand with Pakistan's principled position—because if such actions are left unchecked, they could open the door to dangerous precedents and a major crisis in South Asia."



Murad Inaugurates Rehabilitation Centre for Children with Disabilities

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Monday inaugurated a state-of-the-art rehabilitation centre dedicated to children with physical and neurodevelopmental disabilities, calling it a "beacon of hope" for families across the province.

The new facility — The Centre for Rehabilitation of Children with Physical and Neurodevelopmental Disabilities — is a joint initiative between the Marie Adelaide Leprosy Centre (MALC) and the Sindh government's Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPD).

"This centre stands as a beacon of hope and a testament to our collective commitment to support children facing physical and neurodevelopmental challenges, including conditions such as autism and Down syndrome," said the chief minister during the inauguration. "Our vision is clear — to provide these children with the care, therapies, and opportunities they need to thrive and lead fulfilling lives."

The newly opened facility offers a wide range of integrated services delivered by a multidisciplinary team of professionals. These include, Physiotherapy to enhance mobility and physical development, Speech Therapy to improve communication and language skill, Remedial Therapy for academic and cognitive growth, Behavioural Therapy to support adaptive functioning, Occupational Therapy focusing on daily living skills and sensory integration, A Sensory Room for sensory regulation and exploration, Paediatrician services for medical assessments and developmental care, Special Play Area with adaptive equipment for inclusive play and Audiometry Services for early detection and intervention of hearing impairments.

Shah toured the centre's facilities, interacted with children, and noted that 50 children had already been admitted on the first day.

The chief minister also announced plans to expand similar rehabilitation centres to various districts across

Sindh. "We have already established such centres in Karachi, Gambat, Larkana, Tando Muhammad Khan, and Nawabshah. More are on the way," he said.

In a major development, Shah revealed that the Sindh government has allocated 100 acres of reclaimed land near the Malir Expressway in Karachi to develop an Inclusive City — a comprehensive environment for persons with disabilities.

"This Inclusive City will feature inclusive schools, rehabilitation complexes, vocational training centres, a general hospital, neuropsychiatry ward, and residential facilities," Shah stated. A 20-acre park designed for children with special needs and a building to house welfare organisations will also be part of the project.

"This city will be a model of accessibility, dignity, and opportunity," he added. Shah paid tribute to Dr Ruth Pfau, founder of MALC, recalling her pioneering efforts in the fight against leprosy. "Her legacy continues through the centre and MALC's ongoing

work," he said.

Answering media questions, CM announced that the Sindh provincial budget will be presented on June 13, 2025, with agriculture being a central focus.

He also stressed the need for provincial representation in the management of K-Electric and other power distribution companies, citing consumer interests and constitutional responsibility.

"The Sindh government is interested in running HESCO and SEPCO under a public-private partnership model," he said, adding that discussions with the federal government are ongoing.

The event was attended by several dignitaries, including DEPDP Secretary Taha Ahmed Farooqi, Special Assistant Rajveer Singh Sodha Tunio, German Consul General Dr Rüdiger Lotz, GLRA Germany Global Health Advisor Dr Anil Fastino, MALC CEO Mervyn Francis, and board members Anwarul Haq Haidri, Azeem Hussain Siddiqui, and Abid Hussain.



LAHORE: Labourers are busy unloading iron bars from a trailer using a crane at their workplace. —APP Photo

Minister joins Italian Republic Day festivities

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Fahd Haroon, Minister of State/Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Digital Media, attended the celebration marking the National Day of the Italian Republic this evening at the Embassy of Italy in Islamabad.



The event, hosted by H.E. Marilina Armellini, Italy's Ambassador to Pakistan, brought together senior government officials, diplomats, business leaders, and members of the cultural and media communities. Mr. Haroon extended warm greetings to the people and government of Italy on the occasion of Festa della Repubblica, which commemorates the founding of the Italian Republic on June 2, 1946.

"It was a pleasure to be part of this celebration," said Mr. Haroon. "Pakistan and Italy enjoy a long-standing friendship rooted in mutual respect, shared values, and meaningful cooperation. Events like these are a reminder of our growing partnership and the promise it holds for the future."

Pakistan and Italy have enjoyed over seven decades of diplomatic relations, with expanding collaboration across trade, education, climate action, innovation, and cultural exchange. Mr. Haroon also thanked Ambassador Armellini for her warm hospitality and reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to deepening bilateral ties with Italy.

CM Maryam approves up to 40 pc relief in power tariffs in Punjab

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif chaired the 26th meeting of the provincial cabinet, here on Tuesday, where 101 agenda items were taken into consideration.

In a landmark decision, the CM announced a reduction in electricity tariffs, offering up to 40 percent relief to consumers in the province. The initiative makes Punjab the first province to voluntarily reduce power tariffs. Acting on the Chief Minister's directives, the cabinet approved reductions in electricity rates for Quaid-e-Azam Thermal Power Private Limited and Punjab Thermal Power Private Limited, aiming to ease the financial burden on citizens and lower electricity bills across the board.

During the meeting, the CM said that the people of Punjab have reposed their full trust in the leadership and governance of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N). She said that the Punjab government is committed to fulfilling this trust through performance-driven governance. The cabinet also congratulated the party on its resounding victory in the recent Sambrial by-election, where the PML-N secured an overwhelming majority in 80 per cent of the rural constituencies. The victory was attributed to widespread public support, especially from the farming community, youth, and

women voters, who turned out in large numbers.

CM Maryam Nawaz lauded Provincial Minister Zeeshan Rafique and Special Assistant Zeeshan Malik for their dedicated efforts in the election campaign, noting that the party's public welfare projects played a key role in mobilizing support. The cabinet was also briefed on several significant development initiatives across various sectors.

The CM directed the departments concerned to take necessary steps for the establishment of a medical college in Layyah, while also commending the recent improvements in hospitals and road infrastructure in the region. A grant-in-aid of Rs. 400 million was approved for the Punjab Journalist Housing Foundation to facilitate payment to RUDA for the Lahore Press Club Housing Scheme Phase II.

In a major step for agriculture, the CM announced a substantial support package for wheat farmers.

The meeting was informed that Rs. 5,000 per acre subsidy had already been paid to 514,000 farmers, with payments to another 500,000 farmers underway following the completion of the verification process. Under the second phase of the Kisan Card initiative, Rs. 63 billion has been disbursed, with farmers having purchased fertilizers worth Rs. 18 billion so far.

The cabinet formally approved the Chief Minister Wheat Program 2025 to strengthen support for the agriculture sector.

In the transport sector, the cabinet approved the launch of Punjab's first "Air Punjab Private Limited" and set a one-year timeline for its commencement. Approval was also granted for the introduction of electric buses across nine divisions of Punjab, along with the construction of charging stations in major cities. Additionally, the cabinet endorsed the construction and upgradation of bus shelters in Lahore and the establishment of depots at Thokar Niaz Baig and the Railway Station.

The CM took serious notice of worker safety and directed the Labour Department to ensure the provision of safety gear for workers, especially those involved in high-risk jobs such as construction and sewer cleaning. She ordered strict implementation of safety protocols and approved the issuance of ration cards to workers and miners registered with the Labour Department.

The cabinet approved the Punjab Autism School and Resource Centre Lahore Act 2025, with clear instructions to admit all children without discrimination. The establishment of Nawaz Sharif Medical City in Lahore was also approved, with the transfer of land spanning 5,000 kanals.

13 illegal cattle markets dismantled, 25 cases registered

LAHORE (APP): The district administration, under the leadership of Deputy Commissioner Syed Musa Raza, has taken decisive measures to ensure the smooth functioning of cattle markets and eliminate illegal sale points across the city in preparation for Eid-ul-Adha.

In an intensive enforcement campaign, 13 illegal cattle markets were removed, 25 FIRs registered, and 4 premises sealed to curb unauthorised activities. The crackdown is part of a wider strategy to maintain order and safeguard public convenience during the festive season.

To guarantee round-the-clock vigilance and swift response, the administration has deployed 10 trucks and 10 motorcycles. These vehicles, manned by special monitoring teams, are patrolling key areas of the city to ensure compliance and take immediate action against violations.

The campaign is being jointly executed by the Metropolitan Corporation Lahore and District Administration, with active participation of the Additional Deputy Commissioner General, Metropolitan Officer Regulation, and all Assistant Commissioners. Field teams have remained on duty late into the night to maintain oversight.

Illegal cattle sale points have been swiftly removed from multiple locations including Shanghai Road Kamahan, Misri Shah, Shadbagh, and Kotli Ghazi. In addition to enforcement, the district administration has ensured high-quality facilities at authorised cattle markets.

Rescue 1122 responds to over 17,000 emergencies cross KP in May

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Emergency Rescue Service (Rescue 1122) continues its mission of providing timely and efficient emergency services to the public across the province. Director General Rescue 1122, Shah Fahad, announced impressive operational statistics for May 2025 during the organization's monthly performance review meeting held at the Rescue Headquarters.

Under DG Shah Fahad's chairmanship, the meeting comprehensively assessed the emergency services delivered throughout the province last month. Rescue 1122 teams responded to a total of

17,647 emergencies across all 34 districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, including the newly merged districts. Crucially, the service maintained an outstanding average response time of just 6 minutes and 45 seconds.

"Rescue 1122 remains unwavering in its commitment to the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa," stated DG Shah Fahad. "Our teams are on high alert 24/7, fully prepared to respond to any natural disaster or unforeseen emergency across the province."

Breakdown of Emergency Responses (May 2025), Medical Emergencies 13,866, Traffic Accidents 1,993, Fire Incidents 671, Drowning Cases 73, Building

Collapses 37, Crime-Related Incidents 396, Other Emergencies, 611.

During these critical interventions, Rescue 1122 personnel provided vital medical aid and safely transported 17,275 individuals* to hospitals for further care. Tragically, 511 individuals succumbed to their injuries despite rescue efforts.

DG Shah Fahad highlighted the essential role of Rescue 1122 and acknowledged the provincial government's support. "The services rendered by Rescue 1122 are crucial for public safety. In recognition of this, the Provincial Government is committed to providing the Rescue service with all necessary resources to maintain and enhance its operational capabilities."

Thousands of workers to protest pension reforms, privatization

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Haji Muhammad Iqbal, Chairman of the All Pakistan WAPDA Hydroelectric Workers Union Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and Provincial Secretary Noor-ul-Amin Haiderzai stated that on June 10, officials, workers, and thousands of laborers from unions affiliated with the All Government Employees Coordination Council and the WAPDA Hydro Union will fully participate in a protest rally and sit-in in front of Parliament House,

Islamabad.

The protest is against pension reforms, privatization of national institutions, the lack of job security for employees hired on a lump-sum salary, and the failure to increase wages for part-time workers.

They expressed these views during a meeting with various delegations at the Iqbal Labor Complex on Ring Road, Peshawar, the previous day.

They further stated that thousands of workers from PESCO, TESCO, and HAZECO would join the sit-in in Islamabad on June 10. Provincial Chairman

Haji Muhammad Iqbal urged the government to reconsider its decision to privatize national institutions, including WAPDA, as it is not in the country's or the nation's interest.

He demanded that the government:

- Increase government employees' salaries by 200% in line with inflation.

- Regularize employees hired on a lump-sum basis.
- Increase the wages of part-time workers, similar to other companies.

He warned that the sit-in would continue until their demands are met.

Paraplegic Center celebrates recovery of over 5,000 Children

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Paraplegic Center Peshawar (PCP) marked World Clubfoot Day with a simple, impressive and emotionally moving ceremony.

It was attended by children undergoing treatment, their parents, medical experts and support staff. On this occasion Dr. Syed Muhammad Ilyas, CEO PCP, distributed gifts and sweets among the children as chief guest and cut a special cake with a young girl who had recently completed treatment. The cake symbolized the recovery of 5,071 children who have been successfully treated for congenital clubfoot deformity.

Dr. Ilyas Syed paid glowing tributes to the dedication, professionalism and compassionate spirit of the medical and technical teams working in the Clubfoot Clinics. He emphasized that PCP is not merely a medical institution but a great mission of humanitarian service, an embodiment of hope. "Nations that understand their problems and seek lasting solutions progress," he remarked, "and PCP is a living example of this very philosophy."

He said that the Clubfoot Program was initiated in 2018 with the support of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and later



expanded in 2022 through a partnership with the global organization MiracleFeet. This collaboration not only enhanced the standard of care to international levels but also paved the way for establishing multiple new centers across the country. He explained that PCP has developed a comprehensive system, aligned with global standards, for the treatment of children born with clubfoot.

The treatment is provided completely free of cost, including travel expenses for families coming from remote areas. The highly successful Ponseti Method is employed, which in most cases avoid surgical intervention. Each child is individually assessed by a team of pediatricians, physiotherapists, orthopedic surgeons and trained staff, while par-

ents receive continuous guidance and education throughout the treatment process.

Dr. Ilyas also announced the expansion of services, stating that two new Clubfoot Clinics are being established in Gilgit and Bannu with the support of MiracleFeet. These new centers will enable local children to receive timely and quality care without burdening families with the cost and difficulty of long-distance travel. He further noted that Clubfoot Clinics under PCP's supervision are operating successfully in multiple cities including Peshawar, Abbottabad, Haripur, Swat, Swabi, Islamabad and Azad Kashmir.

These centers have become a beacon of hope for children suffering from this deformity, offering not just

medical treatment but psychological support to families as well. Dr. Ilyas Syed shared his vision to replicate this model in more districts of KP and in major cities across Pakistan, ensuring that every child, regardless of region, has the opportunity to live a dignified, disability-free life.

Dr. Aamir Zaib, Director Rehabilitation and Program Coordinator, highlighted that PCP gives equal importance to physical rehabilitation and the emotional and psychological strengthening of both children and their families. Parental training, counseling, and consistent follow-up are distinguishing features of PCP's Clubfoot Clinics.

Parents attending the event expressed heartfelt gratitude to PCP and MiracleFeet, stating that the gift of saving their children from lifelong disability is beyond words. They prayed for the continued success, growth and well-being of the institution and its staff, and said they consider the center an extension of their own family.

In this spirit, the World Clubfoot Day celebration at Paraplegic Center Peshawar was more than just an annual event, it was a reaffirmation of the center's unwavering resolve to set children's feet straight and lead them toward lives of dignity, building a Pakistan free from disability.

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Secretary Syed Asif Hyder Shah on Tuesday reaffirmed Sindh government's commitment to ensuring road safety, law enforcement, and protection of the public assets.

He assured the National Highway and Motorway Police (NHMP) of the Provincial government's full support and directed relevant provincial departments to coordinate closely with NHMP and NHA.

He expressed these views while chairing a meeting with Inspector General of National Highways and Motorway Police (NHMP) B.A. Nasir, who was accompanied by officers from the National Highways and Motorways Police South Region.

The meeting was also attended by Secretary Excise & Taxation, Secretary Transport, Secretary Works & Services, and Secretary Implementation & Coordination Department, a communicate said.

The meeting focused on enforcing the Axle Load Control Regime (ALCR), enhancing the vehicle inspection and certification process, and addressing the safety and operational challenges on national highways and motorways, particularly in Sindh.

During the meeting, one of the major issues raised was the illegal use of escape routes by transporters to avoid weightment at stations. NHMP shared that such routes, once identified, are

reported to regional authorities to block these loopholes. To counter resistance and ensure smooth enforcement, it was stressed that deployment of district and local police at weigh stations is essential. In response, the chief secretary informed that the provincial government is in the process of establishing 32 new weigh stations across various routes in Sindh.

The meeting also reviewed the registration and follow-up of FIRs under NHSO-2000 and PPC sections 279 and 431 against vehicles violating axle load limits. Strict and consistent legal action was deemed essential to create deterrence and promote long-term compliance.

The modernization of vehicle fitness certification also came under discussion. Provincial transport authorities have been advised to adopt the VICS (Vehicle Inspection and Certification System) model. Key points

included mandatory physical inspection prior to certification, pasting of visible fitness stickers with QR codes and expiry dates on windscreens, and restricting old or mechanically unfit vehicles from entering highways.

Another point of concern was road blockades caused by political or social groups. The CS highlighted the economic and safety threats posed by such disruptions and directed the local administration to act swiftly in preventing or removing such obstacles.

The NHMP also raised concerns about vandalism and theft of protective fencing installed along motorways. These fences are critical to preventing accidents by stopping stray animals and unauthorized access to carriageways. The need for stronger local police cooperation was emphasized, including the registration of FIRs and recovery of stolen materials.

TENDER NOTICE No. 01/2025

01. Sealed bids are invited from the firms registered with FBR & other Govt. Departments, for supply of **Stationery and Hygienic Items** on FOR Atomic Energy Cancer Hospital (DINAR), D.I.Khan.
02. Complete/detailed specifications and terms and conditions of the bids are available in tender documents, which will be issued upon written request & provision of NTN/ GST registered firms. The tender documents can be obtained from the office of the undersigned during office timings from **0800 to 1400 hours** (Monday to Saturday) on payment of **Rs.500/-** being tender fee (non-refundable) in cash or bank draft in the name of Head LAO, DINAR, D.I.Khan.
03. The sealed bids must reach the undersigned on or before **25-06-2025** upto **1130 Hrs.** and will be opened at **1200 Hrs** on same day. The competent authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders.

Incharge Procurement, DINAR
Ph: 0966-747127

Kundi lauds Rotary Club’s welfare initiatives emphasizes collaboration for polio eradication

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Tuesday praised the efforts of Rotary Club International in the fields of health, education, and social welfare during a meeting with a Rotary delegation led by Shabbir Malik at the Governor House.

The delegation briefed the Governor on Rotary’s wide-ranging initiatives including promotion of education through school renovation, provision of uniforms, bags, and furniture for students, maternal and child health programs, training of lady health workers, and tree plantation drives.

Special focus was given to Rotary’s role in the ongoing polio eradication campaign, empowerment of women through fellowship programs, and revitalization of basic health units across the province.

Governor Kundi commended Rotary’s contributions and emphasized the need to engage all segments of society in the fight against polio.

He stressed the importance of adopting a strategy that encourages parents to voluntarily vaccinate their children and proposed improving health centers to make them more effective and appealing.

To ensure a coordinated approach, the Governor’s House has appointed a focal person for polio campaigns across the province.

Governor Kundi also welcomed enhanced cooperation between Rotary Club and the Red Crescent, aiming to develop a strong and sustainable partnership that can be expanded to other social welfare programs.

He further highlighted the critical need for clean drinking water in the southern districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, particularly in the Daman areas, and termed water filtration projects essential for the area.

Meanwhile, CEO of Serena Hotels, Aziz Boolani, met with Governor Faisal Karim Kundi at the Governor House to discuss mutual interests including women empowerment, youth engagement in national development, and the promotion of cultural activities.

Governor Kundi appreciated Serena Hotels’ efforts in promoting social development and harmony, emphasizing that sustainable progress is impossible without including women and youth in the national mainstream.

He highlighted the importance of cultural initiatives in fostering unity and interfaith harmony, and stressed the need to utilize every platform to promote Pakistan’s cultural diversity.

Aziz Boolani briefed the Governor on Serena Hotels’ ongoing social and cultural projects and expressed willingness to collaborate on future joint programs and events.

Similarly, Governor Faisal Karim Kundi in a meeting with Chairman of the National Assembly Standing Committee on Defence Sardar Fatehullah Khan Miankhel, MNA Noor Alam Khan, former Federal Minister Najmuddin Khan, and MPA Iqbal Wazir at the Governor House Peshawar discussed key issues including the recent visit of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Field Marshal General Hafiz Syed Asim Munir to Peshawar, the overall law and order situation in the province, ongoing political activities, and other matters of mutual interest.

Governor KP thanks Balochistan Assembly for backing renaming of Islamabad Airport after Benazir Bhutto

Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi, on Tuesday expressed gratitude to the Chief Minister of Balochistan and members of the Balochistan Assembly for unanimously approving a resolution to rename Islamabad International Airport as Shaheed Benazir Bhutto International Airport.

In a statement, Governor Kundi recalled that in 2008, then Prime Minister of Pakistan, Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani, had announced the renaming of Islamabad International Airport in honor of the late Benazir Bhutto for her services to the nation. However, the name was later changed, which he termed an injustice.

He praised the Balochistan Assembly for joining the Sindh Assembly in passing a unanimous resolution, calling it a "national voice" that the federal government must heed.

Governor Kundi had previously made this demand in a written letter to the President and Prime Minister of Pakistan on February 20, 2025.

He also discussed the matter with Balochistan Chief Minister Sarfraz Bugti during a recent meeting, urging support for the resolution.

Lauding the step taken on May 26, Governor Kundi thanked Chief Minister Sarfraz Bugti, Provincial Minister Bakht Muhammad Kakar who presented the resolution MPA Ali Madad Jatak, and all members of the Balochistan Assembly for their support.



PESHAWAR: KP Advisor on Health, Ihtesham Ali, paid a detailed visit to the Peshawar Institute of Cardiology (PIC).

KhUJ expresses concern over rising street crimes

F.P. Report



PESHAWAR: The Khyber Union of Journalists (KHUJ) on Tuesday expressed deep concern over the growing number of street crimes especially targeting journalists in the provincial capital, including mobile phone snatching, vehicle and motorcycle thefts, and other forms of armed robbery.

The union reported that numerous journalists have fallen victim to such incidents this year, yet police authorities have shown no tangible progress in apprehending the culprits or recovering stolen property.

In a joint press statement issued by KhUJ President Kashif-ud-Din Syed and General Secretary Irshad Ali, the union highlighted

the rising frequency of attacks against journalists in the city.

They revealed that journalists are frequently being deprived of their mobile phones, cash, motorcycles, and cars, with no arrests or recoveries made by law enforcement agencies to date thus sparking widespread concern across the media community.

The union further revealed that on Tuesday street criminals snatched the mobile phone of Nasir Naeem, the General

Secretary of the Video Journalists’ Association, and fled the scene.

President Kashif-ud-Din Syed stated that journalists in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, particularly in Peshawar, are increasingly becoming the targets of both criminal gangs and influential groups.

He criticized the apparent inaction of law enforcement agencies, describing it as a serious failure.

Additionally, the statement mentioned that during a recent protest organized

by the Pakistan Peoples Party, a video journalist’s motorcycle was stolen. In other incidents earlier this year, two journalists had their vehicles stolen, while several others were robbed at gunpoint of cash and valuable belongings—yet none of the perpetrators have been brought to justice.

The KhUJ has called on the Inspector General of Police Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the Capital City Police Officer (CCPO), and the SSP Operations to take immediate action.

They demanded the prompt arrest of all those involved in these crimes, including those who targeted Nasir Naeem, and the recovery of the stolen valuables and vehicles.

PHC seeks response against poor sanitation services

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: A two-member bench of Peshawar High Court (PHC) comprising Justice Naem Anwar and Justice Farah Jamshid, has sought a response from the provincial government, Secretary Local Government, CEO WSSCP, Tehsil Municipal Officer, and Deputy Commissioner

Peshawar regarding a writ petition filed over the poor sanitation conditions in Sabzali Town on Warsak Road, on Tuesday.

The writ petition filed by Muhammad Riaz Advocate while the petitioner’s lawyer, Umar Farooq Advocate, informed the court that the residents of Sabzali Town are facing severe sanitation issues,

and the area is littered with debris due to excavations for water and gas pipeline replacements, posing health risks to the residents.

The petitioner’s lawyer argued that it is the responsibility of the authorities to ensure a clean and healthy environment for their citizens.

He stated that despite multiple representations to

the concerned departments, no action has been taken, forcing the petitioner to approach the court.

After hearing the initial arguments, the court issued notices to the respondents, seeking their response and directing them to ensure cleanliness and a healthy environment in the area, as the current conditions pose a risk of spreading diseases.

Education Dept applauded for dialogue with youth leaders on girls education

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: A meeting was convened today at the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Secretariat between the Elementary and Secondary Education Department (E&SED) and members of the Rise and Shine Girls’ Education Leadership Network. The engagement provided a platform for the girl leaders from secondary schools to voice their experiences and concerns regarding access to quality education.

Key officials from the department, including Abdul Basit - Special Secretary (Establishment), Ijaz Muhammad Khalil - Senior Planning Officer/Advisor to the Minister, Fiaz Alam - Special Secretary (Reforms & Implementation), Muhammad Alam - Planning Officer, and Shahabullah Khan - Senior Planning Officer, were present and actively listened to the students, reaffirming the government’s commitment to inclusive policy dialogue and youth participation in the education sector.

During the session, girl students of secondary level who are members of the Rise and Shine network highlighted critical barriers to girls’ education in their communities, including lack of transportation, school infrastructure gaps, teacher shortages, and gender-sensitive facilities.

The E&SED team briefed the students on the department’s priorities and in-line policy directions for the Fiscal Year 2025-2026, which include targeted interventions to improve school infrastructure, strengthen teacher recruitment and training, and expand access for marginalized communities—all aligned with Sustainable Development Goal 4: Quality Education.

Abdul Basit, Special Secretary (Establishment), emphasized the department’s openness to youth engagement:

"Today’s dialogue is a strong reminder that girls are not just beneficiaries of policy but critical partners in shaping it. Their voices must remain central to our education planning and reform processes."



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"Today’s dialogue is a strong reminder that girls are not just beneficiaries of policy but critical partners in shaping it. Their voices must remain central to our education planning and reform processes."

Ijaz Muhammad Khalil, Senior Planning Officer and Advisor to the Minister, added:

"We are committed to translating young people’s insights into tangible action. These interactions strengthen our resolve to make policy more responsive and data-driven."

Quratulain, a member of the Rise and Shine Girls’ Education Leadership Network, said:

"It was powerful to be heard by those in charge of education policy. Our lived experiences carry solutions, and we hope the department will walk with us to turn challenges into opportunities for all girls in KP."

At the close of the meeting, the Rise and Shine Girls’ Education Leadership Network extended a heartfelt vote of thanks to the department for creating a space where young girls could speak openly and be heard with respect.

MTI Tribunal halts appointment of Registrar Endocrinology at HMC

Humayun Khan

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Medical Teaching Institution (MTI) Tribunal has halted the final appointment of Specialist Registrar Endocrinology at Hayatabad Medical Complex and sought a response from the hospital administration regarding the matter, on Tuesday.

A three-member tribunal, headed by Chairman

MTI Tribunal Justice Retired Abdul Shakoor, comprising members Mansoor Tariq and Abdul Ghafur Qureshi, heard the writ petition filed by Dr. Sana.

During the hearing, her lawyer, Barrister Huzaifa, informed the tribunal that the petitioner has an excellent medical career and secured a prominent position in the Peshawar Board examination in 2007.

She later joined Khyber Medical College and obtained FCPS degrees in Medicine in 2021 and Endocrinology in 2024.

Barrister Huzaifa alleged that despite being the most suitable candidate, Dr. Sana’s application for the Specialist Registrar Endocrinology post advertised by the hospital administration in 2024 was not considered.

He claimed that the

hospital administration’s intention was to appoint their preferred candidates, and to achieve this, they included a general physician in the interview panel who was not an expert in diabetes.

After hearing the initial arguments, the tribunal directed the hospital administration to halt the final appointment of Specialist Registrar Endocrinology and sought a response from them.

Over 10,000 students complete online courses

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: In a major step toward combating youth unemployment, more than 10,000 students across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa successfully completed digital skills training under the Bano Qabil program, an initiative of Alkhidmat Foundation.

The first phase of the four-month program concluded this week, with students receiving training in 16 online courses, including digital marketing, e-commerce, and web development. The program aims to

equip young people with in-demand skills for the online economy.

Ceremonies celebrating the course completions were held across the province in cities such as Peshawar, Abbottabad, Swat, Buner, Bannu, Dir (Upper and Lower), and Charsadda. These events were organized at Alkhidmat’s local Bano Qabil centers.

A major ceremony took place at the Khyber Union Hall of Islamia College University Peshawar, where Alkhidmat Foundation’s provincial president, Mr. Khalid Waqas, presided

over the event. Mr. Zareefulmani, Managing Director Khyber Education Foundation, attended as the chief guest.

The event aimed to recognize the achievements of thousands of young participants who completed market-relevant IT and digital skills courses, all provided free of cost.

Final exams were also conducted during the ceremony for the students. Among the notable guests were Mian Sohaib ud Din kakakhel, Director Bano Qabil Program, Asfandiyar Izzat, provincial head Islami

Jamiat Talaba, and Mr. Owais Bilal, Principal Professional Academy of Commerce (PAC).

Speakers emphasized the critical role of youth education in national development. They praised the Bano Qabil program for empowering the next generation with practical skills and opening doors to economic independence.

The graduates were congratulated on their success, and special thanks were extended to the trainers, volunteers, and partner organizations who made the initiative possible.

UoP hosts final year Project Innovation Summit 2025

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The Final Year Project Innovation Summit 2025 was held on Tuesday under the auspices of the Business Incubation Center (BIC) at the University of Peshawar. The event showcased the creativity, research capabilities, and entrepreneurial spirit of graduating students.

The Chief Guest on the occasion was Abdul Karim Tordher, Special Assistant to the Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Industries.

More than 500 participants including students, faculty members, industrialists, development experts, and government officials attended the summit, which took place within the premises of the Business Incubation Center.

The one-day summit

provided a high-level platform for students to exhibit their final year projects through live demonstrations and pitching sessions. A total of 27 interdisciplinary projects were presented, spanning fields such as AgriTech, Artificial Intelligence, Green Construction, Circular Economy, EdTech, and Sustainable Design.

Expert panels evaluated the projects based on innovation, feasibility, sustainability, and social impact.

In his address, Mr. Tordher emphasized bridging the gap between academia and industry, especially in the face of rapidly evolving technological trends. He noted that university students can play a pivotal role in this regard by turning their creative work into practical solutions.

He underscored the

importance of digitalization as a key to success in the modern age, stating that despite decades of adversity and terrorism, the youth of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa continue to work hard and serve their province across all sectors.

He encouraged students to leverage their skills and academic qualifications for real-world impact.

Referring to highly skilled technicians working in the Gujar Garhi area of Mardan, Mr. Tordher highlighted the need for collaboration between PhD scholars, engineers, and local craftsmen to modernize machinery and enhance productivity. He noted that the provincial government is actively working on facilitating cottage industries and small businesses through loan programs, as well as drafting Corporate Social Responsibility leg-

islation. The provincial government, he affirmed, recognizes and appreciates youth-driven innovation in science and technology and is committed to encouraging such initiatives.

The event also featured a welcome address by Dr. Shakeel Khan, Head of the Business Incubation Center. A keynote speech was delivered on "The Role of Innovation in Shaping a Sustainable Future," followed by a panel discussion titled "How Industry Can Benefit from University Talent." Additionally, a documentary video showcasing selected student projects and their potential social impact was presented.

Prominent attendees included Mr. Sajid Hussain Shah (Director General, Science & Technology), Dr. Taza Gul (Director,



Science & Technology), Dr. Hashim (renowned educationist), Ms. Quratulain (CEO, AIN Consultants and former Executive Member,

Chamber of Commerce), Mr. Abdur Rehman (Islamic Relief), Mr. Faheem Hayat (District Youth Officer), Mr. Ayub Zakori (CEO, Zakori

Group), Mr. Irfan (Dosti Foundation), Mr. Waleed Paracha (Director, Arfa Karim Incubation Center), and Ms. Karishma Zakaulah (World Bank

Consultant), among others.

Three outstanding projects were awarded cash prizes of PKR 30,000, PKR 10,000, and PKR 10,000 respectively.



In brief

Woman killed officer injured F.P. Report

LARKANA: Unknown gunmen shot and seriously injured PPHI admin officer Nabi Bakhsh Bhutto for resisting during a robbery in Sachal Colony, Sachal Police Station limits of Larkana city. On receiving information, the police reached the spot and ascertained the details and shifted the injured to the trauma center for treatment, where he was given medical assistance. When contacted, Sachal police said that the PPHI admin officer had been robbed. An investigation has been started into the incident. The culprits will be arrested soon and brought to court. On the other hand, in the limits of Haidari Police Station, near village Ghulam Bhutto in Larkana city, gunmen opened fire on a car of relatives returning from Vanwah to their village, resulting in the death of a weak woman, Badar-un-Nisa, while a young woman, Safia Bhutto, was seriously injured due to the gunshot wound and was shifted to the trauma center for treatment. Meanwhile, residents of different areas of Larkana city protested strongly outside the Empire Sub-Division office against electricity load shedding and sat on a sit-in after raising slogans against the SEPCO administration.

Ex-police officer martyred F.P. Report

SIALKOT: In the area of Kotli Gul Muhammad, within the jurisdiction of Kamoni Sadar Police Station, gunfire was exchanged between the Anti-Narcotics Force and drug dealers, resulting in four deaths. A retired police officer, Tanveer, was caught in the crossfire while leaving his residence with his sister. He was fatally shot on the spot, while his sister sustained serious injuries. During the exchange of fire, three drug dealers were killed, while three of their accomplices managed to escape. A large contingent of Gujranwala police arrived and secured the scene.

TikToker Sana's killer arrested F.P. Report

FAISALABAD: The accused involved in the killing of popular TikToker Sana Yousuf in Islamabad has been arrested by the police from Faisalabad on Tuesday. The police have also succeeded in recovering the weapon (a pistol) from the custody of the accused person. As per the channel report, on the complaint of the mother, an FIR has already been registered at Islamabad's Sambal Police Station in the tragic murder case of popular TikToker Sana Yousuf. According to the FIR, around 5 PM, an unidentified man forcibly entered the 17-year-old social media influencer's home in Islamabad. He was dressed in a black shirt and trousers and was armed with a pistol. Sana Yousuf's mother stated that at the time of the incident, her husband was not at home, and her 15-year-old son had travelled to Chitral village. She reported that the intruder entered Sana's room and opened fire with clear intent to kill. The assailant shot Sana twice before fleeing the scene as the family raised the alarm. Sana was immediately rushed to the hospital in a neighbour's car, but she succumbed to her injuries en route. The grieving mother noted that her daughter was a well-known social media influencer with a strong following.

Emergency Care Day observed at KUST



Sahibzada Afridi

KOHAT: Kohat University of Science and Technology (KUST) observed Emergency Care Day with the aim of highlighting the importance of timely response, basic first aid, and awareness in emergency situations.

Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Syed Zafar Ilyas emphasized the need for immediate and effective action during emergencies and stressed the importance of first aid training. Pro Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Muhammad Naseeruddin noted that such initiatives not only provide practical knowledge but also cultivate a sense of social responsibility among students.

Chairman of the Department of Emergency Care Technology, Dr. Fawad Ali, stated that this day serves as a reminder that every individual can play a vital role in saving

lives through timely action. The event was organized under the supervision of Dr. Fanous Hayat, Lecturer and Event Manager, Department of Emergency Care Technology, who encouraged participants to remain alert, calm, and ready to assist at all times.

VC visits KUST Hangu campus: Kohat University of Science and Technology (KUST) Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Syed Zafar Ilyas, paid a detailed visit to the university's Hangu Campus. He was accompanied by Registrar Mr. Rauf Khan, Director Administration Asad Habib, Protocol Officer Asim Shah, and Director Works Altaf Hussain. The purpose of the visit was to review academic and administrative activities and to engage directly with faculty and students.

Upon arrival, the Vice Chancellor was warmly

received by the Director Hangu Campus, Dr. Waheedullah, who briefed the delegation on various departments, academic progress, and ongoing developmental initiatives at the campus.

During his visit, the Vice Chancellor appreciated the efforts of the campus administration and faculty. In a meeting with the teaching staff, he listened to their concerns, suggestions, and views on the future of the campus. He assured them that pressing issues—such as salaries for contract-based faculty, engagement during summer vacations, and other critical matters—would be addressed on a priority basis. Dr. Zafar Ilyas also expressed his commitment to working with local representatives to elevate the Hangu Campus to the status of a full-fledged university in the future.

SNGPL to provide uninterrupted gas to domestic consumer F.P. Report

HAFIZABAD: District In-charge of Sui Gas, Adeel Ashraf, has announced that, in accordance with the directives of the government and Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL), uninterrupted gas supply will be ensured for domestic consumers throughout the three days of Eid ul-Adha.

He stated that gas will be available without disruption during the key hours of morning, afternoon, evening, and night, allowing households to carry out their Eid-related cooking and other domestic activities with ease and convenience.

District In-charge of Sui Gas added that the initiative is part of SNGPL's commitment to facilitating its domestic consumers by providing maximum utility support during national and religious occasions. He assured that gas supply will remain consistent and reliable across the Eid holidays to prevent any inconvenience.

SNGPL officials have also reiterated their readiness to address any technical issues that may arise, with monitoring teams and emergency staff on alert throughout the holiday period.

Mock operation for flood season held: To ensure readiness for potential flooding during the monsoon season, the district administration of Hafizabad, along with Rescue 1122 and other relevant departments, conducted the second mock flood response drill in the River Chenab area.

Deputy Commissioner Abdul Razzaq inspected the exercise and reviewed the emergency equipment, relief supplies, and preparedness of all departments. District Emergency Officer Muhammad Adnan Nawaz stated that all departments are fully prepared to deal with any flood emergency. Rescue 1122 is equipped with boats, life jackets, tents, and other essential gear, while the health and livestock departments have adequate stocks of medicines and supplies.

Kuli Katcheri held: In line with the directives of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, an Open Court (Khuli Katcheri) was held at the District Complex Hafizabad to address public grievances related to revenue matters. Deputy Commissioner Hafizabad, Abdul Razzaq, presided over the session and attentively listened to the complaints presented by citizens, issuing on-the-spot orders for their prompt resolution.

Also present at the event were Additional Deputy Commissioner (Revenue) Tanveer Yaseen, Assistant Commissioner Salman Akbar, along with officials from the Revenue Department, Land Record Center, and other concerned departments.

Commissioner chairs meeting F.P. Report

KOHAT: Commissioner Kohat Syed Motasim Billah Shah held a high-level meeting to consider comprehensive arrangements related to law and order, cleanliness and public facilities on the occasion of Eid-ul-Adha. The meeting was attended by the Deputy Commissioners, District Police Officers and officers of the concerned departments of all the five districts through Video Link.

Commissioner Kohat directed all the Deputy Commissioners and DPOs to take special measures on various important issues on the occasion of Eid-ul-Adha, including establishment of law and order, effective implementation of Section 144, security of Eidgahs and Mosques, improvement of cleanliness in Bazaars and Parks and availability of staff and supply of medicines in the hospitals. He further directed that implementation of government transports fares, fitness certificate for parks and uninterrupted supply of petrol should be made possible at petrol pumps during the Eid Holidays.

Cheques of Shuhada package distributed



F.P. Report

LANDI KOTAL: A police martyr package of ten million rupees and half million rupees as medical aid were distributed among the deserving ones here in police line, Shahkas, Jamrud district last day.

In this connection a simple gathering was organized in the office of District Police Officer (DPO) Khyber that was attended by DPO Rai Mazhar Iqbal as chief guest besides relatives of a martyred police official and eligible police

persons for medical aid. The district police high-up gave away a cheque of ten million rupees to the heir of a Shaheed police who embraced martyrdom in Tirah Valley and 0.570 million rupees to a number of police officials from across the district in the form of medical aid.

Speaking on the occasion DOP, Rai Mazhar Iqbal said that welfare of the police officials was the priority of the department and said that financial support would be extended to the police and their families

in the form of health and education. He maintained that all initiatives would be adopted for the wellbeing of the police to make them free of their families' anxiety so that they could execute their duties without fear and dedication.

Heirs of martyrs were part of the police department and they would never be left alone, he vowed. He appreciated the efficiency of the police welfare disk, Khyber and directed them to ensure dealing of all applications on merit.

Section 144 imposed to ensure public safety

Anees Takar

MARDAN: The Deputy Commissioner of Mardan, Dr. Azmat Ullah Wazir, has enforced Section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code (Cr.P.C.) across the district to prevent any untoward incidents during the upcoming Eid-ul-Azha celebrations. This emergency order, issued notification comes in response to a formal request from the District Police Officer of Mardan citing security and safety concerns.

The official order outlines a comprehensive ban on several activities considered potentially harmful to public order and safety. These include the setting up of illegal cattle markets, aerial firing, swimming in rivers, dams and ponds, one-wheeling and over-speeding on roads, pillion riding on motorcycles, use of tinted glasses on vehicles, the sale of toy guns and firecrackers, the movement of suspicious vehicles and the public display of weapons.

The Deputy Commissioner emphasized that these measures are necessary to maintain peace and security during the Eid holidays when large gatherings and increased public movement are expected. The notification warns that anyone found violating this order will face legal action under Section 188 of the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC), which deals with disobedience to lawful orders issued by public authorities.

The ban takes immediate effect and will remain in force until the conclusion of Eid-ul-Azha 2025. Copies of the order have been dispatched to key administrative and law enforcement officials, including the Chief Secretary of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the Commissioner and Regional Police Officer of Mardan Division, the District Police Officer, Assistant Commissioners of Mardan, Takht Bhai, Katlang and Rustam, as well as the Assistant Director of Information to ensure wide publicity of the order.

Dr. Azmat Ullah Wazir reiterated his commitment to ensuring a peaceful and safe Eid for the residents of Mardan. He urged citizens to cooperate with the authorities and respect the restrictions which have been put in place to protect the community during the festive season.

Several solarization projects inaugurated at govt offices: Member National Assembly (MNA) Ali Muhammad Khan formally inaugurated the project of installing solar energy systems in various offices and police stations of Mardan Police. District Police Officer Mardan was also present on the occasion.

The inauguration ceremony inaugurated the solarization of DPO Office Mardan, Control Room Police Lines Mardan, Takht Bhai Police Station and Shergarh Police Station. The aim of these projects is to make the police system modern, environment-

friendly and free from energy problems. MNA Ali Muhammad Khan said that the installation of solar energy systems is an important step to improve the performance of Mardan Police and bring it in line with modern requirements. DPO Mardan said that providing reliable sources of energy for the police force was a major requirement, which is now being practically fulfilled. He said that the solar system will keep offices and police stations functional 24/7, which will ensure continuity and effective surveillance in anti-crime operations.

Mayor chairs LG members meeting: A meeting of N/C, Chairmen and senior officials of KPCEP, chaired by Mayor Mardan Himayatullah Mayar, discussed the construction of 80-kilometer-long sewer lines in 6 union councils of Mardan City (Hoti, Gali Bagh, Bari Cham, Bicket Gunj, Muslimabad and Roriya) a sewage treatment plant connected to Bacha Khan Road Mayar at a cost of about Rs 12 billion, which will solve the long-standing problem of hygiene and cleanliness.

The expenses of KP SEP for the houses will be met from the sewer line while funds will also be provided and approval will be taken from the relevant forums to separate the water and gas pipelines from the sewer lines. In this way, the ongoing work will be completed before Eid, so that the public does not suffer. The remaining work will be started after Eid.

The inauguration ceremony inaugurated the solarization of DPO Office Mardan, Control Room Police Lines Mardan, Takht Bhai Police Station and Shergarh Police Station. The aim of these projects is to make the police system modern, environment-

The ban takes immediate effect and will remain in

Students should amplify voices for Kashmir

F.P. Report

MIRPUR: Former President of Azad Jammu and Kashmir and senior diplomat Sardar Masood Khan has urged students to leverage digital technology to become powerful advocates for justice in long-standing global conflicts like Kashmir and Palestine.

Speaking at a packed auditorium at the Mirpur University of Science and Technology (MUST), Khan emphasized the need for an informed and strategic approach to international human rights and diplomacy.

Addressing a conference titled "Wayforward to Resolving Kashmir and Palestine", organized by Paradigm Association, Khan highlighted the pivotal role of youth in the digital era. He called on students to critically examine global issues, develop a deep understanding of international law and human rights, and act as strong voices for oppressed communities.

In a wide-ranging address, Khan provided historical context and analysis of current geo-

political developments in both Kashmir and Palestine, shedding light on military occupations, human rights violations, and the erosion of civil liberties. He stressed the urgent need for peaceful, intelligent, and strategic diplomatic and academic efforts to resolve these crises.

"Universities must rise to the challenge of producing capable, visionary leaders who not only understand global complexities but are also prepared to engage in constructive dialogue," Khan stated. He urged educational institutions to cultivate leadership qualities, promote intellectual engagement, and prepare students to become responsible global citizens.

Khan praised the efforts of Paradigm Association President Abdullah Qureshi and his team for nurturing social awareness and intellectual development among students. In his welcome remarks, MUST Vice Chancellor Brig. (R) Prof. Dr. Muhammad Younus Javed, S.I. (M), underscored the importance of academic events in broadening students' perspectives and encouraging criti-

cal thinking on international affairs.

The event concluded with a dynamic Q&A session, where students engaged in thought-provoking dialogue on Kashmir, Palestine, diplomacy, and youth leadership. Khan responded to each question with insight and depth, providing clarity on complex issues. He was later presented with a commemorative shield by the university as a token of appreciation.

This intellectually enriching gathering served as a powerful reminder that youth are not only capable of shaping global discourse but can also become symbols of international solidarity in the quest for justice and peace.

In a separate interview with a private Pakistani television channel, Khan emphasized the importance of international response to India's aggressive actions in Kashmir. He noted that Pakistan's diplomatic mission is currently engaging with the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and United Nations Security Council members to highlight its stance.

Public support for Pak Army echoed in Jirga

Haleem Asad

LOWER DIR: A combined jirga of local elders, officials and personnel of Pakistan army was held in Khal, to celebrate Pakistan Army's success against India in Operation Bunyan un Marsos. The event brought together local elders and representatives of various political parties in a show of unity and support for the armed forces.

Commandant Dir Scouts, Brigadier Sanaullah, attended the jirga as a special guest. Participants raised powerful slogans in support of the Pakistan Army and marked the occasion as a moment of national pride and celebration.

Speaking on the occasion, local elders including Malik Muhammad Zaib, former nazim Habibur

Rehman, Malik Faramosh, Malik Fazl Nawab, and Malik Aftab Hayat expressed unwavering support for the armed forces. They pledged to stand shoulder to shoulder with the military in defending the country and maintaining peace in the region. The elders emphasized their commitment to resisting terrorism and ensuring that no disruptive elements would be allowed to disturb the local peace.

Brigadier Sanaullah, in his address, acknowledged the vital role played by the public in supporting security efforts. "With the cooperation of the local people, the security forces have restored exemplary peace in Lower Dir," he said, adding that the collaboration between security forces and the community would continue. A special

prayer was also offered for the safety of the country and the protection of the armed forces.

Power outages protest: Residents of Danwa staged a protest against prolonged power outages and low voltage, bringing traffic to a halt on the main Timergara-Chitral Road.

Chanting slogans against the Peshawar Electric Supply Company (Pesco), the demonstrators blocked the road for some time, refusing to clear the way despite repeated requests from drivers and commuters.

The protest leaders later held negotiations with the local administration, after which the protesters dispersed peacefully. However, they warned that they would return to the streets if the issue was not resolved promptly.

Almost 60 projects displayed at Air University Kamra

F.P. Report

ATTOCK: As many as 60 innovative projects developed by undergraduate students from diverse academic disciplines, including Aviation Management, Business Administration, Computer Science, Cyber Security, Electrical Engineering, and Mechanical Engineering were showcased during the first open house of Air University Aerospace and Aviation Campus, Kamra. The event witnessed vibrant participation from all departments and provided students with an invaluable opportunity to network directly with industry leaders. It served as a platform for future collaborations, internships, and employment opportunities.

The event drew participation from over 100 representatives of leading companies, industries, and organizations, providing a dynamic platform for students to present their innovative ideas and research-driven solutions to potential employers, entrepreneurs, and technical experts. The exhibition was honoured by the presence of Air Marshal Farhat Hussain Khan (Retd), CEO Aerospace Design and Innovation Center Kamra, as the chief guest. He was accompanied by the Chief of Pakistan Aeronautical Complex Kamra and various Managing Directors and CEOs from different factories and companies. Following the arrival of the distinguished guests, the exhibition was formally inaugurated.

In his welcome address, Campus Director Air vice Marshal Shams ul Haq (Retd) highlighted the achievements of Air University Kamra Campus and emphasized the importance of strengthening the connection between academic innovation and industry needs. He expressed his appreciation and gratitude to the Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmad Babar Sidhu for introducing the Triple Helix Model as a significant initiative to promote strong academia-industry linkages in Aviation City Kamra. "The purpose of today's exhibition is to provide our graduating students with a platform to display their creativity and problem-solving capabilities

to the wider academic and professional community," he noted. He also shared that more than 900 students are currently enrolled across various faculties, benefiting from state-of-the-art academic and research facilities.

In his address, Air Marshal Farhat Hussain Khan (Retd) expressed his appreciation for the quality of education and technical proficiency demonstrated by the students. "This open house exhibition reflects the high standards of academic and technological excellence that Air University strives to uphold. The creative and research-oriented projects displayed here are a testament to the students' potential to contribute meaningfully to Pakistan's socio-economic progress. All students and faculty should benefit from the unique close proximity of the aviation industry, R&D set-up and academia" he said.

Pakistan Post signs MoU: Director General of Pakistan Post, Samiullah Khan, has stated that Pakistan Post will soon implement revolutionary changes across all post offices and branches in the country as a result of an agreement with a Korean bank. These changes will not only provide better facilities than private courier services but also offer various other services to citizens. He said that Pakistan Post will compete with private companies in sectors including commerce.

He expressed these views during his first official visit to Attock after being promoted to Grade 22 and assuming charge as DG of Pakistan Post, Islamabad. On this occasion, Postmaster General Northern Punjab Circle Rawalpindi Faisal Tahseen, Senior Postmaster GPO Attock Fida Hussain, Deputy Postmaster Counter GPO Attock Haji Azizullah, Deputy Postmaster National GPO Attock Imtiaz Ahmad, Deputy Postmaster Delivery GPO Attock Altaf Hussain, Deputy Postmaster Savings Tahir Khan, GPO Attock's Sheikh Aamir Latif, Sheikh Fakhar Hassan, Mumtaz Hussain, Muhammad Usman, Zeeshan, retired employee Muhammad Saeed Siddiqui, and other staff members were also present.



GAZA STRIP: People looking for survivors after an Israeli attack that hit the home of the al-Bursh family in Jabalia.

Ukraine's drone attack sends critical message to Russia

KYIV (BBC): It's hard to exaggerate the sheer audacity - or ingenuity - that went into Ukraine's countrywide assault on Russia's air force. We cannot possibly verify Ukrainian claims that the attacks resulted in \$7bn (£5.2bn) of damage, but it's clear that "Operation Spider's Web" was, at the very least, a spectacular propaganda coup.

Ukrainians are already comparing it with other notable military successes since Russia's full-scale invasion, including the sinking of the flagship of Russia's Black Sea fleet, the Moskva, and the bombing of the Kerch Bridge, both in 2022, as well as a missile attack on Sevastopol harbour the following year. Judging by details leaked to the media by Ukraine's military intelligence, the SBU, the latest operation is the most elaborate achievement so far. In an operation said to have taken 18 months to prepare, scores of small drones were smuggled into Russia, stored in special compartments aboard freight trucks, driven to at least four separate locations, thousands of miles apart, and launched remotely towards nearby airbases. "No intelligence operation in the world has done anything like this before," defence analyst Serhii Kuzan told Ukrainian TV.

"These strategic bombers are capable of launching long-range strikes against us," he said. "There are only

120 of them and we struck 40. That's an incredible figure." It is hard to assess the damage, but Ukrainian military blogger Oleksandr Kovalenko says that even if the bombers, and command and control aircraft were not destroyed, the impact is enormous. "The extent of the damage is such that the Russian military-industrial complex, in its current state, is unlikely to be able to restore them in the near future," he wrote on his Telegram channel. The strategic missile-carrying bombers in question, the Tu-95, Tu-22, and Tu-160 are, he said, no longer in production. Repairing them will be difficult, replacing them impossible.

The loss of the supersonic Tu-160, he said, would be especially keenly felt. "Today, the Russian Aerospace Forces lost not just two of their rarest aircraft, but truly two unicorns in the herd," he wrote. Beyond the physical damage, which may or may not be as great as analysts here are assessing, Operation Spider's Web sends another critical message, not just to Russia but also to Ukraine's western allies. My colleague Svyatoslav Khomenko, writing for the BBC Ukrainian Service website, recalls a recent encounter with a government official in Kyiv. The official was frustrated. "The biggest problem," the official told Svyatoslav, "is that the Americans have convinced them selves we've already lost the war. And

from that assumption everything else follows."

Ukrainian defence journalist Illia Ponomarenko, posting on X, puts it another way, with a pointed reference to President Volodymyr Zelensky's infamous Oval office encounter with Donald Trump. "This is what happens when a proud nation under attack doesn't listen to all those 'Ukraine has only six months left'. 'You have no cards'. 'Just surrender for peace, Russia cannot lose'." Even more pithy was a tweet from the quarterly Business Ukraine journal, which proudly proclaimed "It turns out Ukraine does have some cards after all. Today Zelensky played the King of Drones." This, then, is the message Ukrainian delegates carry as they arrive in Istanbul for a fresh round of ceasefire negotiations with representatives from the Kremlin: Ukraine is still in the fight.

The Americans "begin acting as if their role is to negotiate for us the softest possible terms of surrender," the government official told Svyatoslav Khomenko. "And then they're offended when we don't thank them. But of course we don't - because we don't believe we've been defeated." Despite Russia's slow, inexorable advance through the battlefields of the Donbas, Ukraine is telling Russia, and the Trump administration, not to dismiss Kyiv's prospects so easily.

NATO east flank backs Ukraine membership

VILNIUS (Reuters): Nordic, Baltic and central European NATO members are committed to Ukrainian membership of the military alliance, the leaders of Poland, Romania and Lithuania said following a summit of the so-called B9 and Nordic countries.

NATO allies declared their support for Ukraine's "irreversible path" towards membership at last year's Washington summit. But President Donald Trump has since said that prior US support for Ukraine's NATO bid was a cause of the war and has further indicated that Ukraine will not get membership. Russian President Vladimir Putin's conditions for ending the war in Ukraine include a demand that Western leaders pledge in writing to stop enlarging NATO eastwards, and lift a chunk of sanctions on Russia. Reuters reported last week.

Poland, Romania and Lithuania said, after a meeting of Nordic, Baltic and Eastern European leaders in the capital of Lithuania, that the region remains committed to the path towards Ukrainian NATO membership, and called for further pressure on Russia, including more sanctions. "We stand firm on Allied decision and commitment regarding Ukraine's irreversible path to full Euro-Atlantic integration, including NATO membership. Ukraine has the right to choose its own security arrangements and to decide its own future, free from outside interference," they said in a joint statement released on behalf of all meeting participants. The meeting, held ahead of a NATO summit at The Hague last this month, included Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Slovakia, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden.

More than 700 believed dead in devastating Nigeria floods

MOKWA (BBC): The official death toll after deadly floods hit the Nigerian town of Mokwa has risen to more than 200, officials say. Another 500 people are still missing in the town in the central Niger State however, local official Musa Kimboku told the BBC that rescue efforts had ceased because authorities no longer believe anyone could still be found alive.

The floods, said to be worst in the area for 60 years, swept through the Mokwa districts of Tiffin Maza and Anguwan Hausawa after torrential rains. In an effort to prevent disease in the area, authorities will soon start to dig out corpses buried underground. Mokwa's district head Muhammadu Aliyu said. Recounting scenes of catastrophe, local residents told the BBC that they saw their homes and family members get washed away. One man, Adamu Yusuf, lost his wife and newborn baby. "I watched helplessly as water washed away my family. I survived because I could swim," he told the BBC. Another resident, Saliu Sulaiman, said the floods had left him homeless and destroyed some of his cash business profits. "I lost at least \$1,500 to the floods. It was the proceeds from the sale of my farm produce the previous day. I contemplated going back into the room to get it, but the pressure of the water scared me."

Some local residents have said that the flooding was so devastating because a nearby dam had burst, however the authorities have not confirmed this. Residents said the pressure of the floodwater was so intense that bodies had been washed up in the town of Rabba, at least an hour's drive from Mokwa. Mokwa's Deputy Vice-Chairman Musa Kimboku said they had told neighbouring villages to bury "any corpse that they find." District head Mr Aliyu said some bodies were unrecoverable because they had gone "through the River Niger". The National Emergency Management Agency (Nema) announced it had started the process of providing relief packages to people affected.

Moscow sets out punitive terms at talks with Kyiv

ISTANBUL (Reuters): Russia told Ukraine at peace talks that it would only agree to end the war if Kyiv gives up big new chunks of territory and accepts limits on the size of its army, according to a memorandum reported by Russian media. The terms, formally presented at negotiations in Istanbul, highlighted Moscow's refusal to compromise on its long-standing war goals despite calls by US President Donald Trump to end the "bloodbath" in Ukraine.

Ukraine has repeatedly rejected the Russian conditions as tantamount to surrender. Delegations from the warring sides met for barely an hour, for only the second such round of negotiations since March 2022. They agreed to exchange more prisoners of war - focusing on the youngest and most severely wounded - and return the bodies of 12,000 dead soldiers. Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan described it as a great meeting and said he hoped to bring together Russia's Vladimir Putin and Ukraine's Volodymyr Zelenskiy for a meeting in Turkey with Trump.

But there was no breakthrough on a proposed ceasefire that Ukraine, its European allies and Washington have all urged Russia to accept. Moscow says it seeks a long-term settlement, not a pause in the war; Kyiv says Putin is not interested in peace. Trump has said the United States is ready to walk away from its mediation efforts unless the two sides demonstrate progress towards a deal.

Ukrainian Defence Minister Rustem Umerov, who headed Kyiv's delegation, said Kyiv - which has drawn up its own peace roadmap - would review

the Russian document, on which he offered no immediate comment. Ukraine has proposed holding more talks before the end of June, but believes only a meeting between Zelenskiy and Putin can resolve the many issues of contention, Umerov said. Zelenskiy said Ukraine presented a list of 400 children it says have been abducted to Russia, but that the Russian delegation agreed to work on returning only 10 of them. Russia says the children were moved from war zones to protect them.

The Russian memorandum, which was published by the Interfax news agency, said a settlement of the war would require international recognition of Crimea - a peninsula annexed by Russia in 2014 - and four other regions of Ukraine that Moscow has claimed as its own territory. Ukraine would have to withdraw its forces from all of them. It restated Moscow's demands that Ukraine become a neutral country - ruling out membership of NATO - and that it protect the rights of Russian speakers, make Russian an official language and enact a legal ban on glorification of Nazism. Ukraine rejects the Nazi charge as absurd and denies discriminating against Russian speakers. Russia also formalised its terms for any ceasefire en route to a peace settlement, presenting two options that both appeared to be non-starters for Ukraine.

Option one, according to the text, was for Ukraine to start a full military withdrawal from the Luhansk, Donetsk, Zaporizhzhia and Kherson regions. Of those, Russia fully controls the first but holds only about 70% of the rest. Option two was a package that would

require Ukraine to cease military redeployments and accept a halt to foreign provision of military aid, satellite communications and intelligence. Kyiv would also have to lift martial law and hold presidential and parliamentary elections within 100 days. Russian delegation head Vladimir Medinsky said Moscow had also suggested a "specific ceasefire of two to three days in certain sections of the front" so that the bodies of dead soldiers could be collected.

According to a proposed roadmap drawn up by Ukraine, a copy of which was seen by Reuters, Kyiv wants no restrictions on its military strength after any peace deal, no international recognition of Russian sovereignty over parts of Ukraine taken by Moscow's forces, and reparations. The conflict has been heating up, with Russia launching its biggest drone attacks of the war and advancing on the battlefield in May at its fastest rate in six months. Ukraine said it launched 117 drones in an operation codenamed "Spider's Web" to attack Russian nuclear-capable long-range bomber planes at airfields in Siberia and the far north of the country.

Satellite imagery suggested the attacks had caused substantial damage, although the two sides gave conflicting accounts of the extent of it. Western military analysts described the strikes, thousands of miles from the front lines, as one of the most audacious Ukrainian operations of the war. Russia's strategic bomber fleet forms part of the "triad" of forces - along with missiles launched from the ground or from submarines - that make up the country's nuclear arsenal, the biggest in the world.

Harvard Chinese grad speech draws praise and ire

BEIJING (BBC): A Chinese Harvard graduate's speech calling for unity in a divided world, delivered days after the US vowed to "aggressively" revoke Chinese students' visas, has sparked mixed reactions in the US and her home country. "We don't rise by proving each other wrong. We rise by refusing to let one another go," Jiang Yurong said, the same day a US federal judge blocked the Trump administration's ban on foreign students at Harvard.

Her speech went viral on the Chinese internet, with some saying it moved them to tears. However, others said her elite background is not representative of Chinese students. In the US, some have flagged her alleged links with the Chinese Communist Party. In their efforts to restrict Harvard from enrolling foreign students, US authorities had accused the institution of "co-ordinating with the Chinese Communist Party". Ms Jiang, who studied international development, was the first Chinese woman to speak at a Harvard graduation ceremony.

In her address, Ms Jiang emphasised the value of

Harvard's international classrooms, noting how that taught her and her classmates to "dance through each other's traditions" and "carry the weight of each other's worlds". "If we still believe in a shared future, let us not forget: those we label as enemies - they, too, are human. In seeing their humanity, we find our own," said Ms Jiang, who spent her final two years of school at Cardiff Sixth Form College in Wales before going to Duke University in the US for her undergraduate degree. A conservative X account, with the handle @amuse, criticised Harvard for choosing a graduation speaker who is "a representative of a CCP-funded and monitored non-government organisation", alleging that her father works for a non-government organisation that "serves as a quasi-diplomatic agent for the [party]". The account, which has 639,000 followers, has previously posted pro-Donald Trump content, such as the US leader fighting Darth Vader and sexualised imagery of former Vice-President Kamala Harris. Some Chinese social media

users, on the other hand, allege that the organisation Ms Jiang's father works for is backed by prominent American companies and foundations.

The BBC has not independently verified these allegations. "This is why she could get a scholarship to go to the UK for high school, and later also to Harvard," wrote a user on China's X-like platform, Weibo. Others called for her to stay on in the US, with comments that reeked with sarcasm. "Such talent should be left to the United States," one wrote. "I hope she will continue to glow abroad and stay away from us!" read another. But Ms Jiang's vision of a "shared humanity" also struck a chord. "That she is able to stand on an international stage and speak the heart of Chinese students has moved me to tears," wrote a user on Red Note, another Chinese social media platform. Another user defended Jiang by hitting back at those who criticised her: "You may not have changed them, but they've heard you... As more and more people speak out like you, you will eventually move and change others."

UN assembly elects Germany's ex-foreign minister as next president

UNITED NATIONS (AP): The UN General Assembly overwhelmingly elected Germany's former foreign minister Annalena Baerbock to be the next head of the 193-member world body in a secret-ballot vote demanded by Russia. Baerbock got 167 votes, almost double the 88 votes needed to win, while high-ranking German diplomat Helga Schmid received 7 votes as a write-in and 14 countries abstained.

Germany had nominated Schmid for the assembly's presidency but replaced her with Baerbock after she lost her job as the country's foreign affairs chief in the recent election. The decision drew some criticism in Germany. When Baerbock appeared before the assembly to discuss her candidacy on May 15, Russia's deputy UN ambassador Dmitry Polyansky lashed

into her, saying: "Ms. Baerbock has repeatedly proved her incompetence, extreme bias and lack of understanding of the basic principles of diplomacy." Polyansky accused her of having pursued an "anti-Russia policy," which he said gave Russia reason to doubt that as General Assembly president she would be "able to act in the interests of peace and dialogue."

Baerbock brushed off Russia's request for a secret ballot. "I am grateful ... the overwhelming majority of member states have voted in favor of my candidacy and I'm looking forward to work with all member states together in these challenging times," she said. Baerbock will replace current assembly president Philémon Yang, a former prime minister of Cameroon, at the start of the 80th session in

September. She will preside over the annual gathering of world leaders in late September and anniversary events marking the founding of the United Nations in 1945. The one-year presidency of the General Assembly rotates by region.

The assembly, which is the UN's most representative body, has taken the spotlight in reacting to the wars in Ukraine and Gaza. That's because any action by the UN Security Council has been blocked by the veto power of Russia on Ukraine and the United States on Gaza. Baerbock said in her acceptance speech that the theme of her presidency will be "Better Together," stressing that the world is "walking on a tightrope of uncertainty" in very challenging times. The birth of the United Nations on the ashes of World War II "reminds us: We have

lived through difficult times before," she said. "And it is up to us to take up these challenges." Baerbock pointed to more than 120 armed conflicts around the world today as another reminder that the UN's primary mission, "to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war," remains unaccomplished. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said Baerbock will take the presidency as the world faces not only "conflicts, climate catastrophe, poverty and inequality" but divisions and mistrust.

"Aid and development funding are drying up, and our institutions and structures still reflect the world of yesterday, not a vision of tomorrow," he said. "This is a moment for us to unite, to forge common solutions, and to take action to confront these challenges."

Thailand's stalled cash handout scheme sours voters on ruling party

BANGKOK (Reuters): Rungthiwa Pimphanit waited months for a long-promised cash handout of 10,000 baht (\$307) from Thailand's ruling party, which she backed in 2023 elections, but now the scheme to stimulate a stalling economy has been put on ice.

"I'm very disappointed and angry," said the 34-year-old government employee from the northeastern province of Nong Buia Lam Phu, who had counted on the money to pay for her son's school supplies. "There's no way I will vote for them again."

Rungthiwa's hopes withered last month after news that the scheme, a key election plank of the ruling Pheu Thai party, would be delayed, fuelling doubt about any recovery in southeast Asia's second largest economy after years of tepid growth. Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra blamed steep tariffs proposed by the United States, but the delay to her government's flagship pro-

gramme, on which it has already spent 174 billion baht (\$5.3 billion), poses a major political risk, say analysts.

"No one will believe anything they say," said Thanaporn Sriyakul, director of the independent Political and Policy Analysis Institute. "The government must keep its promises to the people during the campaign. If they can't do what they said, it's over." The government still has time left in its term, said spokespeople.

Jirayu Houngsub, reiterating that the scheme had only been postponed. The next polls are two years away. "By that time, if the economy is good, there may even be something more than this programme," he told Reuters.

The handout scheme is popular across Thailand, with its continuation backed by about 60% of 1,310 respondents in a May survey by the National Institute of Development Administration, while about 46% said they would be angered if it was

scrapped. "I'm upset," said 52-year-old Sathanee Siriphonchaikul in Bangkok, who had planned to use the funds to buy a washing machine. "I don't think they'll do it again. The economy is bad." The Pheu Thai party's failure to fully implement the scheme had damaged its credibility, said political analyst Sukhum Nuansakul. "The digital wallet project hasn't worked," he added. "People hoped they would get it and they waited for it, but didn't get it." The remaining 16 million people registered for handouts should be notified, said Thirachai Phuvanatanarunabala, deputy leader of the opposition Palang Pracharath Party.

"The government should tell the truth to these people that it actually won't be able to continue the programme due to budget and technical problems," he said in a statement. Three months after its launch, the stimulus plan had been unable to boost consumption, mainly because

the handouts were sometimes used to pay down debt, central bank Governor Sethaput Suthiwartnarueput told Reuters this year. Thailand's household debt is among Asia's highest, at 88.4% of gross domestic product.

On the campaign trail, the party floated the scheme as a multibillion-dollar initiative to kick-start Thailand's pandemic-hit economy and reach annual growth of about 5%. Yet, the \$550-billion economy expanded by just 2.5% last year, lagging regional peers, and this year looks even worse. Since launching the scheme last September, after numerous adjustments and delays, the government has distributed just over a third of the earmarked 450 billion baht (\$14 billion). The first tranche of 144.5 billion baht in September went to welfare cardholders and people with disabilities, with a second phase of 29.9 billion baht delivered to senior citizens in late January.

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The Frontier Post will not be responsible for the comments in the articles and letters. The Frontier Post requests the writers of articles and letters to please make sure that they write their email addresses and mention the names of the cities, towns, districts or tehsil of their residences at the bottom of their articles and letters.

?However, the battle for Palestinian justice will not be won by column inches or on podcasts. The two-state solution summit is coming up on June 17-20, jointly hosted by Saudi Arabia and France at the UN headquarters in New York, and nations worldwide will find themselves facing the ultimate moral test. Needless to say, now is the time to recognize Palestine and support a two-state solution. To skeptics, I say two things: better late than never, and, no, implementing it will not be easy, but this is a start.

To be sure, the idea of luring starving people to specific geographical points to facilitate Israel's genocidal conquest is singularly diabolical. And as the US persists in enabling Israel's fish-in-a-barrel approach, any remotely moral world would refuse to stomach the arrangement any longer.

Violence in the name of Palestine is not just unacceptable, it will also harm the movement

THE US has seen two major “lone wolf” attacks targeting Israel-related events in the past fortnight. On Sunday, Mohamed Sabry Soliman, an Egyptian man in Boulder, Colorado, is alleged to have thrown Molotov cocktails at a group of demonstrators who had gathered in solidarity with Israeli hostages being held by Hamas in Gaza. Eight of the demonstrators were injured. Mr Soliman, 45, is said to have shouted “Free Palestine” as he carried out his attack.

The same words were shouted by Elias Rodriguez, who shot dead two young Israeli embassy staff members, Sarah Milgrim and Yaron Lischinsky, at an event at the Capital Jewish Museum in Washington on May 21.

The Washington attack provoked conflicting reactions. The way in which the attack itself and the subsequent reactions were viewed and used by pro-Israel organisations and a few pro-Palestinian advocates has been disturbing, and has perhaps set the stage for the public conversation that will inevitably follow what has just happened in Boulder.

There is no doubt that what Mr Rodriguez, the man who was charged with killing the two staff members, did was terrorism. It was certainly not heroic, revolutionary or an act of justice.

The classic definition of terrorism is the use of violence or intimidation to create fear in order to accomplish a political objective. There can be no argument about this, as Mr Rodriguez himself acknowledged that this was his goal. There should also be no doubt that the act was anti-Semitic. He went to a Jewish event and randomly shot and killed two people, not knowing who they were or what they did.

All he knew was that it was an event at a Jewish museum and that his victims would most likely be Jews. And, as he allegedly made clear in a since-uncovered manifesto, he thought that while peaceful protests had not stopped the mass murders

in Gaza, maybe the shock created by his act held the possibility of hastening political change.

The murders have generated commentary in articles and on social media. A few outlier, pro-Palestinian voices have dangerously argued that the murders were a justified response to the huge loss of life and destruction of properties resulting from Israel’s war in Gaza.

James Zogby denounce the growing anti-Israel, pro-Palestinian activism on campuses as if it grew out of thin air, they are loathe to give any credence to the reality that Israel’s actions are the root cause of growing anti-Israel sentiment. With the tide of public opinion turning against Israel, pro-Israel organisations have worked hard to stifle anti-Israel or pro-Palestinian manifestations. They have used their influence with the White House, university administrators and allies in the US Congress to expand the definition of anti-Semitism to include criticisms of Israel, using this to silence protesters through intimidation, punishment and force, when possible. The reality is that there is a power imbalance in this debate over Gaza. Israel’s backers have the wind in their sails. They have most elected officials and many university administrators with them. The pro-Palestinian activists do not. They can be arrested, suspended from school, silenced or cancelled, and have their diplomas withdrawn. By ignoring the legitimate outrage that spawned the protests against Israel’s war on Palestinians, and by accusing the protesters of fostering the environment that led to the killings in Washington, pro-Israel advocates cruelly ignore Palestinian humanity and deny the legitimate feelings of solidarity the protesters have for Palestinian suffering. Similarly, those who, in the name of defending Palestinian humanity, strike out against any and all Jewish Americans who identify with the state of Israel, and denounce them as enablers of what many legal experts deem to be a genocide in Gaza, are also guilty of crude reductionism. In this context, the use of harsh rhetoric, threatening actions or name-calling may provide some a momentary sense of empowerment.

They say that defenders of Israel can be held responsible for the crimes committed by that state.

The other side, which has included many of the major institutional voices in the pro-Israel community, has used the murders to dangerously demonise the entire pro-Palestine movement, arguing that their anti-Israel rhetoric has fostered anti-Semitism creating the environment that led Mr Rodriguez to commit his crime.

Though coming at the murders from radically different perspectives, both views engage in perilous reductionism. Israel’s policies are indeed grotesque and have horrified a generation of young people, who, for 19 months, have been witnessing this conflict play out in real time. While Israel’s supporters

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took the lives of two young people who, regardless of where they worked or what they believed, were shot to death because they were at an event at a Jewish museum. Mr Soliman’s actions should be seen in a similar light. In both of these contexts, the chant “Free Palestine” is especially infuriating because the men who shout it have abused this noble cause with an act of deplorable violence in order to serve the narcissistic fantasy that they were advancing the cause of Palestinian freedom and opening the way to a change in policy.

In the end, they have done neither. Their crimes have caused death and injury, damaged the cause they claimed to support and will be used to provide justification for more repression.

And so, striking out against supporters of Israel only serves to stoke those fears. And given the imbalance of power, they ultimately increase the likelihood of increased intimidation and repression of pro-Palestinian voices.

Given this, the crime Mr Rodriguez has been charged with committing must be seen for what it was – an act of murder that

The poll, which was released Sunday, asked a battery of questions about how people view both parties. Perhaps most striking was that people were more likely to view the Republicans than Democrats as the party with strong leaders (40% to 16%) and even the “party of change” (32% to 25%).

Neither party won close to a majority in either category. But the former is notable because there is such a gulf between the two parties. And the latter is notable because the party that’s out of power is usually viewed as the party of change. Not this time.

So what can we read into these findings? The GOP’s edge on strong leaders

The “strong leaders” question might be the most troublesome finding for Democrats. Only about 1 in 6 Americans said Democrats have stronger leaders than Republicans. As remarkably, only 39% of Democrats said that.

We’ve seen hints of this in previous polls. A March CNN poll found about 3 in 10 Democrats and Democratic-leaning voters couldn’t name a single leader who best reflected the party’s core values. An AP-NORC poll last month showed just 35% of Democrats said they were at least “somewhat” optimistic about the future of their party, compared with 55% of Republicans for their party.

This might not seem too surprising. We just said goodbye to a Democratic president (Joe Biden) who was a diminished figure even when he was still in office. And the Democratic nominee who replaced him (Kamala Harris) wasn’t exactly viewed as the future of the party when she took over the ticket in the 2024 race — and then lost.

But there was a time

2 key findings on Democrats’ brand problem from the new CNN poll

Aaron Blake

when Democrats were at a somewhat similar crossroads, and the numbers weren’t as dismal.

A CNN/Opinion Research Corporation poll asked the same question in 2006 — after John Kerry’s unsuccessful emergence as Democrats’ 2004 presidential candidate — and found a smaller 14-point advantage for Republicans. Back then, 63% of Democrats said their party had stronger leaders than Republicans — 24 points higher than today.

One reason for the difference is that the 2025 and 2006 polls asked the question in a slightly different way, partly because one was conducted entirely by phone and the other mostly online. Today’s poll gave people an explicit “neither” option, which the 2006 poll didn’t (though some people volunteered that option back then). Nearly half of Democrats in the new poll (48%) chose that option.

That’s still a remarkable finding. Combined with the 13% of Democrats who said Republicans have the stronger leaders, that’s 6 in 10 Democrats this year who don’t think their side has stronger leaders than a party led by a president whom a huge majority of them revile.

A counterintuitive Democratic deficit on ‘party of change’

The other notable finding is on which party is the “party of change.” Americans chose Republicans, 32% to 25%.

That’s not a big gap, but it is counterintuitive given Republicans swept the House, Senate and White House last fall. Historically speaking, it’s almost always the party that’s out of power that’s viewed as the party of change.

Before the 2006 election, the same CNN-ORC poll mentioned above showed Democrats had a huge, 56% to 29% lead on this measure. Then, as now, Democrats didn’t hold the presidency or either chamber of Congress.

But the numbers are very different today. Not only do Democrats trail on this measure, but only a slight majority of Democrats themselves — 51% — say their party is the party of change. And only 18% of independents say that.

It’s likely this is, in part, about Democrats’ failure to position themselves as

change agents, but also about what President Donald Trump is doing — and about people not necessarily seeing “change” as a good thing.

However you feel about the changes Trump is making, there is no question he is pushing lots of them. You see that in his and the Department of Government Efficiency’s rapid overhaul of the federal government and in Trump’s historic efforts to expand executive power — in ways that are often being halted by the courts because they go too far, too fast.

It’s possible that people just see Trump changing lots of things, whether for good or ill in their opinions, so the “party of change” mantle doesn’t mean what it usually does. We already saw during the 2024 campaign that people’s definitions of “change” were somewhat jumbled by unusual circumstances — i.e., Harris replacing Biden, and a former president running as the challenger.

But it’s also pretty clear that Democrats have failed to make themselves into a viable and attractive alternative to the party in power.

The new CNN poll also asked which party people viewed as the “party that can get things done.” Republicans led on this by a nearly 2-to-1 margin, 36% to 19%. Only 49% of Democrats and 11% of independents picked the Democratic Party as the more formidable one.

There’s also, of course, Republicans’ big edge on the “strong leaders” question.

None of this means Democrats are sunk in the 2026 elections — or anything close to it. History shows the party that doesn’t hold the White House almost always wins midterm elections, in large part because they’re viewed as a check on the president. Democrats and liberal candidates have also been doing well in special elections and other races held since the 2024 election.

In other words, being not-Trump could be good enough to at least reclaim a very closely split House. But if the Democratic Party wants to run up the score in 2026 and really chart a path for the 2028 election, it has some real work to do on its branding.

— CNN

How exactly has Britain supported Israel’s military assault on Gaza? The public has a right to know

HUSSAM, 13, and Muhammad, 14, were killed by air-dropped cluster bombs. These bombs were made by the United States and were dropped in a military campaign supported by the British government. Hussam and Muhammad were born in Baghdad and died in 2003. “The bomblet ripped off their legs and ultimately killed them,” according to Human Rights Watch. They were two of about 200,000 civilians who were killed in the Iraq war.

For years after that conflict, the government tried to resist several attempts to establish an inquiry into the policy-making of British officials. However, it could not prevent the inevitable — and in 2016 we had the publication of the Chilcot inquiry. I was the leader of the Labour party when the report was published, and it found grave failings within the British government. After I had responded to the Chilcot inquiry in parliament that day, I then went over the road to Church House, where we had invited war veterans, Iraqis and the families of British soldiers who had lost their lives. I apologised on behalf of the party for its catastrophic decision to go to war in Iraq. Today, history is repeating itself — and a Labour government is making another grave mistake.

After 20 months of Israeli bombardment, the death toll in Gaza has exceeded 54,000. As for the survivors, the injured and the bereaved — they will face lifelong scars

for generations to come.

Israel has not been acting alone. It has relied on military, economic and political support from governments around the world. Britain may have had a change in government since 7 October 2023, but one thing has remained constant: the steady supply of arms to Israel. Last year, between October and December alone, Labour approved more arms exports licences to Israel than the Conservatives approved between 2020 and 2023. This was in spite of the government’s announcement of a part suspension in September 2024. Many of us have continued to express our disgust over the continued supply of components to the F-35 jet fighter programme. I remain astounded that the government openly admits it is making an “exception” to its part suspension. Is this an exception to its legal obligations to prevent genocide? One thing is beyond doubt: this government is still allowing the supply of arms to a nation whose leader is wanted by the international criminal court for alleged crimes against humanity. We have also repeatedly asked for the truth regarding the role of British military bases in Cyprus, concerning the transfer of arms to Israel and the supply of military intelligence. When Keir Starmer visited RAF Akrotiri in December 2024, he was filmed telling troops: “The whole world is relying on you, and everybody back at home is relying on you.” He added: “Quite a bit of what goes on here can’t necessarily be talked about all of the time ... We can’t necessarily tell the world what you’re doing here.” What does the government have to hide? Our questions have been met with evasion, obstruction and silence, leaving the public in the dark over the ways in which the responsibilities of government have been discharged. Transparency and accountability are cornerstones of democracy. The British public deserves to know the full scale of the UK’s complicity in crimes against humanity. That is why I am tabling a private members’ bill tomorrow calling for a full, public, independent inquiry into the UK’s role in Israel’s military assault in Gaza. This inquiry would seek to establish the truth about Britain’s military, economic or political cooperation with Israel since October 2023. Any meaningful inquiry would require the full cooperation of government ministers – Conservative and Labour – who have been involved in the decision-making processes. This inquiry must find out: what arms have been supplied to Israel? Which of these arms have been used to kill Palestinians? What legal advice has the government received? Is RAF Akrotiri being used as a route for weapons to be deployed in Gaza? What video footage does the government have of the war zone? What intelligence has been passed to Israel? Over the past 20 months, human beings have endured a level of horror and inhumanity that should haunt us for ever. Entire families wiped out. Limbs strewn across the street. Mothers screaming for their children torn to pieces. Doctors performing amputations without anaesthesia.

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No one can pretend they did not know what was happening. In October 2023, we warned that we were witnessing the beginning of the total annihilation of Gaza and its people. We said Palestinians were being collectively punished for a terrible crime they did not commit. We pleaded with political leaders to call for peace.

We were ignored. Today, some politicians have finally started to backtrack, perhaps frightened by the consequences of their inhumanity. If they had any integrity, they would weep for the 54,000 Palestinians buried under the rubble by their moral and political cowardice. Today, schoolchildren are taught about history’s worst crimes against humanity. In the future, our history books will shame those who had the opportunity to stop this massacre but instead chose to enable one of the greatest crimes of our time.

This issue is not going away — and we are not going anywhere. The government must decide: will it support this inquiry, or will it block our efforts to establish the truth?

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KARACHI: Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Muhammad Junaid Anwar Chaudhry addressing during inauguration ceremony of 300KW solar plant at KPT Izhar Abbasi Hospital.

Minister inaugurates 300KW solar power plant

F.P. Report

KARACHI: Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs, Junaid Anwar Chaudhry, inaugurated a 300KW solar power plant at the Karachi Port Trust (KPT) Izhar Abbasi Hospital, marking a key step toward energy efficiency and sustainable development in the public sector.

Speaking at the inauguration, Junaid Anwar Chaudhry said, "The installation of this solar power plant will lead to a 75% reduction in electricity bills. This initiative is aligned with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's vision of shifting towards renewable energy, ensuring long-term benefits for both the institution and the environment."

He further added, "KPT is not only working to improve port operations but is also contributing to social development. We are launching an education fund focused on underprivileged children who are compelled to work during the day and study at night. KPT will sponsor their education to ensure their studies are not disrupted, and they can complete their academic journey with dignity."

Responding to a ques-

tion regarding IMF conditions and public relief, Junaid Anwar Chaudhry stated, "When Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif took over, there was a prevailing sentiment that Pakistan was heading towards bankruptcy. However, due to his firm and difficult decisions, all economic indicators are now moving in a positive direction."

On the status of ongoing KPT projects, the minister commented, "All KPT projects are actively in progress, but since each has a different nature and scope, providing a single timeline for completion is not feasible at this point."

Addressing Pakistan's vast coastline and the country's potential in the blue economy, Junaid Anwar Chaudhry remarked, "It is a reality that Pakistan has tremendous potential to harness its long coastal line and make a mark in the international maritime markets. We are working towards realizing this vision with dedication and planning."

He reassured the public regarding transparency and efficiency in governance, saying, "My vision is clear: to ensure that professionals are hired strictly on merit. We want to build institu-

tions that are competent and deliver results."

When asked about the efficiency of ports, Junaid Anwar Chaudhry said, "We are more than capable of handling large quantities of cargo at various ports. As exports grow, we are fully equipped to manage even double the current cargo volume without affecting efficiency."

Commenting on the issue of illegal land occupation, he shared, "KPT management has successfully retrieved 100 acres of encroached land, which is worth billions of rupees. This reflects our commitment to protecting national assets."

On the issue of shipment clearance delays, Junaid Anwar Chaudhry stated, "There were significant delays in container clearance due to issues at the customs end. After direct discussions with the Chairman FBR, we managed to clear over 4,000 containers, making port operations much smoother."

The event concluded with appreciation for KPT's progressive efforts and a renewed focus on clean energy, transparency, and economic development in line with national priorities.

Engro team meets Haroon

ISLAMABAD (APP): A delegation from Engro Polymer and Chemicals Limited on Tuesday met with Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) Haroon Akhtar Khan and discussed pressing issues affecting the industry.

The discussions centered around regulatory duties, tariff policies, protection of the local industry, and the impacts these factors have on the sector's overall health, said a news release.

During the meeting, Engro Polymer highlighted several challenges, including high electricity prices, costly raw materials, increased PVC imports, and the ongoing tariff war.

To address these concerns and support domestic manufacturers, the delegation requested the imposition of a regulatory duty of 5 to 10 percent on PVC imports.

Haroon Akhtar Khan acknowledged the difficulties faced by local industries, affirming his awareness that the sector is already under significant strain.

He assured the delegation that the government is committed to preventing any decline within the industrial landscape.

Highlighting Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's vision, he emphasized the importance of boosting productivity across Pakistan's industries.

However, he stressed the need for a comprehensive and detailed report explaining the rationale behind seeking protection for the industry.

He further directed the Engro Polymer that, in collaboration with the Engineering Development Board, a cost disadvantage analysis be prepared.

This report should also include an assessment of the volume-related losses currently impacting the industry, providing a clear picture of the challenges to be addressed.

SIMAP team visits WCCIS

SIALKOT (APP): A delegation from the Surgical Instruments Manufacturers and Association of Pakistan visited the Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry Sialkot (WCCIS) to discuss collaborative opportunities for the upcoming Technology & Innovation Summit (TIS-2025).

The delegation was led by Suleman Ali Mughal, Senior Vice Chairman, SIMAP, and Salman Asif Awan, Chairman, Technology and Innovation Summit Committee and included Sabour Ahmed, Executive Committee Member & TIS Committee Member, and Muhammad Naeem, TIS Committee Member.

The primary objective of the visit was to encourage the chamber to set up a dedicated booth at TIS-2025, scheduled to take place on June 19, 2025, at Cantt View Marquee, Sialkot.

This initiative aims to promote women empowerment through entrepreneurship and innovation, providing a platform for women entrepreneurs to showcase their contributions to the business and technology sectors.

WCCIS President Dr. Mariam Nouman warmly welcomed the delegation and expressed her gratitude for the invitation. She assured the full support and active participation of the chamber in the event.

The visit marks a significant step toward strengthening collaboration between industry stakeholders and women-led business initiatives in the region.

SCCI expects growth-oriented and industry friendly budget

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry have pinned high hopes and the expectations that the upcoming budget 2025-26 will be growth oriented and industry friendly and tax-free.

SCCI president Fazal Moqem Khan, senior vice president Abdul Jalil Jan, vice president Shehryar Khan and members of the chamber executive committee in a joint statement here on Tuesday stated that the business community expects a comprehensive industrial package, which is essential in sustainable economic growth and development.

While quoting certain reports regarding slapping new taxes in the upcoming budget, the senior office bearers said that the business community believes that the government could refrain from taking steps that could further burden the existing taxpayers.

Office bearers said that SCCI has always been vocal and demanded that the tax net has to be broadened and in order to meet the budget targets; there is a need to bring non-tax paying sectors into the tax net.

We expect that the Finance Minister will introduce measures that support and promote exports.

The business leaders expressed strong desires to implement policies that promote macroeconomic stability, control inflation, and ensure a stable exchange rate.

This stability provides a conducive environment for businesses to plan their investments and operations effectively, they added.

Office bearers furthermore said that the business community expects the government to introduce policies and reforms aimed at improving the ease of doing business in Pakistan.

They advised that the government must introduce investment incentives and measures that encourage both domestic and foreign investments.

This may include tax breaks or exemptions for specific industries, subsidies for research and development, access to credit facilities, and measures to promote entrepreneurship and innovation, they elaborated.

Senior office bearers emphasized the need to enhance industrial competitiveness, promote exports, broaden the tax base, and eliminate structural inefficiencies in the economic framework.

The business leaders noted that the SME sector, which serves as a backbone of economic activity and employment, continues to struggle due to limited access to finance and an unsupportive regulatory framework.

SCCI office bearers urged the government to prioritise industrial growth and exports in the budget for FY26 by widening the tax base, capping business income tax at 25pc, abolishing the Super Tax, and reversing recent controversial amendments to the Income Tax Ordinance.

They called for a harmonised GST system, faster refunds, gradual reduction of sales tax, and abolition of the additional sales tax to reduce informality.

FBR organizes tax awareness session at JIICS

F.P. Report

RAWALPINDI: The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), through its Taxpayers Services Wing, organized a tax awareness session at Jinnah Institute of Informatics, Commerce & Science, Rawalpindi. The session was attended by Mr. Masood Sultan (Principal), Ms. Muniba Sultan (Head of Department university campus) & Waqas Zafar (Vice Principal) and students.

The FBR team included Second Secretary (Tax Education) Zafar Iqbal Khan, Inspector Salman Khaliq, Coordinator Zia Farooqi and staff Manzoor Hussain.

During the session, Second Secretary (Tax Education) Zafar Iqbal Khan gave a comprehensive presentation on the tax structure and overall working of FBR. He highlighted the various measures being



taken by FBR to enhance the transparency and efficiency of the revenue collecting system. In his briefing, he urged students to become "Tax Ambassadors" by spreading awareness about tax responsibilities in their communities.

The session concluded with a detailed Q&A session, where participants asked questions and gathered more information. On the occasion, souvenirs were also distributed



among the students. This initiative is part of FBR's ongoing efforts to foster a better understanding of the tax system among youth and promote a culture of tax compliance in Pakistan.

PSX turns around to bullish trend, gains 1,573 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-Index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) turned around to bullish trend on Tuesday, gaining 1,573.07 points, a positive change of 1.32 percent, closing at 120,450.87 points as compared to 118,877.81 points on the last trading day.

A total of 578,163,611 shares were traded during the day as compared to 497,940,020 shares the previous trading day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs 26.827 billion against Rs 23.450 billion on the last trading day.

As many as 467 companies transacted their shares in the stock market, 232 of them recorded gains and 187 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 48 companies remained unchanged.

The three top trading companies were K-Electric Limited with 144,646,561 shares at Rs 5.32 per share, Faysal Bank with 26,656,029 shares at Rs 53.77 per share and Invest Bank with 25,541,103 shares at Rs 2.35 per share.

PIA Holding Company LimitedB witnessed a maximum increase of Rs 3,231.20 per share closing at Rs35,543.19 whereas runner-up was Khyber Textile Mills Limited with Rs306.98 rise in its share price to close at Rs 3,376.76

Sapphire Fibres Limited witnessed a maximum decrease of Rs 57.89 per share price, closing at Rs 1,055.19, whereas the runner-up Rafhan Maize Products Company Limited with Rs 35.12 decline in its per share price to Rs 9,883.90.

Rupee sheds 14 paise against US Dollar: The Rupee on Tuesday depreciated by 14 paise against the US Dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 282.11 against the previous day's closing of Rs 281.97.

However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market

stood at Rs 283.5 and Rs 284.4, respectively. The price of the Euro increased by 06 paise to close at Rs 322.12 against the last day's closing of Rs 322.06, according to the State Bank of Pakistan.

The Japanese yen remained unchanged and closed at Rs1.97, whereas a decrease of Rs 0.60 was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which was traded at Rs 381.42 as compared to the last day's closing of Rs 382.02.

The exchange rates of the Emirates Dirham and the Saudi Riyal increased by 04 and 06 paise to close at Rs 76.81 and Rs 75.20, respectively.

Standard Chartered Pakistan and Emirates forge strategic partnership

F.P. Report

KARACHI: Standard Chartered Pakistan and Emirates have entered into a strategic partnership by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). The collaboration offers significant benefits to Standard Chartered Credit Card holders, special fares on tickets purchased online through the Emirates website. Additionally, customers can opt to split their payments into convenient monthly installments of up to 12 months.

The partnership further solidifies Standard Chartered's position as the premier wealth advisory bank in the country and as the trusted banking partner for global corporations operating in the region. It further underscores the Bank's commitment to providing exceptional services and benefits to its clients.

The MoU was signed by Rehan Shaikh, CEO and Head of Coverage, Standard Chartered Pakistan, and Mohammed Alhashmi, VP for Pakistan, Emirates. Also present at the signing ceremony were senior management officials from both companies including Saadya Riaz, Head Wealth & Retail Banking, SC Pakistan and Ashfaq Shah, Corporate Sales Manager - Pakistan from Emirates.

Rehan Shaikh, commented on the partnership, "This strategic alliance with Emirates is a significant milestone in our mission to deliver superior value and convenience to



our clients. By leveraging our global network and Emirates' renowned service excellence, we are able to offer unique travel benefits that align with our clients' lifestyle and financial needs. This collaboration not only strengthens our market position but also exemplifies our commitment to fostering strong partnerships that drive innovation and growth in the banking sector."

Commenting on the agreement, Mohammed Alhashmi, VP for Pakistan, Emirates stated,

"We are delighted to partner with Standard Chartered Pakistan to provide incentives to their customers. We have a special relationship with Pakistan where we have been operating since 1985 and, in partnering with a leading bank operating in the country, we hope to expand our customer base further. The incentives we are providing to Standard Chartered customers will allow them to experience our premium travel proposition while enjoying added-value."

MG Pakistan reaffirms commitment to quality



F.P. Report

LAHORE: MG Pakistan has reaffirmed its unwavering commitment to quality and customer satisfaction by swiftly airlifting critical vehicle components in response to recent geopolitical disruptions. These proactive measures were taken to minimize delays in the delivery of the MG HS PHEV - True Hybrid Electric, Pakistan's first locally assembled plug-in hybrid.

The ongoing geopolitical situation caused temporary shipment rerouting, resulting in minor delays in select color variants and the delivery of free 7KW chargers. In light of these challenges, MG Pakistan responded decisively by airlifting essential kits and components to resume production at full capacity.

"We are pleased to share that production is now running at full speed, and deliveries are resuming

immediately," said Syed Asif Ahmed - General Manager Marketing Division - MG Pakistan. "Our top priority is to ensure our customers receive their vehicles with minimal disruption."

MG Pakistan expressed gratitude to its valued customers for their patience, trust, and confidence. The company emphasized that its dedication to safety, quality, and timely delivery remains stronger than ever.

Minister discuss current state of tobacco sector

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for National Food Security and Research, Rana Tanveer Hussain on Tuesday stressed the importance of focusing on value-added products to align tobacco processing, packaging and exports in Pakistan with global standards.

The minister held a detailed meeting on Tuesday with the Chairman of the Pakistan Tobacco Board and discussed on the current state of the tobacco sector, exports, challenges faced by farmers and the overall performance of the board, said a press release.

The minister expressed satisfaction over Pakistan's tobacco exports exceeding \$100 million, terming it a promising development for the national economy. He said that the Pakistan Tobacco Board plays a vital and effective role in bridging farmers, industry and export markets. The

Board's role in ensuring fair pricing for farmers was particularly appreciated.

The minister emphasized the need to enhance the Board's budget for research and development, in order to produce high-quality tobacco varieties that can fetch better prices in international markets.

The Chairman briefed the minister on the Board's initiatives related to crop monitoring, traceability, and market regulation, to which the Minister responded positively. He suggested expanding the traceability system to additional districts to ensure transparency in production.

The minister termed the Board's efforts in digital registration, data collection and farmer support schemes as a replicable model. He recommended promoting initiatives like the Kisan Card for providing subsidies, input support

and access to agricultural loans to small farmers.

During the meeting, the Board's new market exploration policy was regarded as a positive step towards enhancing exports. The minister instructed that new investments be encouraged through public-private partnerships, and that sustainable agricultural practices be promoted to ensure environmental conservation along with the growth of the tobacco crop.

Rana Tanveer Hussain lauded the overall performance of the Pakistan Tobacco Board and emphasized the need for stronger policy coordination between the ministry and the Board.

He reaffirmed the government's commitment to continue policy consistency for the stability of the tobacco industry and assured the Board of full support in its initiatives.

**In brief****DG emphasizes to improve Badminton rankings**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Director General of Pakistan Sports Board (PSB), Yasir Pirzada, met with a delegation of the Pakistan Badminton Federation (PBF) led by Wajid Ali Chaudhry. The meeting focused on proposed junior and senior badminton tournaments, equal opportunities for players, and matters related to obtaining NOCs for participation in international competitions, said a press release. Pirzada said that badminton, like many other sports, holds immense potential in Pakistan. He emphasized that with proper promotion, the sport can bring international recognition to the country, not just in Asia but globally. He added that improving Pakistan's badminton rankings requires transparent trials and providing talented players with opportunities at national and international levels. He further informed the delegation that PSB has launched an "E-Portal," through which all services—including the NOC process for international participation—can now be accessed online. He said efforts are underway to make the NOC issuance process for players representing Pakistan abroad more efficient and transparent. The delegation also included PBF Secretary General Raja Azhar and Treasurer Parvez Habib Butt.

PBSA Chairman meets Secretary

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Pakistan Billiards & Snooker Association (PBSA) Chairman, Alamgir A. Shaikh, met the Secretary Sports, Ministry of Inter Provincial Coordination (IPC) Mohyuddin Ahmad Wani here at Pakistan Sports Board. Secretary Sports IPC assured all support to snooker sports /& Snooker federation, said a press release. Alamgir A Shaikh requested the Secretary Sports IPC for the release of Annual and Special grant of the Pakistan Snooker Federation. The Secretary Sports IPC assured the chairman that the above matter would be placed for consideration in the meeting of the Pakistan Sports Board, for approval and release of grants sooner rather than later. Shaikh thanked the Secretary Sports IPC for giving his precious time and positive response about the above said requests. The chairman also met DG PSB, Yasir Pirzada at his office and discussed the pending issues and problems faced by PBSA, heard the chairman about the issues faced by association/federation and assure to resolve these. The Chairman was very optimistic about the outcome of the above said meeting.

Boxing trials concluded

ISLAMABAD (APP): Boxing Trials of Men & Women under Prime Minister Youth Programme (PMYP) were concluded yesterday at the Azad Jammu & Kashmir University, Muzaffarabad. Chief Guest of the event, VC Azad Jammu & Kashmir University Muzaffarabad, Dr. Nadeem Haider Bukhari, while talking on the occasion, shared with the participants the importance of sports initiatives and announced plans to establish a multipurpose sports gymnasium. Dr. Ali Malik, Dep. Sect. PMYP informed the participants about PMYP and its initiatives. He also talked about the ongoing Boxing Talent Hunt and upcoming Cricket Talent Hunt, Phase-II of the Talent Hunt project, and E-Sports Championships and E-Sports Policy Development.



LONDON: Saqib Mahmood bounced out Shai Hope for a first-ball duck, England vs West Indies, 3rd ODI.

Australia confirms tour to Pakistan next year

MELBOURNE (DNA): Cricket Australia (CA) Chief Executive Todd Greenberg has reaffirmed Australia's commitment to strengthening cricketing ties with Pakistan, both through bilateral tours and greater participation of Pakistani players in the Big Bash League (BBL). Speaking to the journalists, Greenberg confirmed that Australia will tour Pakistan next year for a white-ball series and highlighted the importance of this bilateral relationship. "We're touring Pakistan next year for some white-ball cricket, which I think will be great. The 2022 tour showed how warm

and welcoming the environment was, and our players loved it," he said.

Greenberg also touched on the challenges Pakistani players face in participating in the BBL because of no objection certificate (NOC) restrictions from the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) but said that Cricket Australia is actively looking for solutions.

"We would welcome more high-profile Pakistani players in the BBL. They have huge followings here in Australia, especially among the local Pakistani community," he stated. "There are conversations happening right now to attract players, and

hopefully some of that comes together for this upcoming BBL season."

He also emphasised that nationality or origin should never be a barrier in building a world-class tournament.

"Our aim is to bring the best players to the BBL, regardless of where they come from. The inclusion of Pakistani stars would be great for the league and the teams."

Greenberg's comments come at a time when Pakistani cricket has a strong global footprint, and Australia is looking to tap into that connection — both for the growth of the BBL and broader cricket diplomacy.

TTS and Faisalabad win matches

FAISALABAD (APP): Toba Tek Singh and Faisalabad won their opening day matches during Inter-District Girls and Boys Hockey Tournament organized at Hockey Stadium Madina Town under the aegis of Divisional Sports Department to prepare hockey teams for Chief Minister (CM) Punjab Summer Games 2025.

A spokesman for the sports department said here on Tuesday that in the girls' category, District Toba Tek Singh delivered a dominant performance and defeated District Chiniot with a resounding 7-0 victory in the opening match.

In the second match, District Faisalabad edged out District Jhang with a narrow 1-0 win. In the boys' category, District Jhang overcame District Chiniot in a thrilling match by securing a 4-2 win.

PMLN leaders Khawaja Muhammad Islam and Rana Manawar Iqbal witnessed the opening ceremony as chief guests. They appreciated the efforts of young athletes and highlighted the importance of such tournaments in promoting sports culture across the province.

Faisalabad and Chiniot secure victories

FAISALABAD (APP): Faisalabad and Chiniot secured victories by defeating their rivals during Inter-District Kabaddi Tournament held at Malikpur Kabaddi Stadium as part of Chief Minister (CM) Punjab Summer Games 2025 activities.

A spokesman for the sports department said here on Tuesday that the tournament featured thrilling contests between the teams from various districts of Faisalabad division.

In the first match, District Faisalabad overpowered District Toba Tek Singh with a convincing score of 52-42 while the second match was a nail-biter where District Chiniot narrowly defeated District Jhang by 32-31 points.

Prominent political and sports figures including PMLN leaders Chaudhary Faqeer Hussain Dogar, Mian Abdul Mannan and Khawaja Muhammad Islam witnessed the tournament as guests of honor. Divisional Sports Officer Shah Manzoor Fareed, former Sports Officer Chaudhary Tariq Nazeer, District Sports Officers Sajida Lateef, Muhammad Jameel, Provincial Coach Zarina Waqar, Tehsil Sports Officers.

Babar, Rizwan can't be ruled out of T20I team, believes Salman Butt

LAHORE

(APP): Cricketer-turned commentator, coach Salman Butt has said that considering their Herculean performances with the bat in the white-ball cricket over the past years, ace batters Babar Azam and Mohammad Rizwan cannot be ruled out of the Pakistan's T20I team.

'Babar topped the ICC T20I ranking charts for three years and is the leading run-scorer for Pakistan. He is the second leading run-getter in the T20Is in the world and only behind India's Rohit Sharma by a few runs' the former captain said in an interview with famous Pakistani cricket Youtuber and analyst Sanaullah on Tuesday.

Babar Azam, Mohammad Rizwan and Shaheen Shah Afridi were not considered for the recently concluded three-match T20I series against Bangladesh as Pakistan fielded a new-look T20I squad with the focus on playing 'fearless without being careless' cricket.

The former captain Salman Butt said if we dissect great players' professional careers, there are three or four years when they are at the ultimate peak and Babar has achieved this stature through his consistent performances with the bat.

Babar Azam is an outstanding run-getter for the country and this made him heartthrob of the nation and

every part of the country.

"He is still young but runs are not coming with flow and he is not managing to play big innings as he used to do in the past," the former opening batter Salman Butt said, adding that, currently, he lacks consistency as his bat has not been producing runs as he was in the past and the peak of his career but such phases of lean patch are common with great players and great player always make a comeback.

On the new-look T20I team, he said Babar and Rizwan came under the hammer for not being that aggressive in the first six overs of the power-play and, moreover, it was a common perception that they leave little space for the other batter when they play long innings.

Salman Butt was adamant that the PCB cannot completely rule out Babar Azam and Mohammad Rizwan, adding if a unit can be developed which is satisfying and more aggressive to replace Babar, there is good.

Salman said Pakistan T20I squad will need a player like Babar's stature to play sheet anchor role in challenging conditions. He said Pakistan T20I squad under Salman Ali Agha got exposed in the recent white-ball tour of New Zealand.

Salman Butt, however, disagreed with the interviewer and reminded him that Bangladesh team may

be called a young team but it would be unjust to call Pakistan team as young, adding that Muhammad Haris played the ICC T20I World Cup in 2022 while the rest of them have made many come-backs to the team.

On Pakistan's victory against Bangladesh, Salman Butt believed though it was a reasonable victory but it can not be taken as a big achievement to celebrate, adding that Bangladesh were a depleted side which lost T20I series against UAE recently. He said most of the Bangladesh senior cricketers had retired or were out of the Pakistan tour due to injury or personal reasons.

Salman Butt praised Mohammad Haris for his maiden century, adding it is a good omen that another consistent wicket-keeper batter will serve Pakistan cricket besides reliable Mohammad Rizwan.

On Pakistan bowling line-up in the series, Salman Butt said 'Politely but factually, it was not a series to judge Pakistan's bowling, adding that one needs to have a strong opposition to judge the bowling. He said Pakistan bowled with all-rounders in the series and still worked against the depleted Bangladesh side. He said Pakistan cricket team must play five front-line bowlers to make a difference in the upcoming ICC Men's T20I world cup 2026.

Sabalenka to face Swiatek in blockbuster semi-final



PARIS (Agencies): World number one Aryna Sabalenka will face three-time defending champion Iga Swiatek in a blockbuster French Open semi-final between two title contenders.

Sabalenka edged a tight quarter-final against China's Olympic champion Zheng Qinwen 7-6 (7-3) 6-3 on a blustery Court Philippe Chatrier on Tuesday. Poland's Swiatek then came through 6-1 7-5 against Elina Svitolina to set up a fascinating last-four encounter.

Belarusian Sabalenka replaced fifth-ranked Swiatek as world number one in October last year.

The pair have met 12 times, with Swiatek leading the head-to-head 8-4 - but they have not met at a major since the 2022 US Open semi-finals.

Swiatek has won four of the past five Roland Garros titles, while Sabalenka is bidding for her first Paris trophy. "Aryna has a game for every surface, so I need to focus on myself, do the work, be brave in my shots and just go for it," Swiatek said.

"It is going to be a tough match, but I'm happy for the challenge."

"A true battle" - Sabalenka advances For all that Swiatek has dominated the French Open in recent years, Sabalenka is the player to beat this time around. She has won three titles this year - including one on the Madrid clay - and reached two further finals, as well as strengthening her grip on the top ranking.

But her three-set defeat by Madison Keys in the Australian Open final stung - and she looks on a mission to avenge that loss.

Zheng had cause for optimism. She snapped a six-match losing streak to Sabalenka on the Rome clay in May and ultimately started the better of the two.

However, the mistakes were the difference, with Zheng committing 31 unforced errors to Sabalenka's 18 and winning just 39% of points behind her second serve.

Sabalenka was visibly unimpressed with the wind, her game and finding herself down an early break in the first set, but she generated enough rhythm to break back for 4-4.

The top seed dominated the eventual tie-break, taking it on a long whipped forehand from Zheng, and repeatedly battled back from 0-30 down in her service games to keep the second set close.

The pair exchanged breaks before Zheng played her worst game of the match to hurry Sabalenka along to a 4-3 lead.

Sabalenka's quality then shone through as, with Zheng 40-0 up and serving to stay in the match, she hammered winners past her opponent to seal the match as quickly as possible.

"That was a true battle - I have no idea how I was able to get back into that first set," Sabalenka said. "I was ready to leave everything I have on court to win."

'Proactive' Swiatek sees off Svitolina

Swiatek's struggles in the build-up to the French Open were well-documented, but there was always a chance her game would click into place in Paris.

Victory over Elena Rybakina in the fourth round, with Swiatek battling back from a set and a break down, will have been a welcome confidence boost.

Although the first set was closer than the scoreline suggested, once Swiatek broke there was an inevitability about it.

One of the best front-runners, Swiatek saved break points in her first service game, broke and then reeled off five games in a row to deflate Svitolina.

Svitolina, who has added more attack to her game since her return from maternity leave, took a 3-1 lead with some powerful hitting early in the second set.

But Swiatek broke back in the next game and, just as Sabalenka did, capitalised on a wobbly Svitolina service game to regain the break lead and ultimately serve out the match.

"I wanted to be proactive and really lead in the game, so I'm happy I did that," Swiatek added.

Ushna Suhail bags National Ranking Tennis C'ships title

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ushna Suhail claimed the ladies singles title of the 1st edition of the Emerging Pakistan National Ranking Tennis Championships at the PTF-SDA Tennis Complex on Tuesday.

Top seed Ushna Suhail lived up to expectations, clinching the Ladies Singles title with a composed and dominant straight-sets victory over promising 4th seed Zunaisha Noor of Islamabad.

In a final that showcased high-quality tennis from both players, Ushna's experience and consistency proved decisive. The opening set saw both players trading sharp down-the-line and cross-court shots, but Ushna quickly asserted control, racing to a 5-2 lead before breaking Zunaisha in the eighth game to seal the set 6-2.

In the second set, Ushna

maintained her momentum and did not allow the young challenger to settle. Applying relentless pressure, she capitalized on key moments and dictated play, ultimately closing out the match with a convincing 6-2, 6-1 win.

This victory reaffirms Ushna Suhail's position at the top of Pakistan's women's tennis, while Zunaisha Noor's spirited performance highlights her potential as a rising star in the sport.

The Men's Doubles semifinals delivered high-octane action and thrilling tennis, as experience clashed with youth and top seeds faced fierce resistance in two gripping encounters. The seasoned duo of Aisam-ul-Haq Qureshi and Aqeel Khan showcased their class and composure, overcoming top seeds Yousaf Khalil and Barkatullah in a tense three-set showdown.

Barkatullah and Yousaf came out firing, dominating the opening set with solid baseline play and sharp shot selection, sealing it 6-3. However, the tide turned in the second set as Aisam and Aqeel matched the top seeds shot for shot. The set went into a tiebreak, where the veterans held their nerve to edge it 7-6(5), leveling the match.

In the decisive super tiebreak, Aisam and Aqeel raced to an 8-4 lead, but the top seeds clawed their way back to 8-all. At the crucial juncture, Aisam's experience came to the fore, helping the pair win the next two points and clinch a hard-fought victory, booking their spot in the final.

In the second semifinal, the youthful pair of Ahmad Nael Qureshi and Abubakar Talha pushed second seeds Muzammil and Abdullah Yousaf to the limit

in another exhilarating match. Muzammil and Abdullah took the first set 6-2, displaying superior court control. However, Ahmad and Talha responded with fiery resilience in the second set, showcasing aggressive baseline play and a series of stunning down-the-line winners. Their efforts paid off as they forced a tiebreak and won it 7-6(5) to force a super tiebreak.

Ahmad and Abubakar surged ahead 8-2 in the decider, but the experienced second seeds clawed back point by point, eventually leveling the score at 9-9. In a tense finish, Muzammil smashed a powerful overhead and followed it up with a precise cross-court winner to seal the match and secure their place in the final.

The Men's Singles final is set to feature a clash of titans as top seed Aqeel Khan and second

seed Muzammil Murtaza both booked their spots in the championship match with commanding semifinal victories. Both players displayed their class and dominance, securing straight-set wins over their respective opponents. Aqeel showcased his trademark consistency and court craft, while Muzammil impressed with his powerful groundstrokes and tactical precision.

With both players in top form, the final promises to be an exciting clash as experience meets rising talent in a high-stakes battle for the Men's Singles title, scheduled for tomorrow at 4:00 PM. Men's Singles (semifinals): Aqeel Khan beat Barkatullah 6-3 6-4, Muzammil Murtaza beat Yousaf Khalil 6-2 6-4.

Ladies Singles (final): Ushna Suhail beat Zunaisha Noor 6-2 6-1. Men's Doubles (semifi-

nals): Aisam-ul-Haq Qureshi & Aqeel Khan beat Yousaf Khalil & Barkatullah 3-6, 7-6(5) 10-8, Abdullah Adnan & Muzammil Murtaza beat Abu Bakar Talha & Ahmad Nael Qureshi 6-2 6-7(5) 11-9.

Junior 18 & Under Singles (semifinals): Muhammad Salar beat Asad Zaman 6-4 6-2, Hamza Roman Vs AbuBakar Talha (in Progress).

Boys 14 & Under Singles semifinals: Muhammad Muaz beat Muhammad Umer 7-5 6-2, Muhammad Junaid beat Razik Sultan 6-4, 3-6, 7-5.

Boys 12 & Under Singles semifinals: Muhammad Aayan beat Muhammad Danyal 4-0 4-0, Muhammad Muaz beat M. Faizan 4-1 4-1.

Boys 12 & Under Singles final: Muhammad Aayan beat Muhammad Muaz 4-2 4-2.



In brief

Drug paddler jailed

RAWALPINDI (APP): A local court has sentenced a drug peddler named, Sikandar Ali to 9 years rigorous imprisonment along with a fine of Rs. 80,000.0 According to details, Gujjar Khan Police had arrested the accused in April 2024 after recovering 1600 grams of charas (cannabis) from his possession. CPO Rawalpindi, Syed Khalid Hamdani commended the investigation and legal teams for their effective handling of the case. "This conviction reflects our zero-tolerance policy against drug peddlers," he said The CPO further emphasized that the city police remains committed to eradicating menace of drug from society through strict legal action. "We will continue our crackdown on narcotics to protect our youth and maintain public safety," he added.

IRSA releases 242,921 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Tuesday released 242,921 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 187,416 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, the water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1472.92 feet which was 70.92 feet higher than dead level of 1402.00 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 91,700 cusecs and 156,600 cusecs respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1163.40 feet, which was 113.40 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 34,395 cusecs and 25,000 cusecs, respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded as 189,178, 153,583, 121,281 and 66,827 cusecs, respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 25,400 cusecs of water released at Nowshera and 7438 cusecs released from River Chenab at Marala.

2,000 Kg of unsafe meat seized

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a swift and vigilant operation, the Motorway Police on Tuesday recovered around 2,000 kilograms of unhealthy meat from two suspicious vehicles near Chakri during a routine patrol. According to the spokesperson of the Motorway police, the officers stopped two Suzuki carry vans after noticing suspicious activity during routine checks. On inspection, they found the vehicles were loaded with a large quantity of contaminated meat. Officials from the Punjab Food Authority (PFA) Rawalpindi were immediately called to the scene. After checking, they confirmed that the meat was not safe for human consumption and could pose serious health risks. The drivers and the vehicles were handed over to the Punjab Food Authority for further action. Police from Chakri Station also reached the spot and initiated legal action.

23 outlaws arrested

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police, Abarar, Secretariat, Shalimar, Sangjani, Khanna, Kirpa, Humak, Bhara Kahu and Phulgran police station teams arrested 18 accused involved in different criminal activities and recovered 6443 gram heroin, 21 bottles liquor and 10 pistols from their possession on Tuesday. A public relations officer told APP that Cases have been registered against the arrested accused and further investigations are ongoing. Additionally, during a special campaign launched for the arrest of proclaimed offenders and absconders, various police teams arrested 05 criminals.



KARACHI: Maritime Minister Muhammad Junaid Anwar Chaudhry unveils the plaque to inaugurate a solar project at KPT Izhar Abbasi Hospital, Keamari area. —APP Photo

Hanif Abbasi, Uzbek envoy discuss Railway transit corridor project

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Railways Muhammad Hanif Abbasi and Uzbekistan's Ambassador to Pakistan, Ali Shir Takhtae held detailed discussions on Tuesday regarding the Uzbekistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan Railway Transit Corridor project.

The meeting was focused to further strengthen cooperation in the railway sector and to devise a joint strategy for the completion of this historic project, said a news release. During the meeting, the leaders described the project as a milestone for regional economic growth and the consolidation of trade ties. Consensus was reached to finalize cooperation on this approximately 850-kilometer long railway connectivity project, which included the construction of a new 647-kilometer railway line through Afghanistan.

This corridor will become the first direct railway link between Central Asia and South Asia, opening new avenues for trade and economic collaboration in the region.

Hanif Abbasi said, "Upon completion of this project, Pakistan will gain the shortest and most efficient route to Central Asia, which will not only increase trade volumes but also strengthen the region's economy on a solid footing."

He further added, "This railway corridor will significantly reduce transit time and transportation costs, benefiting all stakeholders."

He mentioned that the corridor is expected to handle an annual freight capacity of 15 million tons, which will tremendously boost export and import volumes in the region. The Minister termed this project a historic milestone that will provide Central Asia direct access to Pakistan's ports, facilitating easier access to global trading markets. Hanif Abbasi emphasized the strategic importance of the project as a key component of China's Belt and Road Initiative, stating, "This project will not only reinforce economic

ties but will also play a pivotal role in promoting regional peace and stability."

Ambassador Ali Shir Takhtae highlighted the vast investment opportunities in Pakistan's railway sector and the potential to enhance bilateral trade relations. He stressed that collaborative efforts could foster economic prosperity and create new employment opportunities for the people of both countries. Both leaders appreciated the potential positive impacts of this project in promoting peace and stability in Afghanistan, describing it as a beacon of development and harmony for the region.

They reiterated their commitment to deepening cooperation in the railway sector and continuing work on joint development projects. Hanif Abbasi pledged to leverage Uzbekistan's expertise to modernize Pakistan's railway system and enhance its operational efficiency through robust reforms.

ANF arrests 4 smugglers, including a woman with over 232 kg of drugs

RAWALPINDI (APP): The Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF), conducting six operations across the country, recovered as many as 232.478 kilograms of drugs worth more than Rs 41 million and arrested four suspects, including a woman, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman on Tuesday.

He informed that a 55-gram cocaine-filled capsule was recovered from the stomach of a Riyadh-bound passenger at Islamabad Airport. In another operation, 24 kg of hashish and 1200 narcotic pills were recovered from a parcel sent to the UK at a courier office in Sialkot.

As many as 7.2 kg of hashish were recovered from the possession of a woman travelling in a passenger bus near the Islamabad Motorway Toll Plaza. Similarly, 35 ecstasy pills weighing 184 grams were recovered from the possession of a suspect near Bahria Town, Phase 4, Rawalpindi.

As much as 1 kg of hashish was recovered from the possession of a suspect near Sugar Mor, Faisalabad. During another operation, 200 kg of opium hidden for smuggling was recovered in the uninhabited area of Tozgai in Chagi. Cases have been registered against the arrested suspects under the Narcotics Control Act, and further investigations are underway.

Commuters appeal authorities to reconsider Metro Bus fares

ISLAMABAD (APP): Commuters on Tuesday appealed the concerned authorities to reconsider the increase in metro and electric bus fares, terming the decision a burden on those using this service on daily basis.

According to them, the fare has doubled from Rs 50 to Rs100 per ride, sparking widespread discontent among daily passengers who rely on these services for affordable transportation.

The decision has particularly affected low-income groups, who rely heavily on these subsidized services. Nasreen Bibi, a widow and domestic worker, expressed her frustration, saying, "Paying Rs100 for a one-way trip is unaffordable for me. How will I manage Rs200 per day just to get to work and return back?"

She added that the fare increase has added considerable strain to her finances, particularly since she is the sole earner for her family. Aleem Danish a citizen said with limited public transport options, commuters have to pay the higher fare. He said that he has to pay Rs 200 daily just for transportation adding that this is unsustainable and the authorities need to reconsider this decision.

The students were also demanding relief from the authorities, urging them to review the fare structure and introduce more affordable options for daily commuters. A student, Amna Naz said, "Education is expensive enough, we don't need transportation costs to add to our woes."

300 KW Solar project unveiled at KPT Izhar Abbasi hospital

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs, Muhammad Junaid Anwar Chaudhry has inaugurated the 300 kW solarization project at KPT Izhar Abbasi Hospital in Karachi on Tuesday.

The initiative, implemented at a cost of Rs 31.83 million, aims to reduce the hospital's dependence on fossil fuels and address the worsening issue of climate change.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by senior officials including members of the KPT Trustees (Transition Committee), General Manager Engineering, Rear Admiral Habib Ur Rehman, Rear Admiral Atiq-ur-Rehman (GM Operations), Brigadier Muhammad Younis (GM Administration), and other key leadership from the Ministry and Karachi Port Trust (KPT).

Addressing the event as a chief guest, Federal Minister Junaid Anwar said KPT hospital solarization is milestone in

national sustainability efforts. He emphasised the urgent need to transition to clean energy, especially in essential public service institutions like hospitals.

"The solarization of the hospital is not only a solution to persistent power outages in Keamari but also a strategic move to reduce its carbon footprint," the minister added. "Generators running on fossil fuels consume up to 5,000 litres of fuel monthly, contributing heavily to carbon emissions and climate degradation."

Highlighting the project's broader significance, the minister noted that this effort aligns with the government's Climate Change Policy and is part of Prime Minister Mian Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif's directive to transition government facilities to renewable energy sources.

"Solarization will result in Rs 21.6 million in annual savings and a substantial reduction in carbon emissions, providing both environmental and

economic benefits," he added.

The 25-year lifecycle of the solar project comes with minimal maintenance costs of Rs 450,000 annually, making it a cost-effective and environmentally responsible initiative. The minister stressed that such projects not only combat climate change but also contribute to national self-reliance and economic resilience.

Amidst rising temperatures and an ongoing heatwave — clear manifestations of global climate change — the minister reiterated the government's commitment to sustainable energy solutions and urged other public institutions to follow suit.

Following the ceremony, Federal Minister Junaid Anwar toured the hospital, visiting patients in various wards and reaffirming the government's dedication to improving public healthcare infrastructure through environmentally sustainable means.

WHO, BISP to expand support for malnourished children

ISLAMABAD (APP): The World Health Organization (WHO) and the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) will expand their joint efforts to treat children suffering from severe acute malnutrition in Pakistan.

This was stated by BISP Chairperson Senator Rubina Khalid and WHO Representative in Pakistan Dr Dapeng Luo during visit to nutrition stabilization centre (NSC) at the Federal Government Polyclinic hospital. They said each year, the partnership helps around 43,000 children under the age of two who have medical complications caused by malnutrition.

They added these children are treated at 169

nutrition stabilization centres (NSCs) across the country. Senator Rubina Khalid said, "We want to make sure no mother or child is left behind. Healthy mothers and children are the foundation of a strong Pakistan."

She said that under the Benazir Nashonuma programme, WHO-supported centres funded by BISP have treated 46,000 children since 2022 and given counselling to more than 64,000 mothers and caregivers. She said that in 2025, the number of centres will increase to 199, aiming to treat 80,000 children and counsel 120,000 mothers each year.

Dr. Luo praised the programme's success, high-

lighting a 98% cure rate — well above the global standard of 75%. He said that Pakistan is still facing serious challenges with child nutrition as about 40% of children under five are stunted and nearly 18% suffer from wasting.

He said that climate change is making the situation worse. He added malnutrition is also causing an estimated \$17 billion in economic losses each year, or 6.4% of Pakistan's Gross National Income.

He said that WHO will continue to work with BISP, the government, and other UN agencies like WFP and UNICEF to detect malnutrition early and provide life-saving support.

University campaign takes aim at open waste burning

ISLAMABAD (APP): A recent university campaign organized by the Institute of Urbanism (IoU) in collaboration with the International Islamic University Islamabad (IIUI) and the Prime Minister Green Youth Movement Club IIUI has drawn attention to the dangers of open waste burning (OWB) and promoted eco-friendly alternatives.

The event, titled "Let's Learn Why Not to Burn," brought together experts, environmental regulators and youth activists to discuss the severe environmental and health risks posed by OWB. Islamabad produces more than 1,575 tons of waste daily, with a large amount left uncollected, particularly in non-

sec-

tor areas. Much of this waste is either dumped openly or illegally burned, releasing toxic pollutants and greenhouse gases.

Dr Irfan Khan, Retired Dean of Basic & Applied Sciences, warned, "Burning waste emits harmful substances that can cause respiratory diseases and even cancer. This practice damages both public health and the environment."

Dr Ejaz Ahmad, Executive Director of IoU, stressed the importance of education and research in tackling the issue. "Universities must lead in innovation and advocacy to promote sustainable waste management," he said.

Mr Ashiq Nawaz from Pak-EPA acknowledged enforcement challenges,

stating, "Open burning is banned, but weak implementation and lack of awareness hinder progress."

Meanwhile, Afsheen Tajamal of 2Insects presented entrepreneurial models that convert waste into useful resources.

Youth engagement was a key focus, with Dr Hafiz Ghufuran Ahmad and Dr. Hafiz Muhammad Naseer emphasizing the role of young people in driving sustainable change. "Pakistan's youth can lead the shift toward cleaner cities through innovation and activism," Naseer said.

The campaign called for stronger policies, public awareness, and community-driven solutions to curb open waste burning and adopt greener alternatives.

Over 98,000 issued challans for traffic violations

RAWALPINDI (APP): Chief Traffic Officer Rawalpindi Beenish Fatima on Tuesday said the City Traffic Police (CTP) issued over 98,000 challan tickets for various traffic violations last month.

At the same time around 26,000 citizens were provided with fresh driving licenses in May, she said in a statement.

The CTO said a total of 98,239 challan tickets were issued across the district, including 16,570 to motorcyclists for not using helmets, 2,766 to underage drivers, and 11,513 for their negligent and careless driving.

About 6,831 vehicles were challaned for disrupting traffic, while challans were also issued for lane and line violations, she added.

Similarly, she said, 938 challan tickets were issued for one-way violation, 323 for traffic signal

violation and 835 for wrong parking.

Likewise, the CTO said, 2,181 public service vehicles (PSVs) were challaned for running without route permits and 2,147 for having no fitness certificates. About 230 challans were issued for vehicles emitting smoke, she added.

The CTO said 13,969 drivers were challaned for using fancy number plates and 3,682 for driving vehicles without registration, while 3,043 were given challan tickets for tinted windows of their vehicles.

Beenish Fatima said 235 first information reports were also registered while taking legal action against violations of various traffic rules.

She said as a sizable number of challans, i.e. 19,536 were issued for driving without a licence, the CTP intensified its drive for issuing fresh

licenses to the citizens.

Last month, she said, some 25,679 citizens were provided with fresh driving licenses and 129,550 benefitted from other licensing-related facilities.

She noted that in May, the CTP's Education Wing provided awareness on road safety to more than 5,500 people at various schools, colleges, universities, bus stands and other places regarding traffic rules.

According to the CTP spokesman, the City Traffic Police continued its drive to make the roads safe as per Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz's vision of a 'Safe Punjab'.

Some 3,932 challan tickets were issued on traffic law violations on Monday, including 895 to motorcyclists for not wearing helmets, 625 for driving without licence and 108 for not having vehicle registration documents.

SHIBERGHAN (Pajhwok): Four persons including a woman and two children have been killed and two others injured as a result of a traffic accident in Jawzjan, an official said on Tuesday. Police spokesman Qari Abdul Sattar Halimi told Pajhwok Afghan News a corolla-type vehicle collided with a car in Khanqa district Tuesday's morning. He said four people, including two children and a woman, lost their lives and two others were wounded in the accident.

NANGARHAR (Khaama Press): A WHO security officer from the Badakhshan Ismaili community was brutally killed in Nangarhar, raising concerns over the safety of Ismailis in Afghanistan. About eight months ago, his brother, Sayed Shamir Yamgani, was also killed at the same WHO office. Local sources reported on Tuesday, that a resident of Badakhshan province working at the World Health Organization (WHO) office in Nangarhar was brutally murdered.

Currently, 70 schools lack buildings and 100 schools need reconstruction in the province.



HYDERABAD: Passengers standing on door step of train while going to hometowns to celebrate Eidul Azha with their loved ones.

Aurangzeb reaffirms Pakistan’s commitment to economic coop

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb on Tuesday reiterated Pakistan's commitment and readiness to enhance cooperation under the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) umbrella to foster economic prosperity, stability and sustainable development across the region.

He reaffirmed Pakistan's strong engagement with the SCO in a virtual address at the meeting of Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) member states, held in Beijing, China. The minister also extended gratitude to the Chinese government for hosting the high-level gathering. He emphasized the significance of Pakistan's membership in the SCO, describing the organization as a vital platform for fostering regional cooperation and strengthening economic ties among member countries.

He reiterated Pakistan's firm commitment to the SCO Charter and the principles of the "Shanghai Spirit" as guiding tenets for advancing collaboration in the region and praised SCO's growing role in exploring new avenues for regional development and reiterated Pakistan's resolve to bolster economic cooperation under the SCO's framework.

Senator Aurangzeb acknowledged the organization's contribution to promoting trade, investment and financial cooperation, while reinforcing regional stability and prosperity. Supporting proposals to increase joint projects, technology transfer and capacity-building programs, he highlighted the need for deeper collaboration among member states.

He also underlined the critical role of the digital economy and financial inclusion in driving equitable development, pointing to Pakistan's active use of digital technologies in fostering economic growth and prosperity. The finance minister urged collective responses to global challenges such as economic slowdowns, widening inequalities, and climate change. He advocated for inclusive development models that serve all SCO members and ensure sustainable outcomes.

Highlighting infrastructure as a driver of regional integration and economic development, Senator Aurangzeb backed initiatives aimed at improving transport, energy, and digital connectivity across the SCO region.

He expressed strong support for the proposed establishment of an SCO Development Bank, calling it a transformative step for financing

infrastructure and development projects while enhancing regional integration and economic synergy. He emphasized Pakistan's perspective on the technical dimensions of the proposed bank and expressed hope that the institution would prioritize innovation, digital finance, fintech solutions, and environmentally sustainable financial practices.

Senator Aurangzeb also welcomed the proposal to activate the SCO Network of Financial Think Tanks, expressing optimism that it could become a leading platform for research, policy analysis, and strategic planning in the area of financial cooperation. He highlighted the comprehensive economic reforms undertaken in Pakistan, particularly in strengthening fiscal discipline, improving key macroeconomic indicators, reducing the current account deficit, stabilizing the currency, and boosting investor confidence.

Earlier, in their addresses, China's Finance Minister and the Governor of the People's Bank of China acknowledged Pakistan's economic progress and congratulated the government for successfully pursuing stability and reforms, commending its commitment to regional economic integration through the SCO platform.

Strict permit checks, heat safety rules in focus ahead of Hajj

MAKKAH: Pilgrims without a Nusk card will not be granted access to the Grand Mosque, the holy sites or transportation services during this year's Hajj. Saudi authorities have said.

Speaking at a meeting with heads of official Hajj missions during the 49th Grand Hajj Symposium in Jeddah, Minister of Hajj and Umrah Tawfiq Al-Rabiah highlighted the importance of adhering to movement regulations to protect pilgrims and enhance their spiritual experience. He described the Nusk card as a "fundamental regulatory tool to ensure orderly performance of the pilgrimage and prevent violations," according to the Saudi Press Agency.

Addressing concerns about extreme weather, the minister advised pilgrims to remain in their tents on the Day of Arafah from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. to avoid heat-related illnesses. He warned that uncoordinated group movements compromise safety and disrupt the flow of pilgrims.

The Day of Arafah, the most significant day of Hajj, falls on Thursday, June 5 this year. Al-Rabiah added that pilgrims must not walk from Arafat to Muzdalifah and should use designated transport systems instead. He said that effective crowd management and transportation plans are essential for safety and require collective compliance.

Al-Rabiah added that this Hajj season will see stricter enforcement of

permit regulations, in line with the Kingdom's commitment to a safe, organized and spiritually fulfilling pilgrimage. The Nusk card, issued by the Ministry of Hajj and Umrah, is a mandatory ID and entry pass for pilgrims and workers at the holy sites.

In addition to identification, it aids logistics, facilitates communication with Hajj missions, grants access to schedules and services, and allows pilgrims to submit feedback. It also helps authorities monitor crowd movement and send alerts to ensure a safe and organized pilgrimage. Pilgrims receive the card through their service provider, which is responsible for its distribution. A digital version is available via the official Nusk app, but it does not replace the printed card, which must be carried at all times. According to the ministry, the card expires at the end of the Hajj season, with all data erased. However, pilgrims may keep the physical card as a souvenir and proof of completing Hajj.

Meanwhile, the National Platform for Charitable Work, Ehsan, continues to provide sacrificial animal services for the Hajj season in partnership with the Kingdom's Project for the Utilization of Hady and Adahi. The initiative offers pilgrims a seamless and reliable way to fulfill the ritual through trusted digital solutions, according to the Saudi Press Agency.

Adahi has finalized preparations at seven specialized field complexes

spanning more than 1 million sq. meters. These are supported by more than 25,000 trained personnel, including 600 Islamic scholars, more than 500 veterinarians, 16,500 butchers and assistants, and 400 technicians. Advanced technologies have been integrated into the operation, such as automated weighing, real-time tracking, and modern refrigeration and sterilization systems, to ensure the safety, quality, and efficiency of meat processing and distribution.

Sacrifices will be carried out at a rate of one every seven seconds using a fully digitized system, enabling donors — both inside and outside the Kingdom — to perform the ritual through the Ehsan platform with ease and peace of mind. The project offers a secure, three-language website for the convenient purchase of sacrificial bonds, catering to people of diverse nationalities. So far, 770,000 live-stock have been received, surpassing the initial target of 750,000, with continuous deliveries from supplier farms underway.

The upcoming humanitarian distribution will cover all 13 administrative regions of the Kingdom and extend to more than 27 countries worldwide. The operation is coordinated with more than 500 charitable and civil society organizations to ensure that sacrificial meat reaches those most in need, both locally and internationally. — Arab News

Senate panel alarmed over surge in deportations, beggary abroad

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: The Senate Standing Committee on Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development, chaired by Senator Zeeshan Khanzada, expressed serious concern over the growing trend of deportations of Pakistani nationals from Gulf and Western countries—particularly due to crimes like beggary and use of fake documents.

During the committee meeting held here at Parliament House on Tuesday, it was revealed that from 2019 to 2025, over 7,800 Pakistanis were deported, with 1,064 cases specifically linked to beggary. The Ministry officials stated that 1,460 of the deportees had gone abroad through 691 registered Overseas Employment Promoters (OEPs). Senator Zamir Hussain Ghumro questioned what preventive steps the ministry has taken to curb such crimes that are tarnishing Pakistan's global reputation.

Officials disclosed that the government has begun cancelling the passports of deportees to discourage such

behavior. However, this move was challenged by Senator Shahadat Awan, who pointed out that passports cannot be revoked for crimes committed outside Pakistan's jurisdiction. The committee also raised the issue of accountability of employment agents. Officials confirmed that show cause notices had been issued to the OEPs involved.

The Committee recommended initiating criminal proceedings against those responsible and sought detailed data of the OEPs who facilitated the travel of deportees involved in criminal activities. The Committee further demanded segregated data of 5,000 deportees who traveled on work permits or visit visas to analyze the role of OEPs in their recruitment.

Representatives of the Interior Ministry informed the committee that since 2023, about 58,000 Pakistanis have been deported, including 5,600 for beggary from Saudi Arabia, Oman, and Qatar. The names of the deportees have been added to the Passport Control List (PCL), according to data received from the FIA and

Pakistani Missions abroad. Director General Passports and Immigration, Mustafa Jamal Kazi, briefed the committee on the rising number of Pakistanis overstaying in Saudi Arabia, Iran, and Iraq—particularly during religious pilgrimages.

In just the past year, 34,000 deportations were from Iran and 50,000 from Iraq. He also noted a troubling surge in Pakistani asylum seekers in Europe, numbering approximately 125,000 in the past year. The Committee also requested a report regarding 24,000 speaking orders issued to facilitate deportees over the last three months.

On a more positive note, the Committee was briefed on Pakistan's economic diplomacy efforts to promote skilled labor migration. Managing Director of the Overseas Employment Corporation (OEC), Naseer Khan Kashani, informed members that 10.3 million skilled Pakistani workers are currently employed abroad. The OEC has signed MoUs with 18 countries, with 15 more under consideration.

PHC adjourns hearing on plea against interviews of prisoners

Humayun Khan

PESHAWAR: The Peshawar High Court (PHC) has adjourned the hearing on a writ petition filed against the practice of conducting interviews of prisoners in jails and lock-ups until July 3. During the hearing, Justice Syed Arshad Ali observed that such interviews can impact the case, while Justice Waqar Ahmad noted that police officials themselves present the accused before cameras, on Tuesday.

PHC two-member bench comprising Justice Syed Arshad Ali and Justice Waqar Ahmad heard the case. The petitioner's lawyer, Zia ur Rehman Tajik Advocate, and court assistant Shumail Ahmad Butt Advocate appeared before the court.

The petitioner's lawyer argued that interviews of prisoners are recorded and shared on social media, often in the presence of police officials. He contended that these interviews are not conducted by mainstream media representatives but rather by YouTubers or individuals with social media accounts.

The petitioner's lawyer stated that in today's digital age, anyone can record statements of prisoners and accused individuals using a microphone. He emphasized that YouTubers entering jails to conduct interviews of accused individuals is unlawful.

The court assistant, Shumail Ahmad Butt Advocate, noted that this is a significant issue, as people enter jails with cameras, conduct interviews, and then present these interviews as evidence in court. PHC adjourned the hearing until July 3, directing that the case will be heard on the next date of hearing. The court observed that the practice of conducting interviews of prisoners can impact the case and that police officials often present the accused before cameras, allowing them to make statements.

Houthis urged to release aid workers

DUBAI (AFP): United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Tuesday demanded Yemen's Houthi militants release dozens of aid workers, including UN staff, a year after their arrest.

The Iran-backed militants, who control much of the war-torn country, detained 13 UN personnel and more than 50 employees of aid groups last June. "I renew my call for their immediate and unconditional release," Guterres said in a statement issued by the office of his special envoy for Yemen, Hans Grundberg.

"The UN and its humanitarian partners should never be targeted, arrested or detained while carrying out their mandates for the benefit of the people they serve," he added. A decade of civil war has plunged Yemen into one of the world's worst humanitarian crises, with more than half of the population relying on aid.

The arrests prompted the United Nations to limit its deployments and suspend activities in some regions of the Arabian Peninsula's poorest country. The Houthis at the time claimed an "American-Israeli spy cell" was operating under the cover of aid groups — an accusation firmly rejected by the UN. Guterres also lamented the "deplorable tragedy" of the death in detention of a World Food Programme staffer in February.

Gill booked

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: The National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency has registered a case against PTI leader Dr Shahbaz Gill. The case was filed under the PECA Act (Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act) on the request of Punjab Police Inspector Mazhar Iqbal who alleged that Dr Shahbaz Gill uploaded videos against the complainant on his YouTube channel and TikTok account. According to the FIR, in the videos Dr Shahbaz Gill used derogatory and inappropriate language against the complainant and his family as well as made false allegations and misstatements.

South Korea’s centre-left leader Lee wins presidency

SEOUL (AFP): South Korea's centre-left leader Lee Jae-myung hailed voters' "great decision" as he was declared the winner of a snap presidential election early Wednesday, capping months of political chaos.

Six months to the day after ex-president Yoon Suk Yeol plunged the country into crisis with his disastrous declaration of martial law, official results from the National Election Commission showed Lee had defeated conservative rival Kim Moon-soo, who had earlier conceded the race. Voter turnout was the highest in nearly three decades.

"I will humbly accept the choice of the people. Congratulations to the elected candidate Lee Jae-myung," Kim said as the last ballots were still being counted. Lee had earlier thanked voters for placing their trust in him, saying he would do his "utmost to fulfil the great responsibility and mission entrusted to me, so as not to disappoint the expectations of our people."

In a nod to South Korea's growing partisan divide, exacerbated by the chaos after Yoon's martial law bid, Lee said those that did not support him remained "fellow citizens" and promised to "move forward with hope and make a fresh start from this moment on". He also promised to "pursue dialogue, communication, and cooperation" between Seoul and its arch-enemy Pyongyang, with which relations plunged to their lowest level in years under Yoon's hawkish approach.

Lee will take office almost immediately, as soon as the commission validates the tally, likely early Wednesday. With 96.74% of the total ballots counted overnight it was mathematically impossible for Kim to catch him, the official figures showed. Lee will face a bulging in-tray, including global trade vicissitudes chafing the export-driven economy, some of the world's lowest birth rates and an emboldened North Korea rapidly expanding its arsenal.

Voter turnout was 79.4% — the highest since 1997. An exit poll by the three major broadcasters had earlier projected a victory for Lee, prompting his supporters to break into cheers outside the National Assembly, as party officials watching from inside the parliament started a chant of "Lee Jae-myung". For weeks, major polls had put Lee well ahead of Kim -- Yoon's

labour minister -- who struggled with party infighting and failed to convince a third party candidate to unify and avoid splitting the right-wing vote.

After months of turmoil and a revolving door of lame-duck acting leaders, many South Koreans said they were eager for the country to move forward. Noh Min-young, 20, who has been protesting in the streets since Yoon declared martial law, told AFP she was "relieved". "It's been a tough road. I'm happy because it feels like we've seized the opportunity that so many people fought for over the past six months."

The fallout from Yoon's martial law declaration, which has left South Korea effectively leaderless for the first months of US President Donald Trump's tumultuous second term, was the decisive factor in the election, experts said. The vote was "largely viewed as a referendum on the previous administration," Kang Joo-hyun, a political science professor at Sookmyung Women's University, told AFP.

Yoon's impeachment over his martial law bid, which saw armed soldiers deployed to parliament, made him the second straight conservative president to be stripped of office after Park Geun-hye in 2017. "Lee's victory signals that the Korean public rejects illiberal and undemocratic measures such as martial law," Gi-Wook Shin, a sociology professor at Stanford University, told AFP.

"This moment will likely be remembered as a peculiar and consequential turning point in South Korea's political history." But Lee's success is due as much to his rivals' failings as his own strengths, said Minseon Ku, a postdoctoral researcher at the William & Mary Global Research Institute. "Lee has a criminal record and was involved in several political and personal scandals," Ku said.

His rise to the presidency is "a reflection of the deep political turmoil South Korea has been experiencing". South Korean presidents serve a single five-year term. Police issued the highest level of alert and deployed thousands of officers to ensure the election plus the upcoming inauguration Wednesday proceed smoothly. Lee -- who survived an assassination attempt last year -- has been campaigning in a bullet-proof vest and delivering speeches behind a glass protective shield.

Macron seeks improvement of ties with Italy

PARIS/ROME: French President Emmanuel Macron will visit Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni on Tuesday, seeking to improve relations amid tensions between the two European leaders over Ukraine, trade and relations with the United States.

Macron is a fervent pro-European who has had a long rapport with Donald Trump, while Meloni is a nationalist with a strong transatlantic tilt who seems more ideologically aligned with the US president. They have advocated different — even competing — approaches to the new Trump era.

Meloni, whose country has a large trade surplus with the US, has sought to keep Europe aligned with the US, using the slogan "Make the West great again" in a meeting with Trump in Washington in April. Macron has pushed for the EU to take a more independent approach. On the Russian war in Ukraine, Meloni has been skeptical about Macron's "coalition of the willing" and a Franco-British plan put forward earlier this year to send peacekeeping troops to Ukraine in the

event of a peace agreement. Sending troops would be deeply unpopular in Italy.

Hostility flared publicly in recent weeks, with officials close to Macron and Meloni privately or openly criticizing their respective initiatives over Ukraine or trade. Meloni was criticized in Italy for not traveling to Kyiv with Macron and the German, British and Polish leaders on May 10 and then for missing a call with Trump and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky at a summit in Albania a few days later.

After Meloni explained her absence by saying the meetings were about sending troops to Ukraine, her government was furious that Macron said publicly that the meetings were about a ceasefire and seemed to equate her justification with "Russian disinformation." French and Italian officials said Macron had taken the initiative to hold Tuesday's meeting and sought to play down talk of a rift, saying the meeting and a working dinner would be an opportunity for Macron to show "respect" and "friendship."

"The president is avail-

able to all of our European partners, whatever the political persuasion may be," an Elysee official told reporters. The Elysee said the two would discuss security guarantees for Ukraine, the Mercosur trade deal and US tariffs, as well as industrial cooperation between the two countries, including Franco-Italian carmaker Stellantis, which appointed a new Italian chief executive last month.

Italian officials said the meeting was meant to "lay the foundations for a further strengthening of relations" and added that talks would also address the situation in the Middle East and Libya. Both Italy and France are worried Russia might boost its presence in eastern Libya, to keep a foothold in the Mediterranean after Moscow's ally President Bashar Assad was ousted in Syria in December.

"This Macron-Meloni meeting isn't about rekindling Franco-Italian friendship. It's about necessity, not nostalgia," said Francesco Galletti of Rome-based consultancy Policy Sonar, saying the two capitals should find common ground on Libya "fast." — Arab News

Ukraine claims to have damaged Russia’s bridge

KYIV: Ukraine's SBU security service has said it has hit the road and rail bridge linking Russia and Ukraine's annexed Crimean peninsula below the water level with explosives, in its third attack on the key supply line for Russian forces in the war-torn country.

About 1,100kg (2,420 pounds) of explosives were detonated on Tuesday morning to destroy underwater pillars of the bridge over the Kerch Strait in an operation prepared over several months, the SBU statement said. "Previously, we hit the Crimean Bridge twice, in 2022 and 2023. So today we continued this tradition underwater," it said. "The bridge is now effectively in an emergency condition."

The SBU shared video footage that claimed to show an explosion next to one of the many support pillars of the bridge. Russian military bloggers said the attack had been unsuccessful and speculated that it had been carried out by a Ukrainian

sea drone. The official Russian outlet providing regular status updates on the bridge said its operation had been suspended for about three hours between 4am and 7am local time (01:00 and 04:00 GMT).

It gave no reason for the temporary closure but said the bridge had been reopened and was functioning as normal. The 19km (12-mile) Crimea Bridge over the Kerch Strait is the only direct link between the transport network of Russia and the Crimean peninsula, which Moscow annexed from Ukraine in 2014.

The bridge was a flagship project for Russian President Vladimir Putin. It consists of a separate roadway and railway, both supported by concrete stilts, which give way to a wider span held by steel arches at the point where ships pass between the Black Sea and the smaller Azov Sea. The bridge was used by Russian forces during their invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, when they crossed it to

reach Crimea and from there went on to seize parts of Ukraine's southern Kherson and south-eastern Zaporizhia regions.

The attack comes as Russian forces targeted the Ukrainian city of Sumy, killing at least three people and leaving many injured, the city council and the Ministry of Health said. Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said at least one rocket fired from a multiple rocket launcher had failed to detonate and lodged itself in an apartment building.

Commenting on the attack, Zelenskyy said on his Telegram channel: "That's all one needs to know about the Russian wish to end this war." On Monday, Russia told Ukraine at peace talks in Istanbul it would only agree to end the war if Kyiv gives up big new chunks of territory and accepts limits on the size of its army. Ukraine has repeatedly rejected the Russian conditions as tantamount to surrender.