

Naqvi calls on Fazl
F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi held an important meeting with JUI-F Chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman at his residence. During the meeting, the overall political situation of the country was discussed, along with the current regional scenario in light of recent Pakistan-India tensions. The Interior Minister inquired about Fazl's well-being and expressed his best wishes for him.

PM invites Opp leader
F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has initiated consultations for the appointment of a new CEC and two Election Commission members by formally inviting leader of the opposition in the NA, Omar Ayub, for a meeting. In a letter addressed to Omar Ayub, the Prime Minister noted that the tenure of the current CEC and two members had ended on January 26.



@thefrontierpost

First national English daily published from Peshawar, Islamabad, Lahore, Quetta, Karachi and Washington D.C

www.thefrontierpost.com

Vol. XXXIXII

No. 127

Regd. No. 241

ZIL HAJJ 08 1446 -- THURSDAY, JUNE 05 2025

PESHAWAR EDITION

12 PAGES

PRICE. 30

NEC okays Annual Development Plan

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: A meeting of the National Economic Council (NEC) chaired by Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday approved the Annual Development Plan for 2025-2026. It approved a national development budget of Rs. 4,224 billion for 2025-2026, with Rs. 1,000 billion allocated for the federal and Rs. 2,869 billion for the provincial development expenditures.

It unanimously approved the 6-point agenda of the National Economic Council. The meeting approved the macroeconomic framework and targets for fiscal year 2025-2026. The National Economic Council directed relevant ministries, provinces, and government institutions to work closely with the ministry of planning to achieve the targets set in the proposed 2025-2026 annual plan.

Priority sectors in these development projects would include health, education, infrastructure, the water sector, and housing. PM Office Media Wing said in a press release. The meeting approved the 13th Five-Year Plan (2024-2029), besides according approval to "Uraan Pakistan Framework." It was informed that the 13th Five-Year Plan and the Uraan Pakistan framework were mutually aligned.

A third-party monitoring report on the annual national development program was also presented. It was decided that future project planning would be guided by the recommendations of this report. The meeting was attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Muhammad Ishaq Dar, Minister for Planning Dr. Ahsan Iqbal, Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb, Information and Broadcasting Minister Attaullah Tarar, Adviser to the Prime Minister Rana Sanaullah, as well as Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz, Chief Minister Sindh Syed Murad Ali Shah, Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ali Amin Gandapur, Chief Minister Balochistan Nawab Sarfraz Bugti, and other members of the National Economic Council.

During the meeting, the prime minister congratulated the participants of the meeting on Pakistan's historic victory in Marka e Haq on May 10. "By the grace of Allah Almighty, Pakistan achieved victory

Provision of quality transport to residents of Karachi, top priority: PM

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday said that providing top-notch transport facilities to the people of Karachi through the Green Line project was among the top priorities of the federal government. He said work on the Karachi-4 (K-4) project would be expedited while instructions had already been issued to accelerate work on the Karachi-Hyderabad package as well. A delegation of MQM led by Convenor Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui called on the prime minister. The delegation included Minister for National Health Syed Mustafa Kamal, Members of the National Assembly Amin-ul-Haque, Dr. Farooq Sattar, and Javed Hanif, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

The prime minister consulted the MQM delegation regarding the federal budget for the fiscal year 2025-2026. The delegation presented its proposals concerning the budget. The meeting was also attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, Minister for Planning Ahsan Iqbal, Minister for Finance and Revenue Muhammad Aurangzeb, Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Dr. Tariq Fazal Chaudhry, Minister for Public Affairs Unit Rana Mubashir Iqbal, Prime Minister's Adviser on Political Affairs and Inter-Provincial Coordination Rana Sanaullah, and Special Assistant to the Prime Minister Talha Burki.

in Marka e Haq due to the professional competence and bravery of the Pakistan armed forces," he added.

The prime minister termed India's recent narrative against Pakistan as extremely irresponsible, posing serious threats to regional peace and security, adding that the people of Pakistan stood united in safeguarding national integrity against India. He said "India's threats to deprive Pakistan of its water resources are unacceptable," emphasizing that they would also defeat India in the struggle to protect the water resources.

The prime minister said that a special meeting would be held with all chief ministers to formulate a robust strategy for the protection of Pakistan's water resources in light of Indian aggression. The federation and provinces would work together to successfully safeguard Pakistan's water resources, he added.

He noted that the recent economic stability in the country was made possible due to joint efforts of the federal and provincial governments, adding "The country is now on the path to economic growth." He further noted that agriculture played a key role in increasing national reserves and economic growth. A strategy was being formulated for a gradual increase in agricultural production, he added.

During the meeting, revised indicators of the economy's performance for the fiscal year 2024-2025 were

presented. It was informed that a total of Rs. 3,483 billion is being spent on the Annual National Development Program for 2024-2025, including Rs. 1,100 billion for the federal government and Rs. 2,383 billion for the provinces.

The meeting approved a GDP growth rate of 2.7% for 2024-2025 and a target of 4.2% for the next fiscal year. A briefing noted that remittances increased by 30.9% from July 2024 to April 2025, and for the first time, the current account balance remained in surplus. The fiscal deficit for 2024-2025 was reduced to 2.6% of GDP, while the primary balance showed a surplus of 3% of GDP.

Due to government policies and measures, the policy rate gradually declined to 11%, and loans issued to the private sector from July 2024 to May 2025 rose to Rs. 681 billion, the briefing highlighted. The GDP for 2024-2025 is projected at Rs. 114 trillion or \$411 billion, the meeting was informed. A report on the progress of the CDWP (Central Development Working Party) from the period April 2024 to March 2025 was presented to the Council. Details of national development projects approved by CDWP and ECNEC during this period were also shared. The prime minister thanked all participants for the consensus on the agenda items and said that such national consensus was the key to Pakistan's bright future.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in a group photo with Chief Minister of four provinces before National Economic Council meeting.

Security forces kill 14 terrorists

F.P. Report

RAWALPINDI: Security forces sent to hell 14 Indian-sponsored Khwarij in a decisive operation in North Waziristan, effectively neutralizing their position after a fierce exchange of fire.

According to Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR), on 2-3 June 2025, an intelligence-based operation was conducted by the Security Forces in the general area Datta Khel, North Waziristan District, on reported presence of khwarij belonging to Indian proxy, Fitna al Khwarij.

During the conduct of the operation, own troops effectively engaged the Indian sponsored khwarij location, and after an intense exchange of fire, fourteen Indian sponsored khwarij were sent to hell.

Sensitization operations are being conducted to eliminate any other Indian sponsored Khwarij found in the area, as the security forces of Pakistan are determined to wipe out the menace of Indian Sponsored Terrorism from the country.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has reiterated his unwavering commitment to eradicating the scourge of terrorism, commending the security forces for their successful operation in North Waziristan. Fourteen Indian-sponsored Khwarij were neutralized in the Datta Khel area, a significant victory in the ongoing battle against violent extremism.

In his statement, Prime Minister Sharif emphasized the government's steadfast determination to dismantle the malevolent plots of these adversaries, whom he labeled as enemies of humanity. The premier's message underscored the nation's resolve to eliminate the threats posed by insurgents and ensure peace and stability.

The operation, carried out by dedicated security personnel, is a testament to the relentless efforts to safeguard the country from acts of terror. The Prime Minister's words serve as a rallying call for continued vigilance and cooperation in the fight against those who seek to undermine peace.

India's political rhetoric persists: Dar

Saqib Mushtaq

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Wednesday said that while military-to-military understanding between India and Pakistan remains intact and the ceasefire is holding, political rhetoric from the Indian leadership continues to stir tensions, potentially due to domestic considerations, including upcoming elections in Bihar.

"Another round of conflict seems remote, but we must remain vigilant," the deputy prime minister said while speaking at a press conference here. He emphasized that the "timeline goalposts" agreed upon between the two sides had been implemented that showed the sincerity of the purpose or seriousness. However, he warned that "political rhetoric was still on," and could have internal reasons, pointing to Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's and Defence Minister's recent statements, including one referring to recent hostilities as "just a trailer."

"I wish sense prevails. We have told the world that we are peace lovers and focused on economic revival," the deputy PM stressed. But he said, "Dignity, sovereignty, and territorial integrity come first - and any conflict can escalate unpredictably." DPM Dar reiterated that Pakistan was open to dialogue - especially on counter-terrorism, but criticized India's rigid stance, particularly Indian Foreign Minister Jaishankar's claim that India would only engage in discussions centered on terrorism. "We have already exposed Indian agencies' involvement in our territory," Dar said, adding that the independent movements within its borders were not under the Pakistan's control.

Highlighting his recent diplomatic engagements, particularly the informal bilateral visit to China on May 19, which included discussions around a trilateral meeting involving Afghanistan. He also noted a broader regional outreach, citing engagements with Türkiye, Iran, Azerbaijan, and Tajikistan. "Our visit to Iran was especially positive," Dar said, adding that both countries agreed to

boost bilateral trade to \$10 billion and maintain peace in the region. The Pakistani delegation also met with Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who expressed support for Pakistan's regional stability and Kashmir resolution efforts.

Dar revealed that Azerbaijan had reiterated its stance on undertaking a \$2 billion investment in Pakistan, while discussions on multilateral cooperation, territorial integrity, and regional connectivity projects, including the Trans-Afghan railway and Peshawar-Kabul highway, are progressing. To a question, the deputy PM criticized India's stance on the Indus Waters Treaty, calling New Delhi's push to renegotiate the agreement a violation of international law.

He said Pakistan and India were corresponding for last three years, that this treaty needed review and re-negotiation. "We received the last letter from India on April 8, and the reply was due on May 8 which we gave on time despite escalation of tension between the two countries." The treaty cannot be unilaterally suspended, he said adding that any such act would be treated as an act of war.

To another question, he said Saudi Arabia and the UAE played "active roles" in de-escalating recent tensions. Dar emphasized that Pakistan's diplomatic efforts had been recognized internationally. "From April 23 to May 11, we explained our position to the world. Our narrative prevailed. Indian claims - including about shooting down of F-16 - were exposed."

He confirmed that Pakistan would assume the presidency of the UN Security Council in July, with "promoting international peace and security through multilateralism and peaceful settlement of disputes" as its central theme. The deputy PM stated that Pakistan had no intention of initiating conflict but would respond robustly if provoked. "We never initiated war, but we gave a befitting response," he said. He also confirmed the downing of six Indian aircraft during recent hostilities, including three to four Rafale, one SU-30, and a UAV.

Pakistan's delegation concludes UN visit

ISLAMABAD (APP): A high-level Parliamentary delegation, led by Chairman of the Pakistan Peoples' Party and former Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, concluded a two-day visit to the United Nations Headquarters in New York with a clear message that "Pakistan desires peaceful, cooperative relations with all its neighbours based on equality and mutual respect - but will not accept aggression, impunity, or violation of international norms".

During the visit, the delegation met with the UN Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly, the President of the Security Council, representatives of the Security Council's Permanent and Non-Permanent Members, Ambassadors of the OIC Group, representatives of the media, civil society, and think tanks, and the Pakistani community.

The visit was part of Pakistan's international outreach to present its perspective on the escalating regional tensions and threat to international peace and security, emanating from India's irresponsible behaviour, unprovoked aggression against Pakistan, belligerent rhetoric, and its unlawful unilateral decision to hold into abeyance the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) - a lifeline for over 240 million Pakistanis. The delegation carried Pakistan's core message of "Peace with Responsibility."

In these engagements, the delegation drew attention to India's illegal use of force and violations of international law, including the UN Charter and International Humanitarian Law, particularly targeting of civilian areas and killing of innocent civilians, including women and children.

The delegation rejected India's baseless allegations regarding the 22 April terrorist attack in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir without a shred of evidence, and warned against India's weaponisation of water through its unilateral hold on the IWT in violation of international law and treaty obligations.

Reaffirming Pakistan's commitment to

combating terrorism in all forms and manifestations, the delegation highlighted Pakistan's crucial role and sacrifices in the success of the global counter-terrorism efforts, while also drawing attention of the international community towards Indian-sponsored terrorism in Pakistan, and its transnational assassination campaign. Cooperation, not politicisation, was required to effectively combat the menace of terrorism, it was underlined.

The delegation emphasized Pakistan's responsible, restrained and lawful response to Indian aggression and provocations, underlining that Pakistan seeks peace but will always defend its sovereignty with resolve. It warned that India's attempts to create a "new normal" that implied arbitrary and unilateral strikes could lead to disastrous consequences in South Asia's nuclear environment and must be firmly resisted by the international community.

The delegation reiterated that durable peace in South Asia hinges on a just and peaceful resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute, in line with UN Security Council resolutions and the wishes of the Kashmiri people. The international community was urged to uphold international law and the sanctity of treaties, push for the revival and normal functioning of the Indus Waters Treaty, and support the initiation of a comprehensive dialogue to resolve all outstanding issues between India and Pakistan, including the core dispute of Jammu and Kashmir.

The delegation comprised the members including Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Dr. Musadik Masood Malik; Chairperson, Senate Standing Committee on Climate Change and Environmental Coordination and former Minister for Information and Climate Change, Senator Sherry Rehman; Chairperson, National Assembly Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and former Foreign Minister, Hina Rabbani Khar.

Pilgrims arrive in Mina

MINA: With the number of worshippers approaching two million, pilgrims on Wednesday arrived in Mina for the Day of Tarwiyah, preparing for the most important day of Hajj — the Day of Arafat — on June 5. These pilgrims are following the steps of Prophet Mohammed by spending Tarwiyah Day in Mina on Wednesday this year, making their final preparations for the Standing at Arafat, the pinnacle of the annual pilgrimage, tomorrow.

In compliance with directives from King Salman and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, various service sectors mobilized their capabilities to help the pilgrims perform Hajj rituals in tranquility and peace. With more than 1.5 million pilgrims confirmed to have arrived from outside the Kingdom, the pilgrims' movements into Mina proceeded smoothly in accordance with a comprehensive traffic plan. — Arab News

US envoy for strong ties with Pakistan

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: The US Embassy in Islamabad held a vibrant celebration to mark the 249th anniversary of American independence, with Chargé d'Affaires Natalie Baker delivering a heartfelt address that underscored the enduring friendship and growing partnership between the United States and Pakistan.

The event was graced by the presence of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar, federal ministers, members of the diplomatic corps, senior military officials, prominent media personalities, and a wide array of guests from diverse sectors including business, fashion, sports, and civil society.

In her remarks, Natalie Baker warmly welcomed guests in both English and Urdu, emphasizing the

strong historical and cultural bonds between the two countries. "The United States and Pakistan have stood together through good times and bad, from development to defense, from health to education," she said.

Reflecting on her second diplomatic posting in Islamabad, Baker praised Pakistan's rich culture, resilience, and the warmth of its people. She noted that the bilateral relationship had grown significantly in scope and depth over the years, and highlighted the shared values of liberty, equality, and opportunity that unite the two nations.

Baker paid tribute to the US Agency for International Development (USAID) and its long-standing work in Pakistan, praising its life-changing contributions in health, education, food security, and economic empowerment. "The legacy

of USAID's work in Pakistan will continue to benefit communities for generations to come," she stated.

On security cooperation, Baker acknowledged the long-standing defense ties between the two countries, particularly lauding the Pakistani security forces for their recent successes in counterterrorism operations. She mentioned Pakistan's pivotal role in the capture and extradition of the ISIS-K terrorist responsible for the Abbey Gate attack in Afghanistan, terming it a major milestone in bilateral counterterrorism efforts.

Economically, she highlighted the recent Pakistan Critical Minerals Investment Forum and growing cooperation in technology, digital markets, and innovation. She also praised Pakistan's leadership in promoting industrial and digital growth.

Pakistan elected vice chair of UNSC's Counter-Terrorism Committee

NEW YORK: In a significant diplomatic victory, Pakistan has been named vice-chair of the United Nations Security Council's (UNSC) Counter-Terrorism Committee, tasked with overseeing implementation of resolution 1373 (2001) concerning international anti-terror efforts, according to an official statement issued by Pakistan's mission to UN on Wednesday.

Islamabad has played an active role in promoting the principles and purposes of the UN Charter and made significant contributions to international peace and security, including its role as one of the leading troop-contributing countries to UN peacekeeping missions across the world. It was elected to the UN Security Council in June 2024 and replaced Japan in the Asian seat.

Pakistan had been one of the worst victims of terrorism for over two decades as the country lost more than 80,000 lives and thousands more injured. Pakistan has time and again raised the issued of India sponsoring and backing terrorist groups such as Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and Baloch Liberation Army (BLA) to carry out attacks inside Pakistan.

Ties between the two nuclear-armed neighbours plunged to the lowest levels following

recent standoff over killing of 26 tourists in Pahalgam, Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, that the New Delhi blamed on Islamabad. Pakistan categorically rejected the allegation while offering a transparent probe into the incident, and drew the international community's attention to Indian proxies involved in terrorism inside the country.

According to a statement issued by Pakistan's Permanent Mission to the UN today, Pakistan has also been appointed as Chair of the UN Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1988 (2011), which oversees the implementation of the sanctions measures on the Taliban. In further recognition of its diplomatic engagement, Pakistan has also been appointed Co-Chair of the Security Council's Informal Working Group (IWG) on documentation and working methods, as well as the newly formed IWG on Sanctions.

The documentation group works to enhance transparency, efficiency, and inclusiveness in the Council's procedures, while the IWG on Sanctions focuses on improving the effectiveness and design of UN sanctions regimes. "These appointments represent an acknowledgment of Pakistan's active engagement with the

United Nations system including its constructive role as an elected member of the Security Council. They are also an international recognition of Pakistan's counter terrorism efforts," the mission said.

It added, "Pakistan remains committed to working with the United Nations and fellow member states in advancing the principles and purposes of the UN Charter as well as playing its part in the global fight against terrorism in collaboration with its international partners." In the latest UNSC elections held on Tuesday, five new countries — Bahrain, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Latvia, Liberia, and Colombia — were elected to serve on the Council for a two-year term beginning January 1, 2026.

The Security Council is the only UN body that can make legally binding decisions such as imposing sanctions and authorising use of force. It has five permanent veto-wielding members: Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States. The remaining 10 members are elected, with five new members joining every year. Bahrain, Colombia, the DRC, Latvia, and Liberia — who were all elected in uncontested slates — will replace Algeria, Sierra Leone, South Korea, Guyana and Slovenia. — Agencies

Millions of children in Gaza, Indian occupied Kashmir are victims of brutal aggression: CM

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, in her message on the International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression, expressed deep sorrow over the continued suffering of millions of children in Palestine and Indian-occupied Kashmir, who have tragically become victims of Israeli and Indian aggression.

She said that when the innocent smiles of children are replaced with cries and sighs, it shakes the very conscience of humanity. "Thousands of lifeless bodies of children buried beneath the rubble in Gaza stand as a painful reminder of the world's silence in the face of Israeli brutality," she remarked.

The CM said the Israeli bombings have not only reduced buildings to rubble but also claimed the lives of countless innocent children. In Kashmir, she added, the air is heavy with the unheard cries of children whose voices have been silenced forever by decades of oppression.

Calling it one of the darkest chapters in modern history, she regretted that children continue to suffer aggression not only during wars but even in times of peace. She emphasized that protecting children from all forms of violence and exploitation is a moral and collective responsibility.

CM Maryam Nawaz reaffirmed her government's unwavering commitment to child protection in Punjab, stating that all necessary measures are being taken to safeguard the rights and well-being of children across the province.

Highlighting a major policy milestone, she said the Punjab Cabinet has approved the province's first-ever 'Child Protection Policy', a historic step towards institutionalizing child rights and welfare.

"Every institution, every law, and every action of the Punjab government is being aligned with the protection, development, and empowerment of children," she added.

A society that cannot guarantee peace and safety for its children can never achieve lasting peace for itself, she concluded.

Dr.Ghulamullah Shahzad and Imran Igra Organized an event for Pakistani delegate

F.P. Report

NEW YORK: Dr.Ghulamullah Shahzad and Imran Igra Organized an event for Pakistani delegate led by Bilawal Bhutto Zardari at the Cornell Club NY City , engaged with the Overseas Pakistani Society and also interacted with Pakistan's talented and promising youth and students abroad, our brightest future.

Spoke on India's unprovoked aggression, targeting of civilians & alarming weaponisation of water through unilateral suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty, an egregious breach of int'l law. Reaffirmed that peace, restraint & dialogue, not domination, are the only viable path forward. The only net security provider in South Asia will be enduring peace between Pakistan & India, including a just resolution of Jammu & Kashmir.

Thanks organizers Dr.Ghulamullah Shahzad and Imran Igra.

Tessori discusses arrangements for Hajj with Saudi minister

KARACHI (APP): Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori met with Saudi Minister for Hajj and Umrah, Dr. Tawfig Al Rabiah, in Makkah the other day and discussed the arrangements for Hajj, with a special focus on the facilities provided to Pakistani pilgrims.

During the meeting, Dr. Al Rabiah presented the sacred Ghilaf-e-Kaaba as a gift to Governor Tessori, a gesture symbolizing deep respect and brotherhood.

Governor Tessori expressed heartfelt appreciation for the exceptional hospitality and management extended by the Saudi government to pilgrims from around the world, particularly those from Pakistan.

According to Governor House statement, the Governor is currently performing Hajj along with his family on a royal invitation.

The Saudi Minister acknowledged and thanked Governor Tessori for his efforts in facilitating Pakistani pilgrims and reaffirmed that serving pilgrims, especially from Pakistan, remains a top priority for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

کوٹیشن مطلوب ہیں

زیر تحفظ گوداں سال 26-2025 میں درج ذیل اشیاء فراہمی کیلئے درج ذیل شرائط پر سرپرست کوٹیشن درکار ہیں۔

1- لیبارٹریل اینڈ بینک اسٹم	2- ڈسٹریکشن اسٹم
3- لوکل پمپ/الیکٹریسیٹی میڈیسن وغیرہ	6- فرنیچر
4- الیکٹریکل اینڈ گیس آلات	5- سیٹھری / اینڈ گیس اسٹم
7- سرجیکل آلات، ہیڈنگ کاتھنگ	8- صفائی و صفائی سامان
10- صحت سہولت پروگرام (صحت کارڈ)	11- ریفریجریٹری مشینری، ایکوپنٹ
میڈیسن اینڈ ایکسیڈنٹ کنٹریکٹ وغیرہ	
13- ایکسپریس فلم (مادہ / ڈیجیٹل)	

شرائط: (1) برکوشن پیڈر لائن میں اور لائن پر برکوشن برائے متعلقہ سامان لکھا ہونا چاہئے۔ (2) کٹے پھٹے ٹھکانے اور متبادل نرخ قابل قبول نہیں ہوں گے۔ (3) فرما اپنی ذمہ داری پر جملہ سامان 10 دن کے اندر زیر تحفظ کے دفتر تک پہنچانے کی پابند ہوگی۔ (4) کال ڈیپازٹ برائے ایمریسیٹی میڈیسن ٹین لاکھ کوٹیشن کے ساتھ منسلک ہونا ضروری ہے اور کراس چیک قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔ (5) انکم ٹیکس سلیکشن، کپور اور جنریشن مرنٹیکلیٹ فرمیں اپ ڈیٹڈ کوٹیشن کے ہر اوف ہونے چاہیے۔ (6) فرم اپنے اصلی پیڈر برکوشن دینے کی عہد کرے گی۔ نوٹیفکیشن ڈیپازٹ کو اپنی قابل قبول نہیں ہوگی۔ (7) لیبارٹریل اینڈ بینک اسٹم کال ڈیپازٹ دو لاکھ روپے کوٹیشن کے ساتھ منسلک ہونا ضروری ہے۔ (8) صحت کارڈ کے لئے کال ڈیپازٹ دس لاکھ روپے کوٹیشن کے ساتھ منسلک ہونا ضروری ہے۔ (9) ٹینڈر دہندگان کوٹیشن بذریعہ ڈاک، کوڈ بریڈیٹ ریڈیو یا دستی زیر تحفظ کے دفتر بھجوا سکتے ہیں۔ (10) سلیکشن ریٹ اور کوٹیشن کی بنیاد ہوگی۔ (11) دیر سے پہنچنے والے کوٹیشن عمل نہیں کیا جائے گا۔ (12) فرم کو چاہیے کہ وہ جتنا بھی ڈسکاونٹ ریٹ دے سکتے ہیں، وہ پہلے دے دیں۔ ایک دفعہ ریٹ فائل ہو جائے تو KAPRA روڈ 2014 کے مطابق اس میں کوئی تبدیلی نہیں ہوگی۔ (13) کوٹیشن میں پیش کردہ نرخ 30 جون 2026 تک قابل عمل ہوں گے۔ (14) مشروہ نامہ عمل اور ہاتھ سے لکھے گئے ٹینڈر قابل قبول نہیں ہوں گے۔ (15) سامان کی فرمیں دفتر بذریعہ دستی اوقات میں حاصل کی جاسکتی ہیں۔ (16) فرم زیادہ سے زیادہ تین تک کوٹیشن جمع کروا سکتے ہیں۔ (17) زیر تحفظ کو سودا بڑھ اختیار ہے کہ وہ کسی بھی مقبول وجہ سے ٹینڈر منسوخ کر سکتا ہے۔ ٹینڈر جمع کرانے کی آخری تاریخ 2025-06-25 بجے 11 بجے ہے جو کہ اسی دن دفتر بذریعہ 12 بجے متعلقہ فرموں کی موجودگی میں پھر کو اپنی کنٹرول کٹیشی کے ساتھ کھولے جائیں گے۔

میڈیکل سپر سنڈرنٹ، میاں راشد حسین شہید میموریل ہسپتال، سی

Email: mrhsmhospital@gmail.com

zero tolerance to corruption INF(P)2370/25

Sindh Home Minister vows Province-Wide crackdown on drug mafias and illegal Shesha Cafés



F.P. Report

KARACHI: Sindh Home Minister Zia-ul-Hassan Lanjar visited the Karachi Police Office. On this occasion, IGP Sindh Police, Ghulam Nabi Memon, accompanied him. Upon arrival, Addl. IG Karachi and other senior police officials warmly welcomed him, and a well-prepared contingent of the Karachi Police presented a guard of honor.

A high-level meeting was held under the chairmanship of Home Minister Zia-ul-Hassan Lanjar at the provincial level to review police actions against drug mafias, illegal

Shesha Cafes, and anti-narcotics efforts. All DIGs attending the meeting provided separate briefings on their positions and asked to explain their inaction. He said that the anti-narcotics task force is active, but from now on, he himself will request reports and ensure direct supervision. He urged all stakeholders to provide effective and practical suggestions for the eradication of drug mafias.

The Home Minister stated that the task force would take action across the province against drug mafias and illegal Shesha cafe's without any pressure and would ensure their arrest. "No one is above the law. Regardless of the influence or status of the accused, they must face justice," he emphasized.

He further stated that SSSP who fail to act

against drug mafias will not only be held accountable but also removed from their positions and asked to explain their inaction. He said that the anti-narcotics task force is active, but from now on, he himself will request reports and ensure direct supervision. He urged all stakeholders to provide effective and practical suggestions for the eradication of drug mafias.

The Zia Ul Hassan Lanjar directed that the existing lists of drug mafias be updated and that efforts to prevent drug trafficking and distribution be made robust, coordinated,

and extraordinary.

He added that the investigation and prosecution of cases filed against agents, groups, and patrons of drug mafias should be strengthened to ensure exemplary punishments. He further remarked that drugs are a curse that contributes to the deterioration of law & order and the destruction of our youth, making effective prevention the need of the hour.

On this occasion, the IGP Sindh said that all DIGs are updating the lists of drug mafias according to categories and that he continues to convene meetings to issue guidance

on anti-drug measures. He stated that strict actions are being taken against individuals involved in drug networks.

Addl. IG Karachi assured the Home Minister that police enforcement of his directives is their top priority.

The meeting at the Karachi Police Office was attended in person by IGP Sindh Ghulam Nabi Memon, Additional IG Karachi, DIsG of Crime and Investigation, Special Branch, IT, Zonal DIsG and district SSSP of Karachi. DIsG and district SSSP from Hyderabad, Mirpurkhas, Shaheed Benazirabad, Larkana, Sukkur, and other areas joined via video link.

Earlier, the Sindh Home Minister inaugurated the auditorium and cafeteria at the Karachi Police Office (KPO).

The Home Minister and IGP Sindh also jointly pinned rank badges on 15 SPs who were promoted from the rank of DSP. Both congratulated the newly promoted officers and extended their best wishes.

Rehabilitation of child abuse victims declared a national priority

LAHORE (APP): Child Protection and Welfare Bureau (CPWB) Chairperson and MPA Sara Ahmad has said that the Punjab government, under the leadership of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz, is taking concrete and sustained measures to ensure the safety, rehabilitation, and well-being of children affected by aggression and mistreatment.

In her message on International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression, she said the government is committed to protecting vulnerable children from all forms of violence. She said that this day is

observed globally to express solidarity with children who have suffered from physical, mental, or emotional abuse. She emphasized that meaningful and sustained measures are being implemented to ensure the safety, protection, and rehabilitation of children affected by aggression and exploitation. "Children are our most precious asset and the foundation of our future. Ensuring their protection is our collective and foremost responsibility," she added.

The CPWB Chairperson said that all possible measures are being implemented to shield children from

physical and psychological abuse. The Child Protection Bureau remains fully active in its mission to rescue, protect, and rehabilitate children who are victims of violence, exploitation, or neglect.

Sara Ahmad urged citizens to remain vigilant and to report any incidents of abuse or exploitation involving children by calling the Child Helpline at 1121.

"It is our moral and social duty to protect every child from harm and ensure a safe, nurturing environment for their growth and well-being," she remarked.

3 policemen injured in mob attack

KARACHI (APP): Three police personnel from police station Manghopir sustained minor injuries and a police mobile was damaged on Wednesday when a mob attacked the police team responding to a traffic stop incident in Malik Chandio Goth.

According to police sources, the violence erupted after a traffic constable attempted to stop a truck, but the driver fled. The traffic cop pursued the vehicle and managed to intercept it in the Malik Chandio Goth area. As the situation unfolded, a crowd gathered and assaulted the traffic constable.

The constable later reported the incident at PS Manghopir, prompting a police mobile unit to respond. Upon arrival, the policemen were attacked by men and women at the scene, who pelted stones and used sticks against them.

The injured personnel have been identified as PC Razzaq, PC Yaqoob, and PC Owais. They were shifted to the hospital for medical treatment. Authorities said further investigation is underway.

128 drug dealers arrested

LAHORE (APP): The Punjab Police conducted 222 raids on drug dealers' and smugglers' hideouts, arresting 128 drug peddlers in the past 24 hours.

A spokesperson for Punjab Police said that during the operations, authorities seized 228-kg cannabis and 81-kg opium. Additionally, seven kilograms of heroin, two kilograms of ice (crystal meth) and 1,653 litres of illicit liquor were recovered.

Punjab Inspector General of Police Dr. Usman Anwar has ordered the acceleration of special operations targeting drug dealers and smugglers. He emphasized that all individuals involved in the drug supply chain must be brought to justice and face strict punishment.

The IGP also directed intensified action against those involved in drug dealing near educational institutions and hostels to protect students and maintain a drug-free environment.

WCB to distribute 100,000 biodegradable bags

LAHORE (APP): The Walton Cantonment Board (WCB) has announced distribution of 100,000 biodegradable plastic bags to collect waste and animal hides during Eid-ul-Azha, as part of a comprehensive cleanliness campaign.

This initiative was disclosed by Chief Public Health Officer Waris Bhatti while briefing the media following a high-level meeting chaired by Chief Executive Officer of Military Land and Cantonment and Walton Cantonment Board, Sibtain Raza. The meeting, held on Wednesday, was aimed at finalizing cleanliness arrangements for the three days of Eid.

Waris Bhatti shared that a 24-hour control room will be established at the WCB office to facilitate public complaints and services.

Citizens can reach the control room through landline number 042-99220406.

To further assist the public, 13 camps will be set up at various locations including RA Bazaar, Nishat Colony, Bhatta Chowk, Walton Road, Ferozepur Road, DHA, and other key points. These camps will serve as awareness and complaint centers. "Every complaint will be addressed within 25 minutes," assured Bhatti.

In addition, six offal dumping points will be designated at RA Bazaar, Nishat Colony, Baba-e-Pakistan, Ferozepur Road, Ghazi Road, and Qainchi to ensure proper disposal of sacrificial remains.

WCB's operation will run continuously across all wards during the Eid days, with full participation from

the Cantonment Board members. Over 170 vehicles have already been assigned for this purpose, and a request has been made for 200 more on an emergency basis. The fleet will also include 133 Suzuki pickups.

To raise public awareness, 300 steamers and 300 banners will be installed across the WCB jurisdiction. At the end of the media briefing, Mr. Bhatti reiterated the importance of community participation and appealed to citizens and local welfare organizations to cooperate with WCB teams to maintain hygiene and cleanliness throughout the festive period.

All Public Health Officials, supervisors, and contractors were present during the briefing.

Eid-ul-Azha prayer to be held at Gulshan-e-Jinnah

KARACHI (APP): The largest Eid-ul-Azha prayer congregation organized by the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation will be held at Gulshan-e-Jinnah (Polo Ground), with preparations in full swing.

The Eid prayer will be offered at 8:00 AM. This congregation has been held continuously at the same venue since 1958 and is considered the largest Eid gathering in the city. Extensive arrangements are being made to ensure maximum convenience for the worshippers.

The grand congregation will be attended by Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab, Deputy Mayor Salman Abdullah Murad, diplomats from Islamic countries, federal and provincial ministers, members of the national and provincial assemblies, elected public representatives, senior government officials, and a large number of prominent citizens.

Preparations for the Eid prayer include decoration of entry and exit points, provision of ablution facilities, spraying of disinfectants and fragrances, enhanced cleanliness, and special security measures. All these measures are being carried out under the special directives of Mayor Karachi to ensure that citizens can offer Eid prayers in a peaceful and organized manner.

PFA inspects 815 food stalls in cattle markets

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Food Authority (PFA) special enforcement teams inspected 815 food points set up in various cattle markets across Lahore and discarded a large quantity of substandard and expired food items during operation.

Climate change biggest challenge of century: Kanwal

LAHORE (APP): Parliamentary Secretary for Environmental Protection, Climate Change, Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries Kanwal Pervaiz has said that climate change has emerged as the greatest challenge of the 21st century, with Pakistan among the most severely affected countries.

She was addressing a seminar held at Al-Razi Hall Punjab University, here on Wednesday, organized by the College of Earth and Environmental Sciences (CEES) in connection with World Environment Day, themed 'Ending Plastic Pollution.'

The event was attended by Punjab University Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ali, Pro-VC Prof. Dr. Khalid Mahmood, Additional DG of the Punjab Environmental Protection & Climate Change Department Dr. Zafar Iqbal, Dean Faculty of Geo-Sciences Prof. Dr. Sajid Rashid Ahmed, Principal CEES Prof. Dr. Irfan Ahmed Sheikh, seminar organizer Prof. Dr. Abdul Qadir, NGO representatives, faculty members, and a large number of students.

Pervaiz commended CEES for its proactive approach, stating that "PU CEES is more active than even the Punjab government in responding to the threats of climate change." She highlighted that Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz, in her inaugural speech, had identified the fight against environmental pollution as a top priority, and tangible progress is now being seen on the ground.

She stressed that human activity has been the primary driver of environmental degradation, noting that emissions from nearly 80% of vehicles and motorcycles are a major contributor to urban pollution. "Lahore was once known as the city of gardens; sadly, it is now referred to as the city of pollution," she lamented.

Highlighting the dangers of plastic pollution, she urged individuals to reduce plastic usage, as it is severely damaging sewage systems, drinking water supplies, surface water bodies, and air quality. She emphasized the need for widespread awareness to prevent further environmental harm.

Speaking on the occasion, Vice Chancellor Prof.

Dr. Muhammad Ali said that environmental pollution now poses a greater threat to humanity than science, technology, or artificial intelligence.

Bank AL Habib Limited

ATTENTION ATM CUSTOMERS

Bank AL Habib ATMs will be available 24/7 during Eid holidays.

For any queries or complaints please contact our Call Centre at

☎ (+92 21) 111-014-014

📞📠📧/BAHLOfficial | 🌐 bankalhabib.com

Bank AL Habib Limited



PESHAWAR: The Ambassador of Austria to Pakistan, H.E. Andrea Wicke, in a group photo with Deputy Speaker Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly Suraiya Bibi during her visit to KP Assembly. Members of the Provincial Assembly and officials are also present.

PHC seeks reply in pollution related case

Humayun Khan

PESHAWAR: The Peshawar High Court (PHC) has issued notices to the authorities in a case related to environmental pollution and sought their response. A two-member bench comprising Justice Ijaz Anwar and Justice Fazal Subhan heard the case, on Wednesday.

During the hearing, the Director General of the Peshawar Development Authority (PDA), Muhammad Naem, appeared in court along with his lawyer, Sabah u Din Advocate, and the Additional Director Legal of the Environmental Protection Agency, along with other officials.

The PDA lawyer informed the court that the Secretary Local Government and the Director General of PDA had been summoned by the court. The court had issued directives regarding the canals and a commission had been formed to oversee the work. The lawyer stated

that work was underway on the canals.

Justice Ijaz Anwar observed that the roads had deteriorated due to the canals and the condition of the roads was deplorable, especially on the Bara River side. He noted that heavy traffic was causing problems on the canal road and that despite having advanced machinery, the road conditions were poor. He also pointed out that the drainage system was not separate, and the drainage water was being mixed with irrigation water, affecting crop production.

The DG PDA informed the court that work had been underway on the five canals since 2020 and that 15% of the work had been completed so far. He stated that the drainage water would be separated from the canals and a treatment plant would be constructed. However, he mentioned that there was a shortage of funds.

Justice Ijaz Anwar remarked that the government was talking about cli-

mate change but not taking concrete actions. He stated that if nothing was going to be done, then it was better to stop the proceedings.

The petitioner's lawyer informed the court that due to the polluted water, crops were not growing on their lands for the past five years.

The Additional Director Legal of the Environmental Protection Agency informed the court that they had sought reports from the district administration and the industry department regarding the crushing plants. They would submit the reports once received. The agency was also working on transferring brick kilns to zigzag technology and had already transferred 12 brick kilns.

The representative of the Irrigation Department informed the court that they would take measures to prevent sewage lines from entering the canals on the canal road. PHC sought responses from the relevant parties and adjourned the hearing.

Austrian Ambassador visits KP Assembly

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The Ambassador of Austria to Pakistan, H.E. Andrea Wicke, visited the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly on Wednesday. On behalf of the Speaker Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly, Babar Saleem Swati, the Deputy Speaker, Suraiya Bibi, warmly received the Ambassador. Members of the Provincial Assembly Jalal Khan, Taj Tarand, Dawood Shah, Mian Sharafat and Mehboob Sher were also present during the meeting. From the Assembly Secretariat, Special Secretary (Admin) Syed Waqar Shah assisted in organizing the meeting.

During the meeting, discussions were held on strengthening democratic institutions, increasing women's participation in parliamentary affairs, gender-based budgeting, and gender equity. The Deputy Speaker briefed the Ambassador about the role of the Women's Caucus in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly and shared efforts being made to highlight women's issues, ensure gender-responsive legislation, and promote inclusive governance through institutional reforms.

Speaking on the occasion, MPA Jalal Khan stated: "Austria's strong democratic institutions serve as a model for emerging legislatures. We are keen to establish capacity-building partnerships with Austria to promote best parliamentary practices within the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly."

He emphasized the importance of international cooperation to improve legislation, budget-making processes, and parliamentary oversight.

Special Secretary Waqar Shah underscored the prospects of mutual collaboration between the Austrian Parliament—both national and regional—and the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly. He stated: "The KP Assembly is committed to fostering mutual exchange of best parliamentary practices with Austrian institutions. A delegation from the KP Assembly is expected to undertake an official visit to Austria soon, where it will engage with the Austrian Budget Office, the National Parliament, and regional assemblies to share insights and strengthen institutional linkages."

NCEG and PCSIR join hands

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: A significant meeting took place at the PCSIR Laboratories Complex, Peshawar, between Dr. Liaqat Ali, Director of the National Centre of Excellence in Geology Peshawar, and Mr. Jehangir Shah, Director General of the Pakistan Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (PCSIR).

During the meeting, both institutions expressed mutual interest in initiating collaborative work in the mineral sector. It was agreed that a formal Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) or agreement will be signed shortly to formalize this partnership.

Governor, Austrian envoy discuss promotion of tourism in KP

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Austrian Ambassador to Pakistan Andrea Wicke called on Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi at the Governor House in Peshawar.

During the meeting, matters of mutual interest were discussed, with a special focus on enhancing bilateral cooperation between Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Austria. Discussions also included the promotion of sports activities and tourism in the region.

The current and past situation in Afghanistan and issues related to law and order were also brought under discussion.

Governor Kundi highlighted that the northern districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa are among

the most attractive tourist destinations in the world. He welcomed international companies to invest in the tourism sector of the province.

"Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is rich in natural resources," said Governor Faisal Karim Kundi, adding that the local population will benefit through the effective use of these resources.

He further stated that the province is the custodian of ancient and historical civilizations.

Ambassador Andrea Wicke appreciated the sacrifices and determination of Pakistan's security forces and police in the fight against terrorism.

She also expressed Austria's commitment to working jointly with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in various sectors, especially

for the promotion of tourism.

Squash Legend Mohibullah Khan meets KP Governor to discuss Youth Sports promotion

Presidential award-winning squash veteran and former Director of Pakistan Sports Board, Mohibullah Khan, met with Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi to discuss strategies for promoting sports across the province.

The discussion centered on ways to encourage youth participation in positive activities, especially through sports like squash.

Mohibullah Khan shared insights from his extensive experience in the field and presented suggestions aimed at uplifting the province's sporting landscape.

Governor Kundi praised

Khan's services to Pakistani sports and affirmed that the Governor's House is committed to nurturing the talents of young people.

He emphasized that input from seasoned athletes and experts is highly valued in shaping effective youth engagement policies.

Highlighting ongoing initiatives, the Governor announced plans for a special ceremony at the Governor's House to honor the province's talented youth.

Mohibullah Khan lauded the Governor's efforts in showcasing a positive image of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and promoting youth development.

National squash champion Salman Mohib also accompanied him during the meeting.

MOL Pakistan donates ambulances to district administrations

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: MOL Pakistan has reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening healthcare infrastructure in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa by donating fully equipped ambulances to the District Administrations of Karak and Kohat.

At a ceremony held at the Peshawar Secretariat, a representative from MOL Pakistan formally handed over the ambulances to Mr. Muhammad Abid Majeed, Additional Chief Secretary (ACS) Home and Tribal Affairs, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. During the event, messages from MOL Pakistan's leadership were conveyed on their behalf to highlight the significance of this donation.

A message by Mr. Zsombor Marton, Global Head of Exploration & Production at MOL Group, was read out, emphasizing the company's dedication to community health: "This gesture of goodwill aims to address the healthcare challenges faced by these communities and foster stronger relationships with them. By



donating these ambulances, MOL Pakistan reaffirms its commitment to improving healthcare facilities and contributing to the well-being of the people in Karak and Kohat."

A message from Mr. Adam László, Chief Executive Officer of MOL Pakistan, expressed the company's commitment to social development alongside its core business activities: "Our presence in Pakistan is defined not only by energy exploration, but also by the partnerships we build with communities. We are honored to support the provincial administration in strengthening emergency healthcare services in Karak and

Kohat, and to contribute to the region's development in a meaningful way."

Mr. Abid Majeed extended his gratitude to MOL Pakistan, acknowledging the company's ongoing commitment to community welfare through its corporate social responsibility (CSR) efforts. He remarked, "The availability of modern ambulances will greatly enhance the ability of local hospitals to provide essential emergency medical evacuation services, helping to save precious lives within the community."

MOL Pakistan, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Hungary-based MOL Group, has been a vital part

of Pakistan's energy landscape since 1999. The company holds working interests in several key blocks and proudly operates the TAL and Margalla Blocks. As one of Pakistan's leading oil and gas exploration and production companies, MOL Pakistan continues to contribute meaningfully to both the country's energy sector and socio-economic development.

This donation reflects MOL Pakistan's longstanding commitment to the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and its broader goal of creating lasting, positive impact through improved access to critical public services.

WSSP finalizes Eid-ul-Azha operation plan

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Water and Sanitation Services Peshawar (WSSP) has finalized Eid-ul-Adha operation plan. 3,563 personnel will take part in the three-day operation, who will collect the offal and remains of sacrificial animals using 707 small and large vehicles. Regular water supply operations will continue as usual, while the complaint cell will remain active 24/7. Eidgahs will also be cleaned before the Eid prayers.

669 staff members in Zone A, 1,100 in Zone B, 829 in Zone C, 487 in Zone D, and 478 in Zone E will perform duties. The plan was finalized in a meeting chaired by Chief Executive Officer Yasir Ali Khan, which was attended by General Manager Operations Muhammad Ijaz, zonal managers, and other officials.

The meeting was told that all leaves for both operational and administrative staff have been canceled, and all personnel will be on duty during the three days of Eid. Monitoring teams have been formed at each zonal level.

The staff will collect offal and remains from streets and neighborhoods of 42 union councils and transfer them to 17 designated collection points: Funland, Ring Road Plot, Sabrina Gulbahar, Science College Chowk, Bahadur Kalay Umar Road, District Council Nauthia Qadeem, Kotla Mohsin Khan Graveyard, Tajabad Graveyard, Gulabad, Charmaro Road, Bahadur Kalay near Ring Road, Usmania Town Ring Road, Science College, and Phandu Road.

Staff will take waste in large vehicles to dumping site, where it will be buried in pit measuring 200 feet long, 125 feet wide, and 13 feet deep, after spraying and covering with soil.

The staff has been equipped with tools, and 400 kg of biodegradable plastic bags have been distributed among those performing sacrifices to safely pack the offal.

An awareness campaign is also ongoing with the help of religious scholars and elected representatives to educate people about disposing of offal at designated points.

Lime and disinfectants have been purchased, and coordination has been established with district administration and other relevant departments. Five temporary transfer stations have been set up, and all machinery and vehicles will be used in the operation.

Standby vehicles and staff have also been arranged to handle any emergency situation.

To spread awareness about disposing of offal at designated points, letters have been sent to over 200 religious scholars, and awareness banners are being installed throughout the city.

The WSSP management has appealed to the public not to throw animal waste in streams, undesignated areas, or in streets and alleys.

Instead, they should place the offal in bags provided by WSSP and leave them outside their homes or take them to designated collection points so the staff can safely collect them.

The CEO has directed zonal officials to provide water, food, and other basic necessities to the staff during the operation.

Delegation meets Joint Provincial Election Commissioner

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: A delegation led by Mr. Qamar Naseem, Program Manager of the member organization Blue Veins of the Gender and Disability Electoral Working Group, met with Mr. Muhammad Fareed Afridi, Joint Provincial Election Commissioner, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The delegation included Liaison Officer Mr. Ayub Khan, Program Officer Ms. Yanna Aftab, and Project Coordinator Ms. Laiba Khan Yousafzai. Director Elections Mr. Muhammad Nadeem Khan and spokesperson of the



Provincial Election Commissioner Mr. Sohail Ahmed were also present during the meeting.

Mr. Qamar Naseem provided a detailed briefing on the She Leads Program, a leadership development project for women initiated with the support of IFES.

He explained that the project aims to enhance women's leadership capacities in society and that training programs have initially been launched in three districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa: Charsadda, Mansehra, and Lower Dir. He sought the support of

the Election Commission for the implementation of the project.

On this occasion, Mr. Muhammad Fareed Afridi presented the ECP Newsletter to the delegation. He reiterated the Election Commission's commitment to increasing women's voter registration and ensuring their participation in the electoral process. He assured that the Election Commission would fully support the She Leads Program initiated by Blue Veins. Mr. Qamar Naseem expressed his gratitude for the assurance of cooperation from the Election Commission

Six clinical technicians' Court declares recruitment null and void

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The Peshawar High Court (PHC) has declared the recruitment of six Clinical Technicians in the Pharmacy Department, Grade 17, as null and void. The court directed the Public Service Commission to restart the recruitment process, ensuring transparency and merit-based selection.

The court observed that the recruitment process seemed to be biased towards certain individuals, and the recommendations for the petitioners' appointments were withdrawn without any valid reason. This action was deemed as unlawful and unconstitutional.

The petitioners had applied for 9 posts of Clinical Technicians advertised in 2019.

Although the recommendations sent for their appointments in May 2021, but the Public Service Commission suddenly halted the process and called 20 new candidates for interviews, who were lower in merit. These new candidates were given 24 marks to give them preference over the petitioners, and a new interview panel was formed.

The court noted that despite a stay order from the High Court, the Public Service Commission proceeded with the appointments of 6 Clinical

Technologists in August 2021. The court observed that the record showed that the petitioners were short-listed and their appointment recommendations were sent, but suddenly their appointments were stopped, and 20 new candidates were brought in, despite 32 candidates already being on the waiting list.

PHC directed the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Public Service Commission to restart the recruitment process from the beginning, ensuring transparency and merit-based selection. The Commission was instructed to consider all candidates and follow the rules and regulations governing the recruitment process.



In brief

Children protection
F.P. Report

BUNER: The District Child Protection Committee (DCPC) held its 3rd meeting, chaired by Deputy Commissioner on Tuesday. The meeting was attended by SCJ (Admin) Sabir Ali Shah and representatives from relevant departments. The meeting focused on protecting children's welfare and developing strategies to support vulnerable children. The progress and future plans of the Child Protection Unit (CPU) Buner were presented. The participants showed interest in CPU Buner's work and commended KPCWC for their efforts in promoting child protection and welfare. The Deputy Commissioner welcomed all and emphasized the importance of future collaboration with CPU Buner.

Asphalt work inspected
F.P. Report

KARAK: On the special directions of the Chairman DDAC Karak Khurshid Khattak MPA and MNA Shahid Khattak, under the vision of "Journey from Promises to Completion", the authorities concerned of the C&W Department Karak visited Nari Panoo-Banda Road where the asphalt work on some sections of the road was incomplete and had been delayed for many years. The Officers of the C&W department had directed the concerned contractor to start work on the said road as soon as possible, following which machinery was delivered to formally start work on the road today. It may be noted that work on the said road had been stopped for the last 3 years, but with the special efforts of the MPA Khurshid Khattak and MNA Shahid Khattak, work has been resumed on this road. InshaAllah, the remaining work on the road will be completed at the earliest so that the public have the best transportation facilities.

Tribesman shot killed
F.P. Report

WANA: In the village of Dabkot, Lower South Waziristan, unknown armed assailants shot and killed Malik Bismillah Khan. According to details, Malik Bismillah Khan of the Khojhal Khel tribe was shot and killed by unidentified motorcycle riders at around 11 AM this morning in the village of Dabkot, when he was returning home from Wana Bazaar. After the shooting, the motorcyclists managed to escape. It is worth noting that incidents of targeted killings have been on the rise in Lower Wana, South Waziristan over the past several months, creating an atmosphere of fear and anxiety in the area.

DHO inspects Dokri hospital
F.P. Report

LARKANA: District Health Officer (DHO) Larkana Dr. Shaukat Ali Abro along with his team visited Dokri Taluka Hospital, and checked the records and got complete details about the hospital facilities. During the visit, he also inquired about the medicines received by the patients coming to the hospital for treatment, the attitude of the hospital staff and the health facilities. On this occasion, Dr. Shaukat Abro also visited the government store and checked the medicines, checked the medicine records and inquired about the problems with the hospital staff and met the doctors and talked about the facilities available in the hospital, including the medicines available.

PPP rejects conversion of Saidu hospital into MTI

Shafi Ullah

MINGORA: Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Swat has vehemently rejected the government's decision to convert Saidu Teaching Hospital into a Medical Teaching Institution (MTI), terming it an "anti-people" move. This decision has sparked widespread criticism, with the PPP announcing a protest movement against the government's plan and vowing to challenge it in court.

Addressing a press conference at the party's district office, PPP District Swat President Salim Khan, flanked by senior party leaders, including Malakand Division President Malik Akram Khan and several advocates, criticized the government's healthcare policies. They argued that the conversion of Saidu Teaching Hospital into an MTI would

deprive the people of Swat of basic health facilities. The party has decided to resist this decision at all levels and will not allow public rights to be compromised.

The PPP leaders accused the current provincial government, led by the PTI, of failing miserably in the education and health sectors. They pointed to the implementation of the contractor system in Lady Reading Hospital as an example of the government's incompetence. "The government first tortured the people by implementing the contractor system in Lady Reading Hospital, and now it is going to deprive the people of Swat of basic health facilities through the conspiracy to convert Saidu Teaching Hospital into an MTI," the leaders said.

The PPP has warned the government that if the MTI decision is not withdrawn,

they will not only pursue action on the judicial front but also expand the scope of public protest. The People's Lawyers Forum will file a writ petition in the Peshawar High Court against this decision. "We will resist this decision at all levels and will not allow bargaining over public rights or implementing any external agenda," Salim Khan emphasized.

Saidu Teaching Hospital, located in Swat, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, is a 500-bed institution that serves as the teaching hospital of Saidu Medical College. The hospital provides critical healthcare services, including emergency care, ICU, CCU, and neonatal care units, to the people of Swat and surrounding areas. It is accredited by the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Pakistan and the Pakistan Medical and Dental Council.

KUST lecturer Yasir defends PhD thesis

Sahibzada Afridi

KOHAT: Senior Lecturer Yasir Saeed at the Department of Economics, Kohat University of Science and Technology (KUST), has successfully completed his PhD in Economics. He has been associated with KUST for the past sixteen years, contributing extensively to both teaching and research. He has also served as a member of the University Syndicate and is currently fulfilling additional responsibilities as a Data Analyst at the Quality Enhancement Cell (QEC), KUST.

The title of his doctoral dissertation was "Trade-off Theory versus Pecking Order Theory: Capital Structure Decisions in Pakistan's Textile Sector", which he completed under the supervision of Dr. Alam Khan and Dr. Ehtesham-ul-Haq from the Department of Economics at KUST.

His thesis was evaluated by a high-level examination committee comprising Prof. Dr. Muhammad Jameel (Dean, Faculty of Biological Sciences – Convener), Dr. Zahoor

Khan from the Institute of Management Sciences (IMSciences) Peshawar, Dr. Muhammad Tariq from Abdul Wali Khan University Mardan, and Prof. Dr. Dilawar Khan (Dean, Faculty of Management Sciences, KUST).

Poet Mumtaz Khan honored: A grand ceremony was held in honor of the renowned Pakhto literary figure Mumtaz Ali Khan Khattak at Government Post Graduate College Kohat, which was presided over by the famous Pashto poet Saeed Rahbar. Saadat Ali Sahar and Dr. Iqbal Fana also attended the event as guests of honor. The ceremony was hosted by Dr. Shakir Orakzai.

Professor Dr. Wazir Shadan, while welcoming the guests, highlighted the formation and aims and objectives of the Pokhtana Adbi Malgari (PAM) Kohat. He also highlighted the life and literary services of Mumtaz Ali Khan Khattak.

Feroz Khan Sadiq presented a detailed article on the life and achievements of Mumtaz Ali Khan Khattak,

which was highly appreciated by the audience. The event was graced by the presence of the elder son of Mumtaz Ali Khan Khattak, a famous Radio Broadcaster Shaukat Khattak, who expressed his views in detail. Likewise, Professor Fazal Rahim Fazil, Dr. Iqbal Fana and Saadat Ali Sahar also spoke in detail about the efforts and services of Mumtaz Ali Khan Khattak.

Mumtaz Ali Khan Khattak, in his speech, appreciated the formation of PAM and gave a brief but comprehensive review of his literary journey. The participants warmly welcomed Mumtaz Ali Khattak on the dice in a clapping.

President of the event, Saeed Rahbar, expressed his happiness over the establishment of PAM Kohat and announced his full literary support to the guild. He also spoke in detail about the life and literary services of Mumtaz Ali Khan Khattak and presented a resolution demanding that Pashto be taught as a subject in educational institutions in general.

Poor cyclist seeks financial assistance

F.P. Report

MARDAN: A poor cyclist, who was selected for international cycling competitions, unfortunately could not go to take part owing to lack of financial resources.

"I have won 14 medals, including three golds in national cycling races, but due to financial problems, I am still unable to represent Pakistan at the international level," says Sanaullah, a cyclist hailing from district Mardan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.

While talking to The Frontier Post here on Tuesday, the cyclist Sanaullah said that he had been participating in cycling races for the past six years and had been the national champion by winning gold medals in the national cycling race for the last three years.

"The total number of my medals I have won so far is 36 but despite becoming as a cyclist-champion three times in a row, I am unable

to participate in international competitions due to lack of financial resources and problems."

He said that he had won the national cycling race in 2023, 2024, and 2025. Asian Road Cycling Championship: Gold medal goes to female cyclist Samreen, whose cycling brought her from Balochistan to Islamabad Cavendish's farewell victory immortalizes him in cycling history.

"Now I have a 2022 model bicycle which costs five lakh rupees, but the price of a new model bicycle is between 40 and 50 lakh rupees, which is better for cycle racing." He said that he was currently 23-years old and had the opportunity to perform. However, if one more year passed, then I would be considered as a senior cyclist. Sanaullah requested the federal and provincial governments to provide him with financial assistance and give him the opportunity to participate in international competitions so that he could not only bring glory to the country but also earn a good name and reputation for Pakistan across the world.

WSSCM finalizes three days Eidul Azha plan

F.P. Report

MARDAN: Water and Sanitation Services Company Mardan (WSSCM) has finalized three-day Eidul Azha sanitation operation plan for 38 Neighborhood councils of Mardan. On the first day of Eid ul Azha, the eid gahs will be cleaned and swift before Eid prayers while the cleanliness operation will be started from 01:00 pm and will be continued till the entire city is cleaned of waste and animal remains.

Chief Executive Officer, Shahid Khan, cancelled the holidays of all the staff, and

stated that no negligence would be tolerated on the occasion of Eid as well as strict action will be taken against any official found absent.

He said that a comprehensive Eid ul Azha plan has been devised according to which Mardan city has been divided into three zones and collection points have been set up at New Adda, Bagh ground, Par Hoti, Gul Bagh Park to collect the remains of the slaughtered animals and will be picked through large vehicles from those collection points. He said that high-tech modern machin-

ery would be used in the cleanliness operation and animal remains would be shifted to a safe place for safe disposal.

During the Eid operation, the complaint cell will be remained open till late night and in case of any inconvenience, the citizens are requested to record their complaints on helpline 1334, 0314-4228999, 0937-840892. For the efficient and effective execution of the Eid ul Adha monitoring teams have been constituted comprised of management staff in the supervision of General Manager and chief executive officer.



SWABI: Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Ali Amin Gandapur addressing the first convocation of Gajju Khan Medical College.

Pabbi action body gives ultimatum to PESCO

F.P. Report

PABBI: The Action Committee Pabbi has given an ultimatum to the PESCO authorities to resolve the issue of excessive and unjustified load shedding in the City, Khanshir Garhi, and Tehsil Pabbi by Eid-ul-Azha. If the issue is not resolved, the committee will implement its strategy by blocking the GT Road and railway line in Khanshir Garhi.

A meeting of the Action Committee Pabbi has been scheduled for tomorrow, June 4, at 11 am in the office of Tehsil Chairman Pabbi, Ghayoor Khattak. The meeting will be held to discuss the strategy to be adopted to tackle the load shedding issue.

The members of the Action Committee Pabbi include prominent personalities from various political and social organizations, including Maulana Muhammad Usman Ali Shah, Mian Imtiaz Ali Shah, Zar Ali, Sohail Khan Nazim, Maulana Abdul Basir Hakkani, Maulana Muhammad Usman, Maulana Gohar Rahman Gohar, Haji Anar Gul, Pir Saifullah Shah, Dastar Pakhtoon Yar, Sheikh Aftab Ahmad, Jan Alam Khan, Tariq Mahmood Khattak, Advocate, Sharafuddin, Advocate, Muhammad Ilyas, Abbas Khan, Dr. Khair Abrar, Haji Aurangzeb, Rahmat Ali, and Manwar Khan.

Six Nazims from Tehsil Council Pabbi will also be part of the Action Committee, including Nazeem Taimoor Kamal, Nazeem Malik Qasim Khan, Nazeem Isa Khan Pabbi, Nazeem Amankot Haji Fazal Nabi, Nazeem Dagai Banda Khan Gul, and Nazeem Saleh Khana Ilyas Ahmad.

The Action Committee has given an ultimatum to the PESCO authorities to resolve the load shedding issue by Eid-ul-Azha. If the issue is not resolved, the committee will implement its strategy by blocking the GT Road and railway line in Khanshir Garhi.

Ex-Minister inaugurates Ilyas Masjid

F.P. Report

KOHAT: Former Federal Interior Minister Shehryar Afridi has along-with the Chairman Public Safety Commission Kohat Daud Afridi MPA, former General Secretary of PTI South Region Malik Iqbal and party workers formally inaugurated the work on Ilyas Masjid Road in UC Jarma, Kohat under the vision of "The journey from promises to completion".

This road will be completed at a cost of Rs.80 Million with the funds of MNA Shehryar Afridi and MPA Daud Afridi. The condition of this road was very bad for a long time and the local people were demanding its early construction and repair, which was fulfilled today.

On this occasion, Chairman Jarma Wakil Badshah, Abdul Salam, former councilors Alam, Aslam, Amin, Salman Afridi, Muzamil Muhammad, Manan Afridi and the people of the area thanked MNA Shehryar Afridi and Daud Afridi for fulfilling this long-standing demand of the people of the area.

Muqam to inaugurate hospital solarization plan

F.P. Report

SHANGLA: Pakistan Muslim League-N (PML-N) Provincial President and Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs, Gilgit-Baltistan, and SAFRON, Engineer Amir Muqam Khan, will embark on a one-day visit to Shangla on Friday at 10 AM. During his visit, he will inaugurate the newly installed solar power system at District Headquarters Hospital, Alpuri, funded by the federal government.

Later, he will address a public gathering at Shangla Jirga Hall, Alpuri, discussing the current political landscape and unveiling new development projects for the region. In an official statement, the PML-N House has urged the public of Shangla regardless of political affiliations to attend the event and participate in shaping the region's future.

AGEC criticizes BISE Swat: The Chairman of the All Government Employees Coordination Council (AGEC) in

Shangla, Muhammad Islam Yousafzai, has strongly criticized the Swat Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education's examination arrangements and performance. He expressed his concerns about the board's incompetent officials and their favoritism in rewarding examination staff.

Muhammad Islam Yousafzai alleged that the Swat Board is operating like a feudal system, with no one holding its officials accountable for their poor performance. He demanded that the board stop humiliating teachers in Shangla and improve its working style.

The recent matriculation and FSc exams were marred by poor arrangements, which are unprecedented. The AGEC will continue to protest against the board's actions, which include humiliating teachers in Shangla and Buner exam halls and favoring specific individuals.

Rescue 1122 holds

training sessions: Rescue 1122 Shangla recently organized a one-day training session on basic first aid and fire safety for various government and private educational institutions, forestry department officials, community members, and NGOs. The training aimed to equip participants with the skills to respond to emergencies and minimize damage.

Under the guidance of District Emergency Officer Engineer Malik Sher Dil Khan, the training session was conducted by Rescue 1122 Shangla trainers Zebullah, Rasool Khan Sharif, and others. The training covered basic first aid, fire safety, and emergency rescue services.

The primary objective of the training was to enable participants to provide timely assistance during emergencies. By equipping forestry department staff with these skills, Rescue 1122 Shangla aims to enhance their response capabilities in emergency situations.

FAPUASA condemns financial crisis at varsities

F.P. Report

BANNU: Leaders from the Federation of All Pakistan Universities Academic Staff Association (FAPUASA) South Region have raised the alarm over the dire financial situation facing universities in southern districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Following a joint meeting, FAPUASA South Region President Dr. Nasir Gul, General Secretary Dr. Dilfriz Khan (University of Bannu), Clerical Staff President Malik Hamid Khattak, Admin Staff General Secretary Rehmatullah Khan, and University of Lakki Marwat President Dr. Zahir Shah briefed the media, expressing serious concern over the current state of higher education institutions in the region.

"The universities in the southern belt of KP are battling a crippling financial crisis. If immediate funds are not allocated in the provincial budget, the future of thousands of students is at risk," said Dr. Nasir Gul.

Citing budgetary comparisons, the officials revealed that Punjab has allocated Rs. 90 billion for its universities, Sindh Rs. 45 billion, while KP has earmarked a mere Rs. 6 billion for higher education. "This amount is like a drop in the ocean. The disparity is staggering and deeply unjust," stated Dr. Dilfriz Khan.

The speakers blamed poor governance and lack of political will for the declining state of universities. "Due to mismanagement and insufficient funding, academic and

administrative functions are collapsing. The youth are being deprived of their right to quality education," said Malik Hamid Khattak.

They called upon the federal government to step in and support KP's universities, not just with financial assistance but through broader structural reforms. "When institutions of higher learning are gasping for survival, one cannot talk about progress or development," Dr. Zahir Shah emphasized.

The group demanded that the provincial government allocate a budget on par with Punjab, warning that without urgent intervention, universities in southern KP may begin shutting down – a tragic outcome for the region's already struggling population.

Samarbagh residents demand completion of main road

F.P. Report

LOWER DIR: The ongoing construction work on the 6-kilometre road from Hanfia Samarbagh to Senzo police station has become a source of great distress for local residents.

Prolonged delays, intense heat, traffic congestion, and clouds of dust have made daily life miserable especially for women, children, and patients.

According to area residents, the absence of regular water sprinkling on the road has worsened the situation. Talking to local journalists

the residents complained that adjacent communities faced severe respiratory and throat issues due to the persistent dust in the air.

Expressing his concern over the deteriorating conditions, local trader leader and social activist Saleem Khan Mohmand told reporters, "This is a glaring example of the provincial government's incompetence. Even after two months, not even half of the six-kilometre road has been completed. At this pace, one could have built the Islamabad-Lahore Motorway in the same

time." He urged the government to expedite the construction process using modern machinery. He also demanded that the contractor and relevant departments be strictly instructed to carry out water sprinkling on the road two to three times a day.

Saleem Khan Mohmand warned that if the pace of work remains unchanged and immediate measures are not taken to control dust and ensure cleanliness, the public will have no choice but to take to the streets in protest.

South Waziristan Upper admn to resolve citizens' problems

F.P. Report

D I KHAN: The newly appointed Deputy Commissioner South Waziristan Upper, Fazli Wadood Safi has said that concrete measures would be taken for resolving issues facing people in the area.

He expressed these views during a meeting with a Mehsud Press Club's (Registered) delegation that called on him to discuss ongoing journalistic and public issues in the region. The delegation included the press club's

General Secretary Sikandar Hayat and member Aslam Mehsud.

During the meeting, the delegation discussed with him the plight of Operation Rah-e-Nijat affectees and issues pertaining to compensation amount. They also underlined the need for fully operationalizing government offices in the Ladhah headquarters to provide smooth public services.

The delegation also highlighted that the lack of internet access in the area was severely affecting students' education, as well as hinder-

ing progress in other sectors. Deputy Commissioner Fazli Wadood Safi assured the delegation that the administration was fully aware of these challenges and had prioritized their resolution.

He stated that all government offices in the Ladhah headquarters would be made fully operational soon to ensure public access to essential services. He added that a comprehensive report regarding compensation for damaged homes is being submitted to the provincial government to ensure timely implementation.



Grand Urdu poetry evening unites Pakistani community



F.P. Report

AJMAN: The Embassy of Pakistan in Abu Dhabi, in collaboration with "Abhi Kuch Log Baqi Hain" and Bahi Ajman Palace Hotel, hosted a grand Urdu Mushaira (poetry evening) on June 1 at the elegant Bahi Ajman Palace Hotel, celebrating the richness of Pakistani literature and uniting the Urdu-loving community in the UAE.

His Excellency Faisal Niaz Tirmizi, Pakistan's Ambassador to the UAE, graced the event as the Chief Guest. Distinguished personalities including Dr. Bu Abdullah, Chairman of Bu Abdullah Group, and Dr. Rashid Aleem were among the esteemed attendees. The event drew a large audience comprising members of the Pakistani diaspora and admirers of Urdu literature from across

the Emirates.

Ambassador Tirmizi warmly welcomed the poets and praised their literary contributions. He highlighted the role of art and literature as vital tools of soft power that portray Pakistan's vibrant cultural heritage on global platforms.

The event was presided over by renowned poet Abbas Tabish and compered by eminent literary figures Ambareen Haseeb Ambar and Shakeel Jazib. The star-studded lineup of poets included Dr. Sabahat Wasti, Abbas Tabish, Shakeel Jazib, Ambareen Haseeb, Ahmed Atta, Ahmed Salman, Saima Aftab, Ali Zaryoun, Umair Najmi, Raqeeb Mukhtar, Zia Mazkooor, Tabish Zaidi, Malik Irfan, Raza Ahmed Raza, Suleman Jazib, and Syed Jarrar.

Ambassador Tirmizi

extended special thanks to Mr. Iftikhar Hamdani, General Manager of Bahi Ajman Palace Hotel, for his consistent support in hosting events that promote Pakistani culture. He also appreciated Mr. Owais Ahmad Bhatti and Mr. Hammad Hassan Bhatti for their unwavering coordination and support from the Embassy in Abu Dhabi and Consulate General in Dubai.

Reaffirming the Embassy's commitment to facilitating such cultural and literary engagements in the future, Ambassador Tirmizi remarked, "It is a matter of immense pride to host our distinguished poets here in the UAE. Art and literature, as instruments of soft diplomacy, hold great promise in enhancing Pakistan's image on the global stage."

Zelenskiy announces military shakeup

KYIV (Reuters): President Volodymyr Zelenskiy announced a shakeup of Ukraine's military, including the appointment to a new post of a commander who tendered his resignation over a deadly Russian attack. Zelenskiy, speaking in his nightly video address after a meeting of top commanders, said the reshuffle sought to ensure that the military remained focused on combat more than three years after Russia's invasion of its smaller neighbour.

The president said Major General Mykhailo Drapaty, who offered to quit as commander of Ukraine's land forces over an attack on a training area last weekend, would now serve as the new commander of joint forces. "Mykhailo Drapaty will now focus exclusively on combat matters and has been appointed Commander of the Joint Forces so that he can fully dedicate himself to the front line," Zelenskiy said. The president said another officer, who he did not identify, would be placed in charge of land forces and responsible "for tasks like training, preparation, changes in the territorial recruitment centres". Drapaty, writing earlier on Facebook, said the president was keeping him in service at the front. "The president listened, expressed support and encouraged me to focus on the most important things - the war, the front and victory," he wrote. Zelenskiy said the appointment of Oleh Apostol as commander of paratroops and Robert Brovdi as commander of unmanned systems had also been approved.

"This is also part of a broader focus on combat matters," he said. "The successful experience of the best brigades must be scaled across the entire army." He said that Vadym Sukh-arevskyi had been appointed Commander of the Eastern Operational Command with the task of modernising that command. Ihor Skybiuk was appointed Deputy Chief of the General Staff.

France reviewing small boat policing tactics

PARIS (BBC): The French government is reviewing its policies to tighten up policing around small boats, Home Secretary Yvette Cooper has told MPs. Cooper faced criticism after more than 1,100 migrants crossed the Channel - the highest number recorded on a single day so far this year.

Conservative shadow home secretary Chris Philp said French Police continued to stand by and watch as migrants made their way into boats just off the French coast. Cooper replied that she was pressing for action on an agreement with French authorities, which would allow police to apprehend migrants in shallow waters. Criminal gangs are exploiting a loophole in French law that prevents police from intervening when migrants are in the water, so people increasingly wait in the surf for a boat to arrive and then clamber in. French Interior Minister Bruno Retailleau told the BBC he would close the loophole earlier this year, but the change has yet to be made.

Updating the Commons during Home Office questions, Cooper said: "The French interior minister and the French cabinet have now agreed their rules need to change. "A French maritime review is looking at what new operational tactics they will use, and we are urging France to complete this review and implement the changes as swiftly as possible. "I've been in touch with the French interior minister, who supports stronger action, again this weekend and there are further discussions under way this week." Philp suggested the government needed to take a more headline approach to stop French police standing on beaches and watching small boats sail away. "They're not smashing gangs, they're smashing records," he said. Philp added that a recent deal giving EU fishing boats continued access to UK waters until 2038 "should be suspended until the French agree to stop those small boats at sea and prevent illegal immigration".



GAZA: Palestinian children waiting to receive food distributed by aid organizations in al-Mawasi district of Khan Younis.

Election of a Trump ally in Poland could alter EU and Ukraine policies

WARSAW (AP): Poland has elected Karol Nawrocki, a conservative historian and staunch nationalist, as its next president in a closely watched vote that signals a resurgence of right-wing populism in the heart of Europe.

Nawrocki, who is set to take office on Aug. 6, is expected to shape the country's domestic and foreign policy in ways that could strain ties with Brussels while aligning the Central European nation of nearly 38 million people more closely with the administration of President Donald Trump in the United States. Nawrocki's victory underscores the enduring appeal of nationalist rhetoric among about half of the country along the eastern flank of NATO and the European Union, and its deep social divisions.

The 42-year-old historian who had no previous political experience built his campaign on patriotic themes, traditional Catholic values, and a vow to defend Poland's sovereignty against the EU and larger European nations like Germany. His win also reflects the appeal of right-wing nationalism across Europe, where concerns about migration, national sovereignty, and cultural identity have led to surging support for parties on the right - even the far right in recent times.

Far-right candidates did very well in Poland's first round of voting two weeks earlier, underlining the appeal of the nationalist and conservative views. Nawrocki picked up many of those votes. As his supporters celebrated his win, those who voted for the

defeated liberal candidate, Warsaw Mayor Rafał Trzaskowski, worry that it will hasten the erosion of liberal democratic norms. "Poland remains a deeply divided country," said Jacek Kucharczyk, the president of the Polish Institute of Public Affairs.

"Although the electoral turnout was highest ever in history of presidential elections, Mr. Nawrocki's margin of victory is very small, which means that half of Poland will be cheering his presidency, whereas half of Poland, the other half, remains deeply worried or even disturbed," he added.

Nawrocki's presidency presents a direct challenge to Prime Minister Donald Tusk, who returned to power in late 2023 pledging to mend relations with the EU and restore judicial independence which Brussels said was eroded by Law and Justice, the party that backed Nawrocki. But Tusk's coalition - a fragile alliance of centrists, leftists, and agrarian conservatives - has struggled to push through key promises including a civil union law for same-sex couples and a less restrictive abortion law.

Nawrocki, who opposes such measures, will have the power to veto legislation, complicating Tusk's agenda and potentially triggering political gridlock. Nawrocki's election could signal a stronger relationship between Poland and the Trump administration. Poland and the US are close allies, and there are 10,000 US troops stationed in Poland, but Tusk and his

partners in the past have been critical of Trump. Nawrocki, however, has a worldview closely aligned with Trump and his Make America Great Again ethos. Trump welcomed Nawrocki to the White House a month ago and his administration made clear in other ways that he was its preferred candidate. While Nawrocki has voiced support for Ukraine's defense against Russian aggression, he does not back Ukrainian membership in NATO and has questioned the long-term costs of aid - particularly support for refugees. His rhetoric has at times echoed that of Trump, for instance by accusing Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy of what he said was insufficient gratitude for Poland's assistance. With growing public fatigue over helping Ukrainian refugees, Nawrocki's approach could shift Poland's posture from strong ally to conditional partner if the war drags on much longer.

The election result is a setback for the EU, which had welcomed Tusk's return in 2023 as a signal of renewed pro-European engagement. "This is very bad news for the European Union as well as Poland's key European partners, both Germany and France as well as Ukraine," said Kucharczyk, the analyst. "Mr. Nawrocki is well known for his Eurosceptic stand. He's opposed to deepening European integration and European cooperation. He is also opposed to Ukraine's NATO membership," he added.

US made 'tough' requests to Vietnam in trade talks

HANOI (Reuters): The US has sent a "long" list of "tough" requests to Vietnam in its tariff negotiations, including demands that could force the country to cut its reliance on Chinese industrial goods imports, two people briefed about the matter told Reuters.

Washington wants Vietnam-based factories to reduce their use of materials and components from China and is asking the country to control more carefully its production and supply chains, one of the people briefed on the talks said, without elaborating on whether quantitative targets were included. The list is part of an "annex" to a framework text prepared by US negotiators, according to four people familiar with the matter.

One of them, who had direct access to the document, said the list was sent to Hanoi at the end of May after the conclusion of a second round of talks with Washington aimed at

avoiding 46% "reciprocal" tariffs on imports from Vietnam. The sources declined to be named because those discussions were not public. Reuters reported that the Trump administration wants countries to provide their best offers on trade negotiations, citing a draft letter to negotiating partners.

It was unclear which countries would receive the letter, but it was directed at those with active negotiations that included meetings and exchanges of documents. Washington has been engaged in such talks with countries including Vietnam, the European Union, Japan and India. The sources described the US requests to Vietnam as "tough" and "difficult". It is unclear how Hanoi will respond to Washington's requests and whether it will send its own proposal. The US Trade Representative did not respond to a request for comment outside US business hours. Vietnam's trade ministry did not reply

to a request for comment. A source briefed on the matter said if US requests to effectively cut Vietnam's reliance on China were met, they could pose a serious challenge to the Southeast Asian country's economy. Its sprawling manufacturing industry, which produces consumer goods including Apple devices and Nike shoes, is closely integrated into its much bigger neighbour's supply chains. It might also complicate Vietnam's long-standing policy of maintaining good relations with China, a major foreign investor but also a source of security concerns due to conflicting claims in the South China Sea.

Vietnam has nearly tripled its exports to the United States since the start of the US-China trade war in 2018, when the first Trump administration imposed wide-ranging tariffs on Beijing, pushing some manufacturers to move production south. But as exports to the US

boomed, Vietnam also vastly expanded imports from China, with their inflow almost exactly matching the value and swings of exports to the United States over the years, each totalling around \$140 billion in 2024, data from the US and Vietnam show. US officials have long accused Vietnam of being used as a waypoint for Chinese goods destined for the United States. At times, according to the allegations, goods had "Made in Vietnam" labels despite having received no or insufficient added value in the country - allowing Chinese exporters to avoid high US duties on their goods.

Aware of the US criticism, Hanoi has launched a crackdown on illegal transshipment of goods. The effect has yet to be seen in trade flows, however, as exports to the United States and imports from China both reached a record high in April, according to the latest data.

Court blow to Germany's new government on asylum

BERLIN (Reuters): A court ruling that Germany could not simply return to Poland three asylum seekers who entered the country in May dealt a blow to the signature migration policy of Chancellor Friedrich Merz's new government: turning illegal migrants back at the borders. Police in May sent back to Poland three Somalis who crossed Germany's eastern border by train and requested asylum.

With the help of asylum rights organisation Pro Asyl, they challenged this in a Berlin court. A Berlin court issued an emergency injunction saying Germany had broken the law. Under the European Union's so-called Dublin rules - hitherto honoured mainly in the breach - refugees can only claim asylum in the first EU country they enter.

The Berlin court said that before sending them back, authorities should have started the "Dublin process" of establishing which country was responsible for assessing their asylum claim, whether or not that was Poland. Germany only has land borders with other EU countries and Switzerland meaning that, in principle, nobody who arrives by land

is eligible for asylum in the country.

During his election campaign, Merz promised to crack down on migration on his government's first day in office. Interior Minister Alexander Dobrindt, a fellow conservative, announced the policy of returning asylum seekers at the border. Following the ruling, he said the court's decision applied only in this particular case, set no precedent, and that the government would continue turning away asylum seekers crossing the land borders. This is true in a narrow sense: the ruling only applies to the three Somalis and does not bind any other judges. Other judges are bound by the same laws, however, so there is no reason to think they will rule differently.

"The German government will lose every single case on this point, all the way up to the European Union's court," migration policy expert Gerald Knaus told Stern magazine. While migration is a signature issue for Merz and Dobrindt, their Social Democrat coalition partners are less comfortable with it. Justice Minister Stefanie Hubig said in a tight-lipped statement that

"the court's ruling must be followed". Legal experts say that, to be successful, German authorities would have to reject migrants before they enter the country's territory - something for which they would need neighbouring countries' cooperation. But Poland is no less racked by migration debates than Germany. Prime Minister Donald Tusk's government has just been dealt a heavy blow by election victory of a right-wing candidate for whom reducing the number of migrants was a key topic.

In the short term, it is likely to be difficult to get neighbouring countries, all of which feel more exposed to migration pressure than Germany, to accede to Dobrindt's demands. Perhaps not. The far-right Alternative for Germany was quick off the mark in condemning the "failure" of the new government's migration policy. But the next major regional election is almost a year away and overall migration levels, initially driven up by the Syrian civil war and Russia's invasion of Ukraine, have been on a downward trend for several years, independent of any policies adopted by individual EU countries.

The Frontier Post

Rehmat Shah Afridi (Late)

Founder

Bilal Shah Afridi

Chief Executive

Jalil Afridi

Managing Editor

Printed and published by Mahmood Afridi at Moraka's Printers, 27 Abdara Road, University Town, Peshawar.

Peshawar Office: 091-5700095, 0300- 9009001

Peshawar Fax: 091-5703687, Post Box No. 573

E-mail: fppeshawar@thefrontierpost.com

Lahore Office: 0335-4026284

Email: fplahore@thefrontierpost.com

Islamabad Office: 0321-5066253

Email: mahmoodafridi@thefrontierpost.com

Karachi Office: 021-32213411, 0300-8340907

Email: fpkarachi@thefrontierpost.com

USA and Canada Toll Free Number 1-800-5905747

Engagement helps navigate turbulent waters

THE US Senate's confirmation of former Republican senator David Perdue as ambassador to China in April came just as the United States and China were locked in a tariff showdown that threatened to redefine diplomatic relations between the world's two largest economies.

No wonder Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Jim Risch said ahead of the congressional vote for Perdue's nomination for the post that it was "certainly one of the most important appointments that will come across this floor".

Well aware of the importance of the role he assumes as the US' top envoy in China, Perdue in his congressional hearing called the relationship with China the "most consequential diplomatic challenge of the 21st century".

Having lived in Hong Kong for a long time as a business executive before his political career, Perdue should have a better understanding of China and the win-win nature of China-US relations than most politicians in Washington.

That's expected to be his advantage in fulfilling his duty of helping "ensure our national and economic security remains uncompromised", while promoting Washington and Beijing to "seek areas where our interests align to develop a better and safer working relationship", as he vowed at the hearing.

There is no doubt the new US ambassador knows that he faces the daunting task of filling the gap between the reality and his vision, if not the discrepancy between what the US administration says to China and what it does.

The US' zero-sum China policy has left China with no choice but to defend its core interests. So it remains to be seen how Perdue fulfills his duty as a credible point of contact to balance an increasingly coercive US that sees China's losses as its gains, and a resolute China that will firmly safeguard its development interests.

Foreign Minister Wang Yi met with Perdue in Beijing on Tuesday, welcoming him to his new post and expressing the hope that he will play an active role in promoting the healthy, steady and sustainable development of bilateral relations.

Wang's call for Perdue to act as a reliable communicator, a mediator resolving differences, and a promoter of cooperation highlights the need for open channels of dialogue and mutual understanding between China and the US.

That's a clear message Beijing sends to Washington — that China remains committed to keeping bilateral ties on the right track, which should also be in the interest of the US.

But it must be seen that the US has never ceased rolling out systematic restrictive policies and measures in the technology and trade sectors, and people-to-people exchanges, targeting China for groundless reasons and infringing upon China's legitimate rights and interests.

Through his meeting with Wang, the US top envoy should have been left with no doubt that China will not cave in to the maximum pressure tactics of the US.

China-US relations stand at a critical juncture, but as Wang told Perdue, the ups and downs of the past decades are a reminder of the fundamental principles that underpin successful engagement. The lessons learned from the past emphasize the significance of equality, respect and a commitment to dialogue as the foundation for productive exchanges and collaborative efforts. Saying one thing and doing another will only kill any buds of trust before they can blossom.

Perdue also met with representatives of US Grains Council in China on May 30 to explore opportunities for US farmers, processors and agribusinesses to expand grain and bioproduct exports, including corn, sorghum, barley, ethanol, and more to China. The meeting should have provided the US ambassador with firsthand knowledge of how US farmers and enterprises are footing the bill of the administration's tariff policy, as well as the pertinence of Wang's remarks.

Perdue's expressed commitment to fostering a spirit of cooperation and understanding hopefully reflects a broader willingness to engage in meaningful dialogue to bridge the differences between the two nations. By upholding the principles of mutual respect and cooperation, Perdue's role as a diplomatic bridge-builder holds the potential to facilitate constructive engagement and pave the way for improved Sino-US relations.

Important Notice

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.

IWT alternate version



We remember the ram, but not the conversation

Muhammad Mohsin Iqbal

The true essence of sacrifice, as exemplified in the story of Hazrat Ibrahim (AS) and his son Hazrat Ismail (AS), lies not merely in the physical act of slaughtering an animal but in the profound spiritual submission, moral courage, and unwavering obedience to the will of Allah. It is the conversation between a father and his son that encapsulates the real philosophy of sacrifice. The Qur'an beautifully records this sacred dialogue in Surah As-Saffat:

"And when he (Ismail) was old enough to accompany him, he (Ibrahim) said, 'O my son, indeed I have seen in a dream that I must sacrifice you, so see what you think.' He said, 'O my father, do as you are commanded. You will find me, if Allah wills, of the steadfast.'" (Surah As-Saffat 37:102)

This extraordinary exchange is not just a tale from the past; it is a timeless parable of submission, discipline, and the triumph of faith over worldly attachments. The sacrificial ram, which was later provided by Allah as redemption, became a symbol, but what we often forget is the essence - the conversation. The willingness of Hazrat Ibrahim (AS) to let go of what he loved most and Hazrat Ismail's (AS) submission to Allah's command teaches us that real sacrifice is about surrendering our will to the will of the Almighty. We remembered the ram, the physical sacrifice, but we forgot the conversation, the spiritual submission that it represented.

Today, as the Islamic Ummah and especially Pakistan face complex crises - political instability, economic downturns, moral decay, and a fractured society - it is high time we revive the real philosophy of sacrifice in our personal and collective lives. Our nation is burdened by corruption,

social injustice, intolerance, and greed. The lesson from Ibrahim's (AS) story is not merely about commemorating Eid-ul-Adha by slaughtering animals; it is a call to slaughter our egos, our illegal desires, and our lust for wealth and power.

The Quran commands: "Indeed, Allah does not change the condition of a people until they change what is in themselves." (Surah Ar-Ra'd 13:11)

This verse resonates profoundly with our current state. If Pakistan is to rise and reclaim its dignity and honor, it must undergo internal purification. Our leaders must sacrifice their self-interested ambitions for the collective good. Our citizens must relinquish dishonesty, bribery, tax evasion, and misuse of public resources. Every individual must reflect on what they are willing to give up for the sake of the greater good. The spirit of sacrifice should translate into ethical governance, social justice, and national solidarity.

Hazrat Ibrahim (AS) was not commanded to sacrifice his son to cause pain, but to demonstrate complete submission to divine will. The command was a test, and the response was the highest form of spiritual maturity. Pakistan, too, is going through trials. We must ask ourselves - what are we willing to sacrifice to earn Allah's pleasure and to restore our nation to the path of righteousness? Can we sacrifice our sectarian divides for the sake of unity? Can we give up hate speech and extremism for peace? Can we abandon illegal gains to promote fair economic practices?

Prophet Muhammad (?) said, "There is a piece of flesh in the body, and if it is sound, the whole body is sound. And if it is corrupt,

the whole body is corrupt. That piece is the heart." (Sahih Bukhari & Sahih Muslim)

The reformation of the heart is essential. The spiritual disease that afflicts the heart - greed, envy, pride - must be uprooted. Our political culture must be cured of hypocrisy and self-interest. Our economy must be purified of usury and exploitation. And our education must inculcate values that teach responsibility, truthfulness, and service to humanity.

If we reflect on the act of Hazrat Ibrahim (AS), we will see it was not a blind sacrifice. It was preceded by a divine vision, deliberate reflection, consultation with his son, and then full obedience. Similarly, Pakistan must not take any steps without a clear vision. National policies should be inspired by consultation, long-term foresight, and ethical foundations. Our sacrifices must have a purpose - a higher cause that aligns with Islamic principles and national interest.

The Quran states: "Their meat will not reach Allah, nor will their blood, but what reaches Him is piety from you." (Surah Al-Hajj 22:37)

This verse demolishes the notion that sacrifice is about the animal alone. The real sacrifice is Taqwa - God-consciousness.

Pakistan needs this consciousness in all segments of its society. Civil servants must act with integrity. Businessmen must uphold fair practices. Religious scholars must guide with sincerity and unity. The media must abandon sensationalism for truth. And youth must sacrifice temporary temptations for long-term contribution to national development.

The conversation between Hazrat Ibrahim (AS) and Hazrat Ismail (AS)

also teaches us the value of intergenerational trust and cooperation. A father consults his son. A son agrees to the hardest of trials. In today's world, where generational gaps are widening, and family structures are weakening, this story reminds us of the strength that lies in spiritual upbringing and mutual respect. Pakistani society must rebuild family institutions on the values of faith, communication, and responsibility.

In whatever capacity we are performing our duties - each segment of society must internalize the lesson of sacrifice. Without it, we remain fragmented. With it, we become a resilient nation. Sacrifice in its true sense means giving up our lower selves for a higher goal. The problem is not that we lack talent or resources, but that we are unwilling to give up comfort, luxury, shortcuts, and selfishness.

On this Eid, as the Ummah remembers the legacy of Hazrat Ibrahim (AS), let Pakistan lead by example. Let us revive the spirit of the conversation - the moment of truth, faith, and resolve. Let us bring the ethos of sacrifice into our homes, offices, streets, and government.

Let us no longer remember the ram only, but the willingness behind it. Let our sacrifices this year be internal as well - sacrifice of arrogance for humility, of fraud for honesty, of division for unity, of despair for hope. Only then can we expect divine help, social harmony, and national revival. Only then will our sacrifices have meaning in the sight of Allah and in the history of nations. Only then can Pakistan become what Allama Iqbal dreamed and Quaid-e-Azam strived for - a nation forged not by blood alone, but by belief, sacrifice, and righteousness.

Forcing an end to the Gaza war

NEGOTIATIONS for a ceasefire in Gaza have so far not amounted to a renewed cessation of hostilities. Israel wants the hostages back, while refusing to commit to ending the war. US envoy Steve Witkoff reportedly promised that aid would enter Gaza if the last hostage holding American citizenship was released. So, Hamas last month released Edan Alexander, but it accused Washington of renegeing on this promise. This was a major setback and an indication that the US has limited leverage over Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Hence, the best we can hope for is a temporary ceasefire in exchange for the return of some hostages. However, the region's countries should work to make sure the temporary ceasefire results in a definitive end to the war.

A ship operated by the activist group Freedom Flotilla Coalition is heading toward Gaza — it has on board climate change activist Greta Thunberg and Irish actor Liam Cunningham. The situation today is different from 2010, when a flotilla of six ships sailed from Turkey to Gaza to break its siege. Nine peace activists were murdered by the Israeli military, with 30 more wounded. Israel is already under scrutiny for committing genocide in Gaza. Will it go ahead and kill people like Thunberg and Cunningham?

Even if Israel, which is on a murder spree, does not mind killing people like Thunberg and Cunningham, this would create great embarrassment for the US. It would have to tell Israel to stop. Hence, the likelihood

of a partial Dr. Dania Koleilat Khatib Arab and regional

or temporary ceasefire. The other issue is the looming famine. Will the US allow a famine? This would galvanize international public opinion, as well as public opinion at home. US President Donald Trump, who is trying to implement his domestic agenda, certainly does not need discontent. He wants an end to the war. However, Israel has a strong lobby inside the US and, so far, it has been able to get away with all its crimes. The US has refrained from openly criticizing Israel or even reducing the support it offers Tel Aviv. However, a ceasefire is overdue even by American standards. The US is pressuring Israel to let aid in and this requires a ceasefire. Several Israeli officials have advocated starving Gaza. It is obvious that weaponizing food is an official strategy. Despite its strength, it is becoming harder and harder for the pro-Israel lobby in the US to impose Tel Aviv's agenda on the American government. Israeli government actions are putting the US in a position where it has to defend the indefensible.

In this respect, the region's countries should act quickly and smartly. The first issue is to ask for the aid caravan to go to the Egyptian side of the Rafah crossing and be inspected by UN officials, not Israeli. This will probably require a UN Security Council resolution. Currently, three countries on the UNSC are strongly supportive of Palestine: Algeria, Somalia and Pakistan. They could suggest a resolution. Middle Eastern countries should then use their collective muscle to make sure the US does not veto the resolution.

countries should also capitalize on initiatives like the boat that has Thunberg and Cunningham on board. International nongovernmental organizations should be invited and encouraged to go into Gaza. The international media should go inside Gaza and document the horrors that Israel keeps on denying. In addition to the media and international aid organizations, the clergy should play a role. The Christian clergy should be mobilized to send its own aid caravan or flotilla. They could not go unless they had protection from the UN. Again, UN protection should be requested.

Once all those people are in Gaza and there are multinational forces protecting them, it would be hard for Israel to bomb the Strip. Would the Israeli military bomb a cardinal from the Vatican or Thunberg? If it did, would Trump or European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen be able to defend it? Netanyahu would try to derail such an effort. He wants to continue the war. The war means his coalition will continue. Once his coalition breaks apart and he is out of power, he might be sent to jail. Hence, he will fight tooth and nail.

This is why regional cooperation is needed. Middle Eastern countries should coordinate among themselves and punch with all their weight. They should make sure that, once there is a ceasefire, even a temporary one, that the media, civil society organizations and the clergy head to Gaza en masse. This would create a situation whereby Israel could not resume the war.

They should also apply

pressure directly on Israel. Renowned Emirati scholar Abdulkhaleq Abdulla has suggested that Turkiye, Egypt, Jordan and the UAE should cut their diplomatic ties with Israel in response to its refusal to allow an Arab delegation of foreign ministers to reach Ramallah at the weekend. This is the sort of collective leverage that works. Israel cannot afford to be isolated by these countries. So, they should collectively threaten to cut diplomatic relations if the media, civil society groups and the clergy are denied entry to Gaza.

The short-term goal of this effort would be to use aid and the protection of aid to create a situation in which Israel will not be able to hit Gaza again. This way, the war would end without any direct confrontation with Israel by any of the region's countries. The war would end simply because Israel could not resume it. However, the long-term objective of this effort would be to counter Israel's narrative and influence.

The aid organizations, clerics and media should, in addition to helping people, document what has happened. The likes of Egypt, Turkiye, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Qatar and Jordan should organize a joint operation room to engage with civil society, media organizations and think tanks around the world. They should use their diplomatic muscle and leverage to relay the horrors committed by Israel. Such an effort would not only kill the Israeli narrative, but it could also be the base on which the region's countries can aggressively push the world to recognize a sovereign and independent Palestinian state.

De-escalating to escalate: Ceasefire is no longer on the horizon in Ukraine

Sergey Maidukov

FOR a while now, the Ukraine-Russia war has been compared by various pundits to the Korean War of the early 1950s. That conflict, which split the Korean Peninsula in two, ended without a clear victor. Hostilities ceased with the signing of an armistice in 1953, but no formal peace treaty ever followed. The Korean Peninsula remains technically at war, suspended in an uneasy truce and still divided along the 38th parallel.

Could Ukraine be heading toward a similar outcome? In many respects, today's deadlock echoes the dynamics of the Korean War. North Korea relied on support from China and the Soviet Union, while South Korea was backed by a United States-led coalition. Following a series of offensives and counteroffensives, the conflict slowed down to a war of attrition, which dragged out the negotiation of a ceasefire for two years.

Today, Russia, bolstered by China's backing, is fighting in Ukraine, whose army is sustained by its Western allies. In the past year, the conflict has slowed down, and the map of the front line no longer sees dramatic changes.

But unlike in the Korean War, the prospects of a ceasefire here appear slim after three years of fighting. The diplomatic and pressure politics offensive by US President Donald Trump to force the two sides to put down their weapons has borne no fruit.

Both sides talk about ceasefire, but act as if they want the war to continue.

On Sunday, a fresh dose of fuel was poured into the fire.

Ukraine launched a series of precise, destructive, and strategically painful strikes against Russian military airfields. The damage inflicted reportedly amounts to

••••• A week before that, Russia sent a swarm of more than 900 drones and dozens of missiles — killing at least 16 civilians, including three children — across Ukraine. On Monday, the Russian army sent a barrage of missiles deep into

Ukrainian territory, hitting a training camp for soldiers and killing 12. The timing of these attacks appears to have been deliberately chosen. They came just ahead of the latest stage of peace talks — raising questions about whether such gestures are intended to strengthen each side's negotiating position or derail the process altogether. It is not the first time that the two sides have stepped up attacks when talks have come up. Last year, precisely as Moscow and Kyiv were about to start negotiating a partial ceasefire, Ukraine launched its incursion into Kursk. The efforts to bring the two sides to the negotiating table fell through. This time, Russia chose to downplay Sunday's explosions deep inside its territory. The Russian Defence Ministry grudgingly acknowledged that "several units of aircraft caught fire", but made no overt threat of retaliation.

Rather than lodging a formal protest, Russian delegation members proceeded to Istanbul for negotiations with their Ukrainian counterparts. On Monday, the two sides met and managed to reach agreement on two issues: a prisoner exchange of at least 1,000 soldiers each, and the possible return of 10 abducted Ukrainian children by the Russian authorities. There was no progress on a ceasefire agreement. It was clear that neither Moscow nor Kyiv was ready for serious talks. The leadership in both capitals has its reasons for avoiding the order to put down weapons.

••••• \$7bn. Forty-one aircraft — about one-third of Russia's strategic bomber fleet — were hit. In parallel, two bridges collapsed in two Russian regions bordering Ukraine, derailing trains; the local authorities said they suspected sabotage. A week before that, Russia sent a swarm of more than 900 drones and dozens of missiles — killing at least 16 civilians, including three children — across Ukraine. On Monday, the Russian army sent a barrage of missiles deep into Ukrainian territory, hitting a training camp for soldiers and killing 12. The timing of these attacks appears to have been deliberately chosen. They came just ahead of the latest stage of peace talks — raising questions about whether such gestures are intended to strengthen each side's negotiating position or derail the process altogether.

It is not the first time that the two sides have stepped up attacks when talks have come up. Last year, precisely as Moscow and Kyiv were about to start negotiating a partial ceasefire, Ukraine launched its incursion into Kursk. The efforts to bring the two sides to the negotiating table fell through. This time, Russia chose to downplay Sunday's explosions deep inside its territory. The Russian Defence Ministry grudgingly acknowledged that "several units of aircraft caught fire", but made no

overt threat of retaliation. Rather than lodging a formal protest, Russian delegation members proceeded to Istanbul for negotiations with their Ukrainian counterparts.

On Monday, the two sides met and managed to reach agreement on two issues: a prisoner exchange of at least 1,000 soldiers each, and the possible return of 10 abducted Ukrainian children by the Russian authorities. There was no progress on a ceasefire agreement. It was clear that neither Moscow nor Kyiv was ready for serious talks.

The leadership in both capitals has its reasons for avoiding the order to put down weapons. Russian President Vladimir Putin has shown, time and again, that he will not allow others to dictate terms to him; he prefers to set them himself. As the principal architect of this war, he is getting everything he wants: expanding political influence, territorial gains, and a drawn-out conflict that bolsters his image at home. He seems ready to torment Ukraine for as long as either it — or he — survives.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, for his part, is not the kind of man to yield or retreat. Setting aside his courage and stubbornness, it's clear the war has given him what peace never could: enduring popularity, a steady flow of international aid, and a firm grip on power. If Ukrainians see a truce concluded with Russia as a form of capitulation, Zelensky's presidency might not last months — perhaps not even weeks. That danger weighs heavy on him.

Meanwhile, the West seems willing to supply resources to continue the war effort, which is giving Kyiv more confidence. On June 3, the Ukrainian army struck the Kerch Bridge in Crimea — a structure constructed by

••••• A week before that, Russia sent a swarm of more than 900 drones and dozens of missiles — killing at least 16 civilians, including three children — across Ukraine. On Monday, the Russian army sent a barrage of missiles deep into

Ukrainian territory, hitting a training camp for soldiers and killing 12. The timing of these attacks appears to have been deliberately chosen. They came just ahead of the latest stage of peace talks — raising questions about whether such gestures are intended to strengthen each side's negotiating position or derail the process altogether. It is not the first time that the two sides have stepped up attacks when talks have come up. Last year, precisely as Moscow and Kyiv were about to start negotiating a partial ceasefire, Ukraine launched its incursion into Kursk. The efforts to bring the two sides to the negotiating table fell through. This time, Russia chose to downplay Sunday's explosions deep inside its territory. The Russian Defence Ministry grudgingly acknowledged that "several units of aircraft caught fire", but made no overt threat of retaliation.

Rather than lodging a formal protest, Russian delegation members proceeded to Istanbul for negotiations with their Ukrainian counterparts. On Monday, the two sides met and managed to reach agreement on two issues: a prisoner exchange of at least 1,000 soldiers each, and the possible return of 10 abducted Ukrainian children by the Russian authorities. There was no progress on a ceasefire agreement. It was clear that neither Moscow nor Kyiv was ready for serious talks. The leadership in both capitals has its reasons for avoiding the order to put down weapons.

••••• \$7bn. Forty-one aircraft — about one-third of Russia's strategic bomber fleet — were hit. In parallel, two bridges collapsed in two Russian regions bordering Ukraine, derailing trains; the local authorities said they suspected sabotage. A week before that, Russia sent a swarm of more than 900 drones and dozens of missiles — killing at least 16 civilians, including three children — across Ukraine. On Monday, the Russian army sent a barrage of missiles deep into Ukrainian territory, hitting a training camp for soldiers and killing 12. The timing of these attacks appears to have been deliberately chosen. They came just ahead of the latest stage of peace talks — raising questions about whether such gestures are intended to strengthen each side's negotiating position or derail the process altogether.

It is not the first time that the two sides have stepped up attacks when talks have come up. Last year, precisely as Moscow and Kyiv were about to start negotiating a partial ceasefire, Ukraine launched its incursion into Kursk. The efforts to bring the two sides to the negotiating table fell through. This time, Russia chose to downplay Sunday's explosions deep inside its territory. The Russian Defence Ministry grudgingly acknowledged that "several units of aircraft caught fire", but made no

overt threat of retaliation. Rather than lodging a formal protest, Russian delegation members proceeded to Istanbul for negotiations with their Ukrainian counterparts. On Monday, the two sides met and managed to reach agreement on two issues: a prisoner exchange of at least 1,000 soldiers each, and the possible return of 10 abducted Ukrainian children by the Russian authorities. There was no progress on a ceasefire agreement. It was clear that neither Moscow nor Kyiv was ready for serious talks. The leadership in both capitals has its reasons for avoiding the order to put down weapons.

••••• \$7bn. Forty-one aircraft — about one-third of Russia's strategic bomber fleet — were hit. In parallel, two bridges collapsed in two Russian regions bordering Ukraine, derailing trains; the local authorities said they suspected sabotage. A week before that, Russia sent a swarm of more than 900 drones and dozens of missiles — killing at least 16 civilians, including three children — across Ukraine. On Monday, the Russian army sent a barrage of missiles deep into Ukrainian territory, hitting a training camp for soldiers and killing 12. The timing of these attacks appears to have been deliberately chosen. They came just ahead of the latest stage of peace talks — raising questions about whether such gestures are intended to strengthen each side's negotiating position or derail the process altogether.

It is not the first time that the two sides have stepped up attacks when talks have come up. Last year, precisely as Moscow and Kyiv were about to start negotiating a partial ceasefire, Ukraine launched its incursion into Kursk. The efforts to bring the two sides to the negotiating table fell through. This time, Russia chose to downplay Sunday's explosions deep inside its territory. The Russian Defence Ministry grudgingly acknowledged that "several units of aircraft caught fire", but made no

Musk joins Trump in playing legislative arsonist

FOR years, congressional Republicans have dealt with a president in Donald Trump who isn't terribly engaged in (or often seemingly aware of) the day-to-day legislative battles – right up until the point he decides to make a splash.

Sometimes, they'll gently suggest he might get involved in the process a little earlier. Often, he waits and then just blows up the whole thing, forcing lawmakers to scramble to address his whims. As far back as 2018, I compared Trump to a legislative "arsonist."

It's a tough enough situation for GOP lawmakers as it is.

But now they apparently have two billionaire legislative arsonists leading their movement.

Elon Musk on Tuesday afternoon lit into what Trump's calling his "Big, Beautiful Bill," which is largely devoted to extending his tax cuts. The bill has tested the tolerance of both fiscal conservatives who are worried about it ballooning the national debt and Republicans who want to protect Medicaid, which the House GOP's version targets for significant cuts.

And Musk wasn't content to just express his opposition. He went so far as to call it a "disgusting abomination" that explodes the debt – contrary to GOP leaders' and the White House's claims. He accused Republicans who support it of knowing better. And he even suggested those who run afoul of him could find themselves targeted in the 2026 election.

"It will massively increase the already gigantic budget deficit to \$2.5 trillion (!!!) and burden America citizens with crushingly unsustainable debt," Musk posted on his social media platform X. He also wrote: "Shame on those who voted for it: you know you did wrong. You know it."

While Musk has gently expressed his concerns about Trump's tariffs, broken with some Trump allies on visas for highly skilled workers, and even said he was "disappointed" by the "Big, Beautiful Bill" before, this is something else entirely. It's Musk taking his chainsaw to what is likely to be the GOP's most significant

legislative effort of the current Congress – and Trump's agenda – out of nowhere.

Musk, who left his role as a special government employee just days ago, has a lot at stake as a businessman — something House Speaker Mike Johnson suggested could be behind the Tesla CEO's

After Trump's election in November, Musk played perhaps the biggest role in abruptly torpedoing a bipartisan bill to prevent a government shutdown. The billionaire did this even as Trump had been keeping his powder dry up until that point. It led plenty to wonder who was really in charge. The Trump team claimed it was aligned with Musk, but why had Musk suddenly taken the lead on this? Musk's missive back then was remarkable for how quickly it marshalled conservative opposition and caused Republican officeholders to respond – often pleadingly. It called to mind the many instances in which Trump suddenly inserted himself into legislative battles at the 11th hour and shook them up. (Indeed, even on that specific bill, Trump decided very late in the process to demand the package include a debt-ceiling increase – a request that came out of left field and left Republicans wondering why he didn't speak up earlier.) But this is different than in December. This time, Republicans have pursued their own bill focused on Trump's tax cuts (rather than a must-pass bill to keep the government open) that is aimed at winning the president's approval. And Trump has praised their efforts. Earlier on Tuesday, he saw fit to go hard after one of the bill's chief GOP critics, Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky, whose concerns align with Musk's. Trump's push for the bill has created a situation in which there is a much more in-your-face tension between his and Musk's positions than ever before – with no obvious way forward for the MAGA movement. There is plenty to play out with the bill, and virtually nobody thought the House-passed package that Musk was criticizing Tuesday would be the final result.

outburst.

"I know that the [electric vehicle] mandate – very important to him. That is going away, because the government should not be subsidizing these things as part of the Green New Deal. And I know that has an effect on his business. And I lament that," he said.

This is the second time Musk has done something like this.

After Trump's election in November, Musk played perhaps the biggest role in abruptly torpedoing a bipartisan bill to prevent a government shutdown.

The billionaire did this even as Trump had been keeping his powder dry up until that point. It led plenty to wonder who was really in charge. The Trump team claimed it was aligned with Musk, but why had Musk suddenly taken the lead on this?

Musk's missive back then was remarkable for how quickly it marshalled conservative opposition and caused Republican officeholders to respond – often pleadingly. It called to mind the many instances in which Trump suddenly inserted himself into legislative battles at the 11th hour and shook them up.

(Indeed, even on that specific bill, Trump decided very late in the process to demand the package

Aaron Blake

include a debt-ceiling increase – a request that came out of left field and left Republicans wondering why he didn't speak up earlier.)

But this is different than in December. This time, Republicans have pursued their own bill focused on

Trump's tax cuts (rather than a must-pass bill to keep the government open) that is aimed at winning the president's approval. And Trump has praised their efforts. Earlier on Tuesday, he saw fit to go hard after one of the bill's chief GOP critics, Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky, whose concerns align with Musk's. Trump's push for the bill has created a situation in which there is a much more in-your-face tension between his and Musk's positions than ever before – with no obvious way forward for the MAGA movement. There is plenty to play out with the bill, and virtually nobody thought the House-passed package that Musk was criticizing Tuesday would be the final result.

the GOP's recent tea party past. Similar to the December showdown, on Tuesday we saw all kinds of Republicans suddenly feel compelled to reckon with Musk's attack. A few critics and skeptics of the bill doubled down.

It remains to be seen how much pull Musk's efforts have with individual senators, given his and DOGE's unpopularity and the fact that he's no longer officially part of the administration. He's also a relative newcomer to conservative politics, and his effort to go at Trump could alienate some of his new-found allies. But polling also shows he retains significant pull within the GOP base; a late-April New York Times/Siena College poll showed 77% of Republicans had a favorable opinion of him, and 44% were "very favorable." He has also proven willing to unleash many tens of millions of dollars on political campaigns.

It certainly throws a wrench in the GOP's attempts to unify behind Trump's legislative agenda. Republicans already have narrow majorities, especially in the House. But they seemed to be moving past the gridlock that dogged their side during the Biden administration, thanks to the common causes that are loyal-

vative concerns about the cost of the package. A handful of Republicans like Paul, Sen. Ron Johnson of Wisconsin and House Freedom Caucus members have been making that case, but none of them come close to Musk's heft. It's not difficult to see this awakening some of what remains of

ty to Trump and their fear of running afoul of him.

Now, though, they have two rather unwieldy and unpredictable billionaires with relatively little legislative know-how, huge followings and unsteady whims to worry about.

(A case in point: Musk called the package a "pork-filled Congressional spending bill," but the reason the bill is expensive isn't earmarks or "pork," but rather the tax-cut extension.)

And those two figures' goals increasingly appear to be at cross purposes.

It was always a somewhat uneasy marriage between Trump and Musk. Musk's whole thing is cutting spending and reining in the federal government; he's basically fashioned himself a throwback to the tea party conservatives of the 2010 era. But that's never been much of a priority for Trump, who talks about cutting spending but rarely makes it a priority. (Even while saying goodbye to Musk last week, Trump decided to talk about abolishing the debt ceiling.)

The two seemed to meet in the middle because Musk's efforts to wreck shop with his DOGE cuts overlapped with Trump's efforts to transform the federal government into a more Trump-loyal institution. But DOGE quickly became a liability, and now the two men's relationship is being tested.

Musk hasn't been terribly subtle about the fact that he disagrees with much of what Trump is doing. In a CBS News interview that aired Sunday, he suggested he was holding back on saying too much.

"I'm a little stuck in a bind, where I'm like, well, I don't want to, you know, speak up against the administration," Musk said, "but I also don't want to take responsibility for everything this administration's doing."

In the course of a few days, Musk decided not just to speak up, but to severely complicate the GOP's legislative prospects. And to the extent he plans to keep wielding his influence like this, the party now needs contend with two huge variables that can suddenly change the calculation at any given time.

And it was hard enough with just one.

UK defense review points to an exposed West

Mohamed Chebaro

whims of tech tycoons such as Elon Musk for the continuous supply of satellite networks such as Starlink, not only to fly its drones but also to keep hospital operating theaters online.

If anything, the review has exposed the slowness of successive governments in the UK and elsewhere in grasping the scale of the menace posed by hybrid forms of warfare, from malicious disinformation and troll farms that seek to influence and radicalize to cyberattacks, the weaponization of migrants and street gangs of underage, radicalized actors that aim to disrupt, distort,

the weaponization of migrants and street gangs of underage, radicalized actors that aim to disrupt, distort,

The review, commissioned by Prime Minister Keir Starmer immediately after he took office last July, has the specter of US President Donald Trump written all over it. Britain and Europe are now having to take responsibility for their own security, while being at the mercy of an emboldened Russia that has brought war back to Europe after 80 years of relative peace. The delay of taking the UK's defense spending beyond 3 percent of gross domestic product, which will not happen until after the next general election, put a dent in the country's efforts to modernize its military, which has been starved of funding by years of austerity, economic mismanagement and the self-inflicted wound of Brexit. What the review does do, however, is present a table of critical threats faced by nations in the West, and not just the UK. They range from the obvious: Russia, which is seen as an "immediate and pressing" threat, the "sophisticated and persistent challenge" of China, and Iran and North Korea as mere disruptors. The less obvious and more complex threats mentioned include the climate emergency, the US' "change in security priorities" and the potential for adversaries to sabotage undersea cables.

overwhelm or sabotage.

What the UK's strategic review does not tell us is how modern Western societal models can be mobilized. Mobilizing industry in the private sector is easy, as all companies yearn to win lucrative government procurement contracts. But the mobilization of troops needs the state to meet the aspirations of its people and to convince youngsters of the sacrifices needed.

The question is whether the government will be able to articulate the threats and convince a capitalist society of a doctrine of "one for all and all for one," which is nonexistent today. The strategic review's downfall could be any failure to persuade citizens that everyone must play their part to help keep the lights on and the internet working. Above all, they must believe in the national narrative as spelt out by the government in an era of fake news and competing narratives.

This review has identified the threats of today, but they could change tomorrow. The challenge is whether the government is capable of building the systems needed to neutralize the threats of both today and tomorrow.

The easy part might be,

as per the plan accepted by the government, for Britain to expand its fleet of attack submarines, which are nuclear-powered but carry conventional munitions. The government is to spend nearly £20 billion (\$27 billion) by 2029 to pay for the replacement of the UK's nuclear warheads for its main nuclear fleet, as well as building six new munitions production factories, procuring up to 7,000 British-made long-range weapons and building a new communications system that is battlefield-capable.

This is in addition to a new Cyber and Electromagnetic Command that will lead defensive and offensive cyber capabilities.

ties. This was prompted because the British military has faced more than 90,000 so-called sub-threshold attacks over the past two years.

Of course, the difficult part is finding the money. But no less important is persuading the British youth to fight, which might be a difficult mountain to climb. Without them on board and recognizing the threat, the review will be doomed, especially as the UK's army is currently the smallest in Europe at 70,860, the fewest troops it has had since the Napoleonic era.

Despite its military's limited size and the budget cuts of recent years, the UK still ranks as one of Europe's leading military powers and its troops have been actively defending NATO's eastern flank, while its navy maintains a presence in the Indo-Pacific.

While the UK has acknowledged the mountain of security adversities piling up, its efforts to spend in order to defend itself risk pushing militarism to the brink and making any moves to return to multilateralism even more elusive in this changing world with its conflictive superpowers.

Why ‘Kill the Boer’ still echoes: It’s not hate, it’s hunger for justice

ON May 25, Julius Malema, the fire-brand leader of South Africa's Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF), closed his campaign rally at the Mminara Sports Ground in Kwakwatsi, Free State, as he often does: by singing his favourite anti-apartheid struggle anthem, "Dubul' ibhunu". Sung in Xhosa, the song translates to "Kill the Boer" or "Kill the farmer" and has long sparked controversy in South Africa and abroad. In recent weeks, the controversy has flared up once again.

Just four days earlier, on May 21, during a tense meeting at the White House with South African President Cyril Ramaphosa, United States President Donald Trump played a video of Malema and his supporters chanting the song. He claimed it was proof of a "white genocide" in South Africa and demanded Ramaphosa explain "that man's" conduct.

Yet Malema has been singing this song publicly since 2010. There is no white genocide occurring in South Africa. In fact, in August 2022, the country's Equality Court ruled that the song does not constitute hate speech. By performing it again in Kwakwatsi, Malema was clearly seizing an opportunity to capitalise on Trump's misleading allegations and the global media attention they

brought. The disproportionate attention granted to Malema by Trump and his ally Elon Musk obscures a deeper, more urgent reality: millions of Black South Africans, like many across the continent, are crying out for meaningful socioeconomic change and long-overdue justice for the enduring legacies of colonialism and apartheid.

They are calling for a modern revolution.

Nothing illustrates this more than the EFF's platform. Its policies centre on economic transformation, including land expropriation without compensation and the nationalisation of mines. The party embraces Black nationalism and pan-Africanism, supports Russia in its standoff with NATO, and positions itself in opposition to perceived Western dominance.

While the EFF's agenda is bold and Afrocentric, it is hardly new. Decades before the EFF's founding on July 26, 2013, the Pan Africanist Congress of Azania (PAC), a radical anti-apartheid movement, championed many of the same ideals.

Founded on April 6, 1959, by a group that split from the African National Congress (ANC), the PAC was led by Robert Sobukwe, an intellectual, pan-Africanist, and activist. At the party's launch, Sobukwe famously said,

"The Africanists take the view that there is only one race to which we all belong, and that is the human race."

The PAC advocated for the return of land to

Yet Malema has been singing this song publicly since 2010. There is no white genocide occurring in South Africa. In fact, in August 2022, the country's Equality Court ruled that the song does not constitute hate speech. By performing it again in Kwakwatsi, Malema was clearly seizing an opportunity to capitalise on Trump's misleading allegations and the global media attention they brought. The disproportionate attention granted to Malema by Trump and his ally Elon Musk obscures a deeper, more urgent reality: millions of Black South Africans, like many across the continent, are crying out for meaningful socioeconomic change and long-overdue justice for the enduring legacies of colonialism and apartheid. They are calling for a modern revolution. Nothing illustrates this more than the EFF's platform. Its policies centre on economic transformation, including land expropriation without compensation and the nationalisation of mines. The party embraces Black nationalism and pan-Africanism, supports Russia in its standoff with NATO, and positions itself in opposition to perceived Western dominance. While the EFF's agenda is bold and Afrocentric, it is hardly new. Decades before the EFF's founding on July 26, 2013, the Pan Africanist Congress of Azania (PAC), a radical anti-apartheid movement, championed many of the same ideals. Founded on April 6, 1959, by a group that split from the African National Congress (ANC), the PAC was led by Robert Sobukwe, an intellectual, pan-Africanist, and activist. At the party's launch, Sobukwe famously said,

Indigenous Africans, asserting that it had been unjustly seized by white settlers. This view – that land dispossession lies at the heart of South

Tafi Mhaka

Africa's historical injustice – has only recently begun to be addressed by the ANC through the Expropriation Act 13 of

2024, signed into law by Ramaphosa on February 23. South African history is rich with visions for African renewal. Sobukwe's philosophy laid the groundwork for what is often mischaracterised today as "radical economic transformation". Steve Biko's Black Consciousness Movement in the 1970s instilled pride and self-determination. In the late 1990s, President Thabo Mbeki championed the African Renaissance – a cultural, scientific, and economic revival aimed at decolonising African minds and institutions. Malema is not a theoretical pioneer, but he is a potent political vessel for the ideas long espoused by Sobukwe, Biko, and Mbeki. Much like elsewhere

retical pioneer, but he is a potent political vessel for the ideas long espoused by Sobukwe, Biko, and Mbeki.

Much like elsewhere

Mbeki championed the African Renaissance – a cultural, scientific, and economic revival aimed at decolonising African minds and institutions.

Malema is not a theo-

retical pioneer, but he is a potent political vessel for the ideas long espoused by Sobukwe, Biko, and Mbeki.

Much like elsewhere

retical pioneer, but he is a potent political vessel for the ideas long espoused by Sobukwe, Biko, and Mbeki.

Much like elsewhere

retical pioneer, but he is a potent political vessel for the ideas long espoused by Sobukwe, Biko, and Mbeki.

Much like elsewhere

Much like elsewhere

[illegible]



In brief

Karate talent shines

RAWALPINDI (APP): Tanveer Ahmed, Secretary of the Rawalpindi District Karate Association, said that Rawalpindi has immense talent in karate, with young players performing brilliantly at national and international levels, bringing pride to Pakistan. Speaking to APP, he shared that the association is encouraging local players by providing quality training facilities to improve their technical and physical skills. "The association regularly organizes tournaments to give young athletes opportunities to showcase their abilities. These events help build players' confidence, allowing them to compete better in national and international competitions", he said. He informed that Rawalpindi's girls' team won first place in the Central Punjab Karate Championship in Sargodha. In the Under-14 category, player Adeel also secured first place with an outstanding performance. Sharing further details, he said that at the Qauid-e-Azam Games Karate event, Rawalpindi won three gold medals, two by the girls' team and one by the boys' team marking a major achievement. It is noteworthy that the National Karate Championship will be held at the end of June, and preparations in this regard are in full swing in Rawalpindi. Additionally, the Rawalpindi District Karate Association will host three major tournaments in July, August, and September to promote new talent and provide more opportunities for players.

PBSA chairman meets IPC secretary

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Pakistan Billiards & Snooker Association (PBSA) Chairman, Alamgir A. Shaikh, met with the Secretary Sports, Ministry of Inter Provincial Coordination (IPC) Mohyuddin Ahmad Wani here at Pakistan Sports Board on Wednesday. Secretary Sports IPC assured all support to snooker sports Snooker federation. The chairman, Alamgir A Shaikh requested the Secretary Sports IPC for the release of Annual & Special grant of the Pakistan Snooker Federation, said a press release. 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. The chairman Alamgir A 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 in Islamabad. The Chairman discuss the pending issues and problems faced by PBS, the DG PSB, patiently 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.

Spain target Nations League defence

BARCELONA (AFP): Spain are aiming to become the first side to defend the Nations League trophy, with Luis de la Fuente's side going from strength to strength on the international stage ahead of next year's World Cup. The coach enjoys recalling La Roja's triumph at the 2023 tournament, which was an early sign that a young Spain side were heading back to the top. It proved the springboard to Euro 2024 glory and De la Fuente wants to continue Spain's resurgence by retaining it this summer in Germany.

Aqeel Khan wins National Ranking Tennis C'ships title



ISLAMABAD (APP): Aqeel Khan bagged the men's singles title of the 1st Emerging Pakistan National Ranking Tennis Championships 2025 here at the PTF-SDA Tennis Complex on Wednesday.

Organized by the Pakistan Tennis Federation (PTF), this inaugural edition saw more than 200 players compete across six categories: Men's Singles, Men's Doubles, Ladies' Singles, Boys' Under-18 Singles, Boys' Under-14 Singles, and Boys' Under-12 Singles. A total prize pool of PKR 1.5 million was awarded to winners and runners-up, including travel allowances.

In Men's Singles Final, seasoned tennis veteran Aqeel Khan triumphed over the formidable Muzammil Murtaza in a thrilling three-set contest: 6-2, 6-7(5), 6-3.

Aqeel started strong, quickly securing a 3-0 lead and capturing the first set 6-2 through consistent pressure and precise shot-making.

Muzammil responded admirably in the second set, adjusting his game and forcing a tiebreaker, which he clinched with grit and composure. In the decisive third set, Aqeel's experience proved vital; he tactically outmaneuvered Muzammil to claim a hard-

fought 6-3 victory and the championship title.

Jam Kamal Khan, Federal Minister for Commerce, graced the ceremony as Chief Guest and distributed trophies among the winners and runners-up. Also in attendance were Mohyuddin Ahmad Wani, Secretary IPC and Guest of Honor; Muhammad Atif Fayyaz, Chief Coordinator; Aisam-ul-Haq Qureshi, President of the Pakistan Tennis Federation (PTF); and Col. (R) Zia-ud-Din Tufail, Secretary PTF.

During his address, Aisam-ul-Haq Qureshi extended heartfelt thanks to the honorable Minister for sponsoring this landmark event. He expressed his optimism that the championship would serve as a foundation for future tournaments, including a forthcoming edition planned in Quetta, Balochistan. He also acknowledged the invaluable support of Secretary IPC, appreciating his deep passion for sports and his continued interest in the activities and progress of the Pakistan Tennis Federation.

In his remarks, Federal Minister Jam Kamal Khan commended the efforts of the PTF President for revitalizing the sport of tennis in Pakistan. He noted that,

as a celebrated sportsman himself, Aisam-ul-Haq Qureshi possesses a unique understanding of the game's intricacies and is deeply familiar with the challenges faced by the tennis community.

The Minister emphasized his satisfaction in seeing an athlete of Aisam's stature take a leadership role in shaping the future of tennis and sports more broadly in Pakistan.

He assured full support from his ministry to help the PTF President realize his vision and goals for the development of the sport nationwide.

Men's Singles (Final): Aqeel Khan beat Muzammil Murtaza 6-2 6-7(5), 6-3.

Ladies Singles (Final): Ushna Suhail beat Zunaisha Noor 6-2 6-1.

Men's Doubles (Final): Aisam-ul-Haq Qureshi & Aqeel Khan beat Abdullah Adnan & Muzammil Murtaza 6-2 4-6 10-7.

Junior 18 & Under Singles (Final): AbuBakar Talha beat Muhammad Salar 6-1 6-3.

Boys 14 & Under Singles Final: Muhammad Junaid beat Muhammad Muaz 6-7(3) 6-1 6-1.

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

England defender Bright rules herself out of Women's Euros

LONDON (AFP): England defender Millie Bright on Wednesday ruled herself out of selection for next month's women's Euros, saying she is "not able to give 100 percent mentally or physically".

The 31-year-old, who captained the Lionesses to their first World Cup final in 2023, last week pulled out of Sarina Wiegman's Nations League squad to take an "extended period of recovery".

"This is one of the hardest decisions I've ever had to make, but after careful thought and discussions with my team, I have decided to withdraw from selection for the England squad ahead of Euro 2025," the Chelsea captain posted on Instagram.

"Football has given me so much, and representing my country has always been my greatest honour. My pride and ego tells me to go but I think the team and the fans deserve more. Right now I am not able to give 100 percent mentally or physically.

"As much as I want to be



out there running through brick walls for England and fighting alongside my teammates, stepping back is the right thing for my health, my future in the game and most importantly the team."

Bright said it would not be fair to take the place of another player "who is ready and able to give everything for the badge and country". The centre-back, capped 88 times for England, won a domestic treble with Chelsea during the 2024/25 season.

Her withdrawal follows the shock international retirement of goalkeeper Mary Earps and the announcement on Tuesday that playmaker Fran Kirby was calling time on her

England career after learning she was unlikely to make Wiegman's squad for the Euros in Switzerland.

All three started every game when England secured their first major silverware at their home Euros in 2022.

The Lionesses were knocked out of the Nations League with a 2-1 group-stage defeat to Spain on Tuesday. Wiegman is expected to announce her squad for the Euros on Thursday, with their title defence beginning on July 5 against France.

Current and former England teammates offered their support in the comments section of Bright's post, including England and Arsenal forward Chloe Kelly, who wrote "proud of you always", while Aston Villa striker Rachel Daly said: "Couldn't be more proud. With you through EVERYTHING my girl."

A message from the official Lionesses account read: "We're all with you, Millie."

Babar Azam out of top 10 in ICC T20I rankings after eight years

LAHORE (Monitoring Desk): Pakistan's batting icon Babar Azam has fallen out of the top 10 for the first time in eight years, slipping three spots to 12th place. The former captain's dip comes amid his absence from international T20s and modest domestic form, marking a symbolic shift in the country's cricketing landscape.

Babar's last T20I appearance came in January, where he managed three consecutive fifties against South Africa, only to falter with single-digit scores against West Indies. Despite scoring 288 runs at an average of 36.00 in the recent Pakistan Super League (PSL), his strike rate of 128.57 did little to secure his spot in the revamped national squad under new skipper Agha Salman.

Teammates Mohammad Rizwan and Fakhar Zaman also experienced ranking slumps. Rizwan is now at 13th, just behind Babar, while Fakhar plummeted 10 places to 87th.

However, Pakistan's younger guns seem to be seizing the moment. The team's 3-0 series whitewash over Bangladesh has propelled several fresh faces up the rankings. Mohammad Harris made a jaw-dropping jump of 210 places to 30th, following his blistering century, the second-fastest by a Pakistani in T20Is. Rising talent Hasan Nawaz climbed 57 spots to 45th, while Saim Ayub and Agha Salman also registered notable improvements.

In bowling, Abbas Afridi moved up 18 places to 19th, solidifying his presence as a fast-rising threat. Vice-captain Shadab Khan and Abrar Ahmed both landed at 59th after impressive gains, though Shaheen Afridi, Harris Rauf, and Naseem Shah saw declines.

Globally, New Zealand's Jacob Duffy tops the bowling charts, with West Indies' Akeal Hosein and India's Varun Chakaravorthy rounding off the top three.

Sargodha hosts Inter-District Girls Hockey Championship

LAHORE (APP): The Divisional Sports Department on Wednesday organised Inter-District Girls Hockey Championship under the Chief Minister Punjab Summer Games 2025 here at the Hockey Ground.

Former MNA Hamid Hameed attended the event as Chief guest while Mrs. Hamid Hameed, Tahira Khichi, and Dr. Atiq Rehman were also present.

Teams from all four districts participated in the event, which was conducted under a league system.

Mianwali district emerged as the champion of the tournament by securing the first position, while Khushab district took second place. Chief Organizer of the Chief Minister Punjab Summer Games 2025, District Sports Officer Saima Manzoor praised the initiative of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif to promote sports and talent at the local level.

"The winners will represent their districts in a tournament to be held in Lahore", she added.

Stead to step down as New Zealand head coach

WELLINGTON (Agencies): New Zealand head coach Gary Stead will step down from the role when his contract expires at the end of the month.

The 53-year-old had already said he would quit as coach of the Black Caps' one-day international and T20 sides, but had remained interested in coaching the Test team.

However, New Zealand Cricket decided they want one head coach across all three formats, which effectively ruled Stead out of the Test job. Stead, a former top-order batter who played five Tests for the Kiwis, succeeded Mike Hesson in August 2018 and oversaw a period of success.

The highlight was guiding New Zealand to the inaugural World Test Championship in 2021 where they defeated India in the final. He was also in charge of the white-ball



teams which reached the finals of the 2019 50-over World Cup, 2022 T20 World Cup and the Champions Trophy in 2024.

Stead said he still has the "coaching bug" and will "look to explore opportunities at home and abroad". "There's been some amazing memories over the past seven years based around a group of fantastic and talented people who have gone out to give their best for their country, each other and for the fans," he said.

"For a country with five million people and limited resources, we comparatively perform outstandingly

well against the other powerhouses of the game.

"It's been nice to be competitive across all three formats and I'd like to think that regardless of results, the opposition know the Black Caps are a team that won't fold and will always show the grit and determination to compete."

Stead took charge of 268 matches across all formats with 147 victories, 100 defeats, six draws, six ties and nine matches with no result. Former New Zealand captain Kane Williamson said Stead "gave absolutely everything" to the Kiwi cause.

"There was no one more hard working and passionate about seeing the Black Caps grow and succeed," added Williamson. "He was always thorough in his planning and preparation and will go down as one of our best coaches, but an even better bloke."

Snooker Champion Babar Masih awaits for cash rewards

ISLAMABAD (APP): International snooker champion Babar Masih has appealed to Adviser to the Prime Minister Rana Sanaullah seeking for financial rewards for his medal wins, citing a lack of support from stakeholders despite numerous achievements.

Speaking at a press conference at the residence of J. Salik, Convener of the World Minorities Alliance and former federal minister, Masih expressed his gratitude for Rana Sanaullah's efforts in improving sports activities since taking over the Ministry of Inter Provincial Coordination (IPC).

Masih requested Sanaullah to help him in this regard, acknowledging the official's kind

nature. He also reached out to Pakistan Sports Board Director General Yasir Pirzada, who has been working to uplift sports in the country, to look into the matter.

Babar revealed that he has won four gold and as many silver and bronze medals in international championships but he has not been awarded any cash prize for the medals.

"I won a gold medal in 1st Asian Billiard Sports Championship 2016, Al-Fujairah, UAE; IBSF 6 Red & Team Snooker Championships 2017, Sahi Hashish, Egypt; 6th Asian Team & 7th 6 Red Snooker Championships 2018, Doha, Qatar and 7th Asian Team & 8th 6 Red Snooker Championships 2019, Doha, Qatar," he said.

Babar said he won silver medals in 5th Asian Team & 6th 6 Red Snooker Championships 2017, Kyrgyzstan; 1st IBSF Word Team Cup 2018, Doha, Qatar; 7th Asian Team & 8th 6 Red Snooker Championships 2019, Doha, Qatar and IBSF/ Qatar 6 Red Snooker World Cup 2021, Doha, Qatar.

"I have been the semi-finalists in IBSF World Team Event Snooker Championships 2015, Karachi, Pakistan; IBSF 6 Red & Team Snooker Championships 2017, Sahi Hashish, Egypt; 6th Asian Team & 7th 6 Red Snooker Championships 2018, Doha, Qatar and 35th Asian Snooker Championship 2019, Doha, Qatar," he said.

‘Not Correct’ to single out Khelif in sex test announcement

PARIS (AFP): World Boxing on Wednesday apologised to the Algerian federation saying it had been incorrect to name boxer Imane Khelif in a statement issued last Friday," the body said.

World Boxing, it continued, "has written personally to the president of the Algerian Boxing Federation to offer a formal and sincere apology which acknowledges that greater effort should have been made to avoid linking the policy to any individual".

Under the new policy, all athletes over 18 that want to participate in a World Boxing owned or sanctioned competition will need to undergo a PCR, or polymerase chain reaction genetic test, to determine what sex they were at birth and their eligibility to compete.

The PCR test is a laboratory technique used to detect specific genetic material, in this case the SRY gene, that reveals the presence of the Y chromosome, which is an indicator of biological sex.

The test can be conducted by a nasal or mouth swab, or by taking a sample of saliva or blood. National federations will

be responsible for testing and will be required to confirm the sex of their athletes when entering them into World Boxing competitions by producing certification of their chromosomal sex, as determined by a PCR test.

Khelif's success at the Paris Olympics, along with that of Taiwan's Lin Yuting, sparked a raging gender eligibility debate, with high-profile figures such as US President Donald Trump and Elon Musk weighing in.

Khelif and Lin were disqualified from the International Boxing Association's 2023 world championships after the organisation, the long-standing governing body of amateur boxing, said they had failed gender eligibility tests.

The IOC has severed links with the IBA over financial, governance and ethical concerns. The IBA is led by the Kremlin-linked Russian Umar Kremlev. Last month the IOC provisionally recognised World Boxing as the body to oversee the sport at future Games.

Jannik Sinner into semi-finals with ruthless Bublik win

PARIS (Agencies): Top seed Jannik Sinner cruised into the French Open semi-finals with a ruthless straight-set victory over Alexander Bublik, bringing the Kazakh's remarkable run in Paris to an end.

The Italian was in imperious form and is still yet to drop a set at Roland Garros as he won 6-1 7-5 6-0.

Sinner is hunting a first major title on the Paris clay having previously only gone as far as the last four, losing a five-set thriller to Carlos Alcaraz last year.

World number 62 Bublik has enjoyed something of a career rejuvenation at the French major, but shook his head and smiled ruefully as he was unable to find any answers to Sinner picking apart his unconventional style.

"We have faced each other a few times so I know him quite

well, but with him [Bublik] you never know what's happening," said Sinner.

"He deserves to be in the quarter-finals, he beat very tough players. I tried to stay focused on my side and play as solidly as possible because he can have ups and downs so I tried to stay consistent."

Victory extended Sinner's winning run at the majors to 19 matches after triumphs at last year's US Open and the Australian Open in January.

He will meet either sixth seed Novak Djokovic or German third seed Alexander Zverev in the last four. They face each other at 19:15 BST on Wednesday, after Carlos Alcaraz and Lorenzo Musetti booked a showdown in the other semi-final.

After a drizzly morning with the roof on on Court Philippe-Chatrier, the sun was back out

and the roof off when three-time Grand Slam champion Sinner took to the court and he needed only one hour and 51 minutes to dismantle Bublik.

After what he described as a "disgraceful" period in his career, Bublik's surprise run at



the French Open - in which he became the first Kazakh to reach a Grand Slam quarter-final - has seen him return to the top 50 in the rankings.

Refreshed from a recent trip to Las Vegas which proved to be a turning point in his form,

Bublik has enjoyed the best run of his career at Roland Garros and said his win over British number one Jack Draper in round four was the "best moment of my life".

His unorthodox approach to professional tennis - he has frequently discussed his complicated and frequently unhappy relationship with the sport - has allowed him to approach the French Open with freedom and enjoyment.

But a match against world number one Sinner for a place in the last four proved a bridge too far for the charismatic Bublik.

Sinner dominated the opening set, completely overpowering his opponent, and Bublik smiled with relief when he managed to hold at 5-0 to prevent a first-set bagel.

A tightly contested second set followed, with Bublik able

to find some of the shots that stunned Draper last time out. But while it was an improvement on set one, he failed to conjure a break point and a double fault at 5-5 to concede a break of serve was a sickening blow as Sinner's pinpoint serve sealed the second set.

Normal service resumed for Sinner in the third set as he ruthlessly picked apart Bublik's game, chasing down the drop shots that had proved so successful against Draper two days ago and returning his powerful forehand with ease.

Sinner rattled through the set in just 27 minutes, forcing the errors to break three times with another untimely double fault providing the platform for the world number one to move to 5-0 before putting the match to bed with a nonchalant cross-court forehand winner.



In brief

IRSA releases 235,157 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Wednesday released 235,157 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 168,877 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, the water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1469.32 feet which was 67.32 feet higher than dead level of 1402.00 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 81,400 cusecs and 155,900 cusecs respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1163.75 feet, which was 113.75 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 33,220 cusecs and 25,000 cusecs, respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded as 179,698, 153,583, 115,359 and 66,827 cusecs, respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 23,300 cusecs of water released at Nowshera and 3737 cusecs released from River Chenab at Marala.

Two absconders among 12 held

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police, Secretariat, Sumbal, Sangjani, Sabzi Mandi, Noon and Nilore police station teams arrested 10 accused involved in different criminal activities and recovered 38 gram ice and nine pistols with ammunition from their possession on Wednesday. An official 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 two criminals. Following the special directions of Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi the Islamabad Police continues its effective crackdown against crime and criminal elements to ensure the peace and tranquility in the federal capital. IG Rizvi said Islamabad Police is committed to protecting the lives and property of the residents and no elements will be allowed to disturb public peace. Ensuring peace and protecting citizens remains the top priority of Islamabad Police, he added.

12 outlaws arrested

ISLAMABAD (PPI): In a significant breakthrough, the Islamabad Police on Wednesday claimed to have apprehended 12 criminals, including two fugitives, during a widespread operation targeting criminal activity across the city. This operation, spanning multiple police jurisdictions including Secretariat, Sumbal, Sangjani, Sabzi Mandi, Noon, and Nilore, resulted in the confiscation of 38 grams of illegal drugs and nine firearms complete with ammunition. Law enforcement agencies have filed criminal charges against those detained, and investigations are actively underway to further dismantle criminal networks. This decisive action followed a directive from Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, emphasizing a relentless pursuit of justice and maintenance of public order in the federal capital. The campaign also focused on capturing notorious offenders and absconders, with police units achieving success by apprehending two more criminals. This initiative underscores the Islamabad Police's unwavering dedication to safeguarding its citizens and upholding peace.

IRS hosts high-level discussion on Azerbaijan-Pakistan ties

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Institute of Regional Studies (IRS) convened a high-level discussion titled "Azerbaijan-Pakistan Relations Post-Pahalgam: Imperatives for Regional Peace", featuring Ambassador Jauhar Saleem, President of the Institute of Regional Studies and Dr. Fariz Ismailzade, Vice Rector of ADA University in Baku, member of the Azerbaijan Parliament, and Director of the Institute for Development and Diplomacy.

The discussion was held against the backdrop of the Pahalgam Incident, a watershed moment in South Asian security calculus, which has injected new urgency into regional diplomacy, and it explored as to how the development is likely to influence Pakistan's regional posture and Azerbaijan's foreign policy nuances, said a press release issued on Wednesday.

President IRS, highlighted the strengths of Azerbaijan and Pakistan's deep rooted ties, with a particular emphasis on the ongoing energy cooperation, including Azerbaijan's stakes in LNG supplies and poten-



tial for diversification. Ambassador Saleem also brought out India's illegal, post-Pahalgam aggression, and underscored Pakistan's responsible and mature stance on the issue.

Dr. Ismailzade noted that Pakistan and Azerbaijan have significantly ramped up their defense cooperation in recent years, and credited Pakistan for advancing Baku's contemporary defense industrial needs. He also underlined Pakistan's support in helping Baku liberate occupied lands in Karabakh, and saw substantive growth in business-to-business interactions in the aftermath of the Pahalgam incident.

"Turkiye, Pakistan and

Azerbaijan are pivotal countries in Greater Eurasia," said Dr. Ismailzade, highlighting the central support of Azerbaijan and Turkiye for Pakistan during India's post-Pahalgam aggression.

The discussion featured a comprehensive assessment of bilateral cooperation across political, defense, economic, and cultural domains. Strategic implications of the Pahalgam Incident and the evolving security architecture in South and Central Asiawere also major points of focus, alongside bilateral opportunities for enhanced collaboration in defense technology, counter-terrorism, energy trade, investment and connectivity.

Moroccan govt announces 10 fully funded scholarships for Pakistani students

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Kingdom of Morocco has offered 10 fully funded scholarships to Pakistani students for admission into Moroccan Public Institutions of Higher, Technical, and Professional Education for the academic year 2025-26, according to an announcement by the Higher Education Commission (HEC) of Pakistan.

These scholarships are open to Pakistani and AJK nationals in fields such as Medical Studies, Engineering, Management Sciences, Veterinary Sciences, and Architecture. Students can apply for undergraduate, master's, or PhD programs, subject to eligibility criteria including academic qualifications and age limits. The deadline to register online is Thursday, 12 June 2025 at 4:00 PM Pakistan Standard Time.

Applicants must be Pakistani or AJK nationals and should not hold dual nationality. Candidates applying for undergraduate programs must have completed a minimum of 12

years of education (FSc or A-level) and be no older than 23 years. Master's applicants need 16 years of relevant education, while PhD candidates must have completed at least 18 years in a related field. A valid HAT or USAT score is mandatory, depending on the level of study, and nominations will be based on these test scores.

Since French is the primary medium of instruction in most Moroccan institutions, especially in scientific and economic disciplines, selected candidates will be required to complete a French language refresher course at centers such as Alliance Française in Pakistan during the 2024-25 academic year. Courses in Arabic Language and Literature and Islamic Studies are taught in Arabic, and applicants for these fields must be proficient in the language.

Interested students must apply online through the HEC portal at scholarship.hec.gov.pk under the Moroccan Govt Scholarship Program.

At this stage, there is no need to submit hard copies of documents. However, shortlisted candidates will later need to provide academic transcripts, motivation letters, recommendation letters, medical certificates, and other relevant documents including a police clearance certificate and, if employed, a No Objection Certificate from their employer.

Applicants pursuing professional degrees like medicine, engineering, or law must confirm the accreditation status of their chosen programs with the relevant professional councils in Pakistan, such as PMDC, PEC, or PBC. Special instructions have been issued by PMDC regarding admissions to foreign medical institutions, and applicants are advised to review these guidelines thoroughly.

For further information, students can visit the official websites www.amci.ma, www.enssup.gov.ma, and www.men.gov.ma.

Inaugural meeting of Pakistan Society for Real Estate Studies (PRES) held



F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: The inaugural meeting of the Pakistan Society for Real Estate Studies (PRES) was held today at the National University of Modern Languages (NUML), Islamabad.

This pioneering initiative—the first of its kind in the country, was chaired by Maj Gen Shahid Mahmood Kayani, HI(M) (Retd), Rector NUML, and attended by prominent stakeholders from the real estate, planning, and development sectors.

Distinguished participants included Mr. Jawed Ali Khan, Country Head of UN-Habitat Pakistan, Dr. Nadeem ul Haque, former Country Director IMF, and senior representatives from REITs, construction' associations, the Ministry of

Housing, Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), and major housing societies such as Capital Smart City, The Garden, and IMARAT. Several international experts have also joined PRES, bringing global perspectives to local urban challenges.

As urbanization accelerates in Pakistan—with projections indicating that over 45% of the population will reside in urban areas by 2030—many cities are grappling with economic disparities, inefficient land use, and environmental degradation. In response, PRES has been established to serve as a think tank and collaborative platform for addressing these challenges through evidence-based policy input, academic programs, and industry engagement.

PRES will undertake a range of initiatives including organizing the

International Conference on Real Estate (ICRE), publishing policy papers and briefs, offering short courses and capacity-building programs, and introducing a Sustainability Index to assess and encourage eco-friendly, inclusive development by housing societies and urban developers.

During the meeting, participants strongly advocated for enhanced collaboration between academia, industry, government regulators, and development partners to combat illegal housing schemes, improve market transparency, and curb unplanned urban sprawl.

Several strategic recommendations were proposed, including ; Introduction of regulatory measures for the real estate sector, Integration of real estate studies into academic curricula, Reforms in taxation

related to property transactions, Establishment of a centralized control authority for oversight and enforcement, Licensing of property dealers to ensure professional standards, Digitization of property trading for greater transparency, Addressing affordability issues for middle and lower-income segments.

The attendees commended NUML's visionary leadership in establishing PRES and emphasized its critical role in shaping a more sustainable, transparent, and professionally governed real estate sector in Pakistan.

The meeting concluded with a shared commitment to advancing PRES's mission through sustained research, policy advocacy, and strategic partnerships aimed at transforming urban development practices nationwide.

Dengue larvae found in 12,452 homes

RAWALPINDI (APP): The meeting of the District Emergency Response Committee (DERC) has been briefed that during the field surveillance, 12,452 homes out of total 3,036,721 were found to have dengue larvae while outdoor surveillance covered 725,976 locations, of which 2,885 sites had dengue larvae. The statistics are based for the time period from January 01 till date.

The meeting, chaired by Additional Deputy Commissioner (Headquarters) Abdullah Khan was attended by the CEO Health, district health officers, and representatives from relevant departments. It was appraised that a total of 533 FIRs were registered, 432 sites were sealed, 1,784 fines were issued, and penalties amounting to Rs. 1,074,000 were imposed to curb the spread of dengue.

The Additional Deputy Commissioner urged all segments of society to spread the message of the anti-dengue campaign to every household. "It is our duty to leave a safe, healthy, and prosperous Pakistan for future generations. Public cooperation is key to the success of this campaign", he said.

The meeting appealed to the public to fully cooperate with anti-dengue teams. Officials were directed to work with teamwork and responsibility to make the campaign more effective. "Protecting lives is the government's top priority, and all possible efforts will be made to control dengue," Add'l Deputy Commissioner added.

Gandhara Heritage and Citizen Center launched



ISLAMABAD (PPI): In a significant step towards modernizing Islamabad and optimizing public assets, the Capital Development Authority (CDA) held a soft launch ceremony for the Gandhara Heritage and Citizen Center at F-9 Park here on Wednesday.

The event was chaired by Chairman CDA and Chief Commissioner Islamabad, Muhammad Ali Randhawa, who also serves as Director General Civil Defense. The ceremony, attended by CDA Board members from various departments including administration, finance, environment, planning, engineering, and technology, as well as representatives from the hotel industry and potential investors, marked the beginning of the project under a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model.

Speaking at the event, Chairman CDA said that the

initiative is the first of its kind in Islamabad, aiming to transform underutilized assets into sustainable, revenue-generating facilities. Renowned architect Nayyar Ali Dada is leading the design and planning in collaboration with top-tier financial transaction advisors. Randhawa emphasized that all revenue from the Gandhara Heritage and Citizen Center will be reinvested into Islamabad's development.

"Funds will be utilized for the beautification and upgradation of assets, particularly F-9 Park," he said, aligning the project with the vision of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Federal Interior Minister Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi to enhance CDA's revenue through strategic asset management.

He assured that transparency will be maintained

throughout the project, with full regulatory compliance. An Expression of Interest (EOI) has already been issued to invite collaboration and innovative ideas. The project is expected to be completed within six months and will provide modern facilities to the public while creating job opportunities.

Chairman CDA further announced plans for additional hotel projects in Islamabad, aiming to establish world-class five-star hospitality services. "We are moving toward a model where government and private sector join hands to make Islamabad a modern, beautiful, and digitized capital," he added.

More PPP-based ventures are expected to be unveiled in July as part of CDA's broader strategy to activate public assets and stimulate economic growth in the capital.

AC shuts down 15 illegal cattle markets, holds 20 traders

ISLAMABAD (APP): Additional Deputy Commissioner General (ADC-G) Sahibzada Yousaf made a surprise late-night visit to several approved cattle markets across the Federal Capital to review arrangements while the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) administration operation to close illegal cattle markets ahead of Eid has continued.

In an operation against illegal cattle markets, Assistant Commissioner City led a crackdown and shut down 15 unauthorized cattle sale points. During the operation, 20 traders were arrested for violating rules, said the spokesman of ICT administration here.

According to officials, the crackdown is part of efforts to ensure cattle trading remains confined to approved areas and to avoid traffic issues, public inconvenience, and sanitation problems caused by illegal markets popping up across the city.

Meanwhile, in a separate development, Additional Deputy Commissioner General (ADC-G) Sahibzada Yousaf made a surprise late-night visit to several approved cattle markets across the city to review arrangements. He was accompanied by Assistant Commissioner Rural Fahad Cheema and SDPO Shehzad Town Inzamam Khan.

The inspection covered various major cattle markets, including the ones near Zia Masjid and Sultana Foundation. Officials

checked facilities for both buyers and sellers and spoke directly to them during the visit. ADC-G Yousaf expressed satisfaction over the overall arrangements in these markets. He stated that measures have been taken to facilitate traders who bring livestock to the city, as well as people arriving to buy animals for sacrifice.

Talking to media persons, ADC-G said that clean drinking water, proper lighting, and cleanliness were ensured in the markets. Parking areas have also been organized to avoid congestion and maintain the smooth flow of traffic on nearby roads. "The traffic situation near markets is under control. Teams are working round the clock to manage crowds and ensure smooth movement," said ADC-G Yousaf.

He further stated that magistrates are present at the cattle markets at all times to handle any complaints on the spot. These officials are assigned to provide assistance and resolve issues related to pricing, overcharging, hygiene, or any form of mismanagement. Buyers and traders present during the visit appreciated the arrangements made by the

district administration. Many traders said that this year's setup is helping them conduct their business with fewer difficulties.

One cattle trader, while speaking to the ADC-G during the inspection, said that timely setup of water points and lights had made things easier for those bringing livestock from far-flung areas. Another buyer said that unlike previous years, parking was easier and the market environment more organized.

Officials from the administration said their goal is to ensure smooth trading activity in legal cattle markets during the Eid season and discourage makeshift and unauthorized sale points that often lead to chaos and mismanagement. The administration is also asking citizens to report any illegal markets or overcharging by traders. "We are monitoring the situation across the city and taking prompt action on public complaints," an official from the district control room said.

To ease the burden on city roads, traffic police have been directed to deploy personnel around cattle markets during peak hours. Coordination is also being maintained with health and sanitation departments to prevent any health issues in the markets due to animal waste.

60 gold coins found in Ghor

FEROZKOH (Pajhwok): Ghor Department of Information and Culture said 60 gold coins dating back to the Ghori Empire have been discovered in Allah Yar district of the western province. Maulvi Abdul Hai Zaeem, director of the department, told Pajhwok: "These coins, some of which are damaged, were discovered with a pot during the construction work of a road in the district. The value of the coins has not yet been determined, but they date back to the era of the Ghori Empire."

Hassan named as new envoy

KABUL (Amu TV): Taliban have appointed Mawlawi Gul Hassan, their former consul in Quetta, Pakistan, as their new ambassador to Russia, according to reports in Russian state and local media. The Izvestia newspaper first reported the appointment, citing an announcement from the Taliban-run Afghan embassy in Moscow. State news agency RIA Novosti also confirmed the news, quoting embassy sources as saying, "Our ambassador will be Mawlawi Gul Hassan, and he will arrive soon."

IEA leader reiterates support for Palestinians



KABUL (Pajhwok): In his Eid-ul-Adha message, the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA) supreme leader has reiterated support for the people of Palestine and emphasised unity, obedience to the Amir and protection of citizens' rights. Sheikh Mullah Haibatullah Akhundzada urged officials to listen to public complaints and to further support Afghan traders and industrialists. IEA Deputy Spokesman Hamdullah Fitrat shared the caretaker government supreme leader's Eid message on his official X account. The IEA leader said "Now is the time for all of us to responsibly seize the current opportunity. We must intensify our efforts to strengthen and advance the Islamic system, promote unity and cooperation and ensure that every official fulfills their duties properly and without negligence." "They must work in harmony, avoid interference in each other's responsibilities, and strive to implement Sharia first upon themselves and then upon others." He added community leaders and influential figures also bore the responsibility to enforce Allah's Sharia within society,

ensure rights were upheld, and place everything in its rightful context. "If they deviate from religion," he warned, "it will jeopardise the entire Islamic system and the current peace." Sheikh Haibatullah instructed all judges and relevant officials to take more serious steps to protect people's rights and resolve disputes. He emphasised impartiality in judgment and called for the prompt and unobstructed handling of legal cases. He also directed relevant institutions to work with scholars and elders to promote good deeds and accelerate efforts to guide the public towards a Sharia-based way of life. He said: "Our businessmen and industrialists must redouble their efforts to develop the country so Afghanistan can become self-reliant and free from foreign dependence." "If we wish to maintain independence and stand against all forms of threat, we must recognise that success is tied to resources and the economy — an economy strengthened through the growth of trade and industry. Let us work together for the development and self-sufficiency of our homeland." He urged authorities to provide greater support to traders and industrialists, serve returning migrants effectively, assist them in their resettlement, and facilitate transportation to the best of their ability. He added: "All security and civil servants of the Islamic Emirate must approach their duties with

seriousness. They should refrain from interfering in each other's work, as this leads to disorder, mistrust, and dissatisfaction. "Serving the people is a form of worship. Allah has entrusted you with this responsibility — a divine test. You must therefore serve the public diligently. Negligence is no excuse. Stay vigilant, ease the burden on people, do not create obstacles. Make things easier so that Allah may ease your affairs. "Do not waste people's time, do not shut your doors on them. Meet them regularly, listen to their concerns and complaints, and ensure everyone receives their due rights. No one should be harmed, and no rights should be violated." The IEA leader affirmed that the government serves as a guardian and father figure to the people and must protect their rights and safeguard public trust. The message added: "Obey the orders and commands of the Amir, as obedience is mandatory. Everyone must adhere to this and operate within the framework of obedience. "Future generations will depend on your knowledge and experience. Strive to become capable and learned individuals, so you may serve Islam, the Islamic system, and the people with excellence." The message concluded with the Islamic Emirate once again declaring its full support for the oppressed people of Palestine, strongly condemning the ongoing violence and urging for an immediate end to the aggression.

Fuel imports suspended via Farahi port over quality



KABUL (Pajhwok): Fuel imports through the Sheikh Abu Nasr Farahi port in western Farah province have been suspended indefinitely following the entry of low-quality fuel into the country, officials announced Wednesday. Maulvi Shamsuddin Shariati, Acting Director of the General Directorate for Monitoring and Implementation of Decrees of the Islamic Emirate, made the announcement during a press conference at the Government Media and Information Center. He stated that the import of substandard goods—particularly fuel—contributed to environmental pollution. In response, the Cabinet of the Islamic Emirate has decided to strictly prohibit the import of low-quality products, including fuel, gas, chemical fertilizers, medicines, food items, and other materials. Legal action will be taken against violators. Shariati added that the Cabinet had appointed a delegation, led by his directorate and comprising representatives from the Ministries of Finance, Mines and Petroleum, Industry and Commerce, the General Directorate of Intelligence, and Emirati oil and gas companies, to investigate the issue and present a comprehensive strategy to prevent the import of low-quality fuel. After inspecting all entry points for fuel and petroleum products and assessing the scale of substandard imports, the delegation submitted a set of recommendations, which were subsequently approved by the Cabinet and ratified by the leader of the Islamic Emirate.

To ensure the implementation of this decree, another joint delegation was formed, again under the leadership of the General Directorate. The team also includes Mullah Abdul Haq Hamkar, Deputy Minister for Counter-Narcotics at the Ministry of Interior; Mullah Bismillah Akhund, Deputy for Finance and Administration at the General Directorate of Intelligence; and Maulvi Sayed Ahmad Mustaqim, Deputy Chief of Staff at the Office of the Prime Minister. This new delegation presented further proposals to the Cabinet, which were also approved and endorsed by the leadership. According to Shariati, between June 10 and January 14 of the previous year, a total of 1,572 tankers carrying substandard and low-grade petroleum products were identified. Of these, 1,014 shipments were returned, while the remaining quantities were mixed and released into the market. The investigation found that the majority of these substandard petroleum products entered the country through the Sheikh Abu Nasr Farahi port, whereas only 746 tankers of similar quality were recorded at other ports. Although Shariati did not specify said when fuel imports from the Farahi port might resume, he noted that a decision would be made in the future under the guidance of relevant authorities. The delegation also recommended halting the import of raw petroleum products from ports where such imports are deemed unnecessary. Furthermore,

imports of A80 petrol, which does not meet national standards, have been completely banned across all ports and border crossings. He emphasized that licenses for importing fuel and liquefied gas will only be issued to individuals and companies that possess valid permits from relevant authorities and demonstrate both experience and credibility. While laboratories are in place at all ports handling fuel imports, Shariati acknowledged issues such as non-standard and insufficient testing equipment. These shortcomings, he said, will be addressed promptly, and calibrated machinery will be installed to ensure proper quality control. Speaking at the same press conference, Mohammad Younus Mohmand, Deputy Head of the Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Investment, expressed the private sector's support for the Islamic Emirate and its commitment to public service. He stressed that the government should not only focus on fuel, but also ensure the quality of imported medicines and food, and take firm steps to block substandard goods. Mohmand added that Afghan traders are actively working to prevent the import of low-quality fuel and are committed to bringing in high-quality products that meet safety and environmental standards. He assured the public that the closure of the Farahi port would not lead to a rise in fuel prices, as new contracts have already been signed with other countries to ensure the import of quality fuel.

Zubair and Roza discuss microfinance sector

KABUL (Pajhwok): Deputy Minister of Finance Eng. Sultan Mohammad Zubair and UN Secretary-General's Special Representative have discussed the development of Afghanistan's microfinance sector, effective allocation of foreign humanitarian aid and the financing of development projects. Zubair met with UN Secretary-General Special Representative and UNAMA head Roza Otunbayeva, the Ministry of Finance (MoF) said. A statement from the ministry said both sides discussed ways to promote the microfinance sector in Afghanistan, ensure proper utilisation of international humanitarian assistance, finance development projects and strengthen relations with international financial institutions. During the meeting, the deputy minister expressed hope that cooperation with UNAMA would pave the way for the implementation of development projects across Afghanistan. He said: "MoF has made significant progress in advancing the microfinance sector, and we aim to further expand this process." He requested UNAMA's cooperation in enhancing human capacity, introducing modern technology and raising public awareness to further strengthen the sector. For her part, UNAMA chief assured that she would seek support from countries such as Japan, China, Malaysia, and Indonesia to strengthen the sector through capacity-building and the provision of modern technologies. She added that UNAMA would continue working closely with the Ministry of Finance to attract foreign investment, implement development projects, develop the microfinance sector, and create necessary facilities in this area.

MoU signed to boost mining cooperation



KABUL (TOLOnews): The Ministry of Mines and Petroleum and the Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Investment have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to enhance facilitation and coordination between the private sector and the ministry in the extraction and processing of Afghanistan's mines. Officials consider this MoU crucial for resolving major challenges faced by mining contractors and for increasing coordination between the private sector and the ministry regarding the protection and utilization of mineral resources. The Chamber of Commerce and Investment officials describe Afghanistan's mineral resources as

the national wealth of the Afghan people, emphasizing that protecting and properly utilizing these resources is a shared responsibility of the government, the private sector, and the people. Mohammad Younus Mohmand, first deputy of the Chamber of Commerce and Investment, stated: "The mines are our national wealth. Protecting and properly processing the mines is the duty of every Afghan. It's not our responsibility how the mines are obtained, but rather how we process them properly so that their benefits reach all of Afghanistan." Khanjan Alokzai, head of the Afghanistan-Pakistan Joint Chamber of Commerce, said: "We act

as a bridge between the government and traders. Our role is to connect reputable traders who have love for their country, capital, and resources with the ministry." Abdul Rahman Qanit, Deputy Minister of Mines and Petroleum, also stated that the ministry strives to ensure the proper management of Afghanistan's mines with national interests in mind. He assured mining contractors and private sector representatives that the current challenges will be addressed. Abdul Rahman Qanit added: "These mines, which are now the responsibility of the ministry and the private sector, must be used wisely and employed in public-benefit projects."

Increased coordination, enhanced facilitation, reduction of customs tariffs on mineral products, easing the transportation of minerals—especially from airports—and facilitating access to precious and semi-precious stone mines are among the main demands of the Ministry of Mines and Petroleum's contractors.

3 wizards detained in Samangan and Balkh

KABUL (Pajhwok): The Ministry of Vice and Virtue and Complaints (MoVVC) says its muhatsibs "morality officers" have arrested three individuals on charges of practicing witchcraft in northern Balkh, Sar-i-Pul and Samangan provinces. In a statement, MoVVC said its morality officers detained three skilled wizards in the three provinces. It said these individuals were engaged in activities contrary to Islamic Sharia. The statement read: "Evidence recovered from the suspects indicates that they caused conflict among numerous families. These individuals have been practising witchcraft for an extended period, using specific books and documents that allegedly led to family disputes and separations between spouses. They were apprehended while performing sorcery and have been referred to judicial authorities following investigations." The ministry added witchcraft was considered one of the major sins and a clear manifestation of corruption under Islamic law. The arrests come after Minister of Vice and Virtue had previously declared the practice of sorcery forbidden throughout Afghanistan, in accordance with divine rulings.

UN expresses concern over children's situation

KABUL (Khaama Press): The UN has expressed deep concern over the challenging conditions faced by children in Afghanistan, including violence, malnutrition, and education deprivation. On the International Day for Children Victims of Violence, the United Nations expressed deep concern about the situation of children in countries like Afghanistan, Congo, Somalia, and Nigeria. The organization reported that in 2023, over 11,000 children were killed or injured in armed conflicts. The UN emphasized that children deserve peace and protection, stating, "They should not be targeted." The day highlights the UN's commitment to children's rights and condemns violence against them. According to the UN, children have faced kidnapping, abuse, and deprivation of humanitarian aid in 2023. The organization provided disturbing statistics showing the scale of violence. The report reveals that in Afghanistan, Myanmar, and Sudan, over 5,000 children were denied humanitarian assistance in 2023. These children faced multiple challenges that compromised their well-being and future. In Afghanistan, children are grappling with hunger, diseases like polio, lack of education, poverty, and the threat of landmines. The UN's data shows that nearly 4 million Afghan children are out of school due to a lack of infrastructure, clean water, sanitary facilities, and qualified teachers. The UN also warned that Afghanistan remains one of the most vulnerable countries to landmines and unexploded ordnance. In 2024, at least 564 people, including 434 children, have died due to landmine explosions and unexploded munitions, as reported by the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Panjshir cherries to be exported to Russia, Asia

PANJSHIR (TOLOnews): Local officials in Panjshir have announced that around 100 tons of cherry products from the province will be exported to several Central Asian countries and Russia. According to officials, traders from Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan plan not only to purchase cherries but also to buy apples and grapes to export to Central Asian countries. Previously, cherry products from Panjshir and other provinces were exported to India and Pakistan. However, according to Panjshir's local authorities, these exports have been suspended this year for various reasons. Mohammad Agha Hakim, Governor of Panjshir, said: "The export of cherries from Panjshir to Central Asia has begun, and this is good news for Panjshir's orchard owners and all of Afghanistan. If one export route is blocked, another opens."

Aminul Haq Masouri, head of Industry and Commerce in Panjshir, stated: "Last year, cherries were exported to India, but this year, due to tensions between India and Pakistan, the export market has stagnated. Panjshir's apples, apricots, and grapes also have high quality." Two traders from Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan have visited Afghanistan and, in meetings with Panjshir's local officials, stated that they plan to purchase around 100 tons of cherry products from the province and export them to some Central Asian countries and Russia. These traders also mentioned that, in addition to cherries, they would buy apples and grapes for export to Central Asia. Haji Zahid, a Kyrgyz trader, said: "We will not only purchase Panjshir's cherries but also grapes, apples, and pomegranates, possibly from Panjshir or other provinces, and export them to Uzbekistan,

Kyrgyzstan, and especially Moscow." Adli, a trader from Uzbekistan, noted: "I have previously conducted trade activities between Afghanistan and Uzbekistan with good results. We intend to encourage other traders from the former Soviet Union countries with whom we have relations to expand their trade activities in Afghanistan, especially in the field of dried fruits." Abdul Basit, a resident of Panjshir, commented on the export of cherries: "In the past, cherries were not sold at high prices, but fortunately now, foreign buyers are coming and exporting cherries out of Afghanistan, which has fortunately improved the markets." Meanwhile, according to Panjshir's local authorities, some orchard owners in the province earned over 360 million afghani last year from the sale of cherry products.

Wakhan T20 cup to kicks off later this month in Kunduz

KABUL (Pajhwok): The Wakhan T20 cricket tournament cup, featuring four teams, would kick off on June 28 in northern Kunduz province, the Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB) announced on Wednesday. Domestic Cricket Director Nazem Jaar Abdul Rahimzai told a press conference on Wednesday at ACB the tournament would begin on 28 June and continue until 7 July. He said that each of the four participating teams would play six matches. Rahimzai explained that last year the tournament was held under the name Qush Tepa National Project Cup and this year it has been renamed as the Wakhan National T20 Cup. He said: "The name 'Wakhan' was chosen for the T20 Cup to raise public awareness about development projects in the region, promote tourism and encourage trade-related cooperation."



He noted that the tournament was being organised now to avoid a clash with the upcoming Shpageeza Cricket League fixtures. Also speaking at the event, Head of Selection Committee Ahmad Shah Sulaimankhil said players with white-ball contracts

from the board, those who have performed well in Grade 1 tournaments, and national players recovering from injuries would be participating in the competition. The participating teams are the Maiwand Champions, Hindukush

Strikers, Mahipar Stars, and the Pamir Legends. Each team will face one another twice, and the top two teams will advance to the Grand Finale on July 7. According to the ACB, the matches will be broadcast live by a local television channel.

Pakistan defeated India on mly, narrative and diplomatic fronts: Tarar

E.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar said on Wednesday that Pakistan did defeat India comprehensively on multiple fronts - military, war of narratives and diplomacy.

Addressing press conference, he said that Pakistan had responded to Indian aggression in an effective and responsible manner. He said that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif advocated Pakistan's stance on the diplomatic front in a comprehensive manner whereas team led by Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar also worked diligently on this front.

Appreciating role of Pakistan media, anchors, journalists and media houses, he said they did play a vital role in projecting the narrative of war against India. Pakistani media carried out responsible journalism with facts and figures whereas Indian media resorted to concocted and fake news, he added. " Indian media ran a misinformation campaign and it became a subject of ridicule at international level. Global media outlets quoted how ridiculous propaganda was aired by Indian media", he said.

On the contrary Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Inter Services Public Relations and media houses of Pakistan did play their role in an effective but responsible manner, he added. The minister said that Maarka-e-Haq and Operation Bunyan Marsus would always be remembered as great triumph since Allah Almighty honoured Pakistan against

its enemy.

In tense and critical situation, the Pakistani nation demonstrated exemplary solidarity and unity, Attaullah Tarar said adding under the leadership of Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, Pakistan Armed Forces acted in a coordinated manner and foiled Indian nefarious designs.

Attaullah Tarar said after defeat on every forum, India was now spreading false propaganda in an effort of face-saving. He said now even in India, questions were being raised about PM Modi's failed strategy. The minister said that New Delhi was involved in acts of terrorism in multiple countries including Pakistan as Indian state sponsored terrorism had reached Canada, America and Australia. Referring to proofs on Indian involvement in terrorist activities in Balochistan, he said Indian Navy serving commander Kulbhushan Jadhav was captured from Balochistan. He said India was funding terrorist acts in Balochistan but Pakistan was determined to eliminate all types of terrorism by defeating India proxies.

The minister said terrorism in other countries was part of India's foreign policy, and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi had admitted that India supported Mukti Bahini in 1971. He said when Jafar Express train incident happened, Indians somehow celebrated hostage taking and Indian media had given special coverage to terrorists by showing their interviews live.

He said when Pahalgam incident

happened, Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif offered an impartial, transparent international investigation, but India did not respond as it would have exposed the false flag operation. Tarar expressed the determination that the Fitna-ul-Hindustan will be eliminated from Balochistan at all costs. During Attaullah Tarar's press conference, video evidence of Indian terrorism was also shown to media. It was titled " Terror by Design: India's Proxy War on Pakistan".

The video showed Narendra Modi bragging about Indian support for Mukti Bahini in East Pakistan in 1971. Some clips of anti-Pakistan speeches of Indian Prime Minister and ministers were also shown in the video. The video contained clear evidence of India's involvement in terrorist incidents in Balochistan. " Balochistan is Pakistan's lifeline, we will take the process of peace and stability forward," Attaullah Tarar remarked. The minister vowed that like a conventional war, Indian proxies will also be defeated.

To a question, he said a Pakistan's diplomatic delegation led by Bilawal Bhutto Zardari had held important meetings in New York with United Nations top brass and conveyed Pakistan's stance very effectively. The minister said that India's efforts to destabilize Balochistan will fail and development works in the province will gain momentum and it would play its role in the overall development of the country.



ISLAMABAD: People boarding in a passenger van at Faizabad bus station, to leave their hometowns for celebrating Eidul Azha.

PHC issues show cause notice to HEC

Humayun Khan

PESHAWAR: The Peshawar High Court (PHC) has issued a show cause notice to the Chairman Higher Education Dr. Mukhtiar, Chief Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Shahab Ali Shah, and Secretary Higher Education Department Kamran, asking them to explain why they failed to comply with the court's orders to establish a law university, on Wednesday.

PHC two-member bench comprising Justice Naeem Anwar and Justice Farah Jamshid heard the contempt of court petition. During the hearing, the President of the Peshawar High Court Bar, Amin ur Rahman Yousafzai, Advocate, appeared before the court.

The court was informed that in 2012, the Peshawar High Court had allowed a writ petition seeking to upgrade the existing Khyber Law College to a university and directed the provincial government and relevant authorities to draft a bill and present it before the provincial assembly for approval.

The court had directed the provincial government to provide additional land to upgrade the Khyber Law College to a university, establish faculties, and allocate sufficient funds in the budget. Despite the court's directions, no action has been taken so far.

In 2015, the Supreme Court had also observed that the law university should be established. However, no progress has been made, and the respondents have failed to take any steps, thereby committing contempt of court.

The court issued a show cause notice to the Chairman Higher Education, Dr. Mukhtiar, Chief Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Shahab Ali Shah, and Secretary Higher Education Department, Kamran Afridi, asking them to explain why they failed to comply with the court's orders. The court adjourned the hearing until the third week of June.

11 killed in stampede

BENGALURU: At least 11 people lost their lives in a stampede outside the Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru, India, during a public celebration for Royal Challengers Bengaluru's historic first Indian Premier League (IPL) title.

Royal Challengers Bengaluru had secured victory over the Punjab Kings in the IPL final held on Tuesday. Television footage revealed a massive crowd, many waving red team flags — lining the streets as the cricket team arrived at the stadium by bus in the evening.

After the stampede, disturbing visuals showed police officers rushing to assist the injured, including one scene where a policeman was seen carrying a wounded individual to an ambulance, while another person lay motionless on the ground as bystanders gathered. India witnessed several similar tragedies in the past, especially during large public or religious gatherings. In one such incident earlier this year, at least 30 people died during a stampede at the Maha Kumbh in January. — Agencies

Action for protection of environment sought

E.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: World Environment Day is observed on 5th of June every year to encourage awareness and spur action for the protection of environment. It is a global call to confront the escalating environmental crises under United Nations Environmental Programme. This year's focus, 'Ending Plastic Pollution', emphasizes a profound threat to our planet, particularly our precious maritime domain.

The scourge of plastic pollution respects no borders, relentlessly invading our lakes, rivers, and seas. Beyond disfiguring our natural landscapes, it degrades habitats, cripples eco-systems, and endangers countless species. This insidious threat directly undermines livelihoods, food security, and the well-being of coastal populations worldwide. This is not a distant threat; it is a clear and present danger.

For Pakistan, with its extensive coastline supporting millions and harbouring a rich marine biodiversity, the stakes are exceptionally high. Our seas face relentless pressure from human activity, with marine pollution, driven significantly by plastic, posing an existential risk to this invaluable national asset.

Pakistan, with a thriving

maritime economy, is deeply impacted by the state of our seas. Karachi harbour, a critical maritime hub and ecological zone, continues to suffer from the indiscriminate disposal of solid waste, hazardous industrial discharge, untreated sewage and plastic debris. These pollutants not only degrade the marine environment but also hurt marine life, threaten biodiversity and endanger human health.

Pakistan Navy in concert with maritime stakeholders is playing a proactive role in improving environmental conditions of Karachi harbour by taking various initiatives. However, the extent of pollutants being discharged and dumped into the sea is way beyond the scale of our efforts. There is a need to adopt a two-pronged strategy: first to stem the waste disposal i.e. industrial effluents, oil spills and solid waste, plastics being non-destructive and most detrimental that find their way into the sea, invariably accentuated by rains, and the second, to collect waste that has already reached our ports and anchorage by investing and committing more resources to clean harbours and make them safer for our shipping and aquatic activities.

Recognizing the increasing threat from plastic and



marine pollution, Pakistan Navy renews its commitment to curb the menace of pollution by launching awareness drives and forging crucial partnerships. To mark the occasion, National Institute of Maritime Affairs (NIMA) has organized one day international seminar to create awareness about the issue and highlight ways and means to protect our marine ecosystem from plastic pollution.

I call upon all stakeholders to join hands with Pakistan Navy for nature based solutions like mangroves plantation, reducing pollution at the source, ban on plastic bags, beach cleaning activities, deploying additional waste collection assets, installation of trash barriers and raising en-mass awareness on this exacerbating crises, for a healthy and secure future for our next generations.

KP CM advocated for provincial rights: Saif

E.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Advisor to Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Information and Public Relations, Barrister Dr. Saif, has stated that Chief Minister Ali Amin Khan Gandapur successfully advocated for the rights of the province during the recent Peshawar Jirga. He emphasized that the federal leadership was once again apprised of critical issues including the province's due share in the National Finance Commission (NFC) Award for the merged districts, tobacco cess, and net hydel profit.

In a statement issued from his office, Barrister Dr. Saif said that the Chief Minister also held detailed

discussions on the prevention of drone strikes in merged districts and highlighted the importance of involving the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government in the dialogue process with Afghanistan to ensure sustainable peace in the region.

Barrister Dr. Saif expressed hope that the federal government would now expedite the transfer of funds to the province for the merged districts. He strongly criticized the illegal withholding of these funds by the federal government, stating that the merged districts are now the part of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and the transfer of funds is therefore essential. He emphasized that delays in transferring

these funds hinder development in the merged districts and further aggravate the deprivations of the local population. Addressing these issues is a joint responsibility of both the federal and provincial governments.

He further asserted that development in the merged districts is a key factor in eliminating terrorism. "Terrorism is not just Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's issue—it is a national issue," he said, demanding the immediate payment of net hydel profit arrears. He urged the federal government to refrain from politicizing critical national matters and warned that depriving a province of development is detrimental to the federation itself.

Khamenei slams US nuclear proposal

TEHRAN: Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has pledged that Tehran will not abandon its uranium enrichment, rejecting a key demand in a United States proposal aimed at resolving a long-running dispute over Iran's nuclear programme.

The comments were delivered in a speech on Wednesday as the US and Iran continue to negotiate the details of a possible new nuclear deal. The issue of uranium enrichment has remained a sticking point in the talks, with the US reportedly demanding a complete halt or low-level enrichment in exchange for the lifting of Western sanctions against Tehran.

"The US nuclear proposal contradicts our nation's belief in self-reliance and the principle of 'We Can,'" Khamenei said in his speech delivered on the commemoration

of the death of the Islamic Republic's founder, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, in 1989. Khamenei said the issue of uranium enrichment remained key to Iran's pursuit of energy independence.

"Independence means not waiting for the green light from America and the likes of America," he said, adding that the US proposal was "100 percent against" the ideals of the 1979 Islamic revolution. He said Tehran would not seek Washington's approval for its decisions. "Some people think that rationality means bowing down to America and surrendering to the oppressive power; this is not rationality," Khamenei said.

"Why are you interfering in whether Iran should have enrichment or not? You cannot have a say," On Tuesday, Iranian President Masoud

Pezeshkian also said that Tehran "would not abandon" the country's scientific and nuclear rights, while disavowing nuclear weapons. He said that those accusing Iran "are proliferating" weapons of mass destruction and destabilising the region with deadly weapons.

On Monday, the Reuters news agency had reported that Tehran was poised to reject the latest US proposal to end a decades-old nuclear dispute, quoting an unnamed diplomat as saying the proposal was a "non-starter" that fails to soften Washington's stance on uranium enrichment or to address Tehran's interests. Tehran said it wants to master nuclear technology for peaceful purposes and has long denied accusations by Western powers that it is seeking to develop nuclear weapons. — Aljazeera

KP govt making huge investment in education, health sectors

E.P. Report

SWABI: Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Ali Amin Khan Gandapur, has said that the incumbent provincial government is making huge investment in the education and health sectors, adding that alongside improving health care infrastructure and provision of equipment to health facilities efforts are also being made to build capacity of health practitioners and enhance the quality of degrees awarded by educational institutions and gain international recognition for them.

"We are working under the vision to ensure quality education in schools and better treatment facilities in hospitals so that a healthy, well informed, and educated society can be formed," he said.

The Chief Minister expressed these views while addressing the first convocation of Gajju Khan Medical College in Swabi as the chief guest here on Wednesday. Members of the National Assembly Asad Qaiser and Shahram Tarakai, Provincial Cabinet Member Rangaiz Ahmad, college faculty and administration, graduating students and their parents attended the ceremony. Over 100 students were awarded gold medals, and degrees were conferred upon more than 200 students during the convocation.

Felicitating the graduates, their parents, and teachers, Chief Minister Ali Amin Khan Gandapur said that attending the convocation of Gajju Khan Medical College was a great honor and pleasure for him. He noted that the graduates are now stepping into the practical field, marking the beginning of a new journey that requires sincerity, hard work, and a strong sense of professional responsibility.

He advised the graduates that if they embark on this journey with the spirit of serving ailing humanity, they will achieve success in both this world and the hereafter. "Patients consider you their savior and place their trust in you. Do not let that trust waver. A patient needs your good behavior, and that is something people always remember," he said.

Addressing the graduates, the Chief Minister emphasized the need to rise above confusion and make bet-

Outgoing Country Director of WB calls on KP CM

E.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ali Amin Khan Gandapur called on by Outgoing Country Director of the World Bank Najy Ben Hassine in Islamabad on Wednesday. Advisor to Chief Minister for Finance Muzammil Aslam and other senior officials were also present on the occasion. During the meeting, they discussed matters of mutual interest, development projects in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and cooperation from the World Bank, with special focus on ongoing development projects in communications, energy, health, education, tourism, irrigation, and other sectors. The Chief Minister thanked the World Bank for its cooperation in implementing various development projects and said that the World Bank has played a significant role in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's development projects. He emphasized that the incumbent provincial government is focusing on uplifting backward districts and they require special investment in roads, infrastructure, health, and education sectors. The Chief Minister highlighted the immense potential of tourism in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, which can create new job opportunities. He mentioned that the current government is working on reforms, effective monitoring, and digitization in every sector.

ter decisions in life, and to think and act for the good of others. Highlighting the priorities of the provincial government, the Chief Minister said that his government is giving special focus to the education and health sectors. In the upcoming budget, the education sector's share will be increased by an additional 13 percent, and the number of scholarships for students has also been increased. He added that the scholarship endowment fund, which had remained at 1.2 billion rupees for the past 77 years, has now been doubled to 2.4 billion rupees by the incumbent provincial government. Moreover, 1,500 nurses have received training from international universities under this government.

Referring to key initiatives in the health sector, he noted that expensive treatments such as liver transplants, bone marrow transplants, and kidney transplants have been included in the Sehat Card Plus program. Simultaneously, efforts are underway to improve health infrastructure and equip hospitals with all necessary machinery and equipment.

Previously, treatment for heart patients was only available in Peshawar, but now cardiac centers are being established at the regional level. Work is in progress to set up cardiac centers in two regions, and in the next budget, four additional regional cardiac centers will be estab-

lished.

He added that a project only becomes truly beneficial when it begins to provide facilities to the public. The Chief Minister went on to say that when he took charge of the province, only 18 days' worth of salary funds were left, and the government had inherited billions of rupees in liabilities. However, due to the provincial government's effective strategy, the treasury now holds enough funds to cover salaries for the next three months in advance.

He said that they are working according to Imran Khan's vision to reduce debt. A fund worth 150 billion rupees has been established for this purpose, which is generating a daily revenue of 40 million rupees. Out of 72 billion rupees in liabilities, 60 billion rupees have already been paid off. In the next budget, the pension liability will be brought down to zero. He further said that 30 billion rupees were withdrawn from the pension fund in the previous government's tenure, which his government has now returned. The Chief Minister appreciated the performance of Gajju Khan Medical College, stating that it has become a leading center for medical education, and the relevant authorities deserve commendation. "Among the institutions delivering excellent performance, Gajju Khan Medical College is one of them," he concluded.

Ten Palestinians killed in Israeli attack on school in Gaza

CAIRO (Reuters): An Israeli airstrike on a school housing displaced Palestinian families killed at least 10 people, including children, on Wednesday, local health authorities said. Residents said Israeli military escalated airstrikes and tank shelling on parts of Khan Younis, a day after it dropped leaflets warning residents to leave their homes and head west, saying forces would fight Hamas and other militants in those areas.

Meanwhile, a US and Israeli-backed group operating aid sites in the Gaza Strip announced the temporary closure of the facilities on Wednesday, with the Israeli army warning that roads leading to distribution centers were "considered combat zones."

The announcement by the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation (GHF) follows a string of deadly incidents near the distribution sites it operates that have sparked condemnation from the United Nations. Israeli bombardment on Wednesday killed at least 16 people in the Gaza Strip, including 12 in a single strike on a tent housing displaced people, the Palestinian territory's civil defense agency said.

On Tuesday, 27 people were killed in southern Gaza when Israeli troops

opened fire near a GHF aid site, with the military saying the incident was under investigation. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres condemned the deaths of people seeking food aid as "unacceptable," and the world body's rights chief condemned attacks on civilians as "a war crime" following a similar incident near the same site on Sunday.

Israel recently eased its blockade of Gaza, but the UN says the territory's entire population remains at risk of famine. The GHF said its "distribution centers will be closed for renovation, reorganization and efficiency improvement work" on Wednesday and would resume operations on Thursday. The Israeli army, which confirmed the temporary closure, warned against traveling "on roads leading to the distribution centers, which are considered combat zones."

The GHF, officially a private effort with opaque funding, began operations a week ago but the UN and major aid groups have refused to cooperate with it over concerns it was designed to cater to Israeli military objectives. Israeli authorities and the GHF, which uses contracted US security, have denied allegations that the

Israeli army shot at civilians rushing to pick up aid packages.

Food shortages in Gaza have propelled fresh international calls for an end to the war, but a ceasefire agreement between Israel and Hamas remains elusive. The UN Security Council will vote Wednesday on a resolution calling for a ceasefire and humanitarian access to Gaza, a measure expected to be vetoed by key Israel backer the United States. At a hospital in southern Gaza, the family of Reem Al-Akhras, who was killed in Tuesday's shooting near GHF's facility, were beside themselves with grief.

"She went to bring us some food, and this is what happened to her," her son Zain Zidan said, his face streaked with tears. Akhras's husband, Mohamed Zidan, said "every day unarmed people" were being killed. "This is not humanitarian aid — it's a trap." The Israeli military maintains that its forces do not prevent Gazans from collecting aid. Army spokesperson Effie Defrin said the Israeli soldiers had fired toward suspects who "were approaching in a way that endangered" the troops, adding that the "incident is being investigated."